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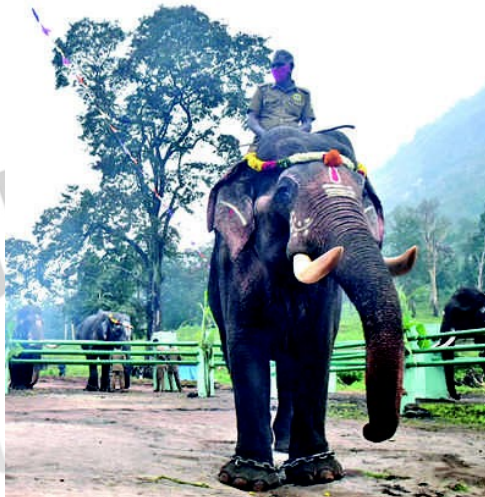
TAMIL NADU

- **Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu - will present the Tamil Nadu police with the prestigious President's Colours in Chennai on July 31.**
- ✓ The State police will be the first in Southern India and among 10 others in the country to showcase the honour.
- ✓ President's Colours is a special flag, given as the highest honour, bestowed upon the military, paramilitary and police forces of the state/union territory.
- ✓ The Indian Navy was the first Indian Armed Force to be awarded with President's Colours in 1951 by the then President Dr Rajendra Prasad
- ✓ The 9 other state police who were the past recipients of the prestigious honour includes Uttar Pradesh (1952), Delhi (1954), Maharashtra (1961), Jammu and Kashmir (2003), Tripura (2012), Gujarat (2019), Himachal Pradesh (2021), Haryana (2022) and Assam (2022)
- **Kannan Sundaram, the publisher of 'Kalachuvadu' - has been chosen by the French government for Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Merite, the Knight of the Order of the Merit.**



- ✓ Kannan Sundaram is awarded for his contribution to the publishing collaboration between India and France.

- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin congratulated Kannan Sundaram for being selected to receive the Chevalier Award of France and for enhancing the ties between India and France in the field of publishing.
 - ✓ A ceremony to confer the award will be organised in New Delhi at the residence of the French Ambassador in September or October later this year
 - ✓ Kannan Sundaram is the editor and publisher of Kalachuvadu, a monthly journal on culture and politics.
 - ✓ He is the son of acclaimed Tamil writer Sundara Ramaswamy, who started the magazine Kalachuvadu in 1987.
 - ✓ Kannan Sundaram co-organised Tamil Ini 2000, an international Tamil conference on 20th century Tamil writing
- **The Ministry of environment, forests and climate change - has selected five mahouts hailing from Malasar tribal community for this year's 'Gaj Gaurav' award**



- ✓ These mahouts work in Kozhikamuthi and Varakaliyar elephant camps in Valparai in the Anaimalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) at Coimbatore district
- ✓ The award is given to individuals working for conservation of wild elephants
- ✓ The representative of the mahouts will receive the award during the World Elephant Day celebration at Periyar Elephant Reserve in Kerala on August 12
- ✓ The ministry's Project Elephant division constituted the award in two divisions – individual and community – two years ago
- ✓ As of now, 128 families of Malasar tribal community are residing in Kozhikamuthi area in the forest reserve near Topslip
- ✓ They train captive elephants and play a vital role in conservation of wild elephants
- ✓ The elephants trained by them are often used as kumkis in elephant-human conflicts in different parts of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ These domesticated elephants are also used for elephant rides by tourists visiting the Topslip area

