



FIVE **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-july 27,**

TAMIL NADU

- **The Pallikaranai marshland in Chennai, the Karikili bird sanctuary near Vedanthangal in Chengalpattu and the mangrove forests of Pichavaram in Cuddalore district - are among five Indian wetlands that have got the coveted Ramsar site tag on July 26**
- ✓ The Pala wetland in Mizoram and Sakhya Sagar in Madhya Pradesh are the other two sites to get the prestigious Ramsar tag.
- ✓ This was announced by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav in a tweet

FIVE MORE WETLANDS, 54 SITES IN INDIA NOW

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| <p>PALLIKARANAI MARSHLAND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Only marshland in a city to be declared a Ramsar site ➤ Spread over 700 hectares; 50% of it is reserved forest/protected area ➤ More than 190 species of birds, including 7 raptors | <p>KARIKILI BIRD SANCTUARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Located 10km from Vedanthangal bird sanctuary and 85km from Chennai ➤ Recent census showed presence of 5,000 birds ➤ Ducks from Central Asia during winter arrive at Karikili | <p>PICHAVARAM MANGROVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ One of the largest mangroves in TN, Pichavaram in Cuddalore district acts as a natural bio-shield ➤ Spread over 1,357 hectares ➤ Has more than 175 species of birds |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

- ✓ The coveted title as wetlands of international importance brings these sites under the protection of the Ramsar Convention, which aims to preserve the ecological character of selected wetlands across the world
- ✓ Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance is an intergovernmental global treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands

- ✓ Also known as the Convention on Wetlands, it is named after the Iranian city of Ramsar, on the Caspian Sea, where the treaty was signed on February 2, 1971.
- ✓ With this, India now has 54 of the 2,500-odd such sites across the world
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu wetland authority had sent the proposal to the Union government about a year ago.
- ✓ The Centre, in turn, sent it to the Ramsar Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ✓ **Tamil Nadu now has four Ramsar sites including Kodiakkarai.**
- ✓ With the declaration, no part of the wetlands could be diverted for other use, as the Ramsar Secretariat will be monitoring them hereafter.
- ✓ Pallikaranai marshland is the first urban natural wetland in the heart of a metropolitan city to be able to meet stringent qualifying criteria laid out by the Ramsar Convention
- ✓ It is critical for draining floodwater from south Chennai, besides recharging groundwater and moderating climate
- ✓ In the 1900s, it was spread over 6,000 hectares, of which 90% has been lost to urbanisation
- ✓ Today, just over 690 hectares are under the control of the State forest department and managed by the Conservation Authority of Pallikaranai Marshland.
- ✓ According to the Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority, the Pallikaranai Marsh is one of the few natural coastal aquatic habitats that qualify as a wetland in India
- ✓ Tamil Nadu government has recently launched the Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission for the conservation and wise use of natural wetlands

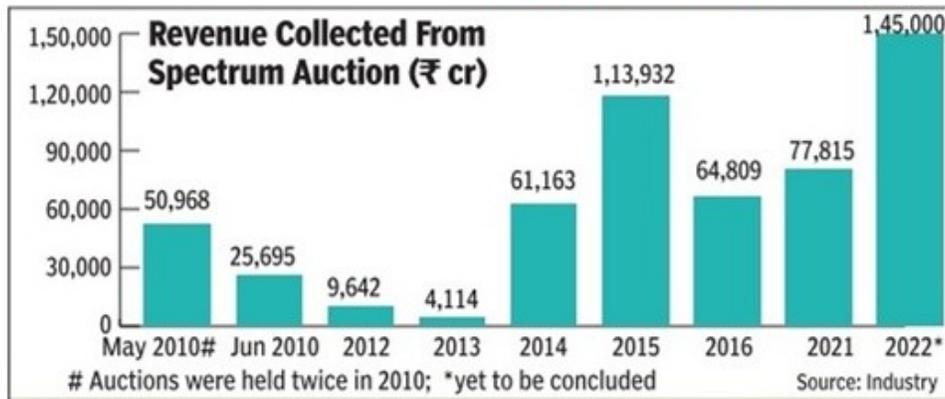


- ✓ The Pallikaranai marsh is under constant ecological threat from encroachments, release of untreated sewage and dumping of garbage.
- ✓ Only one area of the marshland, spread over 370 hectares, had been declared a protected area/reserved forest.
- ✓ A total of 190 species of birds have been recorded in the marshland of which 72 are migratory.
- ✓ Karikili bird sanctuary is a 61.21-hectare protected area, serving as an abode of migratory birds, especially ducks and waders.
 - ✓ Its closeness to the internationally- renowned Vedanthangal bird sanctuary makes it a high-priority wetland.

