



## **EVE** **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-july** **STATES**

- **Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur - has launched the 'Naari ko Naman' scheme that will allow women passengers in the state to pay only 50% of the bus fare**



- ✓ The chief minister had earlier announced half the fare concession on the Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) buses to women on April 15, Himachal Day.
- ✓ Seema Thakur, the first woman bus driver in the state, drove the Chief Minister in a state transport bus to the event venue.
- ✓ In another scheme, the CM announced a reduction in the minimum bus fare from Rs 7 to Rs 5 to all passengers across the state.
- ✓ Further, the Chief Minister said that the government will sanction 25 new posts of women drivers in the 'Ride With Pride' government taxi service - an initiative to ferry women passengers and senior citizens

## **NATIONAL**

- **Government's think-tank, NITI Aayog and the World Food Program - recently released a report "Take Home Ration-Good Practices across the State/Union Territories."**

- ✓ Suman K. Bery, vice chairman of the NITI Aayog, released the report in the presence of CEO Amitabh Kant and Member (Health) Dr. V.K. Paul



- ✓ The report highlights various good and innovative practices used by the states and UTs in the implementation of the Take Home Ration (THR) value chain.
  - ✓ The Take Home Ration programme provides fortified rations for home use for children aged between 6 and 36 months, and pregnant and lactating women.
  - ✓ The THR product is guaranteed to be nutritious and contain enough ingredients to meet the nutritional needs of the intended beneficiaries.
  - ✓ The THR programme is launched as part of the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)
  - ✓ SNP is provided in two ways - Take-Home Rations and Hot-Cooked Meals at Anganwadi Centers.
  - ✓ The State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Odisha are currently receiving assistance from the United Nations World Food Programme in India to improve the composition and establish decentralised production of fortified nutritious THR
  - ✓ ICDS is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented by state governments and union territories
  - ✓ The beneficiaries under ICDS are children in the age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers
  - ✓ The scheme is universal covering all the districts of the country and has been renamed Anganwadi Services.
- **The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) - signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) recently for imparting skill development training in the capital goods sector.**
- ✓ The partnership is aimed at facilitating training in several engineering trades through Qualification Packs (QPs) developed by MHI related Sector Skill Councils (like Automotive, Infrastructure, Instrumentation and Capital Goods)
  - ✓ The training is conducted under the 'Scheme for Enhancement of Competitiveness' in the Capital Goods Sector - Phase II.



- ✓ Under this initiative, MHI shall provide 100% funding support to MHI Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) for development of new Industry-led National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) Level 6 and above Qualification Packs (QPs).
- ✓ The proposed QPs shall have a blended mode of learning, i.e. online content, Project-based Learning (PBL) and On-the-job Learning (OJT).
- ✓ The program will be conducted through the sponsorship of learners, Industries and associated organizations.
- **The National Health Authority (NHA) and IRDAI – will collaborate to develop a 'National Health Claims Exchange' to settle health claims through the digital platform**
- ✓ Further, the IRDAI is planning to create a working group with representation from industry
- ✓ The working group will decide on how to attract more people to buy health insurance
- **India - has the most number of opiate users in the world, as per the World Drug Report 2022**
- ✓ According to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) World Drug Report 2022 released recently, 11.2 million people worldwide were injecting drugs
- ✓ According to the report, India has the fourth largest quantities of opium seized in 2020 at 5.2 tons and the third-highest amount of morphine seized from the country in the same year at 0.7 tons.
- ✓ About 3.8 tons of heroin were seized in 2020 in India, the fifth-highest in the world, the report said.
- ✓ Opium production worldwide grew 7% between 2020 and 2021 to 7,930 tons predominantly due to an increase in production in Afghanistan
- ✓ As per the report, around 284 million people, aged 15-64 years, used drugs worldwide in 2020, a 26% increase over the previous decade.

- ✓ In 2019, India reported seizures amounting to 144 kg, with six other countries reporting combined seizures amounting to 70 kg
- **On July 2, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship - announced that the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) will be a part of Direct Beneficiary Transfer (DBT) scheme.**
- ✓ As part of the new scheme, the government will directly transfer its contribution — 25% of the stipend payable up to Rs. 1500 per month — to the bank accounts of apprentices through the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)
- ✓ Earlier companies used to pay apprentices the entire amount and then seek reimbursement from the government
- ✓ The National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) was launched on August 19, 2016, to promote apprenticeship training in the country and to provide financial support to establishments undertaking apprenticeship.
- ✓ As of today, more than 12 lakh apprentices have been engaged with various industries

## **INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES**

- **India and Australia - have mutually agreed to facilitate cooperation on the development of critical minerals projects and explore investment opportunities in lithium and cobalt mineral assets**



- ✓ This was the main agenda of the meeting between coal and mines minister Prahlad Joshi with Australia's Resources Minister Madeleine King on July 4, 2022
- ✓ After the meeting, Australia said that it had committed 5.8 million Australian dollars to the three-year India-Australia Critical Minerals Investment Partnership.
- ✓ The India-Australia critical minerals investment partnership envisages joint investment for viable lithium and cobalt projects in Australia
- ✓ These projects are considered critical for India's transition towards clean energy technologies such as batteries and electric vehicles as well as mobile phones and computers.
- ✓ After the meeting, Indian Minister Joshi said that India has recently signed an MoU with Australia to expand their strategic ties to critical minerals

