



CURRENT AFFAIRS 16th July 2022

National News

1. Chess Olympiad: Odisha CM hands over Relay Torch to Padmini Rout



- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Pattnaik on Friday received the Relay Torch for Chess Olympiad and handed it over to Padmini Rout, a celebrated chess player of the state in capital Bhubaneswar.
- Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said that it is a proud moment for India as it is hosting an international sports event like Chess Olympiad on the 75th year of independence.
- Adding that chess originated from India and was known as Chaturang, the Chief Minister said that it's probably for the

first time in India that representatives from around 200 countries will be participating in any sporting event.

- Acknowledging that India has produced some of the best Chess champions in the world, he hoped that the upcoming mega event will further promote the game.
- As many as 6 players will take part in the Chess Olympiad to be held in Chennai.

2. Defense Ministry sets up Apex Committee for Performance and Efficiency Audit



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE

- Defence Ministry has set up an apex committee with Defence Secretary as Chairman to conduct a Performance and Efficiency Audit into various aspects of its activities.
- This kind of audit is expected to provide valuable inputs to the top management of the Ministry in planning and execution of projects, and suggest systemic improvements in internal controls, soundness of financial procedures and identification of risk factors.
- It is a major shift from the existing transaction-based compliance audit to carry out an outcome-based Performance and Efficiency Audit aimed at enhancing overall efficiency.
- The members of the committee include Vice Chiefs of the three Services, Secretary Defence (Finance), Chief of Integrated Staff Committee, Controller General of Defence Accounts, Director General (Acquisition) and other senior

officials of Ministry of Defence and Defence Research and Development Organisation.

3. BCCI President Sourav Ganguly Felicitated by The British Parliament



- Former India captain and current BCCI president, Sourav Ganguly was felicitated by the British Parliament.
- The Indian cricket legend was felicitated on the same date July 13 when he led India to Natwest final win in 2002 and exactly 20 years later on the same day he was honoured in the same city.
- He was elected as the President of BCCI in 2019.
- Sourav Chandidas Ganguly, affectionately known as Dada, is an Indian cricket administrator, commentator and former national cricket team captain who is the 39th and current president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India.
- He is popularly honoured as Maharaja of Indian Cricket.
- Ganguly was awarded the Padma Shri in 2004, one of India's highest civilian awards.
- Ganguly was awarded with the Banga Bibhushan Award from the Government of West Bengal on 20 May 2013.

4. Kerala reports India's first monkeypox case



- The first case of monkeypox was confirmed in India after a person who had returned to Kerala from UAE developed symptoms of the disease.
- His samples were sent to National Virology Institute in Pune which confirmed the disease. It was first found in monkeys in 1958.
- Monkeypox is a viral zoonotic disease with symptoms similar to smallpox, although with less clinical severity.
- The virus is transmitted through close contact with another infected person or animal and spreads from lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets and contaminated materials such as bedding.
- The symptoms can include fever, headache, muscle ache and backache, swollen lymph nodes, chills, exhaustion, and rashes that can look like pimples or blisters on the face, inside the mouth and other parts of the body.

5. Maharashtra Governor presents Mother Teresa Memorial Award to Dia Mirza, Afroz Shah



- **The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) National Goodwill Ambassador Ms Dia Mirza, and Environmental Activist Mr Afroz Shah were felicitated with the prestigious Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice 2021.**
- **The award is given by the Governor of Maharashtra Hon. Bhagat Singh Koshiyari at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai.**
- **Both were awarded for their commendable and notable achievements in Environmental Sustainability.**
- **Ms Dia Mirza was awarded for her astounding and notable efforts in leading pivotal environmental campaigns across India as the Goodwill Ambassador of UNEP, India.**
- **Mr Afroz Shah was awarded for his impeccable and seminal efforts to lead one of the world's largest beach clean-up movements in India that have inspired people around the world.**

6. Have made India's first indigenously made lithium ion-cell, says Ola



- **Ola Electric has unveiled the country's first indigenously developed lithium-ion cell.**
- **The Bengaluru-based two-wheeler maker will begin the mass production of the cell- NMC 2170, from its Chennai-based Gigafactory by 2023.**
- **The use of specific chemicals and materials enables the cell to pack more energy in a given space and also improves the overall life cycle of the cell.**
- **Ola is building the world's most advanced cell research centre that will enable us to scale and innovate faster, and build the most advanced and affordable EV products in the world with speed.**
- **The company was recently allocated 20GWh capacity under the ACC PLI scheme by the govt for developing advanced cells in India.**
- **Ola Electric launched its first electric vehicle in August 2021 and has also set up the world's largest two-wheeler manufacturing facility in India.**

7. Bangladesh pacer Shohidul Islam suspended for doping violation



- **Shohidul Islam, a fast bowler for Bangladesh was sentenced to a ten-month suspension after admitting to violating Article 2.1 of the ICC Anti-Doping Code.**
- **He participated in one T20 match for Bangladesh. Mohammad Rizwan, a Pakistani batter, was the only one he was able to dismiss, but Bangladesh went on to lose the game and the series 0-3.**
- **Shohidul's sample included Clomifene, a drug that is forbidden in both competitive and non-competitive matches.**
- **The drug was taken by means of medication for which he has a prescription.**
- **Shohidul was exonerated of having plans to take the medicine for enhancement because he was using it for medicinal purposes.**

8. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar to launch e-NAM Platform to promote agricultural trade



- **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is organizing a two-day National Conference of State Agriculture and Horticulture Ministers in Bengaluru today.**
- **Union Agriculture and Famers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Ministers of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Sushri Shobha Karandlaje and Kailash Choudhary, and Ministers of Agriculture and Horticulture of the States will participate in the conference.**
- **This conference will focus on farmers' accessibility digitally to multiple numbers of markets, buyers, and service providers and to bring transparency in trade transactions with the intent to improve price discover mechanisms for better price realization of farm produce to the farmers.**
- **The technical session will cover nine thematic areas, viz, Digital Agriculture, Pradhanmantri Fasal Bhima Yojan, Natural Farming, FPO, e-NAM, Pradhanmantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, National Food Security Mission, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, New Technology by ICAR.**

9. Agnikul Cosmos inaugurates factory for 3D printing rocket engines



- **Agnikul Cosmos has inaugurated India's first-ever factory to manufacture 3D-printed rocket engines in Chennai.**
- **The facility will use additive manufacturing technology to build 3D printed rocket engines and will be used to produce engines for its own in-house rockets.**
- **It was unveiled by Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran and ISRO chairman S Somanath in the presence of Pawan Goenka, the chairman of IN-SPACE (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre).**
- **The company facility will use additive manufacturing technology to build 3D printed rocket engines and will be used to produce engines for its own in-house rockets.**
- **This will allow the factory to produce eight engines every month and build the number of engines required to launch Agnibaan – its two-stage launch vehicle, expected to launch by the end of the year.**

By Sameer Singhal

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