

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 23, 2023**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- On July 22, the state cabinet led by chief minister M K Stalin - has decided to enhance the monthly pension extended under various social security schemes to Rs.1,200 from the existing Rs.1,000.



- ✓ The government extends monthly pension under nine schemes -old age, disability, widow, disabled, destitute widow, destitute/deserted wives, unmarried women, uzhavar pathukappu thittam and Sri Lankan pension scheme.
- ✓ The enhancement of pension is also applicable to members of the cooperative handloom weavers under the handlooms department, and members of 18 unorganised workers' welfare boards run by the labour welfare department.
- ✓ The Centre shares a component in three schemes (old age, disability and widow), ranging between Rs.200 and Rs.500.
- ✓ The hike benefiting 30.55 lakh beneficiaries would cost the state exchequer an additional annual expenditure of Rs.845.91 crore
- ✓ The enhanced pension would be credited from the month of August.
- ✓ In January, the Tamil Nadu government raised the pension for disabled people to Rs.1,500.

- ✓ Besides, the cabinet also cleared a structured package of incentives to 10 industrial projects worth Rs.6,000 crore to generate 27,000 jobs in various parts of the state.
  - ✓ The incentive packages are for sectors like electric manufacturing, hardware manufacturing, technical textiles, life sciences, R&D and electric vehicles.
  - ✓ Accordingly, Godrej would launch a new factory in the FMCG sector near Chennai to provide jobs to 400 people, while UPS, the Fortune 20 company's first global technology centre in India, would come up in Chennai.
  - ✓ Further, Salcomp's expansion project in Kancheepuram is expected to invest Rs.2,000 crore to provide 15,000 jobs.
  - ✓ Pfizer's R&D unit in Chennai and Schneider's expansion are among the proposals cleared by the cabinet.
- **The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) - to organise special camp from August to October to immunize children under the Indradhanush mission**



- ✓ Chennai mayor R priya announced the launch of mission Indradhanush 5.0 initiative by the GCC
- ✓ Accordingly, free vaccines will be provided to infants and pregnant mothers by the Greater Chennai Corporation under Mission Indradhanush 5. 0.
  - ✓ The vaccination will cover diseases such as tuberculosis, polio, jaundice, pneumonia, whooping cough, tetanus, Japanese encephalitis and measles
- ✓ The first-dose vaccine drive will begin on August 7 and go on till August 12, while the second dose will start on September 11 and go on till 16, and the third dose from October 9 to October 14
- ✓ The camps will be held in all government hospitals, urban primary health centres and anganwadis in Chennai from 9 am to 4 pm.
- ✓ Kids under 5 years who have missed out on three doses of vaccines can participate in the drive, while the corporation will provide vaccines for children of migrant workers at doorsteps
- ✓ Mission Indradhanush of the Union government was launched in 2014 to reduce infant mortality.
- ✓ So far, GCC has held eight camps under this mission in 2015, 2016 and 2022.

## STATES

- On July 23, Odisha Chief Minister and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) supremo Naveen Patnaik - becomes the second longest-serving Chief Minister in India.



- ✓ He broke the record set by former West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu after completing 23 years and 139 days as Chief Minister of Odisha.
- ✓ Jyoti Basu served as the Chief Minister of West Bengal from June 21, 1977 to November 5, 2000 for a period of 23 years and 138 days.
- ✓ Pawan Kumar Chamling, the former Chief Minister of Sikkim, is the longest-serving Chief Minister after independence.
  - ✓ Chamling served as CM of Sikkim from December 12, 1994 to May 27, 2019 for a record 24 years and 166 days.
- ✓ Basu, who was the longest serving Chief Minister in India until Chamling surpassed him in 2018, now comes to third position in the list.
- ✓ Naveen Patnaik is also the third Chief Minister after Pawan Chamling and Jyoti Basu to win five consecutive terms as CM (in 2000, 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019)
- ✓ Born on October 16, 1946 to Biju Patnaik, former Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik entered politics in 1997 and was elected as a member to the 11th Lok Sabha in the by-election from Aska parliamentary constituency in Odisha
- ✓ A year later, the Janata Dal split and he founded the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) on his father's name.
- ✓ After winning the Lok Sabha polls in 1998 and 1999, Patnaik became the Union Minister for Steel and Mines in the cabinet of the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- ✓ He took office as Chief Minister of Odisha in 2000 when the state was devastated by a super cyclone in 1999 and made the state a role model in disaster management and financial prudence.
- ✓ The United Nations felicitated him for his efficient handling of disaster management in the aftermath of Cyclone Phailin with zero casualty.
- ✓ Under his leadership, Odisha, particularly Bhubaneswar, is being seen as the sports capital of India.

