

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

6th & 7th August 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ National Handloom Day - August 7

- In India, August 7th is observed as National Handloom Day.
- The aim of this day is to recognize and appreciate the India Textile Industry.
- This was initiated by Honorable Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on Aug 7th, 2015 at Madras University, Chennai.
- It is celebrated to honor the “Swadeshi Movement” that took place on August 7th, 1905.
- It was a movement founded by Bal Gangadhar Tilka to boycott foreign goods and favor products made in India.
- Today, the Indian Handloom industry stands as the second-largest source of employment in rural regions.
- Also, 70% of Women's communities in India are directly affiliated with Handloom Industry.
- In addition, Panipat a place in Haryana also known as “The City of Handlooms” is famous for its wide range of exports.
- The theme designated for National Handloom Day in 2023 is "Handlooms for Sustainable Fashion".

❖ **Renowned folk singer Gaddar passed away**

- Revolutionary balladeer and folk singer Gaddar passed away at the age of 74, while under going treatment for heart related ailment.
- Gummadi Vittal Rao, popularly known as Gaddar was born in Toopran of Medak district in 1949.
- He was active in the Naxalite-Maoist insurgency, as well as the movement for Telangana's statehood.
- He adopted the name Gaddar as a tribute to the pre-independence Gadar party, which opposed British colonial rule in Punjab.
- He received two Nandi awards, one in 1995 for Best Lyricist for "Malletheega Ku Pandiri Vole" from the movie 'Orey Rikshaw' and the other in 2011 for Best Male Playback Singer for 'Podustunna Poddumeeda' song from the movie 'Jai Bolo Telangana'.

❖ **RBI fines major Indian PSUs for delayed reporting of overseas investments**

- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed penance on four major Indian public sector undertakings for delayed reporting of their overseas investments.
- It imposed a total of ₹2,000 crore on companies like ONGC Videsh Limited, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, GAIL (India) Limited and Oil India Limited.
- The delayed reporting has prompted RBI to take restrictive measures, affecting further remittances and transfers until the discrepancies are resolved.
- The authorized dealer banks have been directed not to facilitate any outward remittance or financial commitments by individuals residing in India towards foreign entities until the reporting issues are regularized.

❖ **MASI Portal has been launched for monitoring Child Care Homes**

- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has developed an application called 'MASI' (Monitoring App for Seamless Inspection) for real time monitoring of the Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and their inspection mechanism across the country.
- The idea behind developing this comprehensive application is to monitor the effective functioning and inspection of CCIs provided under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021).
- 'MASI' enables unified inspections by Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), State Inspection Committees, District Inspection Committees, Members of Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCRs).
- It serves as a single platform for inspections of all the CCIs across the country by any of the above stated authorities.

❖ **Padma Bhushan awardee and IAS officer N Vittal passes away**

- N Vittal, a distinguished IAS officer of the Gujarat cadre, 1960 batch, and recipient of the Padma Bhushan award, passed away at the age of 85.
- His demise marks the loss of a visionary who played a significant role in laying the groundwork for India's information technology sector four decades ago.
- He excelled in various domains, including industrial administration, science and technology, and national security.
- His contribution as the Secretary of the Department of Electronics from 1990 to 1996 and his spearheaded policies promoted the growth of the software industry, leading to the formation of the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI).
- Additionally he served as the Chairman of the Telecom Commission and played a pivotal role in liberalizing the telecom sector and securing the approval of the National Telecom Policy 1994.

❖ Sports Authority of India launches short movie series 'Halla Bol'

- The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has launched a short movie series called 'Halla Bol' under the Umbrella Campaign 'Cheer4India'.
- It is to motivate the athletes for Hangzhou Asian Games and spread awareness about the upcoming Asian Games.
- The series also motivates the youngsters of the country to take up sports.
- A similar movie series called "Olympics ki Aasha", was launched before the Tokyo Olympics, to focus on the sporting journey of our eminent athletes.

❖ Aditi Swami becomes 1st Indian to win individual World Title at WAC 2023

- Aditi Swami created history by becoming the first-ever Indian to clinch the individual World Title at the World Archery Championships 2023 in Berlin.
- In less than two months after clinching the junior world title, 17-year-old Aditi, became the senior world champion in the summit clash of the compound women's event.
- With this win, she became the first Indian World Champion in an individual event at the Senior World Championships.
- Also, Aditi along with Parneet Kaur and Jyothi Surekha Vennam secured India's first-ever gold at World Archery Championships by winning the compound women's team final.

❖ Ministry of Minority Affairs implemented 'Naya Savera' scheme

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs implemented 'Naya Savera' scheme to assist students belonging to the six notified minority communities namely Sikh, Jain, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist and Parsi.
- It is a 'Free Coaching and Allied' scheme by way of special coaching for qualifying examinations for admission in technical/professional courses and competitive examinations.

