

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—JULY 6, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- The state archaeology department – has unearthed a stone pillar which is believed to be the remnant of a Chola-era palace at Maaligaimedu



- ✓ The third phase of archaeological excavations are currently underway at Maaligaimedu near Gangaikonda Cholapuram in Ariyalur district
- ✓ The stone pillar measures 6.4 metres in length and 72cm in width.
- ✓ It was discovered at the Utkottai excavation site, approximately 1 km from Maaligaimedu.
- ✓ Just a week ago, the archaeology department initiated the first excavation at the Utkottai site, which is reputed to contain the remnants of palaces constructed by the Chola kings.
- ✓ According to the department, the pillar may have been a part of the entrance to a Chola palace.
- ✓ In a separate discovery on June 28, the state archaeology department uncovered a terracotta seal, a coin mold, and fragments of Chinese pottery at the Maaligaimedu site.

- ✓ During the ongoing third phase of excavation, over 400 archaeological remnants have been discovered, including a partial structure of an ancient brick channel.
 - ✓ The first phase of excavation took place between February and September 2021.
 - ✓ The second phase of the excavation was undertaken between February and September 2022.
 - ✓ Gangaikonda Cholapuram, once a prosperous trading town, flourished as the capital city of the Cholas.
- **Anna University - received the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) recognition for its state-of-the-art medical equipment calibration laboratory.**
- ✓ This is the first time a technical university has obtained NABL accreditation for a lab.
 - ✓ The NABL recognition was granted to the Centre for Calibration and Testing of Medical Equipment (CCTME), a part of the DST-supported National Hub for Healthcare Instrumentation Development (NHHID)
 - ✓ Henceforth, the Centre will be able to calibrate up to 50 essential medical equipment items, including ventilators, ECG machines, pulse oximeters, patient monitors, infant incubators, and defibrillators.
 - ✓ The lab is equipped to conduct calibration across 40 different parameters.
 - ✓ The center has also signed MoUs with the Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University and the Directorate of Medical Education to facilitate the calibration of medical devices in government hospitals across the state.
 - ✓ Anna University's NHHID also serves as the technical partner for establishing a medical devices park in Oragadam.

NATIONAL

- **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.
 - ✓ Hence, it does not offer protection of an Indian user's offline personal data.
 - ✓ The user also has to give their consent for data fiduciaries (companies) to process their personal data.
 - ✓ However, the user is deemed to have given their consent for data processing in the event of a medical emergency, disaster, breakdown of public order, court order, etc.
 - ✓ Most importantly, the draft bill proposes the establishment of the Data Protection Board of India (DPBI)

- ✓ The Board will have various functions, which would include determining non-compliance with the law, adopting "urgent measures" to curb data breaches, and performing any other functions assigned by the government.
 - ✓ The bill proposes to levy a penalty of up to Rs 250 crore on entities for every instance of violation of norms in the bill
 - ✓ As per the bill, individuals will have the right to seek details about their data collection, storage, and processing once the law is implemented
 - ✓ The Bill calls for companies collecting data to cease retaining personal information or remove any means by which personal data can be linked to specific data principles.
 - ✓ The bill was first introduced in November 2022 and reportedly went through several rounds of public consultation as well as inter-ministerial discussions
 - ✓ In a landmark 2017 judgment, the Supreme Court had held privacy to be a fundamental right of every Indian citizen, and had directed the central government to establish a data protection regime
 - ✓ The journey of the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill began in 2018 when a special expert committee, led by Justice B.N. Srikrishna, formulated the draft legislation
 - ✓ The government had earlier tabled the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019, in Parliament on December 11, 2019 with the intention of ensuring the protection of private data belonging to individuals across the country
 - ✓ Later, this draft bill was revised based on recommendations by a joint parliamentary committee.
 - ✓ However, in a surprising turn of events, Union Minister of IT Ashwini Vaishnaw withdrew the bill entirely in August 2022.
 - ✓ The government published a new draft Bill in November last year - titled the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill 2022 - and initiated a public consultation.
- **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
- ✓ It was developed under Public Private Partnership by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), Akshar Travels and Sabarmati Riverfront Development Corporation Limited

