

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–AUGUST 18,2023

### TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development, Udhayanidhi Stalin – launched the Chennai Formula Racing Circuit on August 16



- ✓ The 3.5 km circuit track is located around the Island Grounds in the heart of the Chennai city and follows an anti-clockwise layout with 19 corners
  - ✓ The circuit stretches across Island Grounds, Victory War Memorial and the Napier Bridge, while the pit and paddock structures will be built on Island Grounds
  - ✓ It's being designed by Driven International – who has also worked on the Hyderabad Street Circuit, the upcoming Nanoli Speedway and the Yas Marina Circuit.
- ✓ Also, it would become the first-ever street circuit in India and South Asia that will be hosting a night race.
- ✓ This new street circuit, only the second in India, will also host the 2023 F4 Indian Championship and Indian Racing League on December 9-10.

- ✓ The state government has partnered with Racing Promotions Private Limited (RRPL) for the project
  - ✓ Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) and the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) will be the two crucial partners to collaborate with RPPL
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu's Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of three years with RPPL
  - ✓ RRPL is also the promoter of the Indian Racing League and F4 Indian Championship
  - ✓ RPPL was also behind the Hyderabad Street Circuit, where the first Indian Formula E Championship was raced earlier this year.
  - ✓ The Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) will be investing Rs 42 crore, while RPPL is investing Rs 200 crore to develop the circuit.
- ✓ The six-team F4 Indian Championship is an FIA-certified championship intended for aspiring and up-and-coming racing drivers
  - ✓ Crucially, F4 India promises to offer Super Licence points, which are necessary to qualify to race in F1.
  - ✓ The series will use the FIA-homologated Gen 2 Mygale F4 car, which is used in the French F4 championship, powered by an Alpine 1.3-litre turbocharged engine
- ✓ The Indian Racing League is India's only motorsports league with men and women drivers competing in a team-based championship
  - ✓ This year's league will mark the second season and features the Wolf GB08 Thunder single-seater.
  - ✓ The inaugural edition was won by GodSpeed Kochi, while Hyderabad Blackbirds' Akhil Rabindra won the drivers' title.
  - ✓ The format for the second edition will remain the same as the first edition, with six city-based teams fielding a mix of Indian and international drivers and each team also having one female driver.

## **NATIONAL**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi – will visit to Greece next week, the first by an Indian PM to the country in 40 years**
  - ✓ The visit will see bilateral ties upgraded to a comprehensive strategic partnership.
  - ✓ PM Modi will pay a day-long visit to Athens on August 25, on his way back from South Africa where he will be participating in the BRICS summit.
  - ✓ Several agreements are likely to be signed after his meeting with Greece PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis in which the two leaders will focus on a range of issues including trade and investment, shipping, migration, culture and defence cooperation.

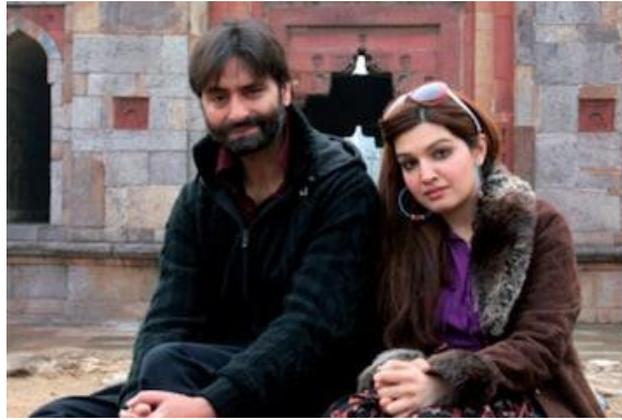
- ✓ External affairs minister S Jaishankar's visit to Greece in 2021 saw the two sides expressing commitment to the idea of a strategic partnership between the two countries.
  - ✓ Greece is looking to attract more investment and talent from India and the two countries last year signed a Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility.
  - ✓ After the Greece visit, PM Modi will travel to Indonesia early next month to participate in the India-Asean and East Asia summits
    - ✓ The meetings will take place on September 4-7, days before India hosts the G20 summit.
  - ✓ PM Modi has in the past regularly attended the East Asia summit that sees participation by Asean countries and also Australia, China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, USA and India.
  - ✓ He will co-chair the India-Asean summit where leaders are expected to discuss regional and international issues of common interest, including South China Sea and terrorism.
- **On August 17, the central water commission (CWC) - launched an App — 'FloodWatch' — to disseminate real-time information on the flood situation in affected areas**