- ✓ The Anaimalai Tiger Reserve has the largest number of domesticated elephants in Tamil Nadu
- **Chennai – to get five more continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations (CAAQMS) at a cost of Rs.7.08 crore, thereby enabling more accuracy in recording of air pollution levels**
- ✓ On July 30, the Greater Chennai Corporation council has approved the setting up of CAAQMS with funds from the 15th finance commission under the National Air Quality Improvement Scheme
- ✓ Under the National Clean Air Programme, the Greater Chennai Corporation along with the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) will be implementing the initiative.
- ✓ Out of the five stations, one could be placed under the GCC at the Ripon Buildings, the city corporation headquarters and the placement of the rest is to be decided by TNPCB
- ✓ To implement this project, the TNPCB submitted an action plan and a micro project report to the Central Pollution Control Board and the Chennai corporation, which has tied up with IIT-Madras for the project
- ✓ The corporation has also taken steps to implement the project as per the guidelines of the Central Pollution Control Board.
- ✓ Chennai was one of the major cities for which the 15th finance committee allocated funds to improve the air quality - Rs 181 crore and Rs 91 crore for 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively.
- ✓ Chennai's air quality levels for 2021 exceeded the WHO's permissible limits by five times, making it one of the most polluted cities in the country, as per a report by Greenpeace International NGO released in January.
- ✓ While WHO annual limits for PM2.5 (fine particulate matter) level is 5, the city's annual average, calculated from November 2020 to November 2021, was 27.
- ✓ The Corporation council also provided concurrence for the preparation of a detailed feasibility report for setting up of integrated solid waste management system, which would include a waste-to-energy plant.
- ✓ The project will be taken up as a component of the Asian Bank-assisted Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Programme (TNUFIP).

NATIONAL

- **On July 30, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - addressed the inaugural session of the first All India District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) meeting**
- ✓ Chief Justice of India, NV Ramana and Union Minister of Law & Justice, Kiren Rijiju were present at the meeting.
- ✓ The meeting is being organised from July 30-31 at Vigyan Bhawan by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).



- ✓ The Prime Minister also released a commemorative postal stamp on the 'Right to free legal aid' during the occasion.
 - ✓ There are a total of 676 District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) in the country.
 - ✓ They are headed by a District Judge who acts as Chairman of the authority.
 - ✓ The meeting deliberated on the creation of an integrated procedure in order to bring homogeneity and synchronisation across DLSAs.
 - ✓ The DLSAs also contribute towards reducing the burden on courts by regulating the Lok Adalats conducted by NALSA
- **On July 30, Union home minister Amit Shah – addressed the National Conference on 'Drug Trafficking and National Security' in Chandigarh**



- ✓ The Chief Ministers of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab and The Administrator of Chandigarh were present on the occasion
- ✓ Officers from the Border Security Force (BSF), National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), as well as the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) chiefs of the respective states and the members of Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) were also present at the conference.

- ✓ This is the first national conference where the Union Home Minister, Chief Ministers of different states and the different Drugs Enforcement Agencies share a common platform.
 - ✓ NCB teams in four different locations across the country– Delhi, Chennai, Guwahati and Kolkata - disposed off more than 30,000 kg of drugs in front of Home Minister Amit Shah via video conferencing during the programme
 - ✓ During his address, the minister said that a 75-day drug eradication programme had started on June 1 and will culminate on August 15 after destroying 75,000 kilograms of drugs on the 75th year of Independence
 - ✓ Further, the Minister said that an agreement has been signed between NCB and National Forensic Science University to provide guidance in establishing a modern forensic lab in any State.
 - ✓ To prevent misuse of dual-use drugs, a permanent inter-ministerial committee has been formed with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Chemicals, said the Minister
- **The government – has removed the qualifying mark criterion for aspirants of medical super specialty course.**
- ✓ Accordingly, lowermost scores or even a zero percentile would be acceptable for a course at this level.
 - ✓ The announcement by the government has been made considering seats going vacant every year
 - ✓ Further, this is announced as a one-time measure and as a test case for this year's admissions.
 - ✓ With 748 super speciality seats unfilled after four rounds of admission this year, the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) took the drastic step.
 - ✓ As a one-time measure, any candidate who had taken the NEET super speciality 2021 exam can participate in the special mopup admission round irrespective of his/her scores.
 - ✓ India has about 4,500 super specialty medical seats.
- **The Centre - has proposed amendments to two laws — Warehousing Development and Regulation Act (WDRA) and the Merchant Shipping Act — to decriminalise different offences.**
- ✓ The draft warehouse regulation law proposes to increase the fines significantly after removing the jail terms for offences
 - ✓ The merchant shipping law doesn't propose any increase in the fines even as it has proposed to delete the provision of imprisonment.
 - ✓ Decriminalisation of offences has been a major focus of the government and every ministry has been directed to take steps to remove the provisions of imprisonment for minor offences.
 - ✓ The current WDRA has provision of imprisonment for four offences for up to three years.