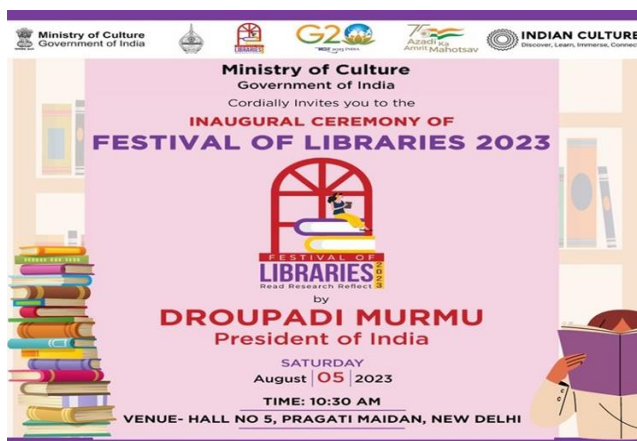
- **The Rajasthan Assembly - passed the Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill 2023 on July 21, 2023.**



- ✓ The bill seeks to provide minimum guaranteed income to all adult citizens as part of a welfare package for the state.
- ✓ Under the Bill, all families of the state get guaranteed employment of 125 days every year, while the aged, disabled, widows, and single women get a minimum pension of Rs 1,000 per month.
  - ✓ The pension payable shall be increased at the rate of 15% per annum from FY 2024-25.
- ✓ In rural Rajasthan, the bill proposes guaranteed employment for at least 25 days in a financial year, over and above the 100 days already assured under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA).
- ✓ Rajasthan bill was not the first employment guarantee scheme for the urban poor in India, and states like Kerala, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, and Jharkhand have already introduced such measures
- ✓ The Ayyankali scheme in Kerala is the oldest such programme and probably the most successful so far.

## NATIONAL

- **President Droupadi Murmu - will inaugurate the unique 'Festival of Libraries 2023', a two-day event to be held on August 5 and 6 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.**





- ✓ The festival, which focus on the promotion of both physical and digital libraries, is being organised by the Union Ministry of Culture
  - ✓ The festival will also highlight iconic libraries from across the world in order to focus on the modernization and digitization of libraries in India.
  - ✓ At the event, there will be four zones or “drawing rooms” — book-author sessions, digital displays, podcasts, and the Human Library Project
  - ✓ Other highlights of the festival will include a crowd-sourced directory of libraries and signing of a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding between three prominent libraries - Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna; Rampur Raza Library, Rampur; and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Arabic Persian Research Institute, Tonk - in the country
  - ✓ Further, the festival will witness commencement of the celebration of 250 years of the Rampur Raza library in Uttar Pradesh, which is known for being a repository of Indo-Islamic cultural heritage.
  - ✓ The festival will also have 10 exhibitions showcasing cartography, calligraphy, cursive writing, and tribal fonts and scripts.
  - ✓ The event will culminate with a valedictory function to be presided by the Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar
- **On July 20, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar - reconstituted the panel of vice-chairpersons of Parliament's upper house with half of them being women**



- ✓ The panel of vice chairpersons has been reconstituted with effect from July 17, 2023
- ✓ As part of the historic move, Jagdeep Dhankhar has nominated four women Parliamentarians to the panel of Vice-Chairpersons.
- ✓ The panel reconstituted before the Monsoon Session contains a total of eight names, out of which half are women.
- ✓ Among the Rajya Sabha members who are the new vice-chairpersons are P T Usha, S Phangnon Konyak, Fauzia Khan, Sulata Deo, V Vijaysai Reddy, Ghanshyam Tiwari, L Hanumanthaiah and Sukhendu Sekhar Ray.
- ✓ It is noteworthy that all women members nominated to the panel are first term Parliamentarians and S. Phangnon Konyak is the first ever woman from Nagaland to be elected as a member of the Rajya Sabha.