- ✓ Using the App, the public can check the CWC flood forecast (up to 24 hours) or flood advisory (up to 7 days) by selecting specific stations having readable and audio broadcasts.
- ✓ The App utilises near real-time river flow data from various sources.
- ✓ It collects data from 338 stations to send real-time flood updates across states and UTs.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **Pakistan - has appointed Mishal Hussain Malik, wife of the jailed Kashmiri separatist Yasin Malik, as a special advisor to the country's newly appointed caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar.**



- ✓ Malik's name was included in the five Special Advisor to Prime Minister (SAPM) list released late on August 17
- ✓ Earlier, President Arif Alvi administered an oath to the 19-member caretaker Cabinet at Aiwan-e-Sadr, the presidential house.
- ✓ Mishal, a Pakistani national married to Malik, was appointed special advisor to the caretaker Prime Minister Kakar on human rights and women empowerment.
- ✓ A special advisor has a lower status than a junior minister but provides assistance to the prime minister on key relevant issues.
- ✓ Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik married Pakistani artist Mishal in Rawalpindi in 2009.
- ✓ Yasin was sentenced to life imprisonment by a trial court in a terror funding case in May.
- ✓ The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has approached the Delhi High Court seeking the death penalty for Yasin, who is serving his sentence in Tihar Jail in Delhi.

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

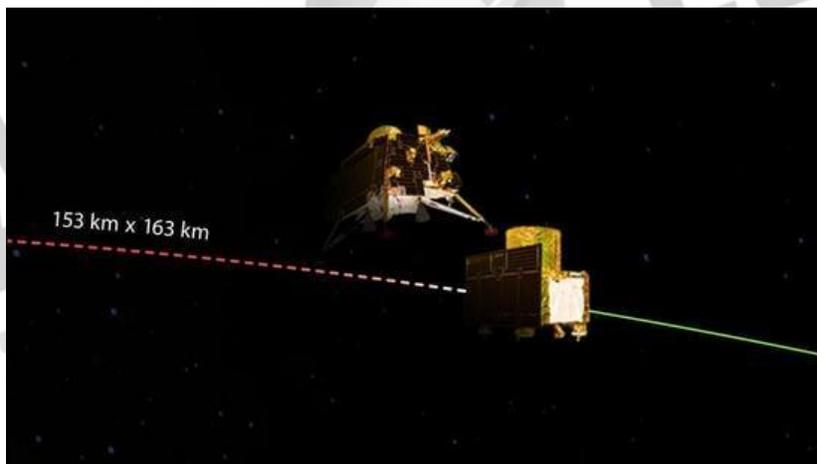
- **Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya - inaugurated the first-ever WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar on August 17**



- ✓ The meeting is being organised with the theme “Towards Health and Well-being for All” on the sidelines of G20 health Ministers' meeting in Gandhinagar.
- ✓ Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ayush, Bhupendrabhai Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat, and Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization were present during the Summit
- ✓ The Summit was expected to be one of the largest gatherings of its kind, bringing together participants from over 90 countries, distinguished members of academia, government representatives and significant players from the traditional medicine sector.
- ✓ During the event, health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya also launched a portal for better patient mobility for medical value travel and health workforce mobility
- ✓ Co-hosted by the Ministry of Ayush, the summit is a co-branded event as part of the ongoing G20 Health Ministers' Meeting being held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 17th to 19th August.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **The Chandrayaan-3 lander module Vikram - has successfully separated from the propulsion module on August 17**



- ✓ After separation, the lander is expected to undergo a "deboost" (the process of slowing down) to place it in an orbit where the Perilune (closest point to the Moon) is 30 kilometres and Apolune (farthest point from the Moon) is 100 km.
- ✓ The Isro had successfully placed the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft into a circular orbit of 153 kilometres by 163 kilometres around the Moon, completing all lunar-bound manoeuvres.
- ✓ India now has three spacecraft — Chandrayaan-2 orbiter, Chandrayaan-3 propulsion module and landing module — around Moon, according to Isro.
- ✓ The Vikram lander will now attempt to soft-land on the South Pole region of the moon on August 23.
- ✓ The lander is carrying a rover module, named Pragyan, which can travel short distances on the moon's surface and study its environment.

