

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 31, 2023

### TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu's Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment - has started eleven hostels for working women in various districts.**
- ✓ The hostels named 'Thozhi' will be operated under the aegis of the Tamil Nadu Working Women's Hostel Corporation Ltd
- ✓ Recently, Chief Minister M K Stalin inaugurated two new 'thozhi' hostels and seven renovated hostels across the state.



CHENNAI  
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THOZHI HOSTELS

- ✓ According to the CM, 'thozhi' hostels will find a permanent place in the annals of Tamil Nadu history like 'Dravidar Illam,' the pre – independence hostel run by Dravidian ideologue C Natesa Mudaliar for non-Brahmin students.
- ✓ The hostels are located in Chennai, Chengalpattu, Salem, Trichy, Tirunelveli, Vellore, Villupuram, Perambalur and Thanjavur.
- ✓ These hostels are designed to provide safe and affordable accommodations to women.
- ✓ According to government, close to 700 working women will be accommodated in these hostels

- ✓ The hostels are under 24-hour surveillance and are equipped with biometric attendance systems.
  - ✓ They have several facilities, including free Wi-Fi, air conditioners, lift facilities, a pantry with fridge, microwave and RO water machines.
  - ✓ Individual rooms and rooms on a shared basis are also available at these facilities.
- **The second edition of the Tamil Nadu International Kite Festival (TNIKF) - will take place from August 12 to 15 at the TTDC Ocean View, Mahabalipuram**



- ✓ The festival is organised by Global Media Box in collaboration with the department of tourism, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Last year, the event was a huge success attracting over 50,000 visitors.
- ✓ The theme for this year's event is 'Save Marine Life, Save Mother Earth'.
- ✓ TNIKF will feature a lineup of international kite teams, with over 200 kites from eight countries such as Thailand, Indonesia, France, Vietnam, China, Malaysia, Singapore, and India.
- ✓ The kites are said to conform to the theme and have aquatic and sea creatures colourfully decorated.
- ✓ Along with the colourful huge kites, another attraction will be the wind garden.

## NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - addressed the 103rd edition of his monthly radio programme Mann Ki Baat on July 30**
- ✓ During the broadcast, the Prime Minister spoke about the monsoon-related incidents and applauded the collective effort.
  - ✓ The PM also praised the growing interest of people in pilgrimage, especially in his parliamentary constituency, Varanasi, where 10 crore people are now visiting Kashi Vishwanath a year.

- ✓ He further talked about two US nationals from California who had come for a pilgrimage to the holy Amarnath shrine inspired by the experiences of Swami Vivekananda.



- ✓ The 62-day annual Amarnath pilgrimage, which began on July 1, will culminate on August 31.
- ✓ The Prime Minister also cited the record plantation of 30 crore saplings in a day in Uttar Pradesh
  - ✓ He highlighted the active public participation in 'Vriksharopan Jan Abhiyan 2023', which was kicked off on July 22 by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath by planting a sapling in Bijnor.
- ✓ The PM also shared an inspiring journey from Bicharpur in Madhya Pradesh, which is hailed as Mini Brazil for training rising stars of football
- ✓ Appreciating the change in Haj Policy, the PM said this year over 4,000 women (exactly 4,313 women) performed 'Haj' without any male companion or 'Mehram'.
- ✓ **The Prime Minister announced the 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign to honour the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country, with special inscriptions to be installed in panchayats in their memory.**
  - ✓ Under the campaign "Amrit Kalash Yatra" will be organised and 7,500 pots carrying soil from different corners of the country will be brought to the national capital along with saplings.
  - ✓ Later 'Amrit Vatika' will be made from the soil and plants being carried in these 'Kalash' near National War Memorial
  - ✓ This Amrit Vatika will also become a grand symbol of 'Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat', said the PM
- ✓ The Prime Minister also talked about "Amrit Sarovars" and said more than 60,000 Amrit Sarovars were built during the Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav
- ✓ Noting that the "Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan" was launched on August 15, 2020, the PM said India has created a unique record of destroying 10-lakh kg of drugs worth over Rs.12,000 crore under the campaign
  - ✓ In this regard, the PM mentioned about VADA (Victory Against Drug Abuse) clubs in Chandigarh, which focuses on countering the lure of drugs among youth

- ✓ Further, the Prime Minister praised renowned French Yoga teacher Charlotte Chopin for her passion for the ancient Indian practice at the age of 100
  - ✓ He further expressed his gratitude to the US government for returning over 100 rare and ancient artefacts to India.
  - ✓ Mann Ki Baat is broadcast on the last Sunday of every month.
  - ✓ Apart from 22 Indian languages and 29 dialects, Mann Ki Baat is broadcast in 11 foreign languages including French, Chinese, Indonesian, Tibetan, Burmese, Baluchi, Arabic, Pashtu, Persian, Dari and Swahili.
  - ✓ Mann Ki Baat is being broadcast by more than 500 broadcast centres of All India Radio.
  - ✓ The first broadcast of the radio programme took place on October 3, 2014.
  - ✓ The show completed 100 episodes earlier this year, reaching the landmark on April 30.
- **India - will launch TechEquity - a digital inclusion platform that seeks to bridge the gender digital divide - on August 1, the first day of two-day G20 EMPOWER summit in Gandhinagar.**
- ✓ The platform will impact two to three million women across the globe over the next year
  - ✓ TechEquity, already open for registration, is one of the key outcomes of India's G20 presidency.
  - ✓ Available in 120 languages, it will be available free for women to use.
  - ✓ It will provide best-in-class courses on digital and financial literacy, tech skill development and core skill enhancement.
  - ✓ The platform - to be funded by India for the next three years - will be maintained by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (Ficci).
  - ✓ EMPOWER is the G20 Alliance for Empowerment and Progression of Women's Economic Representation that was launched in 2019
  - ✓ It has representation from governments and private sector under the Sherpa Track for accelerating women's leadership and empowerment across G20 countries.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **On July 30, ISRO - successfully launched its PSLV rocket carrying seven Singaporean satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota and placed them into the near-equatorial orbit (NEO).**
- ✓ This ISRO mission is being undertaken by its commercial arm NewSpace India Limited (NSIL).
  - ✓ ISRO's PSLV-C56 was carrying Singapore's DS-SAR along with 6 co-passenger satellites as its payloads



