

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 16, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- On July 15, Chief Minister MK Stalin – inaugurated the 'Kalaingar Centenary Library' at New Natham Salai in Madurai, as part of former chief minister M Karunanidhi's birth centenary celebrations



- ✓ The six-storeyed library, which features 3.5 lakh books, has been built on 2,13,338 square feet area at a cost of Rs.120.75 crore by the Public Works Department.
- ✓ The Chief Minister also unveiled a statue of former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi on the library premises.
- ✓ Out of the total 8 floors, the ground floor consists of a reception hall, an art gallery for the depiction of Tamil culture and discoveries made by Tamil people and a section for differently abled.
- ✓ Starting from the first to sixth floor, more than 2 lakh books are placed categorically to benefit all sections of the society including children, students,

youth, researchers, experts, persons preparing for competitive exams, women and senior citizens etc., besides having e-books and manuscripts

- ✓ There is a separate section for rare books in the library which will serve as a huge repository of evidence for historians.
 - ✓ This rare section consists of Justice magazines published in London in 1918 and also more than 50 magazines published by the leaders of Dravidian movement.
 - ✓ One of the prideful facts is, after the London museum, Madurai Kalaingar centenary library only has the first edition of Sathuragarathi (Tamil dictionary) which was published in 1824.



- ✓ The entire project was completed within 12 months and the library has a variety of amenities such as an art gallery, multi-purpose hall, children's theater with interactive floors, and a conference hall that can accommodate up to 700 people.
- ✓ One of the most interesting features of the library is the virtual reality experience that allows visitors to operate a flight.
- ✓ The air-conditioned library will also hold periodic sessions for children, workshops for self-help groups, and programs for unemployed youth and students.
- ✓ **The inauguration coincides with the Education Development Day declared by Tamil Nadu government on July 15 which is the birth anniversary of former CM K.Kamaraj** who worked tirelessly for the eradication of illiteracy
- ✓ The event was graced by Shiv Nadar, founder of HCL Group and his daughter Roshini Nadar, Chairperson of HCL enterprise, as chief guests.
- ✓ Ministers Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi, Durai Murugan, K N Nehru, P Moorthy, I Periyasamy, E V Velu, Palanivel Thiaga Rajan and Udhayanidhi Stalin attended the event.

- **The health department - has rolled out a “cash” incentive scheme in 23 “low-performing and hard-to-reach health” blocks across the state.**
- ✓ The scheme was launched by health minister Ma Subramanian in Ranipet recently
- ✓ The incentive scheme aims to bring down anaemia among pregnant women and in children in the first 1,000 days

MAPPING IT OUT	
ANAEMIA IN TN Data from the fifth edition of National Family Health Survey showed that 52.9% teen aged girls and 53.4% of women in 15-59 years age group are anaemic. At 24.6% of adolescent boys and 24.6% of men in the 15-49 years have anaemia	➤ With adequate weight gain and haemoglobin levels pregnant women will be given ₹3000 in three instalments during the second and third trimesters. Children with adequate weight gain will get ₹2000 in four instalments between the third month and the first year. (These are in addition to the existing maternity benefit schemes)
THE PROGRAMME 23 low performing hard to reach health blocks with a population of 27lakh have been identified. The state estimates 37,200 deliveries in 2023-24	WHAT THE STATE EXPECTS Experts say the incentive will encourage women to pay more attention to their health and their children's health

- ✓ Under the scheme, a woman will get her first cash initiative of Rs.1,000 during the second trimester between 18-20 weeks if haemoglobin levels are above 11 grams and there is a weight gain of 2kg from the 12th week of pregnancy.
 - ✓ The next incentive of Rs.1,000 will be given between 26-28 weeks if the woman adds three more kg from the 20th week and haemoglobin is at least 10 grams.
 - ✓ In the third trimester, the woman will get the third cash incentive of Rs.1,000 if there is 4 kg weight gain from the 28th week and haemoglobin is above 11.
 - ✓ For the child, Rs.500 is given at 6, 12, 18, and 24 months after birth for weight gain.
- ✓ An estimated 37,200 deliveries are likely in 2023-24 in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Anaemia is one of the biggest public health problems that affect maternal and infant mortality rates.
 - ✓ Anaemia is a condition in which the number of red blood cells or the haemoglobin concentration within them is lower than normal.
 - ✓ According to WHO, anaemia is defined as haemoglobin (Hb) levels less than 12. 0 g/dL in women and less than 13. 0 g/dL in men.
 - ✓ Based on the data from the fifth edition of the National Family Health Survey, 52.9% of teenage girls and 53.4% of women in the 15-59 years age group are anaemic.
 - ✓ At least 24. 6% of adolescent boys and 24. 6% of men in the 15-49 age group have anaemia.

