

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 14, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- On July 13, the Tamil Nadu government - has announced a monthly honorarium for mayors, deputy mayors, councillors and heads of urban local bodies in the state



- ✓ Chief minister M K Stalin announced Rs.30,000 monthly honorarium for mayors of the 21 corporations in the state, Rs.15,000 for deputy mayors and Rs.10,000 for councillors.
- ✓ With this, Tamil Nadu joins Karnataka in providing the highest honorarium in the country for mayors
- ✓ Among other States, Maharashtra allots Rs.25,000 for mayors, Rajasthan Rs.20,000 and Kerala Rs.16,800.
- ✓ Besides, Maharashtra provides an honorarium of Rs.25,000 for councillors, while Karnataka allots Rs.15,000 followed by Goa which provides Rs.10,800.
- ✓ Till now, the councillors only got a sitting fee of Rs.800 for every council meeting.

NATIONAL

- **On July 13, the defence ministry - approved the acquisition of 26 Rafale-Marine fighter jets and three Scorpene diesel-electric submarines from France**
 - ✓ The two proposed deals are expected to be formally announced at the PM Modi-Macron summit.
 - ✓ The Rajnath Singh-led Defence Acquisitions Council (DAC) accorded the 'acceptance of necessity (AoN)' to the twin procurements for the Navy, which together will cost upwards of Rs 80,000 crore (€9 billion),
 - ✓ The proposed inter-governmental agreement for the Rafale-M fighters will include off-the-shelf purchase of 22 single-seat jets and four twin seat trainers
 - ✓ The purchase will also include associated equipment, weapons, simulator, spares, crew training and logistic support.
 - ✓ This deal will cost an estimated Rs 50,000 crore, with deliveries of the jets to begin around three years after the contract is signed
 - ✓ IAF has already inducted 36 Rafales under the Rs 59,000 crore deal inked in September 2016.
 - ✓ The three Scorpene submarines to be constructed at the Mumbai-based Mazagon Docks (MDL) will cost around Rs 30,000 crore
 - ✓ They will have air-independent propulsion (AIP) developed by DRDO for greater underwater endurance
 - ✓ The first new submarine should be ready in five to six years after the contract
 - ✓ The three new submarines will follow the first six Scorpenes constructed at MDL in collaboration with French M/s Naval Group for over Rs 23,000 crore under 'Project-75', which was signed in 2005.
 - ✓ The sixth Scorpene under 'Project-75' is now expected for delivery by early-2024
- **Pharmaceutical giant Johnson and Johnson - recently surrendered its licence to manufacture baby powder in its Mumbai plant.**
 - ✓ According to the company, the decision to stop manufacturing baby powder in India was part of a global move to switch from talc-based to cornstarch-based baby powders.
 - ✓ Earlier, the company stopped production of its talc-based powders in the US and Canada three years ago.
 - ✓ Incidentally, J&J's move comes within months of the company winning a courtbattle against the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to continue production of baby powder.
 - ✓ Three varieties of baby powder were produced by the company under the cosmetic licence.

'NOW, CORNSTARCH-BASED POWDER'

1947 | Johnson & Johnson comes to India and starts marketing baby powder

1959 | 1st manufacturing facility for consumer products is established in Mulund for baby powder, Band-Aid and other products

1965 | Company takes a licence to manufacture baby powder

June 22, 2023 | It submits application to stop baby powder mfg; to import cornstarch-based powder

Transition from baby powder

Company announced transitioning from talc-based baby powder to cornstarch-based powder globally in 2022



Talc and lawsuits

➤ J&J faced litigation for 10+ years over allegations of ovarian cancer by some talc-based powder users

➤ In 2020, J&J withdrew talc-based baby powder in US, Canada

➤ In 2022, Maha FDA cancelled J&J licence for baby powder

➤ It went to court; it was allowed to resume production in Jan 2023

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- On July 13, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - landed in Paris on a two-day official visit to France

