

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 15, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- The French government - has selected Indian classical vocalist Padma Shri Aruna Sairam and flutist Shashank Subramanyam for the prestigious Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Order of Arts and Letters) award



- ✓ The award is conferred for being instrumental in connecting France and India through their music.
- ✓ The French government also selected coordinator for French with the Puducherry government's education directorate **George Rajan** for Chevalier des Palmes académiques (Order of Academic Palms) award for his contribution for promotion of French language, art and culture in Puducherry.
- ✓ The Consul General presented the Chevalier des Palmes académiques award to George Rajan during the French National Day celebrations on July 14 in Puducherry.
- ✓ Consul General of France in Puducherry and Chennai Lise Talbot Barré will present the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres awards to two musicians at the French National Day celebrations on July 15 in Chennai.

- ✓ Aruna Sairam represents one of south India's richest lineages of Carnatic classical music
 - ✓ She studied music first from her mother Rajalakshmi Sethuraman and later from the legendary T Brinda, the sixth-generation master of a long lineage of women singers, who adorned the kingdom of Tanjore.
- ✓ Sairam has had numerous collaborations with French artists.
 - ✓ She collaborated with director Dominique Pompougnac in 1997 for his musical play The Blue Baby, based on the story of Lord Krishna and went on their tour for 40 performances throughout France.
 - ✓ In the 1990s, she collaborated with Dominique Vellard, founder of the Ensemble Gilles Binchois and the Thoronet Music Festival to perform in numerous concerts, a unique collaboration between European and Indian Carnatic music.
- ✓ Shashank Subramanyam, considered a child prodigy and the youngest recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi's senior award by the Indian government, started performing at the age of six.
 - ✓ He also has a Grammy nomination for the CD album with guitarist John McLaughlin to add to his glory.
- ✓ George Rajan is responsible for the teaching of the French language in all the educational establishments of the Union territory.
 - ✓ He is the interlocutor between the French International School of Pondicherry (LFIP) and education directorate

NATIONAL

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) - successfully launched India's third lunar mission, Chandrayaan 3 on July 14, at 2:35 pm.**
- ✓ Chandrayaan 3 was launched on Launch Vehicle Mark-3 rocket from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh
- ✓ At 3. 01pm, the Chandrayaan 3 spacecraft was in a precise transfer orbit of 36,500km x 170km
- ✓ Chandrayaan-3 project director **P Veeramuthavel, a native of Villupuram district in Tamil Nadu and an alumnus of the prestigious IIT, Madras** confirmed that all the health parameters of the spacecraft are normal
- ✓ Beginning July 14, Chandrayaan-3 will go around Earth 10 times till July 31, each time scientists carrying out manoeuvres to increase its farthest point from Earth (apogee).
 - ✓ Once the apogee reaches 1 lakh km, scientists will perform a "slingshot" to send it on a trajectory to the Moon, which is called translunar insertion.
 - ✓ Later, after 5 ½ days, the craft will enter the critical lunar orbit insertion stage.
 - ✓ This will be carried out by firing onboard propulsion systems to get the spacecraft into the Moon's orbit.

- ✓ The Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft comprises a propulsion module (2,148 kg), six-wheeled lander Vikram (1,723. 89 kg), and rover Pragyan (26kg), together carrying seven scientific instruments to provide data related to the Moon's surface
 - ✓ The rear wheels of the rover will leave imprints of the ISRO and the national emblem, depicting the Lion Capital of Ashoka at Sarnath, on the lunar surface
- ✓ Chandrayaan-3 is scheduled to arrive in lunar orbit on August 5 and the soft-landing attempt is expected by the end of the month
 - ✓ Once the spacecraft reaches the Moon, Isro will begin decreasing its orbit, reducing its altitude above the Moon, for it to be pulled by the Moon's gravity.
 - ✓ The spacecraft is expected to touchdown Moon's south pole region on August 23 at 5:47 pm.
- ✓ **Student researchers of Sona College of Technology in Tamil Nadu's Salem developed a stepper motor used in the LVM-3 rocket that lifted off the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft and placed it into the Earth's orbit.**
 - ✓ The young researcher team developed the simplex permanent magnet stepper motor for the actuator assembly of LVM-3 that controlled the rocket engine's liquid fuel and oxidiser mixture ratio.
- ✓ Chandrayaan-3 seeks to study moonquakes, composition of the lunar surface and atmosphere, understand Earth's lifelike elements/signatures, how heat passes through the lunar surface and the plasma environment on the Moon.
 - ✓ It involves collaboration with different space agencies including the European, Australian and US counterparts of ISRO