- On July 15, 'Water Man' of India, Rajendra Singh – launched a 10-year plan for rejuvenating the Vaigai river at the conference held for rejuvenation of Vaigai river at Gandhi Memorial Museum in Madurai
- ✓ As per the plan, in the first phase, a scientific and social study has to be conducted on the river.
- ✓ In the second phase, river awareness volunteers should be trained and given the task of spreading awareness to more people.



- ✓ In the third phase, all stakeholders responsible for the development of the river including government, NGOs and residents should be brought together on a single platform.
- ✓ In the fourth phase, a technical team including government officials has to be created.
- ✓ In the fifth phase, an execution plan should be created and implemented within a time period
- ✓ Alongside the conference, Rajendra Singh also inaugurated a Vaigai river parliament of which he himself took over as advisor.
- ✓ Under the initiative, the Vaigai river will be divided into 14 basins each spanning 20 kilometres and 5 members from each basin will be selected to be part of the parliament
- ✓ Shrubs and invasive species in the river will be removed as part of the programme.
- ✓ Further, cleaning inlet and outlet of the river and a river literacy programme will be organised for riverside residents.
- ✓ As a pilot project, the Peranai-Viraganoor stretch will be developed as a model to be executed in the 13 other basins.

STATES

- The Odisha Cabinet - approved the 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' scheme with an allocation of a budget of Rs 4,000 crore recently



- ✓ The new scheme is a modification of the earlier intervention 'Ama Gaon Ama Bikash' and will be implemented from the Financial Year 2023-24.
- ✓ The scheme will cover all Gram Panchayats in each block of the State with the entitlement of Rs. 50 lakh.
- ✓ It aims development of infrastructure, human resources, empowerment of women and youths apart from retaining the essence of Odisha's unique Shree Jagannath culture.
 - ✓ Jagannath culture seeks to protect local places of worship, sites of historical significance and provide amenities to pilgrims and visitors
- ✓ The earlier scheme was announced in March 2018 for the allocation of Rs.50 lakh to each panchayat for the creation of additional facilities for Mission Shakti (self-help) Groups, development of sports, banking facilities, improvement of digital access, WiFi and internet connectivity, etc.

NATIONAL

- **The Centre – has recently decided to convert the National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE) in Powai into IIM Mumbai.**



- ✓ It will be India's 21st IIM and the second in Maharashtra, with the other one being at Nagpur.

- ✓ With this, Maharashtra is all set to become the only state in the country to have two IIMs
 - ✓ Once NITIE is renamed, it will offer MBA degrees instead of postgraduate ones
 - ✓ In this regard, an amendment has been proposed in the Indian Institute of Management Act, which is expected to come up in the monsoon session.
- **The National Medical Commission (NMC) - has deferred the National Exit Test (NExT) examination until further notice from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).**
- ✓ The exam was meant to be implemented for the 2019 MBBS batch but has faced opposition from students and doctors.
 - ✓ Recently, union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya said that the NExT exam would not be implemented for the 2019 MBBS batch during an interaction with the students of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Raipur.
 - ✓ The NMC introduced the NExT regulations 2023 recently, indicating that the test would be conducted in two phases - NExT Step 1 and NExT Step 2 exams - that will be held twice a year.
 - ✓ While NExT step 1 will be conducted in the months of May and November every year, step 2 will be held in June and December.
 - ✓ NExT is a postgraduate medical exam designed to serve as a qualifying exam for final-year MBBS students and is going to replace NEET PG.
- **The Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), located in Ludhiana - has developed a new wheat variety called PBW RS1.**



- ✓ PBW RS1 has similar total starch content to other wheat varieties but has significantly higher resistant starch content (RS in the name refers to resistant starch) and amylose content.
- ✓ Resistant starch helps in reducing the prevalence of diet-related diseases like obesity and type-2 diabetes.
- ✓ PAU is renowned for its contribution to the Green Revolution and was ranked as India's top state agricultural university in 2023 according to the National Institute Ranking Framework.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Google's artificial intelligence chatbot 'Bard' – has added support for over 40 languages including nine Indian languages along with several new features**