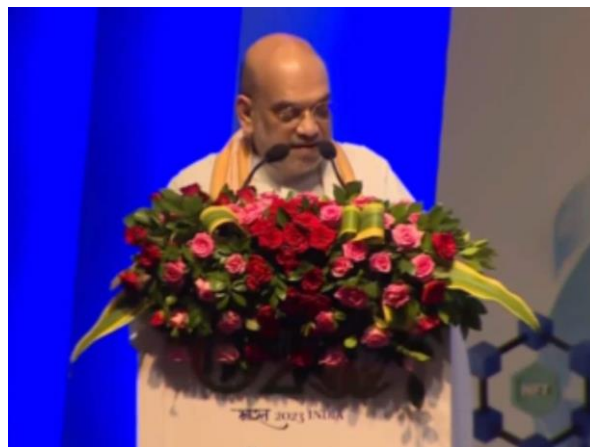


- ✓ French PM Elisabeth Borne received the Prime Minister at the airport.
- ✓ During his visit, the PM is set to attend the July 14 French National Day, or Bastille Day, celebrations as the guest of honour.
- ✓ An Indian tri-Services contingent will be part of the Bastille Day parade, while Indian Air Force aircraft will perform a flypast
- On July 13, the European Parliament - adopted a resolution that called on Indian authorities to take "all necessary" measures to stop the violence in Manipur and protect religious minorities, especially Christians.
- ✓ The European Parliament also noted the violence had been instigated by "politically motivated, divisive policies promoting Hindu majoritarianism", as well as, increased activity by militant groups.
- ✓ The EU Parliament urged that internet shutdowns should be lifted and an independent investigation should be carried out.

- ✓ India reacted that it was “unacceptable” and reflection of a “colonial mindset”.
- ✓ The resolution on the theme “India, the situation in Manipur” was tabled by five political groups and adopted by a vote during the plenary session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg during July 10-13.
 - ✓ The five parliamentary factions that authored the resolution were the left Greens-European Free Alliance, the centre-right European People’s Party (EPP), the centre-left Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D), the liberal Renew group and the right-wing European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) group.
 - ✓ They account for around 80% of the lawmakers in the 705-member parliament.
- ✓ The members of the EU Parliament expressed concern over clashes between Manipur's majority Meitei and the Christian minority Kuki tribe, that began on 3rd May, in the surrounding hills.
 - ✓ It had left at least 120 people dead and 50,000 displaced, and have destroyed more than 1,700 houses, 250 churches and several temples and schools.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **On July 13, Union Home Minister Amit Shah - inaugurated the two-day G20 conference on ‘Crime and Security in the Age of Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Metaverse’ in Haryana’s Gurugram.**



- ✓ The Home Minister said the G20 conference on cybersecurity will witness brainstorming among G20 countries, nine special invitee countries, and domain experts.
- ✓ After the inauguration, the Home Minister flagged off 'cyber volunteer' squads from seven premier educational institutions of India
 - ✓ These specially identified volunteers will work to generate cyber awareness in society, identify and report harmful content and render technical assistance for making the society cyber safe

- ✓ During the two-day conference, participants will engage in extensive deliberations across six technical sessions
 - ✓ This includes topics in Internet Governance, Artificial Intelligence, Deep Packet Inspection security, potential of Extended Reality, the Metaverse and Future of Digital Ownership, Connecting the Dots, and Criminal Use of Information and Communications Technology
- ✓ The conference will conclude on July 14 with a valedictory session, which will be addressed by Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- Isro's LMV3 rocket carrying the lander — and the rover inside — of Chandrayaan-3 - will lift off from Sriharikota at 2. 35pm on July 14.

India's 3rd Moonshot

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Isro, which is set to launch Chandrayaan-3 onboard LVM3 at 2.35pm on Friday from Sriharikota, is confident of a soft-landing on Moon some 40 days later. For this, the space agency has adopted a cautious approach and implemented several key changes, especially on lander Vikram. Isro's first voyage to Moon, Chandrayaan-1, was in 2008. India has since graduated from a sending to Moon a 'impact probe' to advanced lunar rovers.

