



CURRENT AFFAIRS—JULY 1-15, 2023

Since 1998



TNPSC EXAMS
24 YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE



Foot Prints (Compilation of Current Events)

 TAMIL NADU	 STATES	 NATIONAL	 INDIA & THE WORLD	 INTERNATIONAL
 SCHEMES	 DEFENCE	 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	 EVS	 ECONOMY
 COURT VERDICTS	 CONFERENCES & SUMMITS	 AWARDS	 PERSONALITIES	 BOOKS & AUTHORS
 SPORTS	 RANKS & REPORTS	 DAYS	 OBITUARY	 NEWS OF THE MONTH
 KNOWLEDGE	 APPOINTMENTS	 COMMITTEES	 APPS / PORTALS	 MISCELLANEOUS

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TAMIL NADU

➤ Tamil Nadu's Electronics Exports

- ✓ Tamil Nadu - emerged as the country's top electronics exporter in the financial year ended March 2023.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu's electronics exports stood at \$5.37 billion in FY23, up from \$1.86 billion in the previous year, as per the exports data released by the Centre.
- ✓ This helped the state to jump from fourth spot in FY22 to the top spot in FY 23.
- ✓ With this, Tamil Nadu has surpassed industrial majors like Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra to emerge on top for the first time after the shutting down of Nokia in 2014.

	TN	UP	Maharashtra	Karnataka
2022-23	5.3	4.9	2.6	4.5
2021-22	1.8	3.8	2.1	3.9
2020-21	1.6	2.8	1.6	2.3

Source: National Import-Export Records

- ✓ Skilled manpower, port connectivity and good infrastructure are the major advantage factors of Tamil Nadu.

➤ Arikandam

- ✓ 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.
- **StartupTN**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu's nodal agency for entrepreneurship StartupTN - launched an automotive, electric vehicle (EV) and smart mobility forum for the state's startups.
- ✓ The forum was launched by StartupTN along with investment promotion agency Guidance TN and other stakeholders on July 3.
- ✓ The multiagency forum will help startups connect with investors, seek mentorship, help in policy level support, among others.
- **Poomalai Vaniga Valagam (PVV)**
- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin - inaugurated Poomalai Vaniga Valagam (PVV) at Rs.5.16 crore for the development of women enterprises in 26 districts under the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW) recently.



- ✓ He also launched Nano Enterprise Financing Fund (NEFF) under the Vazhndhu Kattuvom Project (VKP) at Rs.50 crore.
- ✓ Under the project, every district capital should have principal sale centres and additional sale centres to facilitate bank loans, and jobs and enable the sales of products of rural self-help groups at premium prices in urban areas.
- **Green Tamil Nadu Mission (GTM)**
- ✓ The Green Tamil Nadu Mission (GTM) under the Department of Environment - has signed a memorandum of understanding with Urbaser Sumeet to green garbage hotspots in seven GCC zones.
- ✓ As per the agreement, GTM will distribute native saplings for free to Urbaser Sumeet for plantations.
- ✓ The aim of the MoU signed on July 7 is to increase green cover in urban areas and battle the heat island effect.

- ✓ The goal of the initiative is to increase the green cover from 23% to 33% in Tamil Nadu.

- **Flying Training Organisation (FTO)**
- ✓ India gets its 36th and Tamil Nadu its first flying training school.
- ✓ India's aviation education landscape has witnessed a significant boost with the recent approval of the first Flying Training Organisation (FTO) in Tamil Nadu by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- ✓ EKVI Air Training Organization Pvt Ltd has been granted permission to operate from Salem Airport, marking a significant milestone for aspiring pilots in the region.

- **Authoor Betel Leaves from Tamil Nadu - GI certificate**
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu State Agriculture Marketing Board and NABARD Madurai Agribusiness Incubation Forum have awarded a Geographical Indication (GI) certificate to the Authoor betel leaves from Thoothukudi district in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The certificate is granted in the name of Authoor Vattara Vetrilai Vivasayigal Sangam. This GI recognition opens up new avenues for marketing the Authoor betel leaves, enabling their reach in both domestic and international markets, tapping into their marketing potential.

NATIONAL

➤ Report Fish Disease

- ✓ Union Minister of Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairying Parshottam Rupala - recently launched an android-based mobile app 'Report Fish Disease' at Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi on June 28.



- ✓ This app is designed to help fish farmers and improve disease management in the aquaculture sector.
- ✓ It allows farmers to easily report fish diseases by connecting them directly with district fisheries officers and scientists.
- ✓ The 'Report Fish Disease' app simplifies and improves disease reporting for fish farmers, ensuring that experts can intervene promptly.

➤ National Sickle Cell Anemia Eradication Mission 2047

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi - launched the National Sickle Cell Anemia Eradication Mission 2047 in the Lalpur village, located in Shahdol district of Madhya Pradesh on July 1.



- ✓ Sickle cell anemia is a blood disorder that is inherited from generation to generation.

- ✓ The mission aims to eliminate sickle cell disease as a public health problem by 2047.

➤ **Time Bank**

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.

➤ **Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022**

- ✓ The Union Cabinet - approved the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022 on July 5.
- ✓ The bill is likely to be introduced in the Monsoon Session of Parliament starting July 20.
- ✓ The scope of the draft Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022, is limited to online personal data belonging to the user.

➤ **Akshar River Cruise**

- ✓ Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Amit Shah - virtually launched the 'Akshar River Cruise' on Sabarmati Riverfront on July 2.