- The scheme was implemented across the country through empanelled Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs).
- Since the scheme's inception on July 17th, 2007, it has benefited over 1.19 lakh minority students/candidates. Out of which the highest beneficiaries of 12,155 were from state of Andhra Pradesh.
- The duration of the coaching period under the scheme is from 3 months to 2 years depending upon the coaching programme allocated to the PIAs.

❖ Health Ministry prohibits sale of Ketoprofen and Aceclofenac

- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has imposed a ban on the manufacturing, sale, and distribution of ketoprofen and aceclofenac to protect vultures in the country.
- These drugs are indirectly injected into the vultures and other raptor species, when they consume treated carcasses and have adverse effects on their health.
- The recommendation of this ban was made by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) which is the apex authority for making statutory decisions on technical drug-related matters in India.
- Ketoprofen and Aceclofenac are non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) which are frequently employed to relieve pain and inflammation in both humans and animals.

❖ World's oceans hit hottest ever recorded temperature of 20.96C

- The surface temperature of the world's oceans has hit its highest ever level as climate breakdown from burning fossil fuels causes the oceans to heat.
- Global average daily sea surface temperatures (SST) reached 20.96C this week, breaking the record of 20.95C (69.73F) reached in 2016, according to the Copernicus climate modelling service.
- Oceans are a vital climate regulator. They soak up heat, produce half Earth's oxygen and drive weather patterns.

- Warmer waters have less ability to absorb carbon dioxide, meaning more of that planet-warming gas will stay in the atmosphere.
- It can also accelerate the melting of glaciers that flow into the ocean, leading to more sea level rise.

❖ **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) signs MoU with 35 institutions**

- Bureau of Indian Standards, the National Standards Body of India signed Memorandum of Understanding with 35 prestigious institutions across the country for fostering collaboration in standardization and conformity assessment.
- The institutions included some prominent NITs, Government and Private Engineering colleges from different states across the country.
- The MoU will pave the way for the partner institutions to participate in standardization activities by associating with the technical committees of the Bureau at the national and international level.
- Shri Pramod Kumar Tiwari, Director General of BIS, emphasized that the MoUs with these esteemed academic institutions will bolster and enrich the standards formulation activities.
- BIS is a statutory body functioning under the aegis of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India.
- It operates various schemes like Product Certification (ISI mark), Management Systems Certification, Hall Marking of Gold and Silver Jewellery/Artefacts and Laboratory Services for the benefit of the industry and in turn aiming at consumer protection.

❖ Government allocates Rs 1,39,579 crore to extend Bharat Net in 6.40 lakh villages

- The government has allocated 1,39,579 crore rupees to extend Bharat Net in 6.40 lakh villages across the country.
- The extension project of the Bharat Net will be achieved in nearly two years.
- The extension project has been decided after the success of a pilot project in 60,000 Gram Panchayat villages across the country in 8 months.
- The Bharat Net has reached 1.94 lakh villages during the pilot project and 5.67 lakh households have active Bharat Net connections so far.
- This extension program will also provide nearly 2.50 lakh jobs.
- Bharat Net is one of the world's largest rural broadband connectivity programmes, being implemented by Central PSUs including Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited under the Make in India initiative.

❖ 'Invincible' Aleix Espargaro Swoops Late On Bagnaia In British MotoGP

- Aleix Espargaro won a classic British MotoGP with a last-lap lunge to deny world champion Francesco Bagnaia at Silverstone.
- Brad Binder of KTM completed the podium on the return of MotoGP after its mid-season break.
- Bagnaia extended his lead in the riders' standings to 41 points after his closest challenger Marco Bezzecchi crashed out.

❖ Centre sanctioned ₹20,000 crore railway works for Telangana

- The Modi government has allocated an unprecedented ₹20,000 crore for various railway works across Telangana and had also cleared another ₹30,000 crore worth of railway projects in the last nine years.
- The funds have been sanctioned for new lines, doubling, third lines, electrification, railway road overbridges and several others.

➤ The funds allocation this year alone from the Railway Budget was ₹4,418 crore for works in Telangana alone and this was 17 times more when compared to 2014-15.

➤ The nationwide foundation stone laying ceremony of the Amriti Bharat Stations Scheme (ABSS) by Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually of revamping 508 stations at a total cost of about ₹24,000 crore, of which 21 stations in Telangana (₹894 crore cost estimate) have been chosen in the first phase, at the Nampally railway station.

➤ The Centre had sanctioned ₹8,494 crore for 12 new railway projects, including 731 km of new line, doubling/tripling and six electrification works to an extent of 809 km worth ₹969 crore.

❖ 5% of birds in India are endemic

➤ A recent publication by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) revealed that 5% of India's bird species are endemic, which means they are unique to our country and are not found anywhere else.

➤ The publication titled "75 Endemic Birds of India," was released on the 108th foundation day of the ZSI.

➤ Out of India's total of 1,353 bird species, 78 (5%) are endemic to the country.

➤ The Western Ghats have the highest number of endemic species, with 28 recorded.

➤ The Andaman and Nicobar Islands also have significant endemism, hosting 25 bird species unique to the region.