- ✓ According to the Indian Space Research Organisation, the spacecraft, which now consists of only the propulsion module, will continue to orbit around Moon for months or even years.
- ✓ Both Vikram and Pragyan are expected to function for one lunar day or 14 earth days, beyond which the lack of sunlight will cause the mission to lose power and the extreme cold of the lunar night will throttle its structure and equipment.
- ✓ The Vikram lander, which is 8 ft 4 in × 6 ft 7 in × 3 ft 11, carries several payloads
  - ✓ This includes the Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE) to measure the thermal conductivity and temperature, Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA) to measure seismic activities around the landing site, and Langmuir Probe (LP) to estimate the moon's surface plasma density and its variations.
  - ✓ In addition, a passive Laser Retroreflector Array from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has also been accommodated for lunar laser ranging studies.
    - ✓ This is meant to measure the distance between the earth and the moon using lasers fired from earth and reflected back from the moon.
- ✓ Pragyan will carry an Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) and Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) for studying the composition of the soil at the landing site.
- ✓ The propulsion module, whose primary job of carrying the lander and rover from the injection orbit to the lunar orbit, also carries the Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planetary Earth (SHAPE).
  - ✓ SHAPE will look at Earth from Moon to study the former's habitable planet-like features and use this information to explore exoplanets in the future.
  - ✓ It is designed to operate for three to six months.
- ✓ The Chandrayaan-3 mission's lander is named after Vikram Sarabhai (1919–1971), who is widely regarded as the father of the Indian space programme.
- ✓ The Chandrayaan-3 had made a successful lift off from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota on July 14.
  - ✓ This is India's second mission to attempt a soft launch to the moon.
- ✓ In 2019, the Chandrayaan-2 mission had failed in the last leg.
  - ✓ Chandrayaan-2's Vikram lander had attempted a soft landing on the moon on September 7 but lost communication with ISRO minutes before touchdown.
- ✓ During the Chandrayaan-1 mission, the satellite made more than 3,400 orbits around the moon and the mission was concluded when the communication with the spacecraft was lost on 29 August 2009
- ✓ A successful soft landing on the moon would make India the fourth country to achieve this feat after the United States, the erstwhile Soviet Union and China.
- ✓ Isro's Chandrayaan-3 is in a race with Roscosmos' Luna-25 for landing on the moon.

- ✓ Both missions will attempt landing on the south pole of the Moon during the same period - August 21-23 for Luna-25 and August 23-24 for Chandrayaan-3.
- ✓ Luna-25 has a leaner lift-off mass of only 1,750 kilograms, significantly lighter than Chandrayaan-3's 3,800 kg.
- ✓ The country that is able to land successfully will become the first one to land on the distant pole of the Moon.

➤ **Agnikul Cosmos, a space-tech startup incubated at IIT-Madras - is all set to launch its maiden controlled sub-orbital flight.**



- ✓ Its 3D-printed rocket Agnibaan SubOrbital Technological Demonstrator (SOOrTeD) will soon take off from the launch pad at Sriharikota.
- ✓ Chennai-based Agnikul Cosmos completed the integration of its launch vehicle — Agnibaan SOOrTeD with its private launchpad located at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) at Sriharikota on August 15
- ✓ On August 15, the Agnibaan SOOrTeD launch vehicle was officially unveiled and integrated after being transported to the mission control location.
- ✓ Officials from the Satish Dhawan Space Center (SDSC), Sriharikota, and Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Center (IN-SPACe), along with various team members from Agnikul were part of the event
- ✓ Agnibaan SOOrTeD is a single-stage launch vehicle driven by Agnikul's patented Agnilet engine— an entirely 3D-printed, single-piece, 6 kN semi-cryogenic engine.
  - ✓ The rocket engine will be burning kerosene in liquid oxygen and can be directly used in the rocket.
  - ✓ Unlike traditional rockets that launch from guide rails, Agnibaan SOOrTeD will lift off vertically and follow a predetermined trajectory while performing a precisely orchestrated set of maneuvers during flight
- ✓ Agnikul inaugurated the country's first ever private launchpad & mission control center at Satish Dhawan Space Centre on November 25, 2022.

- ✓ This facility serves as the base from which Agnikul will execute its suborbital and orbital missions in the future.
- ✓ Skyroot Aerospace became the first private company to carry out a sub-orbital flight in the country in November last year
  - ✓ Vikram-S rocket took off from ISRO's launch pad at Sriharikota and hit a peak altitude of 89.5 kilometres

## ECONOMY

- **RBI - has launched a centralised 'Udgam' web portal aimed at simplifying the search for unclaimed deposits across banks.**
- ✓ SBI, Punjab National Bank, Central Bank, DBS Bank, South Indian Bank, and Dhanlaxmi Bank have provided their data to the portal, while other banks are expected to join by October 15.
- ✓ Customers can register on 'Udgam' (Unclaimed deposits — gateway to access information) platform using their mobile number.
- ✓ Once registered, they can search for unclaimed deposits under their name and provide additional inputs such as PAN, voter ID, driving licence and passport number.
- ✓ In case the deposit holder has passed away, their nominee will be required to submit documents.
- ✓ As unclaimed deposit volumes have increased, RBI has conducted public awareness campaigns to encourage the public to approach their banks to recover unclaimed deposits.