- ✓ Under the existing Act, there is jail term for warehousemen issuing receipts without taking actual physical delivery of goods.
- ✓ Similarly, a warehouseman or an agent can face jail term for issuing duplicate negotiable warehouse receipts without substantially following the procedure.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Zimbabwe - has launched gold coins to be sold to the public in a bid to contain inflation that has deteriorated the country's unstable currency.**



- ✓ The move was announced by the country's central bank, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe recently on July 25
- ✓ The gold coins called "Mosi-oa-tunya" – named after Victoria Falls in the local Tonga language – contain one troy ounce of gold (around 31 grams) and can be converted into cash and traded both locally and internationally.
- ✓ The central bank disbursed 2,000 coins to commercial banks and any individual or company can buy the coins from authorized outlets including banks using the local currency or foreign currencies
- ✓ The coins, with a purity of 22 carats, can also be used as security for loans and credit facilities
- ✓ People holding the coins can only trade them for cash after 180 days from the date of buying.
- ✓ In June, Zimbabwe's National Statistics Agency revealed that the country's annual inflation rate had reached 191%
- ✓ Zimbabwe has substantial gold deposits and gold exports is one of the southern African country's major foreign currency earners.
- ✓ Internationally, gold coins are used in countries such as China, South Africa and Australia to stem inflation and as an investment opportunity

INDIA AND OTHERS

- **India - has authorised the export of wheat and sugar to Bhutan as per its requirements of 5000MT of wheat and 10,000MT of sugar.**
- ✓ The decision has been taken as a special gesture based on requests received from Bhutan

- ✓ Earlier this year, India had restricted the export of these two commodities to strengthen India's food security
 - ✓ The restrictions were placed due to sudden changes in the global market affecting the price and availability of wheat and sugar
 - ✓ Previously, India had made various trade concessions for Bhutan including lifting the restriction on import of potato only from Bhutan and allowing the import of fresh wholly produced ginger from Bhutan
 - ✓ Further, India has also supplied Nano Urea / Nano Nitrogen Fertilizer (Liquid) to Bhutan at a special concessional rate and later allowed the supply of coal to the Royal Kingdom.
- **India – has recently contributed \$2.5 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)**



- ✓ Director of the West Asia and North Africa Division of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, Sunil Kumar presented the cheque to the UNRWA Director of Partnerships of the Department of External Relations, Karim Amer
- ✓ The signing ceremony was held at UNRWA headquarters in East Jerusalem on July 22
- ✓ India is a dedicated donor to UNRWA, having given \$20 million in support of core UNRWA services to Palestine refugees across the Middle East since 2018
- ✓ The UNRWA, which was established as a humanitarian agency in 1949, is fully funded through voluntary contributions and grants from various donor countries
- ✓ The agency provides assistance and protection for about 5.6 million Palestinian refugees registered in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and refugee camps in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan.
- ✓ The UNRWA services provided for Palestinian refugees involve education, health care, relief, infrastructure, camp improvement, protection and microfinance
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Palestine in February 2018
- ✓ He was the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Palestine

- ✓ After his visit, India increased its annual financial contribution four-fold to the UNRWA core budget, from \$1.25 million to \$5 million
- ✓ In January, the UNRWA announced that it needs 1.6 billion US dollars from the international community in 2022 to cover expenses and provide services and humanitarian development programs for Palestinian refugees

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras - launched the 'Nilekani Centre at AI4Bharat' to promote the state of Indian language technology with the intention to create a societal impact.**