- ✓ Pichavaram mangrove has an area of 1100 hectares and is thus one of the country's most extensive mangrove forests.
- ✓ Sakhya Sagar lake is located in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh, and is part of the Madhav National Park.
- ✓ Pala wetland is Mizoram's most prominent natural wetland and is home to diverse animal and bird species

NATIONAL

- **The government – has received bids worth a record Rs.1.45 lakh crore after the completion of four rounds of spectrum auction on the first day of 5G spectrum sale on July 26**
- ✓ This was much higher than the Rs.1.1 lakh crore made by the government in 2015.



- ✓ The much-anticipated highspeed 5G services are expected to be offered across top cities from September-October 2022
- ✓ Four bidders were in the fray — Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and Adani Data.

AUCTIONS START FROM JULY 26

| Company | Net worth (₹cr) | EMD# (₹cr) |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Reliance Jio | 1,97,790 | 14,000 |
| Airtel | 75,887 | 5,500 |
| Voda Idea | (-)80,918 | 2,200 |
| Adani Data Networks | 4,979* | 100 |

*Promoter Adani Enterprises net worth is taken into consideration

Auction Facts

- EMDs# of all the four applicants are substantially higher than the **₹13,475 crore** deposited in the 2021 auctions when three players (minus Adani) were in fray
- In the last auctions, Jio spent **₹57,123 crore** for

spectrum buying, Airtel **₹18,699 crore**, and Vodafone Idea **₹1,993 crore**

- A total 72GHz (gigahertz) of spectrum worth at least **₹4.3 lakh crore** is being put on the block for the auctions, which begin July 26

#EMD = Earnest Money Deposit

- ✓ Jio, the country's biggest mobile operator, submitted an earnest money deposit (EMD) of Rs 14,000 crore and is expected to be the biggest buyer in the sale
- ✓ Bharti Airtel, the second largest operator, submitted an EMD of Rs 5,500 crore, while Vodafone Idea deposited Rs 2,200 crore.
- ✓ The Adani Group — represented by Adani Data Networks (ADN) — committed just Rs 100 crore after ruling out an immediate entry into the consumer mobility space
- ✓ The EMD collections of all the four applicants are substantially higher than the Rs 13,475 crore deposited in the 2021 auctions when three players (except Adani) were in fray.
- ✓ The EMD gives an indication of a company's strategy and gameplan for buying spectrum in the auctions.
- ✓ It is estimated companies can spend nearly seven to eight times of the EMDs that they submit.
- ✓ In the last auctions, Jio spent Rs 57,123 crore for spectrum buy, Airtel Rs 18,699 crore, and Vodafone Idea Rs 1,993 crore.
- ✓ The details of the highest bidders in the first round have not been released, and are expected to be announced once the auction concludes
- ✓ The government had put up a total of 72GHz of spectrum on sale, worth at least Rs 4.4 lakh crore just at the reserve price
- ✓ The auction is being held for spectrum in various low (600 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz), mid (3300 MHz) and high (26 GHz) frequency bands
- ✓ The mid and high bands — 3,300 MHz and 24 GHz — attracted the highest interest from the bidders in the ongoing 5G spectrum auction
- ✓ Further, the 700 MHz low band too received bids for the first time ever, even though this band had gone unsold in 2019 and 2021
- ✓ This low band of spectrum is useful to provide service to uncovered remote areas
- ✓ The 5G spectrum offers ultra-high speeds (about 10 times faster than 4G), lag-free connectivity, and can enable billions of connected devices to share data in real-time.
- ✓ The government is hoping to conclude the auctions by July 27, and complete the post-sale official formalities before August 15
- ✓ The government is planning to launch 5G services in 13 Indian cities, including Delhi, Gurugram, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Chandigarh, Jamnagar, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Pune, and Gandhinagar, where the 5G trial sites are already in place

INTERNATIONAL

- **On July 26, Russia – said it will pull out of the International Space Station after 2024 to build its own orbiting outpost.**

- ✓ The country's space chief made the announcement during a meeting with President Vladimir Putin.
- ✓ However, Russia plans to fulfil the promises made to its partners before fully stepping away.
- ✓ NASA and the other partners involved in the International Space Station hope to continue the partnership with Russia till 2030
- ✓ The announcement comes just a month after NASA and Roscosmos agreed to continue using Russian rockets to deliver astronauts to the space station
- ✓ The International Space Station is jointly run by the space agencies of Russia, the U.S., Europe, Japan and Canada
- ✓ The first piece was put in orbit in 1998, and the outpost has been continuously inhabited for nearly 22 years.
- ✓ It typically has a crew of seven astronauts, who spend months aboard the station as it orbits about 260 miles (420 kilometers) above Earth
- ✓ The \$100 billion-plus station, which is about as long as a football field, consists of two main sections, one run by Russia, the other by the U.S. and the other countries
- ✓ It is used to conduct scientific research in zero gravity and test out equipment for future space journeys.
- ✓ Three Russians, three Americans and one Italian are now on board the space station

