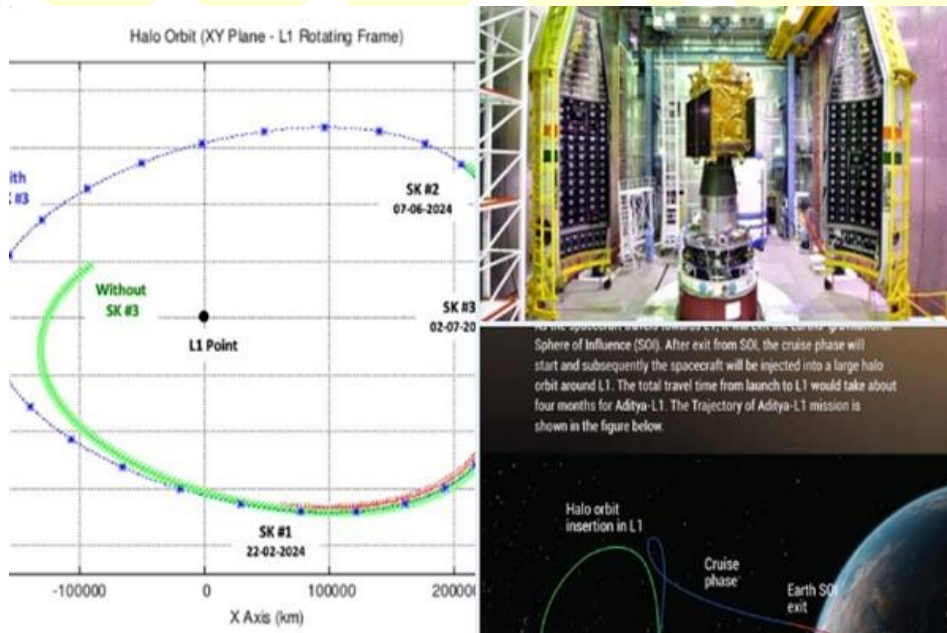


# Daily Current Affairs

## 04 July 2024

### Aditya-L1

- India's first solar mission, the **Aditya-L1** spacecraft, has completed its first halo orbit around the Sun-Earth L1 point. ISRO said its station-keeping manoeuvre yesterday ensured its seamless transition into the second halo orbit.
- The **Aditya-L1 mission**, which is an Indian solar observatory at Lagrangian point L1, was launched on **September 2, 2023**, and was inserted in its targeted halo orbit on January 6, 2024.
- According to ISRO, the Aditya-L1 spacecraft in the halo orbit takes **178 days to complete a revolution** around the L1 point. During its travel in the halo orbit, the Aditya-L1 spacecraft will be subjected to various perturbing forces that will cause it to depart from the targeted orbit, the space agency said.
- The ISRO explained that Aditya L1's journey around the Sun-Earth L1 Lagrangian point involves modelling complex dynamics.



## Asia's Largest Flight Training School

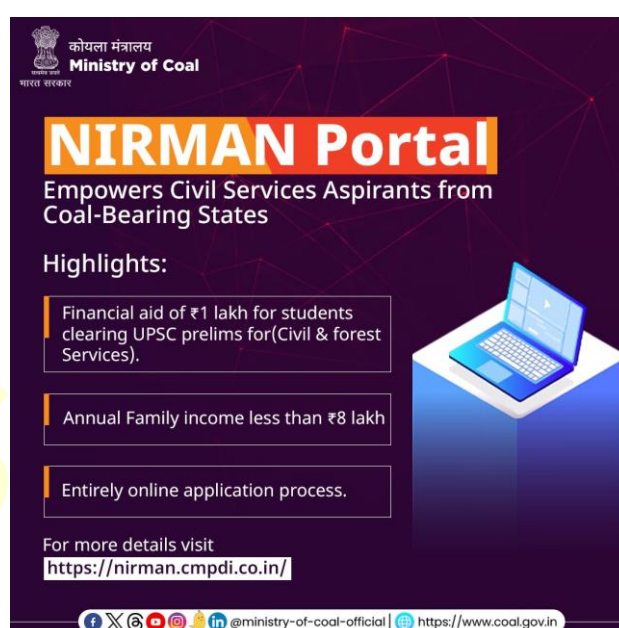
- **Air India** is establishing **South Asia's largest flight training school** in Maharashtra's Amravati district with an investment of over **₹200 crore**.
- Scheduled to open in the first quarter of the next financial year, this initiative aims to secure a **steady pipeline of pilots for the airline**, which will require 500-700 pilots annually to support its expansion plans following a mega order of 470 Airbus and Boeing aircraft in 2023.



- In partnership with **Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC)**, Air India has leased a 10-acre plot in Amravati for thirty years. The facility will feature **31 single-engine Piper aircraft** and three twin-engine Diamond aircraft, training 180 commercial pilots annually.
- The infrastructure includes a newly extended runway of 1,850 metres, modern navigation aids, and night landing facilities. Amravati offers over 300 days of clean visibility, optimizing conditions for pilot training.
- Campbell Wilson, MD & CEO of Air India, highlighted that the Amravati flying training organization marks a significant step towards self-reliance in Indian aviation.
- **The school aims to provide more opportunities** for Indian youth to pursue careers as pilots. Despite there being over 34 approved training schools in India, 40% of pilots currently complete their training overseas. This initiative addresses the gap, contributing to the nation's aviation self-sufficiency.