- ✓ The MoU was signed recently between Khanij Bidesh India (KABIL), a joint venture of three central public sector entities under the mines ministry, and Critical Minerals Facilitation Office (CMFO) of Australia
- ✓ The MoU envisages \$6 million as initial funding, to be shared equally by both countries, towards a shared ambition to develop secure, robust and commercially viable critical minerals supply chains.
- ✓ Joshi is scheduled to visit mineral-rich sites of Tianqi Lithium Kwinana and Greenbushes mine, besides holding talks with key ministers in the Australian government.
- ✓ Critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt and vanadium are considered crucial for the manufacturing of critical electronic components.
- ✓ Australia is the world's largest exporter of lithium

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Indian origin T Raja Kumar - has taken over as President of Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the world's anti-terrorism financing agency.**
- ✓ Raja Kumar of Singapore has more than 35 years of leadership and operational experience in Singapore's home ministry and police force.
- ✓ He succeeds Dr Marcus Pleyer as the chief of the FATF and will serve a two-year-term.
- ✓ Raja Kumar holds an LLB (Hons.) degree from the National University of Singapore, and a Master of Philosophy (Criminology & Law) from Cambridge University
- ✓ He currently serves as the Senior Advisor (International) in the Ministry of Home Affairs, advising on international policy development, partnerships and engagement.



- ✓ Prior to this, Raja Kumar was Deputy Secretary (International) at the Ministry from January 2015 to July 2021 and was concurrently the Chief Executive of the Home Team Academy from 2014 to 2018.

- ✓ Kumar is also the former deputy commissioner of police (Policy), director of the Police Intelligence Department, and senior deputy director of the Commercial Affairs Department.
- ✓ Kumar has led Singapore's delegation at FATF since 2015 and served as a FATF Steering Group member for the past four years
- ✓ He also served as chief executive of the Casino Regulatory Authority and put in place a regulatory framework for new casinos in Singapore
- ✓ FATF is a global watchdog tasked with combating money laundering and terrorist financing.

## AWARDS

- **Karnataka's Sini Shetty - was crowned as 'Miss India World 2022' at the grand finale of Miss India pageant at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai.**



- ✓ Rajasthan's Rubal Shekhawat won the Miss India 2022 first runner-up title, and Uttar Pradesh's Shinata Chauhan was declared the Miss India 2022 second runner-up
- ✓ The 21-year-old professional dancer, Sini, was born in Mumbai and lives in Mangaluru.
- ✓ She was selected from the top 31 state winners
- ✓ Sini is currently pursuing a course in Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and will now represent India at the prestigious 71st Miss World pageant.
- ✓ The Miss India jury panel comprised actors such as Neha Dhupia, Dino Morea and Malaika Arora, cricketer Mithali Raj, fashion designers Rahul Khanna, Rohit Gandhi and choreographer Shiamak Davar

## SPORTS

- **India - will field a third team in the open section at the upcoming 44th chess Olympiad scheduled to be held at Mahabalipuram from July 28 to August 10.**

- ✓ A record breaking 187 teams, the highest-ever for any Olympiad, has registered for this year's edition
  - ✓ In order to even out the number of entries, as per norm, FIDE approved a third team from the host country.
  - ✓ Grandmasters Surya Shekhar Ganguly, Karthikeyan Murali, SP Sethuraman, Abhijeet Gupta and Abhimanyu Puranik comprise the third Indian team with Gujarat's first GM, Tejas Bakre as the captain.
  - ✓ Ganguly, a six-time National champion, has represented India in six Olympiads .
- **India's football player Manisha Kalyan - could become the first Indian footballer to play in the UEFA Women's Champions League after she signed a multi-year contract with Cyprus champions Apollon Ladies FC**



- ✓ The 20-year-old attacker from Punjab signed a two-year deal with the Cypriot First Division champions Apollon Ladies FC.
- ✓ Apollon who are based in Limassol, the capital of Cyprus, were the winners of the 2020-21 Cypriot top division giving them a place in the qualifying rounds of the 2022-23 Women's Champions League.
- ✓ Apollon will be playing in round 1 of the UEFA Women's Champions League qualifying on August 18, 2022
- ✓ Back in November last year, the 20-year-old Manisha had scored India's first ever goal against Brazil in senior football.
- ✓ The player from Punjab also made history by becoming the first Indian to score in a continental club competition, the AFC women's Asian championship
- ✓ Manisha made her senior team debut against Hong Kong in January 2019 and was named as Captain in the Indian U-17 team that participated in the BRICS Football Cup in South Africa in 2018.
- ✓ She was named 2020-21's AIFF Emerging player of the year and has previously represented teams like BBK DAV Football Club, Paldi Football Academy, Kenkre FC, Sethu Madurai and Doaba Sporting Club.
- ✓ In the 2019-20 season, Manisha played a key role in Gokulam Kerala winning the Indian Women's League (IWL) title and was named the emerging player of the tournament.

- ✓ Manisha Kalyan is the second Women's player from Gokulam Kerala FC who is set to move overseas after forward Dangmei Grace, who signed for Uzbekistan's FC Nasaf