- ✓ The cruise is the first passenger catamaran built in the country under 'Make in India' scheme at a cost of Rs 15 crore, in which 165 passengers can travel safely.
- ✓ The 30-meter-long luxury cruise, which has two engines and takes two hours to drive, will help boost tourism in Gujarat.

➤ **Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States**

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs - launched the 'Scheme for expansion and modernization of Fire Services in the States' with a total outlay of Rs 5,000 crore.

- ✓ The new scheme was launched on July 5 for strengthening fire services in the States.
- ✓ According to the home ministry, the outlay of Rs.5,000 crore was earmarked for priority expansion and modernisation of fire services from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) corpus.

➤ **The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023**



- ✓ A Parliamentary committee has given a go-ahead to the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023 without objections.
- ✓ The bill proposes amendments to the Forest Conservation Act 1980 and aims to exempt certain forest lands from legal protection. The bill is expected to be tabled during the monsoon session of the Parliament.

➤ **Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957**

- On July 12, the government - cleared amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957.
- ✓ This will allow the commercial mining of six critical minerals – lithium, beryllium, niobium, tantalum, titanium and zirconium – and deep-seated minerals like gold, silver and copper by private companies
 - ✓ Currently, commercial mining of these critical minerals by private companies is prohibited.
 - ✓ Only government agencies were allowed in exploration and mining operations.

SCHEME

➤ New Swarnima Scheme For Women

- ✓ The Swarnima Scheme is a term loan scheme introduced by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to provide financial assistance to women entrepreneurs from backward classes.
- ✓ The scheme aims to empower women by offering social and financial security through term loans.
- ✓ The scheme facilitates access to loans of up to 2,00,000/- at an interest rate of 5% per annum.

➤ Siruneeragam Kakkum Seermigu Maruthuva Thittam

- ✓ On July 10, the health department - launched a state-wide programme, 'Siruneeragam Kakkum Seermigu Maruthuva Thittam' for prevention of kidney ailments in the state.



- ✓ The scheme aims to carry out several tests for early diagnosis and treatment of kidney diseases.
- ✓ The aim of the programme is to prevent End Stage Renal Disease by screening high-risk individuals, including patients with diabetes, hypertension and a family history of renal disease.

➤ Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS)



- ✓ Southern Railway has taken a significant step towards enhancing the facilities at railway stations by identifying 90 stations for development under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS).
- ✓ The scheme aims to prepare master plans for these stations and implement them in a phased manner.



INTERNATIONAL

➤ **First Country to Ban Plastic Produce Bags**

- ✓ New Zealand has taken a momentous step towards reducing plastic waste by becoming the first country to implement a complete ban on thin plastic bags commonly used in supermarkets for fruit and vegetable purchases.
- ✓ This significant move aligns with the government's on-going campaign against single-use plastics, which began in 2019 with the prohibition of thicker plastic shopping bags.

➤ **Global Crisis Response Group**

- ✓ India Joins Champions Group of Global Crisis Response Group



- ✓ India has joined the Champions Group of the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG) at the invitation of the UN Secretary-General.
- ✓ The GCRG was established in March 2022 to address urgent global issues in food security, energy, and finance, and to coordinate a global response.

➤ **India wins 34th International Biology Olympiad**



- ✓ In a remarkable achievement, India has emerged as the overall winner at the 34th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) held in Al Ain, UAE from 2-11 July.

- ✓ The Indian student team clinched an unprecedented all-gold performance, securing the top position on the medals tally for the first time.
- **Bastille Day Military Parade**
- ✓ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited as the guest of honour for France's Bastille Day celebrations, which will take place on July 14.
- ✓ The Bastille Day military parade will witness the participation of Indian forces, emphasizing the strengthening strategic alliance between France and India.



INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES

➤ Bangladesh and India Launch Trade Transactions in Rupees



- ✓ Bangladesh and India have initiated trade transactions in rupees, aiming to reduce reliance on the US dollar and strengthen regional currency and trade.
- ✓ This bilateral trade agreement marks a significant milestone for Bangladesh, moving beyond the US dollar for trade settlement with a foreign country.
- ✓ The move signifies the growth and economic cooperation between India and Bangladesh, fostering mutual benefits.

➤ India-Tanzania Defence Cooperation

- ✓ During the recent visit of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to Tanzania, significant developments took place in the defence cooperation between India and Tanzania.
- ✓ These engagements highlight India's commitment to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's doctrine of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).
- ✓ As part of the visit, the guided missile frigate INS Trishul visited the ports of Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

➤ International Conference on Green Hydrogen, ICGH-2023

- ✓ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy - will organise an International Conference on Green Hydrogen, ICGH-2023 from July 5 to 7 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.



- ✓ The event will be the first such conference of this scale on green hydrogen in the country.
- ✓ The objective of the conference is to bring together the global scientific and industrial community to discuss recent advances and emerging technologies in the entire green hydrogen value chain.

➤ 17th Indian Cooperative Congress

- ✓ On July 1, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - addressed the 17th Indian Cooperative Congress at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- ✓ The National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) is organizing the 17th Indian Cooperative Congress on July 1 and 2.



- ✓ Its objective is to discuss various trends in cooperative movement, showcase best practices being adopted, deliberate challenges being faced and devise future policy direction for growth of India's cooperative movement.

There will be seven technical sessions on the main theme of "Amrit Kaal : Prosperity through Cooperation for a Vibrant India".

➤ **India-Arab Partnership Conference**

- ✓ 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 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.

➤ **Startup20 Shikhar Summit**

- ✓ The Startup20 Shikhar summit under India's G20 presidency - was held in Gurugram, Haryana on July 3 and 4.



