

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 25, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- Chief Minister MK Stalin - inaugurated the registration for the 'Kalaingar Mahalir Urimai Scheme' at an event in Thoppur in Dharmapuri district.



- ✓ The camp, which was inaugurated on July 24, was organised under the DMK government's flagship project that will be implemented from September 15, the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister and Dravidian stalwart CN Annadurai.
- ✓ Agriculture Minister MRK Panneerselvam, Municipal Administration Minister KN Nehru, Dharmapuri MP DNV S Senthilkumar, Dharmapuri Collector K Santhi, Dharmapuri MLA SP Venkatesh and Pennagaram MLA GK Mani were present during the event
- ✓ During his address, CM Stalin informed that special camps under the scheme will be held for the registration in 39,929 easily accessible locations across the state.
 - ✓ Over 68,190 volunteers will be involved in the registration works and over 35,925 volunteers will be involved in assisting the people.
 - ✓ These camps will continue till August 28th and camps will be open between 9 am and 1 pm and 2 pm and 5 pm
- ✓ The CM further said while Rs 7,000 crore has been allotted for the scheme this financial year (from September 2023 to March 2024), the allocation for the 2024-2025 fiscal will be Rs 12,000 crore

- ✓ The CM said he was happy that the enrolment for scheme aimed at empowering women was being launched in Dharmapuri, the same district where former CM M Karunanidhi launched women self-help groups in 1989.
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu currently has 4.57 lakh women's self-help groups with 51.46 lakh members, while in Dharmapuri alone, over 3.5 lakh women benefitted from the scheme
- ✓ 'Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thittam' is a project to guarantee a basic minimum income for qualified women who are the heads of families, that was announced in the 2023–24 budget.
- ✓ Approximately one crore women are anticipated to benefit from the programme.
- ✓ The government had recently released the eligibility criteria excluding taxpayers, government servants, families owning four-wheelers, elected representatives, business owners who pay GST, and families that consume over 3,600-unit electricity per year among others from the scheme.
- ✓ Other eligibility requirements include the requirement that applicants be at least 21 years old and that only one woman/woman-head from a family with a ration card may apply to receive the Rs 1,000 monthly support.

STATES

- **On July 24, Rajasthan - became the first state in the country to pass a law to provide social security to gig workers.**



- ✓ The Rajasthan Platform-Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill was passed in the state Assembly without debate.
- ✓ Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot introduced the Bill during the Budget Session in February.
- ✓ The Bill gives rights to platform-based gig workers to register themselves with the state government, have access to social security schemes and to solve any grievances among other things
- ✓ The workers operating in the state will be automatically registered as soon as they come "onboard" an aggregator platform, irrespective of the duration of their association with the platform.

- ✓ The state government will maintain a database of the gig workers and generate a unique identification for each one of them, according to the Bill.
- ✓ The Bill envisages setting up a welfare board for gig workers, comprising state government officials and two representatives each from among the gig workers and aggregators.
 - ✓ This board will be led by the state labour minister and will meet once in every six months.
- ✓ As per the provisions of the bill, the state government will establish "The Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers Social Security and Welfare Fund" for the benefit of registered gig workers
 - ✓ The money for the fund will come from "welfare cess" which will be included in the bill that aggregators charge to the customers.
- ✓ Besides, penalties would be levied to the aggregators if they fail to pay the welfare fee within a stipulated time.
 - ✓ The Bill gives the state the power to impose a fine of up to Rs 5 lakh for the first violation of any of its clauses and up to Rs 50 lakh for repeated violations.
- ✓ Gig workers are those who work temporary jobs, typically in the service sector as an independent contractor or freelancer.
- ✓ Delivery partners for food aggregators such as Swiggy or Zomato are gig workers.



- **On July 24, the Centre - withdrew the DNA Technology (Use & Application) Regulation Bill, 2019 from the Lok Sabha in the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament.**
 - ✓ The Bill provides for regulation of use and application of DNA technology for establishing identity of persons in criminal probes.
 - ✓ It proposes use of technology in criminal proceedings and setting up a DNA data bank to aid crime-solving, track missing persons, and identifying the deceased.
 - ✓ Drafted by the Ministry of Science and Technology, the bill laid out the procedure of DNA sample collection and storage from various individuals.
 - ✓ It also included setting up a regulatory board to monitor DNA banks and labs.
 - ✓ The Bill was first introduced and passed in Lok Sabha in January 2019 but it lapsed as it could not be passed in Rajya Sabha due to objections from opposition parties.
 - ✓ The government again passed the bill in Lok Sabha on July 8, 2019 and referred it to the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change for examination.
 - ✓ The report of the committee was laid in Lok Sabha on February 3, 2021.
 - ✓ The withdrawal of the bill is attributed to the enactment of another similar law last year — the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022

