

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 29, 2023**

### **NATIONAL**

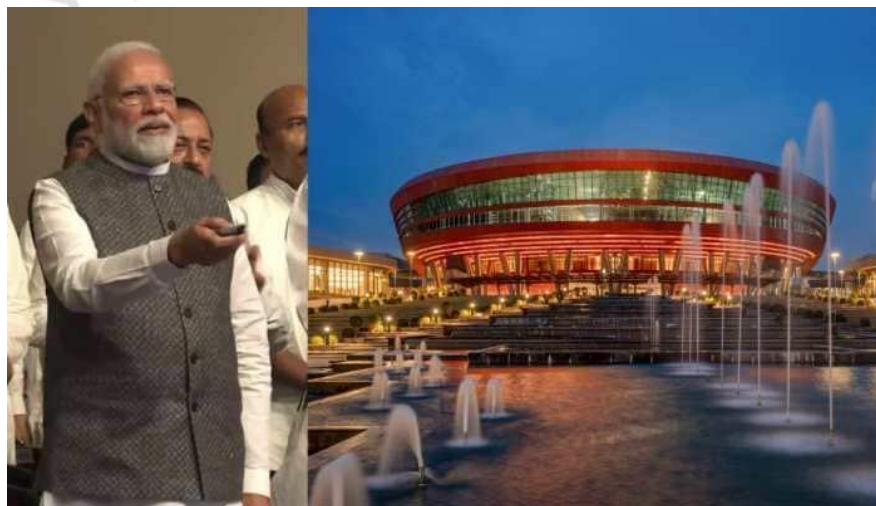
- **On July 28, the Lok Sabha - cleared the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill 2023 through voice vote**
- ✓ The bill paves the way for private sector entry in exploration and production of atomic and deep-seated minerals
- ✓ It also empowers the central government to exclusively auction 'mining lease and composite licence' for certain critical minerals such as gold, silver, platinum, copper.
- ✓ It proposes to bring eight of 12 atomic minerals, including lithium bearing minerals, zirconium bearing minerals, beach sand minerals, titanium bearing minerals, minerals of rare earth group containing uranium and thorium, into a new category - critical and strategic minerals.
- ✓ The Centre will have the power to give concessions for these minerals to both public and private mining companies.
- ✓ The Bill brings lithium out from the list of restrictive atomic minerals which require mining grants from the Centre with only government companies given licences.
  - ✓ The amendment would allow auction of Lithium, used extensively for making batteries for electric vehicles.
- ✓ Union Minister for Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi moved the bill for consideration and passing in the Lok Sabha
- ✓ **Earlier, the Lok Sabha cleared the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023 on July 27**
- ✓ The Bill, which brings amendments to the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002, seeks to allow auction of minerals mined offshore.
- ✓ The original Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, which was enacted in 2002, does not allow auction of minerals, which is now allowed in the amendment bill

- ✓ One of the objectives behind bringing the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023 is to mine rocks under the sea, which is prohibited in the original Act
- ✓ The Bill is expected to facilitate private sector participation in the mining of non-atomic minerals in India's territorial waters and continental shelf
- ✓ Union Minister of Mines and Coal Pralhad Joshi introduced the bill in the Lok Sabha
- **On July 28, the Lok Sabha - passed the National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill, 2023 and the National Dental Commission Bill, 2023 by means of voice vote**
  - ✓ The Bill seeks to provide for regulation and maintenance of standards of education and services by nursing and midwifery professionals.
  - ✓ The National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill aims to set up National Nursing and Midwifery Commission (NNMC), and will repeal the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947, to streamline nursing education in India.
  - ✓ The National Dental Commission Bill seeks to repeal the Dentists Act, 1948 and proposes to set up the National Dental Commission to regulate dental education and the profession in the country.
    - ✓ It also aims to make dental education affordable and make quality oral healthcare accessible.
  - ✓ Both Bills were moved by Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya.
  - ✓ According to government data, there are 2.89 lakh dentists and 33.41 lakh nursing personnel registered in the country.
  - ✓ **Earlier, the Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill 2023 was introduced in the House.**
    - ✓ Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan introduced the Bill, which will come up for consideration and passage next week
    - ✓ The bill, if passed, will give power to the President of India to appoint not only the chairperson of the board of governors (BoG) of each IIM, but also appoint as well as remove the director of these institutes.
    - ✓ The bill, piloted by the Ministry of Education, will amend the IIM Act, 2017, which was also brought in by the BJP government and came into force in 2018
    - ✓ It proposes to appoint the President of India as the "Visitor" of every IIM through an insertion of a new section, (10 A), in the principal Act.
    - ✓ In the amended bill, the President of India has also been given the power to review the work of the IIMs and subsequently take action if and when required
    - ✓ These amendments will give the central government a say in the decision-making of the IIMs.