LAUNCH OCT 22, 2008

CHANDRAYAAN - 1 ORBITER SPECS
 Mass | 1,380kg
 Mission life | 2 years
 Power | 700 W
 Payloads | 11 including 6 foreign

CHANDRAYAAN - 2 LANDER/ROVER SPECS
 Mission life | 1 lunar day (14 Earth days); Mass | 1,471kg including rover (27 kg); Power | 650W;
 Payloads | 6 including rover (2)

ORBITER SPECS
 Mass | 2,379kg
 Power | 1,000W; Payloads | 8

FAILURE LESSONS
 ➤ Learning from Chandrayaan-2, Isro has made changes to its hardware, software, sensors and algorithms to prevent failure. Vikram, the lander, whose soft-landing is critical to achieve scientific objectives, has been improved

Unlike last time, propulsion module replaces the orbiter in Chandrayaan-3. It's primary job is to transport the landing module. It carries 1 payload compared to 8 by Chandrayaan-2

KEY IMPROVEMENTS ON VIKRAM
 ➤ Fifth engine removed for weight management ➤ It's legs have been strengthened ➤ Velocity threshold has increased from 2m/sec to 3/sec;
 ➤ Additional sensor (laser doppler velocity metre) adds redundancy
 ➤ It carries more fuel, additional solar panels and tracking, telemetry and command antennas ➤ Has updated software to ensure near real-time correction of errors on account of thrust disruptions ➤ Landing site has been enhanced to 4km x 2.5km from the 500m X 500m of Chandrayaan-2

CHANDRAYAAN - 3 LANDER/ROVER SPECS
 Mission life | 1 lunar day (14 Earth days); Mass | 1,749.86 kg including rover (26kg); Power | 738W; Payloads | 6 including rover (2)

PROPULSION MODULE SPECS
 Mass | 2,145.01 kg
 Power | 738 W
 Payloads | 1

LAUNCH JULY 22, 2019

MOON IMPACT Probe that discovered water molecules

Graphic: S Franklin

10-PHASE JOURNEY TO EARTH'S SATELLITE

EARTH-CENTRIC PHASE [Phase 1]
 ➤ This has 3 stages: Pre-launch preparations, which are complete; launch and ascent phase, and the Earth-bound manoeuvre phase

LUNAR TRANSFER PHASE [Phase 2]
 This is the phase that'll propel the spacecraft towards Moon; If all goes as planned, trans-lunar insertion (TLI) will happen on July 31

LUNAR ORBIT INSERTION [Phase 3]
 After TLI, Chandrayaan-3 will travel towards Moon for about five-and-a-half days. The lunar orbit insertion (LOI) is expected around August 5

MOON-BOUND MANOEUVRES & SEPARATION [Phases 4 & 5]
 LOI will put spacecraft on a high apolune (farthest point from Moon) Isro will do multiple perilune (closest point) manoeuvres to reduce the altitude to a 100km x 100km circular orbit. A scientist said there could be five lunar-bound manoeuvres before the final descent phase.
 After Chandrayaan-3 reaches the 100km x 100km orbit, lander module (Vikram & Pragyan) will separate from the propulsion module

DE-BOOST, PRE-LANDING & LANDING [Phases 6-9]
 Following Separation, lander module will be brought to a 100km x 30km orbit. From the module will deboost and the final descent is expected on August 23. This will be the most challenging phase

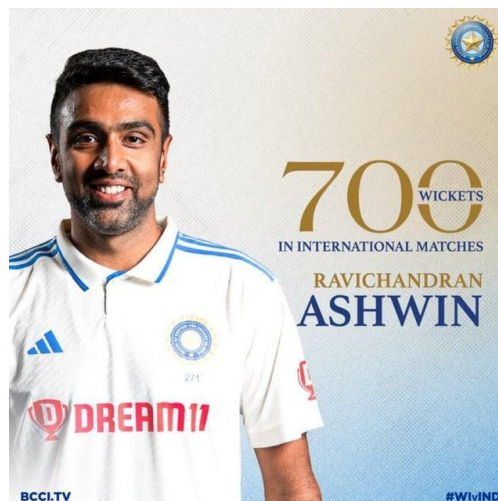
MOON-CENTRIC NORMAL ORBIT PHASE [Phase 10]
 Post landing, manoeuvres will be performed to normalise the propulsion module's orbit