- ✓ This Act also authorises police and prison officers to collect biological samples, including DNA, of persons arrested, detained, under trial or convicted in a criminal case.
- **On July 24, the Union government - notified 8.15% as the interest rate on deposits under the Employees' Provident Fund scheme for 2022-23**
- ✓ This was earlier recommended by the retirement fund body's Central Board of Trustees (CBT) in March this year.
- ✓ In this regard, EPFO directed its field offices to credit the interest into the accounts of over six crore active members as of March 2023.
- ✓ The interest rate was marginally higher than the four-decade low of 8.1% declared by the government in 2021-22.
- ✓ However, this was the lowest since 1977-78, when the EPF interest rate stood at 8%.
- **The government – have launched the procurement of tomatoes through the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF)**
- ✓ The move is aimed at tackling the current rise in tomato prices and to ensure affordability to the general public
- ✓ It will facilitate the availability of tomatoes to consumers at significantly subsidized rates
- ✓ The National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF) and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) are actively involved in procuring tomatoes from marketplaces in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Maharashtra.
- ✓ The PSF was set up in the fiscal year 2014-15 to absorb and mitigate extreme price fluctuations in essential food commodities and selected goods.
- ✓ Under the PSF scheme, the procurement of goods takes place directly from farmers or farmers' organizations at the farm gate or marketplaces.
- ✓ This would protect consumers from sudden price rise and provides support to farmers by ensuring a fair price for their produce.
- ✓ The PSF is centrally managed by the Price Stabilisation Fund Management Committee (PSFMC).

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) - will be launching seven Singaporean satellites using its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the first launch pad at the Sriharikota spaceport in Andhra Pradesh on July 30.**
- ✓ According to the space agency, the PSLV rocket named 'PSLV-C56' will carry the Singaporean DS-SAR satellite weighing about 360 kg as the main passenger

- ✓ The other six payloads are small satellites — VELOX-AM, ARCADE, SCOOB-II are from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; NuLloN belonging to NuSpace Pte Ltd, Singapore, Galassia-2 from National University of Singapore and ORB-12 STRIDER from Aliena Pte. Ltd., Singapore.
- ✓ The DS-SAR satellite is developed under a partnership between Singapore's Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA)(representing the Government of Singapore) and Singapore Technologies Engineering Ltd (ST Engineering), a global technology, defence and engineering company.
- ✓ The 360-kg DS-SAR satellite carries a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) payload developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).
 - ✓ This allows the DS-SAR to provide for all-weather day and night coverage and is capable of imaging at one-metre resolution at full polarimetry.
- ✓ The NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) the commercial arm of the Department of Space has procured the PSLV-C56 rocket to launch the satellites from Singapore.
- ✓ The PSLV-C56 is configured in its core-alone mode, similar to the successful PSLV-C55 mission launched in April this year
 - ✓ This mode is configured without the additional rocket strap-on motors to give additional thrust during the initial flight stage.
- ✓ The proposed rocket mission is the second mission for ISRO in a space of about two weeks.
 - ✓ On July 14, ISRO rocket LVM3 put into orbit the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft.

SPORTS

- **Indian-American golfer, Akshay Bhatia - won the PGA Tour title at the Barracuda Championship in California on July 23**



- ✓ This was his maiden PGA Tour title, and this would help him earn full status on tour, besides earning a spot in the FedEx Cup playoffs.
- ✓ After making history at the Barracuda Championship, Akshay Bhatia will pocket a prize money of \$684,000.
- ✓ Incidentally, this is the first time a golfer of Indian origin was on top of the podium after Arjun Atwal's victory at the 2010 Wyndham Championship.

- ✓ Akshay Bhatia turned pro once he finished high school, at the age of 17.
- ✓ The 21-year-old finished second in this year's Puerto Rico Open to earn a special Temporary Membership to feature in this Open.
- **India A - lost the final match against Pakistan A in the Emerging Asia Cup 2023 held in Colombo on July 23**



- ✓ Pakistan have retained their title by defeating India by 128 runs with 60 balls to spare.
- ✓ For Pakistan, Tayyab Tahir played a brilliant 108-run innings off just 71 deliveries, while also taking two great catches
- ✓ For India, Abhishek Sharma top-scored with 61 runs while captain Yash Dhull scored 39 off 41 deliveries.
- ✓ Earlier, Pakistan have lost to India in the league stages which was a low-scoring affair
- ✓ With the victory, Pakistan became the second team after Sri Lanka to have won the Emerging Teams Asia Cup twice.