- ✓ This Centre was inaugurated by one of the IITM donors and Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani on July 28
- ✓ It is being supported by Rohini and Nandan Nilekani with a grant of Rs 36 crore through Nilekani Philanthropies.
- ✓ The AI4Bharat was set-up as an initiative of IIT Madras to build open-source language AI for Indian languages.
- ✓ It has been set up as a component of the Digital India Bhashini mission
- ✓ The Bhashini mission has been launched with the goal of providing all services and information to citizens in their own language with 'collaborative AI' at the core of the design

DEFENCE

- **A mountain peak, Point 5140, at Dras in Kargil - has been renamed 'Gun Hill' to mark the victory and sacrifices of the Indian Armed Forces during Operation Vijay**
- ✓ The move seeks to honour the crucial role played by the Regiment of Artillery in the victory of the Indian armed forces during the 1999 conflict with Pakistan.

- ✓ The ceremony was conducted in the presence of veterans from all Artillery Regiments, which got the honour title 'Kargil' in Operation Vijay.



- ✓ Point 5140 at Dras in Kargil sector, one of the highest enemy-occupied posts, was captured on June 20, 1999 by a team led by Kargil hero Captain Vikram Batra, Param Vir Chakra
- ✓ The capture of Point 5140 by the 'Gunners' of the artillery unit was a key factor in the early completion of operations
- ✓ On July 26, 1999, the Indian Army declared victory in Kargil War after the successful culmination of Operation Vijay.

ECONOMY

- **On July 29, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - launched India's first international bullion exchange, that seeks to bring transparency to the gold market**
- ✓ The bullion exchange was launched at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gandhinagar.

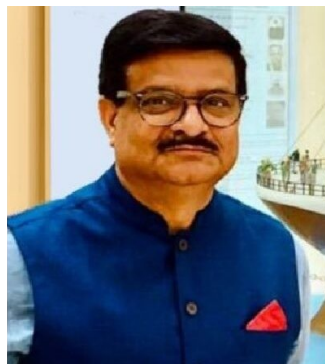


- ✓ The opening of the international bullion exchange is aimed at standardizing the gold pricing in the country and to make it easier for small bullion dealers and jewellers to trade.

- ✓ Bullion refers to physical gold and silver of high purity often kept in the form of bars, ingots, or coins
- ✓ Currently, there are nominated banks and agencies who have been approved by the central bank to conduct trade or import gold and sell it to dealers
- ✓ The Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) and National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) offer gold futures contracts in India, but there wasn't any physical exchange to buy gold.
- ✓ India is the second highest consumer of the precious metal after China
- ✓ The PM also laid the foundation stone of the Headquarters Building of the International Financial Services Centres Authority and NSE IFSC-SGX Connect, in Gandhinagar.
- ✓ Under this Connect system, all orders on Nifty derivatives placed by members of Singapore Exchange Limited (SGX) will be routed to and matched on the NSE-IFSC order matching and trading platform
- ✓ The event was hosted by International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), under the aegis of the Government of India, in collaboration with GIFT City and Bloomberg
- ✓ Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Union Minister of Home Affairs and Co-operation Amit Shah, Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Ministers of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary and Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad were also present at the events
- ✓ The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), headquartered at GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, has been established under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019.
- ✓ It works as a unified authority for the development and regulation of financial products, financial services and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in India
- ✓ At present, the GIFT IFSC is the only international financial services centre in India

APPOINTMENTS

- **Satyendra Prakash, the 1988-batch Indian Information Services officer - will be the new principal director general of the Press Information Bureau.**



- ✓ Prakash will take over from Jaideep Bhatnagar, who superannuated on July 29.
- ✓ Prakash has served as principal director general of the Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC), the nodal government agency for communications and advertising, since March this year
- ✓ He was also holding additional charge of press registrar, Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI), New Delhi.
- ✓ Prakash has also served as additional director general (news and current affairs) in Doordarshan, and director (media) at the ministries of communications and IT and civil aviation.