- ✓ This is the first time in the history of the Upper House that equal representation has been given to women members in the panel of Vice-Chairpersons.
- ✓ In another notable development, the Rajya Sabha Chair has become fully digital.
- ✓ The Rajya Sabha Chair will be using electronic tablets for matters related to the conduct of business in the House, attendance in the House, details of Members speaking and other relevant information.

## HIGH COURT VERDICT

- **The Madras High Court - has directed all the courts in the state to display only the portraits of Mahatma Gandhi and Saint Thiruvalluvar inside the court premises.**



- ✓ The court was responding to representations received from many advocates' associations seeking to open the portraits of Dr BR Ambedkar and other senior advocates of the concerned bar associations
- ✓ The circular issued by the Madras High Court directed the district courts to adhere to the decision and said suitable action should be taken in case of any deviation.
- ✓ The Circular says that on October 22nd 2008, the Full Bench had rejected the request of Tamil Nadu Dr. B.R Ambedkar Advocates Association for fixing the portraits of National Leaders in all Court Halls in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ It has to be recalled that recently the Bar association at Alandur has installed the portraits of B R Ambedkar at the entrance hall of the newly-constructed combined court complex.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **On July 22, the United States commissioned a warship- named USS Canberra - in Sydney, Australia**
- ✓ This is the first time a US Navy vessel joined active service at a foreign port
- ✓ The Independence-class littoral combat ship was designed in Western Australia by local industry
- ✓ It was commissioned at a ceremony at an Australian naval base on Sydney Harbour, before officially joining the US Navy's active fleet.



- ✓ The original USS Canberra, referring to the Australian capital, was a cruiser launched in 1943
- ✓ The ceremony comes amid the biennial 'Talisman Sabre' military exercises between the US and Australia
  - ✓ The forces from Canada, Fiji, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Korea, Tonga and Britain are also taking part in the exercises.
  - ✓ The exercises, taking place in various locations across Australia over two weeks, include mock land and air combat, as well as amphibious landings.
- **President Joe Biden - has chosen Admiral Lisa Franchetti as the Navy's highest-ranking officer.**



- ✓ If confirmed, she will make history as the first woman to be a US military service chief and to lead the US Navy.
- ✓ Franchetti, the current vice chief of operations for the navy, would become the first female member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- ✓ She has a background as a surface warfare officer with extensive experience in both operational and policy roles.
- ✓ Previously, she held positions as the Director for Strategy, Plans, and Policy for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and as the commander of the U.S. Sixth Fleet.
- ✓ Additionally, she served as commander of U.S. Naval Forces Korea, commander of Carrier Strike Group 9, and commander of Carrier Strike Group 15.
- ✓ Franchetti was the second woman ever to be promoted to four-star admiral, and she did multiple deployments, including as commander of a naval destroyer and two stints as aircraft carrier strike group commander.

## INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- On July 22, India - handed over missile corvette INS Kirpan to the Vietnam People's Navy with its complete weapon complement.



- ✓ Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar, currently on an official visit to Vietnam, presided over the transfer ceremony organised at Cam Ranh naval base in Vietnam
- ✓ The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kirpan was decommissioned and handed over to the Vietnam People's Navy (VPN) after an illustrious service of 32 years with the Indian Navy
- ✓ This is the first time India has gifted a fully operational, in-service corvette to any friendly foreign country.
- ✓ The transfer of the warship comes a year after India handed over 12 high-speed boats to the Vietnamese Navy to boost its capabilities under a \$100 million line of credit to that country
- ✓ Defence minister Rajnath Singh had announced the “gifting” of INS Kirpan during his meeting with his Vietnamese counterpart General Phan Van Giang in New Delhi on June 19
- ✓ INS Kirpan is the 1,450-tonne Khukri-class missile corvette in service with the Indian Navy
- ✓ It was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1991 and was part of the Navy's Eastern Naval Command
- ✓ The ship is equipped with an array of weapons and sensors and it has participated in various operational and humanitarian assistance operations.
- ✓ Manned by about 12 officers and 100 sailors, INS Kirpan is 90 meters long and 10.45 meters in width with a maximum displacement of 1450 tonnes.

