

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–JULY 3, 2023

### TAMIL NADU

- Researchers – have identified a 1,000-year-old 'Arikandam' near Cholapuram in Sivaganga district.



- ✓ 'Arikandam' refers to a statue installed in the memory of a man who took his own life through decapitation to redeem a vow made to goddess Kali
- ✓ The statue has been found in the Pidari Amman temple, which is situated between Cholapuram and Nalukottai village
- ✓ 'Arikandam' was the act of a man making a vow to the deity to take his own life by chopping off his own head, if he won a war or overcame a disease.
- ✓ If the body was cut in nine parts as the man wished, it was called 'Navakandam'.
- ✓ According to the researchers, there was mention of 'Arikandam' and 'Navakandam' in the epic 'Silapathikaram'.
- ✓ The act was also referred to by other names, including 'Avi pali (sacrifice)', 'Thalai pali', and 'Than pali'.
- ✓ Arikandam was an act that was predominantly performed by men
- ✓ The stone inscription about 'Arikandam' in Mallal village in Kalayarkoil union in Sivaganga district has been documented by the Archeological Survey of India.
- ✓ The one in Cholapuram measures two feet in height and one-and-a-half feet in width.

- ✓ The design of the statue indicates that it may have been erected for the commander of forces, which is similar in features to statues of the 11th century CE.

## STATES

- **On July 2, Senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar - was sworn in as deputy chief minister in the Eknath Shinde-led Maharashtra government**



- ✓ Ajit Pawar has become the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra for the fifth time.
- ✓ This is the largest number of times that a politician has been appointed a DCM in the state since the position was created in 1978.
- ✓ Pawar will now share the deputy CM post with Bharatiya Janata Party's Devendra Fadnavis
- ✓ He took the oath at the Raj Bhavan along with several of his NCP colleagues including senior politician Chhagan Bhujbal.
- ✓ Out of the total 53 NCP MLAs in the state, as many as 43 are reportedly with Ajit Pawar.

## NATIONAL

- **The southwest (summer) monsoon - covered the entire country on July 2, six days before its normal date of July 8, according to the India Meteorological Department.**
- ✓ This year, it took 25 days to cover the entire country since its delayed onset on June 8.
- ✓ The onset of monsoon normally happens on June 1 and covers the entire country in 38 days, i.e. by July 8.
- ✓ Last year, too, the monsoon covered the entire country by July 2.
- ✓ According to the IMD, the monsoon covered the entire country earlier than its usual date 13 times in the past 25 years
- ✓ Early or delayed onset or coverage of monsoon has nothing to do with quantitative and spatial distribution of rainfall.
- ✓ It, however, affects farming operations of kharif (summer sown) crops such as paddy, sugarcane, coarse cereals and cotton.

- **A social organisation, Nirogi Bharat Foundation - has started a ‘time bank’ in Dehradun for the first time in the country**
- ✓ The ‘time bank’ enables account holders to ‘deposit their time’ by volunteering to assist elderly people, and in return, receive help when needed.
- ✓ Rohit Mamgain, 31, who works as a senior research officer at a US-based MNC, is the founder of the voluntary organisation, Nirogi Bharat Foundation
- ✓ The initiative is “based on a concept first adopted in countries like Sweden and Denmark. ”
- ✓ Anyone interested in sharing their time with elderly people in need can become a member of the time bank after police verification.
- ✓ They can spend time with the elderly who live alone and are dependent on others for health care and other needs.
- ✓ Over 300 volunteers from various professional backgrounds have registered with the time bank so far.

## **CONFERENCES & SUMMITS**

- **The government - will host the 6th India-Arab Partnership Conference on July 11-12**



- ✓ The conference will seek to explore opportunities for economic cooperation between India and the Arab countries.
- ✓ The ministry of external affairs will organise the event along with Ficci and with the backing of League of Arab States
- ✓ The conference is also aimed at promoting a multi-directional flow of investment and facilitating investment in the areas of new opportunities.
- ✓ It’s expected to deepen and redefine mutual economic relations considering a new perspective on Indo-Arab cooperation.
- ✓ Several Arab ministers are expected to participate in the event
- ✓ Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal will deliver the inaugural address, while a special address will be delivered by junior external affairs minister V Muraleedharan.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **The first batch of crew recovery team of Mission Gaganyaan - completed Phase-1 of training at Indian Navy’s Water Survival Training Facility (WSTF) at Kochi, Kerala.**



- ✓ This team will be participating in the recovery of the unpressurised crew module that will be used in the first abort test mission being planned by the ISRO in August.
- ✓ Utilising the state-of-the-art facility, the team of Indian naval divers and marine commandos underwent recovery training of the crew module in varied sea conditions.
- ✓ The two-week training capsule covered a brief on the conduct of the mission, actions to be taken during medical exigencies and familiarisation with different aircraft and their rescue equipment
- ✓ The training also validated the standard operating procedures formulated jointly by the Indian Navy and Isro.
- ✓ On May 26, Isro and Navy released the Gaganyaan recovery training plan at WSTF, outlining the training plan for recovery of the Gaganyaan crew module.
- ✓ The plan defined overall requirements for training of various teams participating in recovery operations, including (Navy) divers, MARCOs (maritime commandos), medical specialists, communicators, technicians and naval aviators.
- ✓ While the first phase of training of the first batch is complete, the overall recovery training is planned in incremental phases
- ✓ The overall training starts from unmanned recovery to manned recovery training in harbour and open sea conditions.
- ✓ The recovery operations are being led by the Indian Navy in coordination with other government agencies.

## **BUSINESS/ECONOMY**

- **SBI - has made cardless cash withdrawals interoperable by allowing customers of any bank to draw cash from any ATM that has the UPI QR cash function.**
- ✓ The bank has also launched a revamped version of its flagship Yono app.
- ✓ By utilising the 'UPI QR cash' functionality, users can generate a dynamic QR code displayed on the ATM screen and withdraw cash using their UPI application's 'scan-and-pay' feature.

- ✓ This solution not only simplifies the withdrawal process but also enhances security by eliminating the need for PIN entry or physical handling of debit cards, minimising risks associated with fraudulent activities.
- ✓ The new Yono app offers UPI features such as scan-and-pay, pay by contacts, request money and more, to customers of any bank.

## OBITUARY

- **K Jayaram, a noted nature photographer with several national and international awards to his credit - passed away after a prolonged illness in Coimbatore on July 2.**



- ✓ Jayaram, 74, was considered a pioneer in macro photography
- ✓ He had a species of frog (*Raorchestes jayarami*) found in Valparai, and a spider (*Myrmarachne jayaramani*), named after him.
- ✓ His five-decade long work in nature photography had been documented in a film titled 'Insects to infinity'.
- ✓ Jayaram, a bachelor and a native of Coimbatore, took some of the breathtaking photos published in acclaimed journals across the world including National Geographic.
- ✓ Jayaram, who was a world-renowned photographer in this field, captured more than three lakh pictures from 1969 to 2006.
- ✓ His photograph of an insect and a scorpion won the Gold and Silver Medal of the International Salon of Photographs in 1970.
- ✓ He was awarded the distinction of excellence from Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique (FIAP), an international organisation of national associations of photography, twice.
- ✓ In 1978 he became a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society, UK