- **Union home minister and minister of cooperation Amit Shah – launched a new initiative named ‘Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar’ as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav recently at Qutub Minar on July 27**



- ✓ It is a pan-India initiative of the Ministry of Culture under National Mission on Cultural Mapping
  - ✓ The ministry of culture has initiated the ‘Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar’ (MGMD) project under the National Mission on Cultural Mapping in coordination with Indra Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).
  - ✓ The main objective of the project is to culturally map India’s 6.5 lakh villages, spanning 29 states and 7 union territories, on a comprehensive virtual platform.
  - ✓ The virtual platform <https://mgmd.gov.in> will connect people with villages of India.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - recently inaugurated the extensively redeveloped International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) complex, christened Bharat Mandapam, on July 26**



- ✓ The grand inauguration took place in the presence of Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and several other ministers

- ✓ During the grand opening ceremony, Prime Minister Modi unveiled two remarkable items – the G-20 coin and G-20 stamp
- ✓ Drawing attention to the significance of Bharat Mandapam, PM Modi highlighted its pivotal role as the host venue for the much-awaited G20 summit in September, under India's presidency.
- ✓ The revamped IECC complex, developed as a national project at a staggering cost of approximately Rs.2,700 crore, consists of a sprawling campus area of around 123 acres
- ✓ The complex is recognised as India's largest Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) destination
- ✓ The IECC complex, built as part of The Pragati Maidan Redevelopment Project, has an impressive seating capacity of 7,000 and a magnificent amphitheatre accommodating 3,000 individuals.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **Four technology companies researching artificial intelligence – Anthropic, Google, Microsoft, and OpenAI – have announced a new industry body called the 'Frontier Model Forum'**
- ✓ The new body shall act as a watchdog to ensure safety and responsibility as AI models are being developed.
- ✓ The group will focus on technical evaluations and will set benchmarks to support best practices and standards in the industry.

## **INTERNATIONAL DAY**

- **International Tiger Day – July 29**



- ✓ The day is observed annually to raise awareness about the importance of conservation of the tigers globally.



- ✓ This day was founded in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia.
- ✓ At the Saint Petersburg Summit, the countries committed to a resolution - known as Tx2 initiative - to double the number of tigers by 2022, which is also the Chinese year of the tiger
  - ✓ Among these countries were thirteen tiger range countries including India, Russia, and China.
- ✓ Due to poaching and habitat loss, more than 95% of tigers have been killed, leaving the remaining 5% severely endangered.
- ✓ The day, July 29, was chosen as International Tiger Day because it represents the halfway point between the first and last days of the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit and the ongoing international campaign to rescue tigers.

➤ **World Hepatitis day – July 28**



- ✓ World Hepatitis Day is observed annually to raise awareness about viral hepatitis and its impact on global health.
- ✓ The primary objective of this day is to promote prevention, testing, and treatment of viral hepatitis
- ✓ Theme 2023 - "One life, one liver"
- ✓ The World Hepatitis Alliance, established in 2007, organized the first community-driven World Hepatitis Day in 2008.
- ✓ The day was initially observed on May 19, which was later shifted to July 28 in 2010.
- ✓ The chosen date of July 28 coincides with the birthday of Dr Baruch Blumberg, the American physician who discovered Hepatitis B.
- ✓ Dr Baruch Samuel Blumberg, also known as Barry Blumberg, a physician, and geneticist, discovered the hepatitis B virus in 1967 and developed the first vaccine for hepatitis B and was awarded the Nobel Prize for the same.
- ✓ There are five strains of Hepatitis virus but the most common ones include hepatitis B & C which kill around 13 lakh people each year.
- ✓ WHO is committed to eradicating hepatitis diseases by the year 2030.