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- The two-day G20 Labour and Employment Ministers meet - concluded in Indore in Madhya Pradesh on July 21





- ✓ It adopted three outcome documents to address the global skills shortage, provide adequate social security to the 'gig and platform' economy as well as sustainable funding of social security nets for all workers.
- ✓ These documents will be submitted to the leaders for their consideration to be annexed to the G20 New Delhi Leader's Declaration 2023
- ✓ Union Minister for Labour and Employment and Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav chaired the meeting attended by Labour and Employment Ministers of G20 countries

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Flag officer, DG Rakesh Pal - has been appointed as the 25th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**



- ✓ Pal is an alumnus of the Indian Naval Academy and joined Indian Coast Guard in January 1989.
- ✓ He has undergone professional specialisation in Gunnery & Weapons Systems at Indian Naval School Dronacharya, Kochi, and an Electro-Optics Fire Control Solution course from the United Kingdom.
- ✓ The officer holds the recognition of being the First Gunner of ICG.

- ✓ In his distinguished career spanning over 34 years, the flag officer has held several key appointments like Commander Coast Guard Region (North West), Gandhinagar, Deputy Director General (Policy & Plans), and Additional Director General Coast Guard at Coast Guard Headquarters, New Delhi.
- ✓ He has vast sea experience and commanded all classes of ICG ships namely ICGS Samarth, ICGS Vijit, ICGS Sucheta Kriplani, ICGS Ahalyabai, and ICGS C-03.
- ✓ DG Rakesh Pal was conferred with Tatrakshak Medal in 2013 and President Tatrakshak Medal in 2018 for his illustrious service

## SPORTS

- **D Gukesh of Chennai - became the youngest chess player to touch ELO 2750 FIDE rating.**



### Youngest to reach Elo 2750 (months from 2500 to 2750)

- D Gukesh 17y2m3d (54 months)
- Magnus Carlsen 17y4m3d (48 months)
- Alireza Firouzja 17y8m12d (43 months)
- Wei Yi 18y2m1d (55 months)
- Fabiano Caruana 19y7m1d (60 months)
- Anish Giri 19y11m5d (62 months)

- ✓ He touched Elo 2750 live rating with two wins in the last two rounds of Turkish League on July 20.
- ✓ With this, Gukesh has overtaken Magnus Carlsen's record by a gap of two months (17years, 2 months and 3 days)
- ✓ When the world governing body, FIDE, publishes the new rating list on August 1, the 17-year-old is expected to reach 2750.
- ✓ Gukesh is world No. 11 now and mere 3.1 points behind India No. 1 V Anand (2754).

## RANKINGS

- **India - has occupied the 80th spot in the Henley Passport Index 2023 released recently on July 18**
- ✓ India shares the spot with Senegal and Togo, with visa-free access to 57 destinations
- ✓ Singapore now occupies the top spot on the Henley Passport Index as the world's most powerful passport in 2023 with visa-free access to 192 travel destinations.



- ✓ With visa-free access to 190 destinations, three European countries – Germany, Italy and Spain – share the second rank on the list, while Japan, the previous top rank holder, slipped down to the third rank
  - ✓ Japan shares the rank with Austria, Finland, France, Luxembourg, South Korea and Sweden.
- ✓ The United Kingdom jumped two spots to joint fourth along with Denmark, Ireland, and the Netherlands, as its passport is valid for visa-free travel to 188 destinations.
- ✓ Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan are the world's weakest passports at 101, 102 and 103 ranks respectively.
- ✓ The Henley Passport Index compares the visa-free access of 199 different passports to 227 travel destinations