DEFENCE

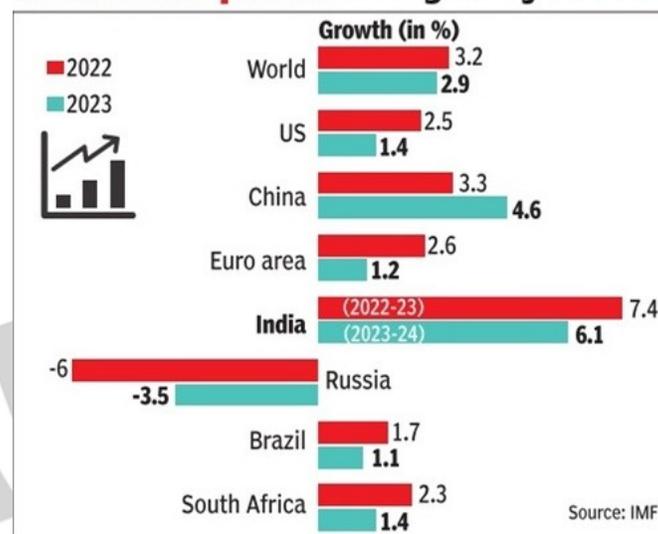
- **On July 26, the defence ministry - gave preliminary approval to military modernization projects collectively worth Rs.28,732 crore**
- ✓ The projects approved include swarm drones, bulletproof jackets and close-quarter battle (CQB) carbines.
- ✓ The Rajnath Singh-led defence acquisitions council (DAC) accorded acceptance of necessity (AoN) to the different projects under the Buy-Indian IDDM (indigenously designed, developed and manufactured) and Buy (Indian) categories.
- ✓ The issuance of AoN is the first step in the arms procurement process
- ✓ The main approval given is for the induction of four lakh modern CQB carbines, which the Army has been demanding since 2005, through a 'Make in India' project
- ✓ Further, Rs.700 crore procurement of "autonomous surveillance and armed drone swarms" has been approved by the DAC under Buy (Indian IDDM) category to augment the Army's capability in modern warfare.
- ✓ The AoN was also granted for the procurement of bulletproof jackets with Indian Standard BIS VI level of protection at a cost of Rs.700 crore.
- ✓ Three more proposals of the Army, the Guided Extended Range Rocket Ammunition, Area Denial Munition Type I and Infantry Combat Vehicle – Command have been designed and developed by DRDO.

- ✓ The total value of these three proposals is Rs.8,599 crore.
- ✓ The Guided Extended Range Rocket Ammunition has the range of 75km with accuracy of 40 meters.
- ✓ The Aerial Denial Munition Type I Rocket Ammunition contains dual purpose sub munitions capable of neutralizing both tanks and armoured personnel carriers as well as B vehicle entrenched troops.

ECONOMY

- **The Indian economy - is estimated to grow by 7.4% in current fiscal (2022-23), according to the latest World Economic Outlook of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

India better placed amid gloomy outlook



- ✓ This is sharply lower than the agency's earlier forecast of 8. 2% due to the impact of war in Ukraine, surging inflationary pressures and rapid interest rate hikes.
- ✓ In its latest update, the IMF also lowered the growth projections for the global economy due to the stalling of growth in the US, China and the euro area
- ✓ India's neighbour China is expected to grow by 3.3% in 2022, which is the lowest growth in more than four decades, excluding the initial Covid crisis in 2020
- ✓ The latest projections by the IMF enable India to retain its fastest growing major economy tag for the current fiscal year and the next.
- ✓ The growth estimates for India are in line with the RBI's, which projected growth of 7.2% in the current fiscal year.
- ✓ India's economy is estimated to grow by 6.1% in 2023-24, 0.8 percentage points down from the earlier estimate of 6.9%.
- ✓ Further, the global inflation has been revised up due to food and energy prices as well as supply-demand imbalances
- ✓ It is anticipated to reach 6. 6% in advanced economies and 9. 5% in emerging market and developing economies this year