- ✓ The Startup20 Engagement Group hosted the two day Startup20 Shikhar summit.
- ✓ During the summit, startup 20 communique was released, which urged G20 leaders to raise the joint investment in the global startup ecosystem to \$1 trillion by 2030.

➤ **UAE-India Economic Summit**

- ✓ The UAE-India Economic Summit was held on 3 July at the ADGM Auditorium in Al Maryah Island, Abu Dhabi.
- ✓ It has been organized under the theme: "Fostering Synergies – Uniting the Falcon and Tiger Economies".
- ✓ The conference featured a series of panel discussions addressing key topics in the new economy.
- ✓ The UAE-India Economic Summit has not only strengthened ties between both countries but also open the way for investments and prosperity for both countries.

➤ **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State**

- ✓ The 23rd Summit of the SCO Council of Heads of State - was chaired by Prime Minister Modi on July 4.



- ✓ During his speech, PM Modi stressed the need for the member nations to work together to eliminate the menace of terrorism.
- ✓ The theme of the SCO summit 2023 is 'SECURE' which stands for security, economic development, connectivity, unity, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and environmental protection.
- ✓ The theme of India's Chairmanship of SCO in 2023 is 'SECURE-SCO'.

➤ **International Conference on Tamil Studies**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Minister for Minorities Welfare and Non-Residents Tamils Welfare, Gingee KS Masthan - inaugurated the 11th International Conference on Tamil Studies in the campus of Institute of Asian Studies in Semmencheri, Chennai on July 7.



- ✓ The International Association of Tamil Research (IATR) is organizing the three-day World Tamil Research Conference from July 7 to 9 in Chennai.
- ✓ The conference's theme is 'the New Historicist Study to rewrite the history of the Tamils, Tamil Language, Literature, Culture and Civilization based on Tamil Classics and revaluations of early and recent excavations and finding in Keezhadi and other scientific evidences of the Sangam period'.

➤ **G20 Culture Group (CWG) Meeting**

- ✓ The 3rd G20 Culture Group (CWG) meeting - began in Hampi, Karnataka on July 9 in the presence of Union Parliamentary Affairs minister Prahlad Joshi.



- ✓ The meeting is being held under the theme 'Protection and Restitution of Cultural Property.'
- ✓ The meeting is being attended by delegates from G20 members, guest nations, and several international organizations.
- ✓ The two-day deliberations will evolve consensus on four themes proposed under the Indian Presidency.

➤ **Urban 20 Mayoral Summit**

- ✓ The two-day Urban 20 Mayoral Summit - was hosted by the chair city Ahmedabad in Gandhinagar on July 7 and 8.
- ✓ The summit concluded with the handover of the Communiqué from the Mayors to G20 leaders.



- ✓ The Communiqué was officially endorsed by 105 cities across the world, the highest ever number of endorsements received to date for any U20 Communiqué, and more than twice the number of endorsements for any previous communiqués.

➤ **Space Economy Leaders' Meeting (SELM)**

- ✓ The 4th edition of G20 Space Economy Leaders' Meeting (SELM) - was hosted in Bengaluru on July 6 and 7.
- ✓ This is the first face-to-face SELM under the G20 umbrella, with the previous meetings organised in virtual and hybrid formats.



- ✓ The meeting was held under the theme 'Towards a New Space ERA (Economy, Responsibility, Alliance)'.

➤ **G20 Conference on 'Crime and Security**

- ✓ On July 13, Union Home Minister Amit Shah - inaugurated the two-day G20 conference on 'Crime and Security in the Age of Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Metaverse' in Haryana's Gurugram.
- ✓ During the two-day conference, participants will engage in extensive deliberations across six technical sessions.

➤ **Third Sherpas Meeting under India's G20 Presidency**

- ✓ The third Sherpas meeting under India's G20 Presidency - began in Hampi in Karnataka on July 13.



- ✓ The three-day meeting was chaired by India's G20 Sherpa, Amitabh Kant
- ✓ The meeting discussed issues related to Green development, climate finance, lifestyle for environment, accelerated, inclusive and resilient growth, accelerating progress on sustainable development goals, technological transformation and digital public infrastructure, multilateral institutions for the 21st century and women-led development.

DEFENCE

➤ Tarang Shakti

- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) - is gearing up to host its first-ever multilateral air force exercise later this year.
- ✓ The exercise, named `Tarang Shakti`, will witness the participation of 12 nations, with six nations joining with their aircraft and the remaining six as observers.
- ✓ Set to take place in the Rajasthan sector in October or November, `Tarang Shakti` aims to enhance coordination, interoperability, and integration among the participating air forces.

➤ JIMEX23

- ✓ The bilateral Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23) has commenced in Visakhapatnam.
- ✓ The exercise aims to strengthen mutual cooperation and commitment toward maritime security in the region.
- ✓ JIMEX 23 marks the 11th anniversary of JIMEX since its inception in 2012.
- ✓ The exercise will be conducted over six days in two phases - a Harbour Phase and a Sea Phase.

➤ SALVEX Exercise

- ✓ The Indian Navy and the US Navy successfully concluded the seventh edition of the Indian Navy - US Navy (IN - USN) Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise, SALVEX, held from June 26 to July 6, 2023, in Kochi.



- ✓ This joint exercise has been a regular feature since 2005, promoting collaboration and cooperation between the two navies in the fields of salvage and EOD operations.

➤ **Broader Sword**

- ✓ India and the United States recently joined forces in Operation Broader Sword, a multi-agency operation aimed at preventing the illegal shipment of pharmaceuticals, devices, and precursor chemicals through the International Mail System (IMS).
- ✓ The operation, conducted in June 2023, resulted in the interception of over 500 shipments of illicit and unapproved prescription drugs bound for US consumers.