AWARDS

- **Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar - presented Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Awards in New Delhi on July 30**



- ✓ The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) was launched under the ambitious Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package as a dedicated Central Government scheme in the year 2020
- ✓ This scheme is part of “Rs. 20 lakh crore stimulus package”, that was announced amid Covid-19 crisis
- ✓ It provides a medium-long term credit facility for investment in the creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets.
- ✓ Out of 23,000 plus applications received on the integrated portal of Agri Infra Fund, 13,700 applicants have been sanctioned with the loan to the tune of over Rs 10,000 crore.
- ✓ The sanctioned projects include warehouses, assaying units, primary processing units, custom hiring centres, sorting and grading units, and cold-store and cold-chain projects.
- ✓ In the State category, Madhya Pradesh was adjudged the best performing State, whereas Andhra Pradesh was recognised as best performer in sanction of applications
- ✓ As the best performer in faster disposal of applications, Karnataka was awarded and Rajasthan was declared the Rising State under AIF.

- ✓ Among the Best Performing Banks, State Bank of India was awarded the first prize followed by Punjab National Bank and Bank of India
- ✓ NABARD Consultancy services, the Knowledge Partner for this scheme was honoured for their contribution in carrying forward it.

SPORTS

- **Olympic medalist and ace weightlifter Mirabai Chanu - wins India's first Gold Medal at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in the Women's 49Kg weightlifting category.**



- ✓ The Olympic silver medallist aggregated a total of 201kg (88kg + 113kg) and achieved a Commonwealth Games record in the process.
- ✓ The 27-year old Chanu bettered the Games record in clean and jerk as well as total lift.
- ✓ The silver went to Mauritius' Marie Hanitra Roilya Ranaivosoa (172kg) and bronze to Canada's Hannah Kaminski (171 kg).
- ✓ Going into the competition, Chanu had a personal best of 88kg and 119kg, a world record in clean and jerk, totalling 207kg.
- ✓ This is Chanu's second gold medal in the Commonwealth Games
- ✓ Chanu had earlier won the gold medal at the 2018 CWG in Gold Coast in Australia
- ✓ Last year, Chanu won a silver medal in the 49kg category of Women's weightlifting event at the Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ And with that, she became the first Indian weightlifter to win a silver medal in Olympics.
- ✓ Chanu also become the second Indian weightlifter to win an Olympic medal after Karnam Malleswari, who bagged bronze in the 69kg category at the 2000 Sydney Games when the weightlifting arena was opened to women for the first time

- ✓ This was India's third medal of Day 2 of the ongoing Commonwealth event at Birmingham
 - ✓ The first two medals for the country also came in weightlifting events
 - ✓ Sanket Sargar had won silver in the Men's 55 Kg weight and Gururaja Poojary had claimed bronze in the Men's 61 Kg weight category.
 - ✓ The 21-year-old Sanket lifted a total of 248kg (113kg 135kg) to come second, while Poojary lifted a total of 269 kg to bag bronze
- **The 36th National Games of India - to take place in six cities of Gujarat between September 27 and October 10, 2022.**



- ✓ After a gap of seven years, the event will be held in six cities including Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot and Bhavnagar
- ✓ The logo of the mega event was revealed on July 22 at Gandhinagar's Mahatma Mandir in the presence of State Sports Minister and officer bearers of Indian Olympics Association
- ✓ The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gujarat Olympic Association (GOA) and Gujarat State Government for conducting the Games in the State
- ✓ The National Games' emblem features the Statue of Unity by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and the Asiatic Lion of Gir.
- ✓ The inaugural function of the National Games will be held at the Narendra Modi stadium
- ✓ There are 36 games which will be played during this 15-day event, in line with the tagline "Sports for Unity".
- ✓ Notably, the previous edition of the National Games took place in Kerala in 2015 and Goa was to host the 36th edition in November 2016
- ✓ After two delays in 2018 and 2019 due to the state's inability to create adequate infrastructure, the Games were further postponed to 2020, after which it was again postponed due to Covid-19 pandemic