- ✓ Google is also expanding Bard to 59 new countries and territories including Brazil and across the European Union.
 - ✓ With this expansion, the search giant said Bard is now available in most parts of the world, and in the most widely spoken languages.
 - ✓ Among the nine new Indian languages that will be available on Bard include Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Gujarati and Urdu.
 - ✓ Among other international languages included in this rollout are German, Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic
 - ✓ Google had first unveiled Bard in February following the runaway success of ChatGPT that clocked 100 million users within the first two months of its launch.
- **The U.S. Food and Drug Administration - approved the first over-the-counter contraceptive pill recently on July 13**



- ✓ Ireland-based Perrigo's once-a-day 'Opill' is to be sold without a prescription, making it the first such medication to be available.
- ✓ The company will start shipping the pill only after early next year, and there will be no age restrictions on sales.
- ✓ Hormone-based pills have long been the most common form of birth control in the US and all of them require a prescription

- ✓ An estimated 45% of the 6 million annual pregnancies in the US are unintended

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi – held talks with Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi on July 15 during his day-long visit to Abu Dhabi.**



- ✓ Upon his arrival in Abu Dhabi, PM Modi was welcomed by Sheikh Khaled Bin Mohamed Bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi at the airport.
- ✓ Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world, displayed the Indian flag on July 14 night to welcome Prime Minister Modi to the country.
- ✓ Following the talks, three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were exchanged by both sides in banking and education sector
- ✓ These agreements aimed at facilitating seamless cross border transactions and payments, and fostering greater economic cooperation between India and United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- ✓ The Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) were exchanged in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi.
- ✓ The first MoU focuses on establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies, specifically the Indian rupee (INR) and the UAE Dirham (AED), for cross-border transactions.
- ✓ The second MoU centers on cooperation between the payment and messaging systems of the two central banks.
- ✓ They were signed by the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Shaktikanta Das and the Governor of the Central Bank of UAE, Khaled Mohamed Balama.
- ✓ Accordingly, the two central banks also agreed to cooperate on linking their Fast Payment Systems (FPSs) - Unified Payments Interface (UPI) of India with the Instant Payment Platform (IPP) of UAE

- ✓ As part of the second MoU, India and the UAE have also agreed to co-operate in linking their Card Switches, namely RuPay switch and UAESWITCH, and consider the linking of payments messaging systems.



- ✓ The UPI-IPP linkage will enable the users in either country to make fast, convenient, safe, and cost-effective cross-border funds transfers as against the SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) mechanism.
- ✓ The linking of Card Switches will facilitate the mutual acceptance of domestic cards and the processing of card transactions.
- ✓ The creation of a local currency settlement system with the UAE would allow traders to invoice and pay in their respective domestic currencies.
- ✓ Accordingly, India could avoid dollar conversions and use rupee-dirham payment mechanism for oil as well as other imports from the UAE
- ✓ The signing of the first MoU is India's latest move to increase the use of the rupee to settle international transactions.
 - ✓ Peekay Intermark Limited and YES Bank became the first users for settling their gold transaction in Indian rupees under the newly set up local currency system.
- ✓ The MoU in the education sector was signed between the Ministry of Education of the Government of India, the Department of Education and Knowledge of Abu Dhabi, and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
 - ✓ It is related to setting up of an IIT Delhi campus in Abu Dhabi, UAE's capital.
- ✓ India-UAE trade rose to \$85 billion in 2022, making the UAE India's third-largest trading partner for the year 2022-23 and India's second-largest export destination.
- ✓ India is the UAE's second-largest trading partner.
- ✓ In February 2022, India became the first country with which the UAE signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- ✓ The bilateral trade has increased by about 15% since the CEPA came into force on May 1, 2022.
- ✓ PM Modi left for UAE after concluding his two-day visit to France.
- ✓ This is PM Modi's fifth trip to the Gulf country since assuming office in 2014.

- ✓ The PM's trip to Abu Dhabi, after the France visit, will mark the completion of the triad

DEFENCE

- **Spain's state-owned shipbuilder Navantia and engineering major Larsen & Toubro - signed an agreement recently to jointly bid for the P75-India submarine programme**