➤ **CMF EX 'OP SOUTHERN READINESS - 2023**

- ✓ INS Sunayna was at Seychelles from 10-12 Jul 23 to participate in Op Southern Readiness 2023 conducted by Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).



- ✓ The visit was aimed at strengthening multilateral ties and enhancing cooperation through CMF exercise which is a multinational initiative aimed at enhancing maritime security, countering piracy to ensure safety and freedom of navigation in the region.

➤ **Defence Acquisitions Council (DAC)**

- ✓ On July 13, the defence ministry - approved the acquisition of 26 Rafale-Marine fighter jets and three Scorpene diesel-electric submarines from France.
- ✓ The Rajnath Singh-led Defence Acquisitions Council (DAC) accorded the 'acceptance of necessity (AoN)' to the twin procurements for the Navy, which together will cost upwards of Rs 80,000 crore (€9 billion).

AWARDS

➤ Elephant Family Environmental Award

- ✓ King Charles III and Queen Camilla of Britain - presented the prestigious Elephant Family environmental award to Indian conservationists at a ceremony.



- ✓ Elephant Family, an international NGO dedicated to protecting the Asian elephant, supports projects that promote harmonious living between humans and animals.
- ✓ The organization was founded by the late Mark Shand, brother of Queen Camilla, who had a deep passion for elephant conservation.

➤ Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the first Indian Prime Minister to have been conferred with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, France's highest civilian and military honour, by French President Emmanuel Macron.
- ✓ Mr. Modi received the honour at the Elysee Palace here on, July 13, 2023.

➤ Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Order of Arts and Letters) Award

- ✓ The French government - has selected Indian classical vocalist Padma Shri Aruna Sairam and flutist Shashank Subramanyam for the prestigious Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Order of Arts and Letters) award.

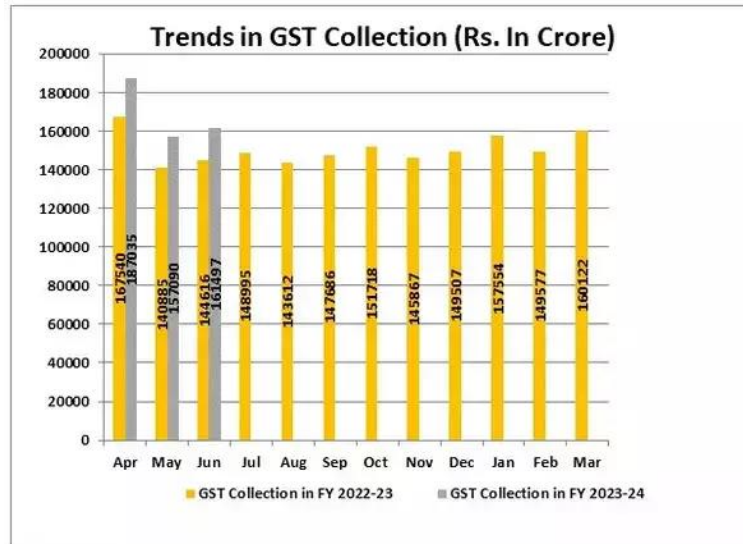


- ✓ The award is conferred for being instrumental in connecting France and India through their music.

APP
STUDY CENTRE

ECONOMY

- India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection - crossed Rs.1.60 lakh crore mark in June



- ✓ According to the finance ministry, it is for the fourth time since inception of GST that the gross collection has crossed the Rs.1.6 lakh crore mark.
- ✓ The collection has breached the Rs.1.50 lakh crore for the seventh time since inception.
- **Project WAVE**
- ✓ Public sector lender Indian Bank - has unveiled new services under its digital transformation initiative – Project WAVE.

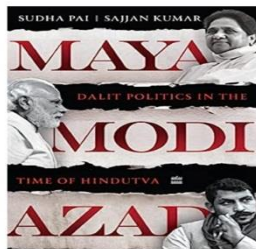


- ✓ Accordingly, the Chennai-based bank has introduced an electronic bank guarantee (e-BG) service, in collaboration with the National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL).

This move aims to support the financial needs of customers involved in GST filings.

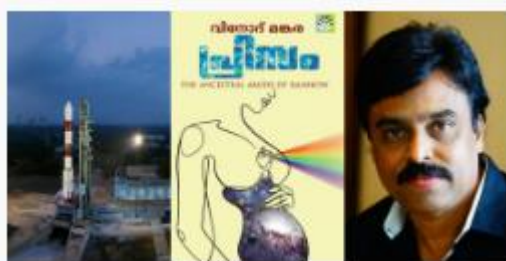
BOOKS & AUTHORS

➤ Maya, Modi, Azad



- ✓ Sudha Pai and Sajjan Kumar have authored a book called “Maya, Modi, Azad: Dalit Politics in the Time of Hindutva.”
- ✓ In this book, they provide a perceptive and thought-provoking examination of the interplay between Maya, Modi, and Azad in the realm of Dalit politics.
- ✓ Their analysis holds great importance in comprehending not only the dynamics of Dalit politics but also the broader democratic landscape of India, especially as we approach the highly contentious general election of 2024.

➤ ‘Prism: The Ancestral Abode of Rainbow’



- ✓ National award-winning filmmaker-writer Vinod Mankara’s new book was released from the rocket launchpad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The unique launch of ‘Prism: The Ancestral Abode of Rainbow’, a collection of science articles, was held at the SDSC-SHAR, as preparations were going on full swing there for the country’s much-awaited Moon mission Chandrayaan-3.