## SPORTS

- **On August 17, Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa - defeated compatriot Arjun Erigaisi 5-4 in tiebreaks to enter the semi-finals of the ongoing 2023 FIDE Chess World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan.**



- ✓ Praggnanandhaa becomes the first Indian ever to reach the Semifinals of a FIDE World Cup, since the current format got introduced in 2005.

- ✓ With the win, Praggnanandhaa, who turned 18 last week, also became only the second Indian after former world champion Viswanathan Anand in 2002 to enter the final four stage of the Chess World Cup.
  - ✓ Praggnanandhaa will now face American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana, the third seed, in the semifinals of the 2023 FIDE Chess World Cup
  - ✓ Earlier in the tournament, second seed Hiraku Nakamura had been eliminated by Praggnanandhaa himself.
  - ✓ The win against Erigaisi also helped Praggnanandhaa book his spot for the Candidates tournament next year.
    - ✓ With Magnus Carlsen, one of the four semi-finalists of the World Cup, already revealing his intention to not play in the Candidates, the other three – Praggnanandhaa, Caruana, and Nijat Abasov, will fill the three qualifying spots from this tournament.
    - ✓ The winner of the Candidates tournaments will compete against Ding Liren of China, for the Chess World Championship title.
  - ✓ D Gukesh, 17, and Vidit Santosh Gujrathi, 17, both of India, were eliminated in the quarterfinals after losing to world No. 1 Carlsen and Nijat Abasov, respectively.
  - ✓ The 2023 FIDE World Cup has been a special one for India, as there were three Indian Grandmasters who lost in the quarterfinals
  - ✓ Further, India became the first country other than Russia to have four GMs in the last four of a single edition of the World Cup.
- **Indian wrestler Priya Malik - secured a gold medal at the ongoing U20 World Junior Wrestling Championships being held in Jordan on August 17**



- ✓ Priya, the two-time U17 world champion, won the gold in the 76 kg category, defeating Germany's Laura Kuehn 5-0 in the gold medal bout.
- ✓ With the win, Priya became only the second Indian woman ever to clinch a gold in the competition.
- ✓ Antim Panghal had last year become the first Indian woman to emerge junior world champion
- ✓ Former World Cadet champion Priya improved on the silver medal she won in the 2022 U20 World Championships

- ✓ The 18-year-old wrestler had earlier won the gold medal in the 2021 World Cadet Wrestling Championship in Women's 73 kg and had also won a bronze medal in the Asian wrestling championship held earlier this year in Astana.
  - ✓ Priya's win has now given India two golds at the ongoing championships, which has only happened for the second time ever, after 2001.
  - ✓ Earlier, Indian wrestler Mohit Kumar won the first gold for India by defeating Eldar Akhmadudinov of Russia and became the first Indian wrestler after Deepak Punia in 2019 to be crowned the U20 World Championship.
  - ✓ So far, India has won a total of seven medals in the championships with two gold, one silver, and four bronze medals.
- **India's fastest woman athlete Dutee Chand - has been banned for four years for failing twin out-of-competition dope tests for selective androgen receptor modulators (SARMs) in December last year**
- ✓ Dutee Chand holds the national 100m record of 11.17s which she recorded at Indian Grand Prix 4 in Patiala in 2021



- ✓ Dutee's ban period will be effective from January 3, 2023.
  - ✓ Dutee, a double silver medallist at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games in 100m and 200m races, was tested twice on December 5 and 26, 2022 by Nada's dope control officers in Bhubaneswar.
  - ✓ While her first sample revealed the presence of anabolic agents andarine, ostarine and ligandrol, the second sample had traces of andarine and ostarine.
  - ✓ Dutee now has 21 days to file an appeal with the anti-doping appeal panel (ADAP) from the date of receipt of decision by the appealing party.
- **Manchester City - defeated Sevilla 5-4 in a penalty shootout to win their inaugural UEFA Super Cup trophy at Georgios Karaiskakis Football Stadium in Piraeus, Athens, Greece**
- ✓ This is the second European title for Man City after winning the Champions League in the last game of the season earlier this year
  - ✓ It was the 15th trophy won by City under manager Pep Guardiola's reign that started in 2016



- ✓ Guardiola became the second manager, after Carlo Ancelotti, to win the Super Cup four times and the first to win it with three different teams after doing so at Bayern Munich (2013) and Barcelona (2009, 2011).
- ✓ Manchester City has already won the Premier League-FA Cup-Champions League treble last season for the first time.
- ✓ Sevilla, which won the Europa League for the seventh time last season, has won just once in 2006 on its debut out of its seven appearances in the Super Cup.