Photo: PTI

Chandrayaan-1	Chandrayaan-2	Chandrayaan-3 (pic)
Launched on October 22, 2008	Launched on July 22, 2019	Launched on July 14, 2023
Mission life: 2 years	Carried a lander and a rover. Partial success; lander crashed on Moon	Mission life: 1 lunar day (14 Earth days)
Orbiter, with 11 payloads, successfully orbited the Moon	Orbiter, with eight payloads, still active	Carries lander and a rover with six payloads and a propulsion module with one payload

SETTING THE PACE

Russia (USSR)

- First country to reach the moon; hard-landed unmanned Luna-2 on September 12, 1959
- It was Russia's sixth attempt
- **Luna-9** was world's first spacecraft to soft land on Moon on January 31, 1966
- Luna 16, launched on September 12, 1970, returned after collecting lunar soil samples
- The USSR carried out 23 Moon missions, but never landed a cosmonaut there
- Luna 25, scheduled for liftoff on July 13, 2023, has been postponed to August 2023



China

- **Chang'e 3** with lander and rover launched on December 1, 2013 landed on Moon
- It was China's third mission. Chang'e 1 (2007) and Chang'e 2 (2010) orbited Moon and captured images
- Chang'e 4 launched on December 7, 2018 was the first to softland with a rover on the far side of Moon
- Chang'e 5 launched on November 23, 2020 returned with soil samples, only the third country to do so
- Three unmanned missions – Chang'e 6, Chang'e 7 and Chang'e 8 – have been planned
- China has announced a manned lunar mission before 2030 as part of establishing a lunar research



USA

- Only country to land 12 people on Moon through six space missions
- **Apollo 11**, the first manned mission on July 16, 1969, carried Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, soft landed on



Moon on July 24
➤ Seven unmanned and manned flights were launched before Apollo 11

- Apollo 13 launched on April 11, 1970 couldn't land due to a malfunction; crew returned safe

- Apollo 1, planned for launch on February 21, 1967, resulted in the death of three crew members in a cabin fire
- US's Artemis plans to land the first woman and first person of colour on Moon; first crewed test flight planned in 2024

OTHER COUNTRIES/ AGENCIES THAT MADE ATTEMPTS

Japan |
Luxembourg |
European Union |
Israel |
South Korea |
UAE

- ✓ The mission is a follow-up of Chandrayaan-2 mission, which failed a desired soft landing on the lunar surface nearly four years ago in September 2019.
- ✓ A successful mission would make India only the fourth country to achieve the rare feat after the United States, China and the former USSR (now Russia).
 - ✓ Both the United States and the Soviet Union crashed many spacecraft before they successfully landed on the Moon.
 - ✓ China was the only country to succeed in its first attempt with the Chang'e-3 mission in 2013.
- **Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal - inaugurated an indigenous Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS) called 'Sagar Sampark' recently on July 12**



- ✓ It is an enhancement system that “corrects the errors and inaccuracies in the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) and provides more accurate positioning information”
- ✓ Sagar Sampark has been launched at six locations across the country
- ✓ It will assist the Director General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL) to provide radio aids to ships for marine navigation.
- ✓ The made-in-India navigation system will provide accurate information to the ships for safe navigation and will reduce the risk of collisions, groundings, and accidents in the port and harbour areas.
- ✓ Sagar Sampark significantly improves the accuracy of GPS positioning and reduces errors caused by atmospheric inferences, satellite clock drift, and other factors

HIGH COURT VERDICT

- **The Madras High Court - upheld the arrest of Minister V Senthil Balaji by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case and his subsequent remand in judicial custody by a sessions court.**
- ✓ On July 14, Justice C V Karthikeyan concurred with the findings of Justice Bharatha Chakravarthy and upheld the arrest, ruling that it was legally valid.