SCIENCE, ENVIRONMENT & TECHNOLOGY

➤ **Euclid Space Satellite**

- ✓ Europe's Euclid space telescope was launched on 1 July 2023.
- ✓ The Euclid telescope, named after the Greek mathematician, will explore the dark universe using a wide-angle telescope to survey galaxies as far away as 10 billion light-years from Earth.
- ✓ The Euclid mission aims to explore the evolution of dark matter and dark energy, which scientists say account for 95% of the known universe.

➤ **Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP)**

- ✓ India's first indigenously developed 700 MW nuclear power reactor at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP) in Gujarat has successfully commenced commercial operations, marking a significant milestone in the country's nuclear energy sector.



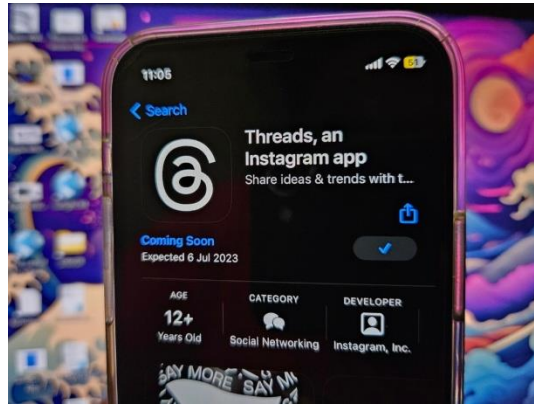
- ✓ The reactor, known as KAPP-3, began operating at 90 percent of its total power capacity on June 30, 2023, as confirmed by a senior official from KAPP.

➤ **Elena Introduces India's First NavIC**

- ✓ In a significant stride towards achieving self-reliance in navigation applications and services, Elena Geo Systems, a Bengaluru-based firm, has unveiled the country's first hand-held navigation device based on the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (NavIC).
- ✓ The device aims to provide precise directions for various infrastructure projects such as railways, land surveys, telecoms, and hydrocarbon exploration.

➤ **Threads**

- ✓ US-based tech giant, Meta Platforms - has officially released its new social media platform 'Threads' for sharing text updates and joining public conversations.



- ✓ In less than 24 hours since its debut, Threads has witnessed an amazing surge, surpassing 95 million posts and attracting over 50 million profiles.
- ✓ Threads, developed by Meta's Instagram team, was introduced to iOS and Android users in 100 countries on July 5, instantly soaring to the top of the App Store's free app rankings.
- ✓ Meta is the parent company of social media giants Facebook and Instagram.

➤ Chandrayaan-3

- ✓ On July 6, Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) - announced that the moon mission Chandrayaan-3 will be launched on July 14.



- ✓ Isro's new heavylift launch vehicle Mark-III (LVM-3) carrying an integrated module will lift off at 2:35 pm from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ According to Isro chairman S Somnath, Chandrayaan-3 will lift off on July 14 and if everything goes well, it will land on August 23.

➤ India welcomes its First Regional AI News Anchor, 'Lisa'



- ✓ In a significant milestone for the AI industry, **Odisha TV**, an Odia-based news station, has unveiled **"Lisa," India's first regional AI news anchor.**
 - ✓ Lisa's introduction marks a ground-breaking moment in TV broadcasting and journalism, with the potential to revolutionize the industry.
 - ✓ With Lisa's emergence as India's first regional AI news anchor, the boundaries of AI in the media industry continue to be pushed, opening up new possibilities for engaging and dynamic news presentations in different languages and regional contexts.
-
- **Chandrayaan-3**
 - ✓ Isro's LMV3 rocket carrying the lander – and the rover inside – of Chandrayaan-3 - will lift off from Sriharikota at 2. 35pm on July 14.

India's 3rd Moonshot

Chethan.Kumar@timesgroup.com

Isro, which is set to launch Chandrayaan-3 onboard LVM3 at 2.35pm on Friday from Sriharikota, is confident of a soft-landing on Moon some 40 days later. For this, the space agency has adopted a cautious approach and implemented several key changes, especially on lander Vikram. Isro's first voyage to Moon, Chandrayaan-1, was in 2008. India has since graduated from a sending to Moon a 'impact probe' to advanced lunar rovers.



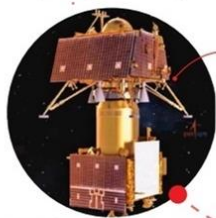
LAUNCH
OCT 22, 2008

Moon Impact Probe that discovered water molecules

CHANDRAYAAN - 1 ORBITER SPECS

Mass | 1,380kg
Mission life | 2 years
Power | 700 W

Payloads | 11 including 6 foreign



LAUNCH
JULY 22, 2019

FAILURE LESSONS

> Learning from Chandrayaan-2, Isro has made changes to its hardware, software, sensors and algorithms to prevent failure. Vikram, the lander, whose soft-landing is critical to achieve scientific objectives, has been improved

Unlike last time, propulsion module replaces the orbiter in Chandrayaan-3. It's primary job is to transport the landing module. It carries 1 payload compared to 8 by Chandrayaan-2

KEY IMPROVEMENTS ON VIKRAM

> Fifth engine removed for weight management > It's legs have been strengthened > Velocity threshold has increased from 2m/sec to 3/sec; > Additional sensor (laser doppler velocity metre) adds redundancy > It carries more fuel, additional solar panels and tracking, telemetry and command antennas > Has updated software to ensure near real-time correction of errors on account of thrust disruptions > Landing site has been enhanced to 4km x 2.5km from the 500m X 500m of Chandrayaan-2