SPORTS

- **India - will host the Women's 50-over World Cup in 2025**
 - ✓ In this regard, the BCCI has successfully bid for the ICC flagship event during the ICC Annual Conference that concluded in Birmingham on July 26.
 - ✓ The last time a women's 50-over World Cup was held in India was back in 2013
 - ✓ In 2013, Australia emerged champions after beating the West Indies by 114 runs in the final in Mumbai.
 - ✓ Three other ICC women's events were also awarded on the day with Bangladesh hosting the 2024 T20 World Cup and England winning hosting rights for the 2026 edition.
 - ✓ The 2024 T20 World Cup in Bangladesh will be the first global women's event in the 2023-27 Future Tours Program (FTP)
 - ✓ The tournament will feature 10 teams playing a total of 23 matches, and is scheduled to be played in the September-October period.
 - ✓ This will be Bangladesh's first global event in a decade, after the country hosted the 2014 men's T20 World Cup.
 - ✓ Sri Lanka, subject to their qualifying for the tournament, will host the inaugural Women's Champions Trophy in 2027.
 - ✓ The six-team tournament, comprising 16 matches, will be played in February 2027
- **French batter Gustav McKeon - became the youngest men's cricketer to smash a T20I hundred on July 25.**



- ✓ He accomplished this feat against Switzerland in Vantaa during their T20 World Cup 2024 Europe Sub-Regional Qualifier tournament match.
- ✓ At the age of 18 years and 280 days, McKeon blasted 109 runs in just 61 balls with the help of five fours and nine sixes.
- ✓ He broke the record of Afghanistan batter Hazratullah Zazai, who had smashed a brilliant 162* off 62 balls against Ireland in 2019 at the age of 20 years and 337 days.

- ✓ The winner of this Sub-Regional tournament will be joining Denmark, Italy, Jersey and Germany for the Europe Qualifier next year

BOOKER'S LONGLIST - NOMINATIONS



THE LONG LIST This year's Booker longlist has been announced, and it contains the youngest and oldest authors ever to be nominated for the award. The shortlist of six books will be announced on September 6 and the winner will be announced on October 17. The winning novel's author will receive a prize of 50,000 pounds

ONES WHO MADE THE CUT

- 'Glory' by NoViolet Bulawayo** | An animal fable that follows the fall of a dictatorship
- 'Trust' by Hernan Diaz** | Story centres on a 1920s Wall Street tycoon
- 'The Trees' by Percival Everett** | Story about a pair of detectives from Mississippi Bureau of Investigation
- 'Booth' by Karen Joy Fowler** | A fictional family portrait of the clan around the Abraham Lincoln assassin, John Wilkes Booth
- 'Treach Walker' by Alan Garner** | Story about a young boy called Joe who is visited by a wanderer and healer, sparking an unlikely friendship
- 'The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida' by Shahan Karunatilaka** | About a war photographer caught up in the horrors of civil war
- 'Small Things Like These' by Claire Keegan** | It is set in the run-up to Christmas 1985 in a small Irish town
- 'Case Study' by Graeme Macrae Burnet** | Story about a woman who believes a charismatic psychotherapist has driven her sister to suicide
- 'The Colony' by Audrey Magee** | Two men spend the summer on a sparsely populated island
- 'Maps of Our Spectacular Bodies' by Maddie Mortimer** | A novel whose narrators include both a dying mother and the cancer that is killing her
- 'Nightcrawling' by Leila Mottley** | A best seller about a desperate Black teenager in California who ends up in a sex-trafficking ring
- 'After Sappho' by Selby Lynn Schwartz** | Story begins in 1880s Italy, introducing the baby who will grow up to become the Italian poet Lina Poletti
- 'Oh William!' by Elizabeth Strout** | Novel about a grief-stricken woman who helps her ex-husband investigate his family past

Alan Garner | At 87, author best known for 1967 novel 'The Owl Service', earned his first Booker nod. **If he wins, Garner would be oldest winner ever, turning 88 on day of award ceremony**

Leila Mottley | At 20, she is **youngest writer ever to make the cut**. Record was previously held by Jon McGregor. At 26 his 'If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things' made the list in 2002

Claire Keegan | At 116 pages, the Irish author's 'Small Things Like These' is the **shortest novel** recognised in the Booker prize's 53-year history

3 Debut Novelists | Leila Mottley along with Maddie Mortimer and Selby Wynn Schwartz

American Dominance | Mottley is one of six US authors on list, alongside Hernan Diaz, Percival Everett, Karen Joy Fowler, Selby Wynn Schwartz & Elizabeth Strout. Even NoViolet Bulawayo, who was born in Zimbabwe, now lives in the US. Their dominance may well reignite debate to open the Booker prize to US authors in 2014

Shehan Karunatilaka | Sri Lankan author is the only one who is not from the British Isles or US

Source: NYT, Guardian, AFP, Photo: Getty Images