- ✓ Justice Karthikeyan ruled that the ED does have the right to take custody of the arrested accused, even though it is not police, for custodial interrogation to unearth where the money has gone and how it was pumped into the economy as legal money
- ✓ The judge agreed to the ED's demand to exclude the period of hospitalisation of Senthil Balaji for considering the custody application
- ✓ He rejected the primary argument that Senthil Balaji was not informed about the grounds of his arrest
- ✓ Earlier, a division bench comprising Justice J Nisha Banu and Justice D Bharatha Chakravarthy gave a split verdict on the legality of the arrest of minister V Senthil Balaji.
 - ✓ In view of a split verdict, Chief Justice Sanjay Vijaykumar Gangapurwala named Justice Karthikeyan as the third judge to decide on the Habeas Corpus petition (HCP) of Senthil Balaji's wife Megala
- ✓ The ED arrested Senthil Balaji, who was the minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise, on June 14 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with a cash-for-job case in 2015.
 - ✓ In the meantime, he was divested of his portfolios and was declared a minister without portfolio

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **PM Narendra Modi - attended the Bastille Day Parade as the guest of honour at the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron on the Champs-Élysées on July 14.**



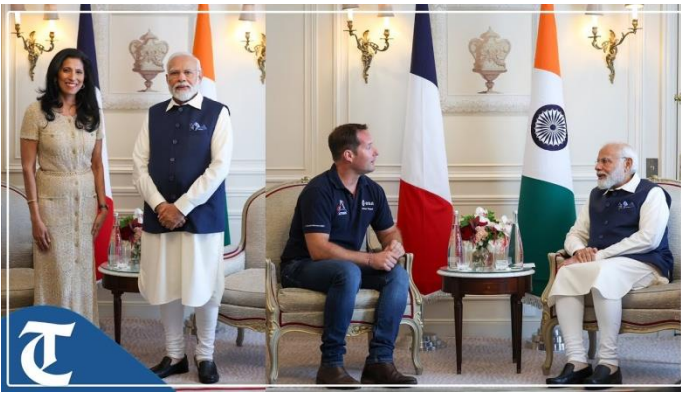
- ✓ This was the first time since 2017 that the parade saw a foreign leader as the chief guest.

- ✓ The last dignitary invited to the occasion was US President Donald Trump in 2017
- ✓ To mark the 25th anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership, a 241-member tri-Service Indian armed forces contingent led by a military band also participated in the parade.
 - ✓ The Indian Army contingent was led by the Punjab Regiment, along with the Rajputana Rifles Regiment.
 - ✓ Rafale jets of the IAF, from the 101 Squadron from Hashimara, formed a part of the flypast during the parade.
- ✓ The day July 14 marks the anniversary of the storming of the Bastille prison on July 14, 1789, during the French revolution
 - ✓ The revolution symbolises the democratic values of 'Liberty, Equality and Fraternity', the central theme of both the Indian and French constitutions.
- ✓ At the private dinner hosted by Macron for PM Modi on July 13, Macron gave a series of official gifts that included a framed facsimile of the photograph 'A Parisian Presenting Flowers to a Sikh'.

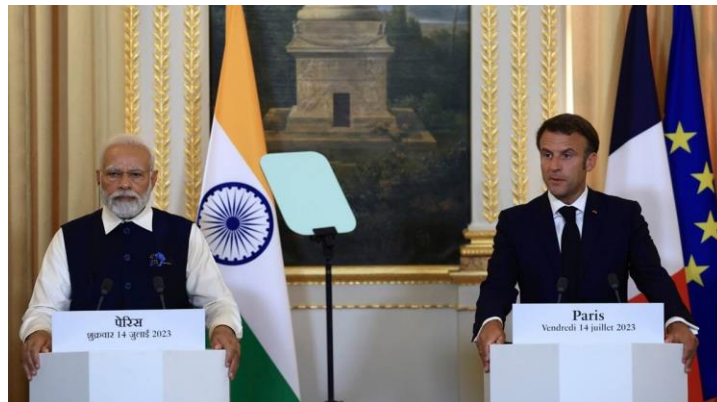


- ✓ This photo was taken on the Champs-Élysées during the military parade of July 14, 1916, while the original is located at the National Library of France.
- ✓ PM Modi gifted Macron a sandalwood replica of a sitar which has images of Goddess Saraswati and Lord Ganesha.
 - ✓ He also presented a silk ikatsari from Pochampally in a decorative sandalwood box to Macron's spouse, Brigitte.
- ✓ Macron also gifted a reproduction of the Charlemagne chessmen (11th century) to PM Modi acknowledging the fact that the PM is a chess enthusiast.
 - ✓ According to France, this unique item represents both the long history of trade between India and Europe
 - ✓ The elephant piece recalling the Indian origins of the game of chess, and the expertise of French companies in terms of innovation and new technologies.
- ✓ Macron also gifted PM Modi 'À La Recherche Du Temps Perdu' (In Search of Lost Time), a novel series by Marcel Proust (1871-1922) published between 1913 and 1927