- ✓ The teaming agreement for submission of a techno-commercial bid is for the Rs.43,000-crore project to build six advanced submarines for the Indian Navy
- ✓ As per the agreement, Spanish government-owned shipyard Navantia would carry out the design of P75(I) submarines based on its S80 class of submarines
 - ✓ The first S80 submarine was launched in 2021 and is undergoing sea trials before its delivery to the Spanish Navy by the end of 2023
 - ✓ Apart from the S80 class, Navantia has been involved in the design and construction of the Scorpène class of submarines, together with DCNS (Now Naval Group) of France, which has been exported to Chile and Malaysia.
 - ✓ Navantia has also been involved in the Scorpene submarines (Kalvari class) built in India, including handholding of the Indian yard.
- ✓ They will compete with Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) and India's state-owned Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), which signed a similar pact on June 7 to bid for the same project.
- ✓ In January 2020, the defence ministry cleared two Indian and five foreign shipbuilders, including TKMS, to take part in P-75I.
 - ✓ The Indian strategic partners were MDL and L&T.
 - ✓ The foreign yards included France's Naval Group, Russia's Rubin Design Bureau, Navantia and South Korea's Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering Company.
 - ✓ Naval Group and Rubin Design Bureau withdrew from the competition a year ago.

- ✓ The P-75I programme is one of the biggest under the Make in India initiative.
 - ✓ Expected to be valued at over Euro 4.8 billion, the project is India's largest defence acquisition project
 - ✓ It was a part of the 30-year submarine-building programme approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security in 1999.
 - ✓ Project 75I requires an Indian bidder to tie up with a foreign collaborator and build six conventional submarines equipped with air-independent propulsion (AIP) systems, which allow vessels to remain submerged for longer periods.
 - ✓ This would also be followed by a 30-year life-cycle sustenance contract of similar value.
 - ✓ The first submarine must have a minimum of 45% indigenisation, with the indigenous content going up to 60% in the sixth.
 - ✓ P75(I) would be the first program to be processed under the ambitious Strategic Partnership (SP) model of the acquisition of the Ministry of Defence.
 - ✓ The SP model envisages the indigenous manufacture of defence platforms by an Indian firm collaborating with a foreign original equipment manufacturer to set up facilities in the country.

SPORTS

- **Unseeded Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic - won the first Grand Slam title of her career in the 2023 Wimbledon final on July 15**



- ✓ Vondrousova, who is ranked 42nd in the world, defeated World No.6 Ons Jabeur of Tunisia to win the final, which lasted for 80 minutes on Centre Court.
- ✓ Her best ever result at Wimbledon was a second-round appearance in 2021, after three first-round exits between 2017 and 2019
- ✓ With this, Vondrousova became the first unseeded Wimbledon champion in the Open Era, the second ever, after Billie Jean King (1963) to lift the coveted Venus Rosewater Dish.

- ✓ The 24-year-old was the second-lowest ranked player to win the Wimbledon, after Serena Williams in 2018.
- ✓ On the other hand, Jabeur has now lost all three major finals she has played in
 - ✓ Last year, Jabeur lost the Wimbledon final to Elena Rybakina and the US Open final to Iga Swiatek.
 - ✓ The 28-year-old Jabeur defeated four Grand Slam singles champions in order on the way to the final - Bianca Andreescu, Petra Kvitova, Elena Rybakina and Aryna Sabalenka.
 - ✓ Jabeur was bidding to become the first Arab player to win a Grand Slam title and the first African woman to win one of the four majors.
- **India - added five medals on the penultimate day of the Asian Athletics Championships at Bangkok on July 15**
- ✓ The mixed relay team, with Rajesh Ramesh, Aishwarya Mishra, Amoj Jacob and Suba Venkatesan, bagged the gold medal ahead of Sri Lanka and Japan who settled for the silver and bronze



- ✓ M Sreeshankar (men's Long Jump), Sarvesh Anil Kumar (men's High Jump) and Heptathlete Swapna Barman won a silver medal each, while T Santhosh Kumar won the men's 400m hurdles bronze.
- ✓ India finished the penultimate day with a haul of six gold, four silver, four bronze for a total of 14 medals in four days
- ✓ India is placed at second place behind Japan (11 gold, 10 silver, eight bronze, 29 total) and ahead of China (5 gold, 7 silver, 4 bronze, 16 total).
- **In a landmark decision, the International Cricket Council (ICC) - has declared that men's and women's teams will receive equal prize money at ICC events.**
- ✓ This resolution was made during the ICC Annual Conference in Durban, South Africa on July 13
- ✓ This marks a significant step towards achieving prize money parity by 2030, well ahead of the set timeline

- ✓ Since 2017, the ICC has been steadily increasing the prize money at women's events with the clear goal of achieving equal prize money.
- ✓ The winners of ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020 and 2023 received a prize money of \$1 million which is five times than that of the 2018 edition.