Graphic: S Franklin

- ✓ As per the plan, Chandrayaan-3 lander Vikram will touch down on the lunar surface at 5. 47pm on August 23, after a 40-day journey
- ✓ While eight Chandrayaan-2 payloads have been sending remote sensing data since 2019, Chandrayaan-3 will add seven more scientific instruments, including one that will go around Moon and six on the lunar surface.
 - ✓ Vikram carries four payloads - One to look for moonquakes, the second to study how the surface allows heat to flow through it, the third to understand the plasma environment, and the last to help measure the distance between Earth and Moon more accurately.
 - ✓ The two payloads on Pragyan (rover) will study the composition of Moon's surface using X Ray and laser.
 - ✓ Chandrayaan-3 also carries a payload to "look at Earth from Moon to study its habitable planet-like features and use this information to explore exoplanets in future".
- ✓ If Vikram manages to soft-land, India will be the fourth country — after the US, Russia and China — to achieve the scientific feat.
- ✓ Isro has selected the region near the south pole for the landing.
- ✓ This region is of great scientific interest since it houses permanently shadowed craters that have the potential of holding water molecules in observable quantity.
- ✓ Following the failure of Chandrayaan-2 to softland in 2019, Isro has made several changes to the third Moon mission to ensure a safe landing.
 - ✓ Unlike Chandrayaan-2, when the landing was tracked through a Madrid (NASA-JPL) station, this time the lander will be tracked from Isro's Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (Istrac) station in Bengaluru
- ✓ Isro's first voyage to Moon, Chandrayaan-1, was in 2008.

SPORTS

- **Ravichandran Ashwin, the world's No. 1 Test bowler - became the third Indian to reach the 700-wicket milestone in international cricket**



- ✓ The 36-year-old veteran achieved the feat on Day 1 of India's opening Test against Kraigg Brathwaite's West Indies at Windsor Park in Dominica.
 - ✓ Ashwin dismissed Alzarri Joseph to reach the 700-wicket mark at the highest level in his 271st match for the Indian team.
 - ✓ With Joseph's wicket, Ashwin joined Harbhajan Singh and Anil Kumble as the other Indian bowlers with 700 wickets in international cricket.
 - ✓ Ashwin also became the 16th bowler to pick up 700 wickets.
 - ✓ The other bowlers are Muttiah Muralitharan (1347), Shane Warne (1001), James Anderson (975), Kumble, Glenn McGrath (949), Wasim Akram (916), Stuart Broad (841), Shaun Pollock (829), Waqar Younis (789), Chaminda Vaas (761), Courtney Walsh (746), Brett Lee (718), Tim Southee (714), Harbhajan and Daniel Vettori (705).
- **India - bagged three gold and two bronze medals on the second day of the Asian Athletics Championships at Bangkok on July 14**
- ✓ Jyothi Yarraji became the first from the country to secure top podium finish in women's 100m hurdles



- ✓ The 23-year-old Yarraji opened India's gold medal account in the championships as she clinched her maiden gold medal in a major international event.
- ✓ Ajay Kumar Saroj ran a brilliant tactical race to win the men's 1500m gold before Commonwealth Games silver medallist Abdulla Aboobacker added another gold for the country by clinching the men's triple jump event.
- ✓ Quartermiler Aishwarya Mishra (53.07 seconds) and Tejaswin Shankar were the other medal winning Indians (bronze) on the day
- ✓ In fact, it was the maiden international medal for both Aishwarya and Tejaswin in the senior level in their respective events, competing in their maiden international event.
- ✓ Saroj had won gold in the 2017 edition in Bhubaneswar and silver in 2019 in Doha.

