

# Daily Current Affairs

## 01 July 2024

### Hool Diwas

- **President Droupadi Murmu** paid her tributes to all the immortal fighters of the Santhal rebellion on 'Hool Diwas'. In a social media post, the President said that **the immortal stories of sacrifices** of heroes like Sido-Kanhu, Chand-Bhairav and Phoolo-Jhano who fought a historic war against injustice are written in golden letters.



- She said that the ideals of those revolutionaries will always remain a source of inspiration for all countrymen.
- The **Santhal rebellion** (also known as the Sonthal rebellion or the Santhal Hool), was a rebellion in present-day Jharkhand and West Bengal against the East India Company (EIC) and zamindari system by the Santhals.
- **It started on June 30, 1855, and on November 10, 1855**, martial law was proclaimed by the East India Company which lasted until January 3, 1856, when martial law was suspended and the rebellion was eventually suppressed by the presidency armies.

## SpaceX To Destroy The International Space Station

- **NASA has awarded SpaceX an \$843 million** contract to construct a spacecraft aimed at safely deorbiting the International Space Station (ISS) by around 2030.
- While **SpaceX will build the vehicle**, NASA will oversee its operation and take ownership of the craft once completed.
- According to the space agency's plans, SpaceX's specially designed deorbit vehicle will drag the football field-size ISS back to Earth sometime after the end of its operational life in 2030.



- The **ISS will smash into our planet's atmosphere** at a speed of more than 17,000 mph (27,500 km/h) before landing in a crashdown spot in the ocean.
- The **floating laboratory's first parts were launched in 1998**, and it has been occupied by astronauts from the **U.S., Japan, Russia, Canada and Europe** since 2000, who have completed more than 3,300 scientific experiments in a close orbit above Earth.
- But the space station is showing its age: **technical faults and leaks** continue to cause issues for crews, and the contracts between the five participating national space agencies, which marked an era of global cooperation in space following the end of the Cold War, will end by 2030.
- Weighing **approximately 430,000 kilograms (950,000 pounds)**, the ISS stands as the largest structure ever constructed in space, symbolizing a collaborative effort among the United States, Europe, Japan, Canada, and Russia since its inception in 2000.



- While the US and its partners plan to maintain operations until 2030, Russia's commitment extends only until 2028. The ISS also faces risks from the growing problem of space junk – orbital debris made of other defunct satellites, whipping around Earth at high speeds.
- The crew were allowed to return to the ISS after about an hour, and operations continued as normal. **But it's still unclear exactly when the space station will be brought crashing back to Earth.** These include Axiom Space's Axiom Station, and the Orbital Reef designed by Blue Origin and Sierra Space. Both stations are slated to come online by the end of this decade.

## FATF Grey List Status

- Turkish Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek announced that **Turkey has been removed from the FATF 'grey list'** after recent evaluations of the country's progress on money laundering and terrorist financing.
- The decision, declared at the FATF plenary meeting in Singapore, marks a significant milestone for Turkey, which had been placed on the grey list in 2021.
- **In 2021, Turkey was downgraded** to the grey list due to concerns over money laundering and terrorist financing. Criticisms included Turkey's support for terrorist groups, such as Hamas, and inadequate supervision of various sectors susceptible to illicit financial activities.
- **The FATF acknowledged Turkey's significant** reforms, particularly in the regulation of cryptocurrency.



**FATF GREY LIST**  
 (Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring) as of 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024



- |                              |              |           |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Bulgaria                     | Monaco       | Syria     |
| Burkina Faso                 | Mozambique   | Tanzania  |
| Cameroon                     | Namibia      | Venezuela |
| Croatia                      | Nigeria      | Vietnam   |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | Philippines  | Yemen     |
| Haiti                        | Senegal      |           |
| Kenya                        | South Africa |           |
| Mali                         | South Sudan  |           |

Added countries: 1. Monaco 2. Venezuela  
 Deleted countries: 1. Jamaica 2. Türkiye



- The Turkish Parliament recently approved legislation increasing oversight of the crypto market, ensuring stringent management and operational standards. This move was pivotal in addressing FATF’s concerns and contributed to Turkey’s removal from the grey list.
- **Despite Turkey’s removal from the grey list**, there are ongoing criticisms. Some argue that Turkey still poses a risk as a hub for terror financing, with allegations of support for Hamas and involvement in financing arms transactions for groups like the Houthi rebels and Russia.