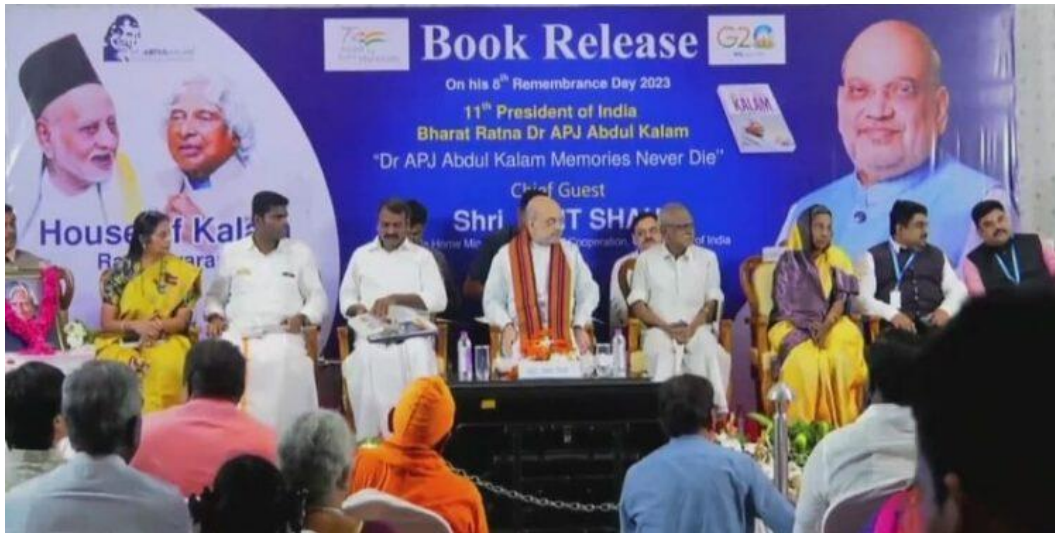
- ✓ The 360-kg DS-SAR satellite, upon deployment at an altitude of 535 km at 5 degrees inclination, would be used to support the satellite imagery requirements of various agencies within the Government of Singapore.



- ✓ DS-SAR Radar Imaging Earth Observation satellite has been developed under a partnership between DSTA (representing the Government of Singapore) and ST Engineering, Singapore.
- ✓ The satellite carries a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) payload developed by Israel Aerospace Industries
- ✓ The payload allows DS-SAR to provide for all-weather day-and-night coverage and it is capable of imaging at 1-metre resolution.
- ✓ The other six satellites, weighing a total of 70.5kg, included Velox-AM, Arcade, Scoob-II, NuLioN, Galassia-2 and Orb-12 Strider
- ✓ All the satellites' purpose is aimed at serving customers in Singapore
- ✓ This is the 58th flight of PSLV and 17th of PSLV in core alone configuration.
- ✓ The mission follows PSLV-C55/TeLEOS-2 mission, which was successfully launched in April to serve the customers in Singapore.

## **BOOKS & AUTHORS**

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah - launched a book on 'Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Memories Never Die' at a programme organised in Rameswaram by APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation and House of Kalam on July 29.**
- ✓ The Union Minister is on a two-day visit to the Ramanathapuram district
- ✓ The book is a tribute to the life and legacy of the late former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam
- ✓ 'Memories Never Die', is an English translation of the Tamil book 'Ninaivugalukku Maranamillai', written by two persons closest to APJ Abdul Kalam — his niece Dr Nazeema Marakayar and the distinguished ISRO scientist Dr YS Rajan.
- ✓ The book was authored by scientist Dr YS Rajan, co-authored by Dr APJM Nazeema Marakayar and translated by Sripriya Srinivasan.
- ✓ The chief editor of original Tamil book is Padma Shri Dr Sirpi Balasubramaniam



- ✓ Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting, L Murugan, and Tamil Nadu BJP President, Annamalai were present during the event.
- ✓ The book comprehensively covers beautiful history of Indian rocketry, precursors to today's Science and Technology, the workings of Indian political and administrative system, as well as last wishes of the 'Missile Man of India'.
- ✓ The Union Home Minister also visited the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam House in Rameswaram
- ✓ Rameswaram is the home town of the former President Abdul Kalam (1931--2015).
- ✓ It has to be recalled that Kalam was the only person to enter the Rashtrapati Bhavan as President with just two suitcases and went home in exactly the same way after he demitted office.
- ✓ On July 28, the Union Minister launched Tamil Nadu BJP's "En Mann, En Makkal" padayatra and also took part in a rally at Rameswaram
- ✓ The BJP padayatra aims to cover all 234 assembly constituencies across the State and is scheduled to conclude on January 11 next year, ahead of the Lok Sabha polls
- ✓ The Yatra aims to cover 1068 Km on foot and the rest of the area by vehicle