- ✓ The series is recognised as one of the most important works of French literature of the early 20th century.
- ✓ PM Modi also gifted a marble inlay work made of semi-precious stones from Rajasthan to French PM Elisabeth Borne, a hand-knitted silk Kashmiri carpet to Yael Braun-Pivet, president of the French National Assembly, and a sandalwood hand-carved elephant to Gerard Larcher, president of the French Senate.
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi has announced that Indian students pursuing master's degrees in France will now be given a **five-year long-term post-study visa** instead of the earlier two-year work visas after their postgraduation.
- ✓ PM Modi made the announcement during his address to the Indian community at LA Seine Musicale in Paris.
- ✓ France has been a sought-after study and work destination among students, scientists, managers, engineers, thinkers, artists and writers.
 - ✓ France offers a wide range of higher education programmes
 - ✓ It is ranked fourth favourite destination for international students
 - ✓ The country has about 2.7 million students in the higher education institutions in France and out of this, 14% are international students.
 - ✓ In 2019, nearly 10,000 Indian students chose to pursue higher studies in France.
- ✓ During his interaction in Paris, PM Modi announced that besides long-term work visa for students, **an agreement had also been reached for use of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in France.**
 - ✓ The deal to launch the Unified Payment Interface or UPI in France marks a significant breakthrough
 - ✓ This marks the first instance of the homegrown payment tool entering a developed nation market
 - ✓ It will be started from the Eiffel Tower, and now Indian tourists would be able to make payments in Rupees, through UPI, in the Eiffel Tower
 - ✓ The agreement for an entry into France, the first port of call in Europe, follows an MoU between NPCI and Lyra, the French online payment system.
 - ✓ So far, UPI has managed to penetrate Asian markets, Singapore and UAE as well as Nepal and Bhutan.
- ✓ The PM's visitors included Leena Nair, the first CEO of Chanel from outside the Wertheimer family who founded the luxury fashion powerhouse.
 - ✓ Nair is the second Indian-origin woman after Pepsi's Indira Nooyi to become a global CEO.
- ✓ PM Modi also met Charlotte Chopin, a 100-year-old yoga practitioner.
 - ✓ Known as 'Granny Yoga' or 'Mamie Yoga', Chopin, who has been teaching yoga for four decades now
- ✓ Thomas Pesquet, French astronaut who holds the European record for the number of hours accumulated in a spacewalk and mission specialist for SpaceX Crew-2, also met the Prime Minister



- ✓ PM Modi is in France for a two-day official visit and he was welcomed by French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne at the airport
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron – held wide-ranging discussions to take forward the bilateral relationship**



- ✓ The Modi-Macron summit saw the two leaders signing a joint statement that will set the course for bilateral ties till 2047 and announcing continuation of cooperation on fighter jets like Rafale and submarines.
- ✓ During the summit, an MoU was signed to build three more Scorpene submarines at the Mumbai-based Mazagon Docks
 - ✓ The agreement will also include the co-development of cutting-edge military technologies like advanced fighter jet engines with France.
 - ✓ Regarding the three additional Scorpene submarines to be built in India, Mumbai-based Mazagon Docks (MDL) signed the MoU with the M/s Naval Group, France.
- ✓ As per The Horizon 2047 document, India and France will now extend their defence cooperation in advanced aeronautical technologies by supporting the joint development of the combat aircraft engine
- ✓ In this regard, a roadmap will be prepared by DRDO and French major Safran before the end of this year.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - is conferred with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour by French President Macron on July 13.**