- **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** : Establishment: 1989, Headquarters: Paris, France, Members: 39 members, including major countries and regional organizations. To develop policies and standards to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system
- **Grey List:** Countries under increased monitoring for deficiencies in combating money laundering and terrorist financing
- **Black List:** High-risk jurisdictions with significant strategic deficiencies
- Meetings: Plenary meetings three times a year to review and update standards and assess member compliance.

## India's External Debt Reaches \$663.8 Billion

- **India's external debt increased by \$39.7 billion to \$663.8 billion** at end-March 2024, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Despite the rise, the external debt to GDP ratio fell to 18.7% from 19.0% at end-March 2023.
- **Excluding the valuation effect** caused by the appreciation of the US dollar against the Indian rupee and other major currencies, the external debt would have increased **by \$48.4 billion**. The valuation effect was calculated at \$8.7 billion.



- **US Dollar-Denominated Debt:** Largest component, comprising 53.8% of the total.
- Indian Rupee-Denominated Debt: 31.5%.
- Other Currencies: Yen (5.8%), SDR (5.4%), and Euro (2.8%).
- Sectoral Breakdown
- Non-Financial Corporations: Highest share at 37.4% of total external debt.

- General Government: 22.4%.
- Households and Nonprofit Institutions: Declined by 16.5% year-on-year.
- Types of Debt
- Loans: Largest component at 33.4%.
- Currency and Deposits: 23.3%.
- Trade Credit and Advances: 17.9%.
- Debt Securities: 17.3%.

## Pen Pinter Prize 2024

- In a significant recognition of her literary contributions, **Booker Prize-winning author Arundhati Roy** has been awarded the esteemed Pen Pinter Prize for 2024. This honour comes at a time when Roy faces potential legal challenges, highlighting the importance of her work and the ongoing struggle for freedom of expression.



- The **Pen Pinter Prize**: A Symbol of Literary Courage
- Origins and Significance
- The Pen Pinter Prize, **established in 2009** by the charity English PEN, stands as a beacon for:
  - Defending freedom of expression
  - Celebrating impactful literature
  - Honoring the memory of Nobel-Laureate playwright **Harold Pinter**
- Selection Process
- Roy was chosen by a distinguished panel of judges:

- Ruth Borthwick: Chair of English PEN
- Khalid Abdalla: Actor and activist
- Roger Robinson: Writer and musician
- Arundhati Roy: A Voice of Unflinching Truth
- Literary Achievements
- Booker Prize winner for her debut novel “The God of Small Things”
- Renowned for her non-fiction works and political activism

## Vishwa Hindi Samman

- In a heartwarming celebration of **linguistic and cultural ties** between India and Nepal, Dr. Usha Thakur has been honoured with the **12th Vishwa Hindi Samman**.



- This prestigious award recognizes her **outstanding contributions** to Hindi literature and her efforts in strengthening the bonds between Hindi and Nepali languages.
- Dr. Thakur’s work stands as a testament to the power of translation in bringing cultures together.
- **Her achievements include:** Translating over 40 literary works between Hindi and Nepali, Significantly contributing to the development of Hindi literature, Strengthening the position of Hindi as a language of cultural exchange.



## Portugal's António Costa

- **Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa** has been formally appointed to take on the second highest job in the European Union, that of **President of the European Council**.
- **Born in 1961, António Costa** Was A Lawyer Turned Pro-politician Member Of Socialist Party Of Portugal. During His Tenure As PM Of Portugal, He Carried Out Packages To Revitalize Lisbon And Portugal As A Whole. Antonio Costa Nicknamed "**Gandhi Of Lisbon**" For His Frugal Lifestyle And His Indian Roots, In 2017, He Was Presented Pravasi Bharatiya Samman By The President Of India. He also holds an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card.



- **Ursula Von der Leyen** has been reinstated for a second term as President of the European Commission.
- The roles of the President of the European Council were established by the **Treaty of Lisbon, signed on December 13, 2007**. Herman Van Rompuy, also former Belgian prime minister, was the first to hold this position for two terms, from December 1, 2009 to November 30, 2014. Now, the former PM António Costa is all set to succeed the Belgian Charles Michel (in office since 2019).