Graphic: S Franklin

CHANDRAYAAN - 3 LANDER/ROVER SPECS

Mission life | 1 lunar day (14 Earth days); Mass | 1,749.86 kg including rover (26kg); Power | 738W; Payloads | 6 including rover (2)

PROPULSION MODULE SPECS

Mass | 2,145.01 kg
Power | 738 W
Payloads | 1

CHANDRAYAAN - 2 LANDER/ROVER SPECS

Mission life | 1 lunar day (14 Earth days); Mass | 1,471kg including rover (27 kg); Power | 650W; Payloads | 6 including rover (2)

ORBITER SPECS

Mass | 2,379kg
Power | 1,000W; Payloads | 8

10-PHASE JOURNEY TO EARTH'S SATELLITE

EARTH-CENTRIC PHASE [Phase 1]

> This has 3 stages: Pre-launch preparations, which are complete; launch and ascent phase, and the Earth-bound manoeuvre phase

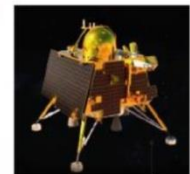
> What happens: Once the spacecraft is launched and placed in the intended orbit, Isro will perform major manoeuvres – No. 1, 3, 4 and 5 – to raise the apogee (farthest point from Earth). The 2nd manoeuvre will be to increase the perigee (closest point to Earth)

LUNAR TRANSFER PHASE [Phase 2]

This is the phase that'll propel the spacecraft towards Moon. If all goes as planned, trans-lunar insertion (TLI) will happen on July 31

LUNAR ORBIT INSERTION [Phase 3]

After TLI, Chandrayaan-3 will travel towards Moon for about five-and-a-half days. The lunar orbit insertion (LOI) is expected around August 5



MOON-BOUND MANOEUVRES & SEPARATION [Phases 4 & 5]

LOI will put spacecraft on a high apolune (farthest point from Moon) Isro will do multiple perilune (closest point) manoeuvres to reduce the altitude to a 100km x 100km circular orbit. A scientist said there could be five lunar-bound manoeuvres before the final descent phase.

After Chandrayaan-3 reaches the 100km x 100km orbit, lander module (Vikram & Pragyan) will separate from the propulsion module

DE-BOOST, PRE-LANDING & LANDING [Phases 6-9]

Following Separation, lander module will be brought to a 100km x 30km orbit. From the module will deboost and the final descent is expected on August 23. This will be the most challenging phase

MOON-CENTRIC NORMAL ORBIT PHASE [Phase 10]

Post landing, manoeuvres will be performed to normalise the propulsion module's orbit

- ✓ As per the plan, Chandrayaan-3 lander Vikram will touch down on the lunar surface at 5. 47pm on August 23, after a 40-day journey.
- ✓ Chandrayaan-3 also carries a payload to "look at Earth from Moon to study its habitable planet-like features and use this information to explore exoplanets in future".
- ✓ If Vikram manages to soft-land, India will be the fourth country – after the US, Russia and China – to achieve the scientific feat. Isro has selected the region near the south-pole for the landing.

➤ Sagar Sampark

- ✓ Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal - inaugurated an indigenous Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS) called 'Sagar Sampark' recently on July 12.



- ✓ It is an enhancement system that “corrects the errors and inaccuracies in the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) and provides more accurate positioning information”.
- ✓ Sagar Sampark has been launched at six locations across the country
- ✓ It will assist the Director General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL) to provide radio aids to ships for marine navigation.

APP
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SPORTS

➤ Asian Championship - Kabaddi

- ✓ The Indian men's kabaddi team - defeated Iran in the final to defend its Asian Championships title at the Dong-Eui Institute of Technology Seokdang Cultural Center in Busan, Republic of Korea on June 30.



- ✓ Indian captain Pawan Sehrawat led from the front with a super 10 in the game.
- ✓ Earlier in the day, India had beaten Hong Kong to end the league stage of the tournament undefeated.
- ✓ It was India's eighth title in the continental championships.

➤ SAFF Championship 2023 Final:

- ✓ The Indian men's football team emerged victorious in a thrilling penalty shootout against Kuwait 5-4 in a thrilling penalty shootout, securing the SAFF Championship 2023 title at Bengaluru's Sree Kanteerava Stadium.
- ✓ Ranked 100th in the latest FIFA rankings, India triumphed in their ninth SAFF Championship out of 14 editions.

➤ Canada Open 2023

- ✓ Indian Badminton player Lakshya Sen - defeated China's All England champion Li Shi Feng in straight sets to clinch the men's singles title at the Canada Open 2023 in Calgary on July 9.



- ✓ The victory marks Lakshya's second BWF World Tour Super 500 title, having already won the India Open in January 2022.
- ✓ This is Sen's first title after the Birmingham Commonwealth Games gold in August last year.



OBITUARY

➤ Milan Kundera



- ✓ Kundera's rise to international fame came with the publication of his masterpiece "The Unbearable Lightness of Being" in 1984.
- ✓ The novel was later adapted into a successful movie, with Juliette Binoche and Daniel Day Lewis in the leading roles.
- ✓ In 2019, his Czech citizenship was restored, a significant symbolic gesture that marked his return to his homeland.
- ✓ In 1967, Kundera achieved a significant breakthrough with the publication of his first novel "The Joke."

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REPORT

➤ **Economics and Peace (IEP) Report**

- ✓ Afghanistan is the least peaceful country in the world for the fifth consecutive year, according to the 'Global Peace Index 2023' report released by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) on 2 July 2023.
- ✓ Afghanistan follows Yemen, Syria, Russia, and South Sudan.
- ✓ India stands at 126 ranks out of 163 countries in the Global Peace Index.