- ✓ PM Modi is the first Indian PM to receive France's highest civilian & military honour
- ✓ The Legion of Honour is the highest French decoration given to the most deserving citizens in all fields of activity.
 - ✓ It has been conferred to prominent personalities for two centuries.
- ✓ Established by former French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the Legion of Honour is divided into five degrees (lower to higher) – Knight, Officer, Commander, Grand Officer and Grand Cross.
 - ✓ The PM was awarded the fifth honour- Grand Cross – which has a red ribbon and the badge features a five-armed Maltese asterisk on an oak and laurel wreath.
- ✓ While membership is typically reserved for French nationals, foreign individuals who serve France or uphold its ideals may also receive this distinction
 - ✓ Other personalities who received this honour include former South African President Nelson Mandela, King Charles - the then Prince of Wales, Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and Former United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The third Sherpas meeting under India's G20 Presidency - began in Hampi in Karnataka on July 13.**



- ✓ The three-day meeting was chaired by India's G20 Sherpa, Amitabh Kant
- ✓ It was held on the banks of river Tungabhadra near UNESCO World Heritage site Hampi
- ✓ During the meeting, the Sherpas deliberated and engaged in co-authoring the Leaders Declaration to be adopted by the G20 leaders in New Delhi Summit.
- ✓ The meeting discussed issues related to Green development, climate finance, lifestyle for environment, accelerated, inclusive and resilient growth, accelerating progress on sustainable development goals, technological transformation and digital public infrastructure, multilateral institutions for the 21st century and women-led development.
- ✓ The third Sherpa meeting witnessed the participation of over 120 delegates led by their respective Sherpas and heads of delegations from G20 members, invitee countries, and international organisations
- ✓ The first Sherpa Meeting of India's G20 Presidency was held on December 4, 2022, in Udaipur Rajasthan, while the second Sherpa meeting was held in Kumarakom, Kerala, from March 30 to April 2, 2023.
- ✓ A Sherpa is a personal representative of the leader of a member country at an international Summit meeting such as the G20.
- ✓ The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies.
- ✓ The members represent around 85% of the global GDP, over 75% of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population

DEFENCE

- **INS Sunayna, a vessel of the Indian Navy, recently visited Seychelles as part of Operation Southern Readiness 2023, conducted by the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).**
- ✓ This visit aimed to strengthen multilateral ties and enhance cooperation through a series of exercises and engagements.



- ✓ During the visit, INS Sunayna actively participated in the exercise, which is a multinational initiative dedicated in enhancing maritime security and countering piracy to ensure the safety and freedom of navigation in the region.

- ✓ The exercise brought together navies from the USA, Italy, UK, Seychelles Defence Forces, Marine Police, and member nations of EUNAVFOR.

SPORTS

- **Ace shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor and middle distance runner Parul Chaudhary - won gold on the third day of the Asian Athletics Championship in Bangkok, Thailand on July 14**



- ✓ Shaili Singh won a silver in the women's long jump as India's medal tally rose to nine medals, which include five gold, one silver and three bronze.
- ✓ Toor retained his men's shot put crown with a best throw of 20.23m.
 - ✓ This was his third medal at the event after winning gold in 2019 and a silver in 2017.
 - ✓ The 28-year-old Toor became only the third shot putter to defend the Asian Championships title.
 - ✓ Qatari Bilal Saad Mubarak had achieved the feat twice by winning consecutive titles in 1995 and 1998, and again in 2002 and 2003, while Mohd Gharib Al Zinkawi of Kuwait had won the title thrice in a row -- 1979, 1981 and 1983.
 - ✓ Toor had missed the 2022 World Championships due to a groin strain he developed just before the event, which also forced him to skip the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.
- ✓ Parul Chaudhary won her maiden 3000m steeplechase title in a major international event
 - ✓ The women's 3000m steeplechase, which was introduced in 2007, is an event dominated by India.
 - ✓ Sudha Singh (2013 and 2017) and Lalita Babar (2015) had earlier won gold for the country, while Chaudhary had finished fourth and fifth in 2017 and 2019.
- ✓ Young long jumper Shaili Singh also clinched her maiden medal -- a silver -- in her first major international event
 - ✓ She had won a silver in the World Junior Championships in 2021.

- ✓ Earlier, Hurdler Jyothi Yarraji, triple jumper Abdulla Aboobacker and middle-distance runner Ajay Kumar Saroj won gold medals on July 13
- ✓ In the 2019 edition, India won 16 medals -- two gold, seven silver and seven bronze.