## Jyothi Yarraji

- India's **Jyothi Yarraji won Gold medal** in the Women's 100m Hurdles at the National Inter State Senior Athletics Championships in Panchkula today. Jyothi won with a timing of 13.06 seconds. While in Men's 110m Hurdles, **Tejas Shirse won the Gold medal** with a timing of 13.54 seconds. Both Jyothi and Tejas are most likely to qualify for Paris Olympics via World rankings.





## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Hool Diwas Seen In News Is On**

- A. 29 June
- B. 30 June
- C. 01 July
- D. 02 July

**ANSWER: B**

**2. Who Was Appointed Financial Action Task Force (FATF) President**

- A. Vivek Dasgupta
- B. Ravi Dixit
- C. Sanjay Tripathi
- D. T. Raja Kumar

**ANSWER: D**

**3. Which Country Recently Removed From Fatf's "Grey List"**

- A. Syria
- B. Iran
- C. Turkey
- D. Pakistan

**ANSWER: C**

**4. Bannerghatta Biological Park Is Located In Which State**

- A. Karnataka
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Odisha
- D. Kerala

**ANSWER: A**

**5. Where Was First 'International Dairy Federation Asia-pacific Summit' Held**

- A. Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- B. Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- C. Kochi, Kerala
- D. Kolkata, West Bengal

**ANSWER: C**

**6. Which Day Is Observed As MSME Day Every Year**

- A. 26 June
- B. 27 June
- C. 28 June
- D. 29 June

**ANSWER: B**

**7. India's First 'Chadwick House: Navigating Audit Heritage' Museum Has Been Inaugurated At Which Place**

- A. Jaipur
- B. Shimla
- C. Ladakh
- D. Chandigarh

**ANSWER: B**

**8. Which Country Become 100th Full Member To Join The International Solar Alliance**

- A. Paraguay
- B. China
- C. South Africa
- D. Brazil

**ANSWER: A**

**9. Government Of Uttar Pradesh Has Decided To Set Up A Bioplastic Park In Which District**

- A. Mathura
- B. Agra
- C. Lakhimpur Kheri
- D. Saharanpur

**ANSWER: C**

**10. Which Organization Released 'Migration And Development Brief' Report**

- A. World Bank
- B. IMF
- C. UNDP
- D. UNEP

**ANSWER: A**

**11. Who Has Been Awarded The 'PEN Pinter Prize 2024'**

- A. Vikram Seth
- B. Neelam Saxena
- C. Vikram Singh
- D. Arundhati Roy

**ANSWER: D**

**12. Which Country Has Announced Plans To Implement World's First Carbon Tax On Livestock Emissions, Starting In 2030**

- A. India
- B. Denmark
- C. Australia
- D. New Zealand

**ANSWER: B**

**13. Pallikaranai Marshland Is Located In Which State**

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Karnataka
- C. Kerala
- D. Tamil Nadu

**ANSWER: D**

**14. What Are Stromatolites**

- A. Layered sedimentary formations
- B. Black hole
- C. Galaxy
- D. Glacial deposits

**ANSWER: A**

**15. Where Was U.S.- Led Indo Pacific Economic Framework Ministerial Meeting Held**

- A. Vietnam
- B. Mexico
- C. Singapore
- D. Malaysia

**ANSWER: C**

**16. Who Has Been Selected For Gudleppa Hallikeri Award 2024**

- A. Shirshendhu Mukyopadhyaya
- B. Siddalinga Pattanashetti
- C. V.K.Gokak
- D. B Sriramulu

**ANSWER: B**

**17. Which Country Has Banned The Entry Of Visitors With Israeli Passports**

- A. Singapore
- B. India
- C. Maldives
- D. Iran

**ANSWER: C**

**18. Where Was 'Third Glasgow Dialogue On Loss And Damage' Held**

- A. Bonn, Germany
- B. London, UK
- C. Paris, France
- D. New Delhi, India

**ANSWER: A**



**19. Which Organization Released “UNTAPPED: Collective Intelligence For Climate Action” Report**

- A. UNEP
- B. UNESCO
- C. UNDP
- D. World Bank

**ANSWER: C**

**20. Term Used In The Medieval India For The Land Directly Ruled By The Central Government**

- A. Muqtis
- B. Khalisa
- C. Inam
- D. Imam

**ANSWER: B**