➤ **India - 2nd Largest Economy by 2075**



- ✓ Goldman Sachs analysts project India to become the world's second-largest economy by 2075.
- ✓ The report suggests India will surpass the US in terms of GDP, reaching \$52.5 trillion by 2075.
China is expected to overtake the US to become the largest economy by the 2030s.

➤ **Electric Vehicles in India**

Govt Schemes Sweeten Deal

It's not surprising then that automakers, right from the homegrown Tata Motors and Mahindra to foreign firms like Kia and MG, have been expanding their lineup of EVs. Some of these are now available in the affordable car segment. Meanwhile, in the electric two-wheeler market, buyers are spoilt for choice. Some of the credit for this goes to the incentives offered by the ministry of heavy industries to buyers and manufacturers through three schemes:

FAME: The second phase of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India) scheme has been on since April 2019, and offers EV buyers a subsidy on the purchase price. The incentive is linked to battery capacity and is capped at 20% of the cost of the vehicle for three-wheelers and four-wheelers, and 40% for two-wheelers. There is a subsidy of ₹15,000 per KWh of battery capacity for electric two-wheelers, and ₹10,000 per KWh for three-wheelers and four-wheelers



PLI Scheme: The Centre's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the automotive sector is aimed at supporting domestic manufacturing of vehicles, including EVs

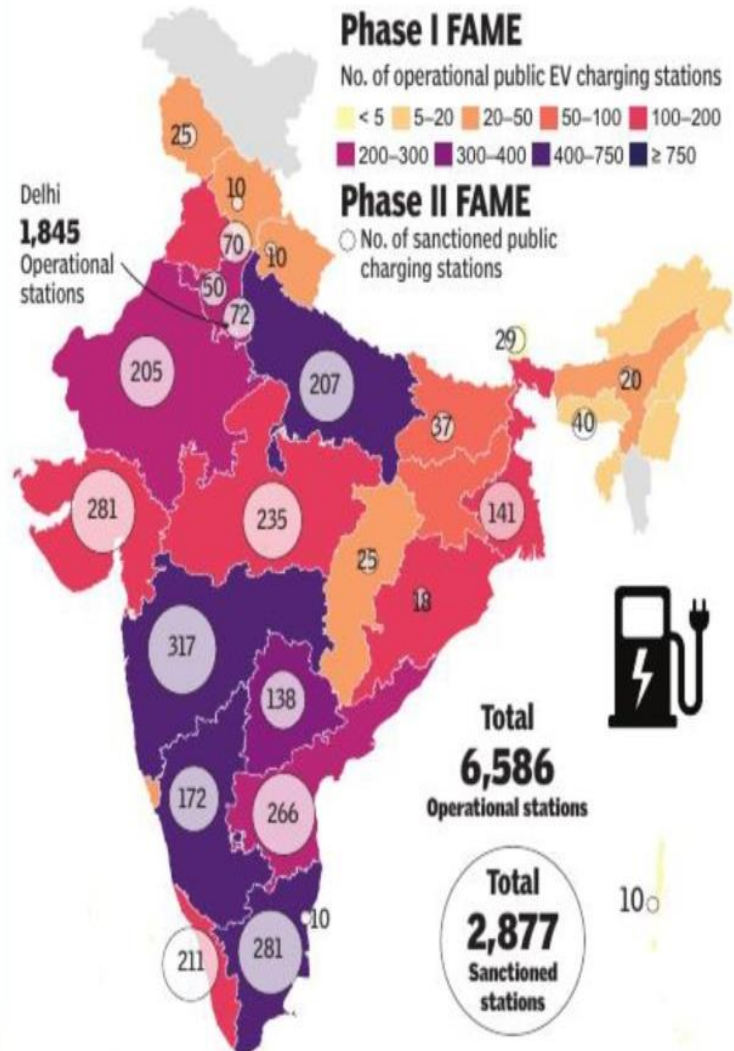


ACC Scheme: Since the heart of a modern EV is its battery, the government's PLI scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) is aimed at establishing 50 GWh of ACC battery manufacturing capacity in the country



State Of The States

Despite these incentives and the growth in EV sales, charging infrastructure has grown slowly. The Covid-19 pandemic slowed it down further as businesses struggled to generate revenues. Overall, more public charging stations were set up in the first phase of the FAME scheme than have been sanctioned in the second



➤ Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

- ✓ Around 415 million people exited poverty within a span of just 15 years between 2005 to 2021 in India, according to the latest Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).
- ✓ India is also one of the 25 countries that have successfully halved their global MPI values within 15 years.
- ✓ The global MPI monitors both poverty reduction and how people experience poverty in different aspects of their daily lives – from access to education and

health, to living standards such as housing, drinking water, sanitation, and electricity.

- ✓ Notably, in India, the incidence of poverty fell from 55% (645 million) in 2005/2006 to 16% (230 million) in 2019/2021.



RANKING

➤ Four Indian-origin biz leaders in 'Forbes' 100 richest self-made women list



- ✓ The Forbes 2023 list of America's 100 most successful women is released. As many as four Indian-origin women Jayshree Ullal, Indra Nooyi, Neha Narkhede, and Neerja Sethi have made it to this coveted list of America's 100 richest self-made women.
- ✓ Four Indian-origin women, including Jayshree Ullal and Indra Nooyi, have made it to the Forbes list of America's 100 most successful self-made women, with a combined net worth of a whopping USD 4.06 billion.

IMPORTANT DAYS

➤ **National Doctors Day - July 1**

- ✓ National Doctor's Day is celebrated every year to honor and acknowledge the contributions of doctors and healthcare professionals to society's health and well-being.
- ✓ The decision was made in order to celebrate the birth anniversary Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, a renowned educationist, freedom fighter, physician and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal from 1948 to 1962.
- ✓ Theme 2023 - "Celebrating Resilience and Healing Hands".

➤ **National Postal Worker Day - July 01**

- ✓ On July 1, National Postal Worker Day is observed as a way to show gratitude and recognize the tireless efforts of postal workers.
- ✓ These often overlooked individuals play a crucial role in ensuring the smooth delivery of mail to its intended recipients, thereby fostering connections between people and communities.

➤ **Chartered Accountants Day - July 01**

- ✓ National Chartered Accountants Day, also known as CA Day, is observed on July 1 to commemorate the establishment of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).
- ✓ This significant day acknowledges the contributions made by the ICAI, India's oldest and most esteemed financial and accounting organization.

➤ **National Postage Stamp Day - July 01**

- ✓ A day to celebrate the history and importance of postage stamps.

➤ **International Day of Cooperatives - July 01**

- ✓ The International Day of Cooperatives is commemorated on July 1st and is celebrated on the first Saturday of July.
- ✓ This significant event unites people, communities, and organizations worldwide to honour the impressive influence of cooperative businesses.
- ✓ The designated theme for the International Day of Cooperatives 2023 is "Cooperatives for Sustainable Development."

➤ **World Sports Journalists Day - July 02**

- ✓ A day to celebrate the work of sports journalists and to raise awareness of the importance of sports reporting.

➤ **World UFO Day - July 02**

- ✓ A day to celebrate the unexplained and to raise awareness of unidentified flying objects.

➤ **World Sports Journalist Day - July 02**

- ✓ World Sports Journalist Day is celebrated worldwide on July 2nd each year.
- ✓ Sports holds great significance in the overall growth of individuals, serving as both a recreational pursuit and a potential career path.
- ✓ The day honours the accomplishments of sports media professionals.

➤ **International Plastic Bag Free Day - July 03**

- ✓ International Plastic Bag Free Day is observed every year on July 3rd to increase awareness about the detrimental effects of disposable plastic bags on the environment.
- ✓ This day acts as a reminder for individuals, communities, and businesses globally to minimize their usage of plastic bags and explore more sustainable alternatives.

➤ **USA Independence Day - July 04**

- ✓ The United States is celebrating its 247th Independence Day this year on 4th July. Independence Day is a federal holiday in the United States to commemorate the declaration of Independence.
- ✓ This day is considered to be a National Day of U.S.

➤ **World Zoonosis Day - July 06**

- ✓ World Zoonoses Day is observed annually on July 6th to honour the achievements of Louis Pasteur, a renowned French biologist.
- ✓ On this day in 1885, Pasteur administered the inaugural rabies vaccine, marking a significant milestone in zoonotic disease prevention.
- ✓ The observance of World Zoonoses Day serves as a platform to raise awareness about different zoonotic diseases and educate people about preventive measures.

➤ **World Chocolate Day - July 07**

- ✓ Every year, on the 7th of July, people around the world unite to celebrate World Chocolate Day.
- ✓ On this day, chocolate enthusiasts of all ages come together to relish their favorite treats, be it a plain chocolate bar, a decadent truffle, or a delectable chocolate cake.

➤ **National Fish Farmer's Day - July 10**

- ✓ National Fish Farmer's Day is an annual celebration held on July 10th to honor and appreciate the vital role played by fish farmers, aquaculture industry

professionals, and other stakeholders in developing a sustainable and successful fisheries sector.

➤ **World Population Day - July 11**

- ✓ World Population Day is commemorated annually on July 11th to raise awareness and educate individuals about the challenges and consequences associated with global population growth.
- ✓ The observance of World Population Day aims to promote understanding and encourage collective efforts in tackling the impacts of population growth.
- ✓ Theme 2023 - "Unleashing the power of gender Equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities."

➤ **International Malala Day - July 12**

- ✓ International Malala Day is observed on July 12 each year to honor the bravery and activism of Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani advocate for girls' education and the youngest person to receive the Nobel Prize.
- ✓ International Malala Day 2023 will be addressing the 10th anniversary of Malala Yousafzai event.

➤ **International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms - July 12**

- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed July 12 as International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms (SDSs), aiming to raise awareness about the importance of health, and sustainability.
- ✓ The day is intended to raise awareness about the serious environmental, economic, and social impacts of SDS, and to promote action to mitigate their effects.

➤ **World Paper Bag - July 12**

- ✓ On July 12, World Paper Bag Day is celebrated annually to promote the significance of utilizing paper bags instead of plastic.
- ✓ This observance serves as a reminder to prioritize environmentally conscious choices in our everyday lives and encourages individuals and businesses to adopt more sustainable alternatives.

➤ **NABARD Foundation Day - July 12**

- ✓ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) celebrated its 42nd Foundation Day on July 12, 2023.
- ✓ The day was marked by a series of events across the country, including a webinar on the theme of "NABARD: 42 Years of Rural Transformation."

- ✓ NABARD was established in 1982 to provide financial and developmental support to the agricultural and rural sectors.
- **World Youth Skills Day - July 15**
- ✓ World Youth Skills Day, observed annually on July 15th since 2014 as declared by the United Nations, serves the purpose of recognizing the significance of imparting young individuals with the necessary skills for employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship.
- ✓ The theme for World Youth Skills Day 2023 is Skilling teachers, trainers and youth for a transformative future.