## NIRMAN Portal

- Union Minister for Coal and Mines, Shri G Kishan Reddy, inaugurated the **NIRMAN portal in New Delhi**, aligning with PM Modi's "**Mission Karmayogi.**"
- This CSR initiative by Coal India Limited aims to aid meritorious youth from its operational districts who cleared the UPSC Preliminary exams in 2024.
- Under the **NIRMAN scheme**, eligible candidates, including those from SC, ST, female, or third gender categories with annual **family incomes below 8 lakhs**, receive **Rs 1,00,000**.



- The initiative promotes transparency and digital inclusivity, reflecting India's vision of Digital India.
- Coal India Limited, a leading Maharatna Company, underscores its commitment to social responsibility by fostering education in coal-bearing regions.
- The initiative supports **underprivileged students'** aspirations, aligning with the national goal of "Viksit Bharat" through inclusive growth and development strategies.

## Hungary Takes Over Rotating Presidency Of EU Council

- **Hungary has assumed the rotating presidency** of the Council of the European Union for the next six months. Under the leadership of **Prime Minister Viktor Orban**, Hungary aims to prioritize EU competitiveness, defense policy, migration control, and agricultural reform.



- The presidency's motto, **"Make Europe Great Again,"** reflects a stance emphasizing unity and proactive global engagement.
- The presidency's **logo features a Rubik's Cube**, symbolizing Hungarian ingenuity and the complexity of European affairs.
- It highlights unity among EU member states, represented by the cube's interconnected elements. Hungary will hand over the presidency to Poland at the end of the year, marking the continuation of the EU's rotating leadership.

## Locarno Film Festival Career Award

- **Shah Rukh Khan** is set to be awarded with **the Locarno Film Festival's career achievement award**, which is the prestigious Pardo alla Carriera
- **Some of the noted recipients** of the same award in the past include Tsai Ming-liang, Claudia Cardinale, Johnnie To, Francesco Rosi, Harry Belafonte, and Jane Birkin.



Shah Rukh Khan to receive Locarno Film Festival Career Award

- **The Locarno Film Festival is a major international film festival**, held annually in Locarno, Switzerland. Founded in 1946, the festival screens films in various competitive and non-competitive sections, including feature-length narrative, documentary, short, avant-garde, and retrospective programs.
- The **Piazza Grande section** is held in an open-air venue that seats 8,000 spectators. The top prize of the festival is the Golden Leopard, awarded to the best film in the International Competition. Other awards include the Leopard of Honour for career achievement, and the Prix du Public, the public choice award.

## Project Nexus by RBI

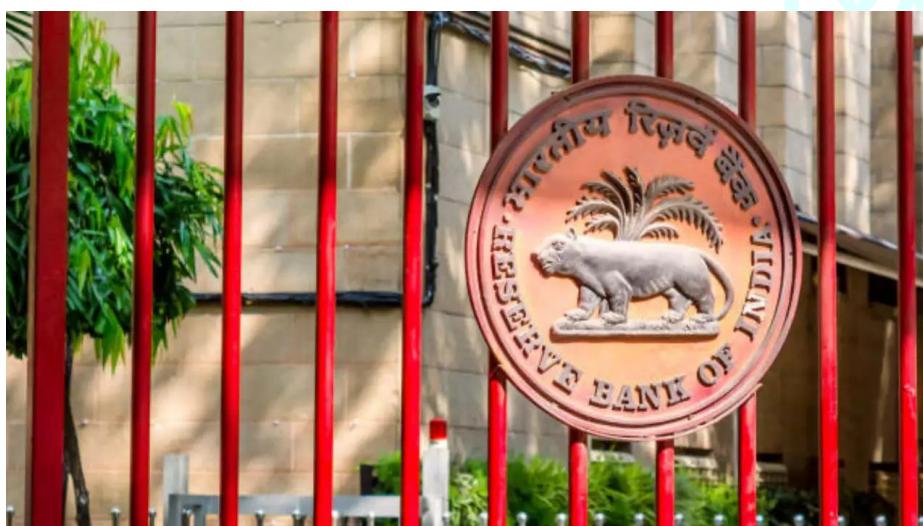
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has joined Project Nexus, a worldwide effort to make it easier for people to send money instantly across borders. To do this, **Fast Payment Systems (FPSs)** in different countries are linked together. In this plan, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) of India will link to the FPSs of **Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.**



- The **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)** Innovation Hub started Project Nexus to bring about a new way of doing things in international payments. Nexus' main goal is to improve international money transfers by combining different local Instant Payment Systems (IPS) in a way that doesn't cause any problems.
- With this promise, **Project Nexus will be the first live implementation**-focused project for the payments industry by the BIS Innovation Hub. The framework of the project supports an open, quick, and safe space for sending money across borders, supporting connectivity for both Person to Person (P2P) and Person to Merchant (P2M) payments.



- **Project Nexus is unique because** it can standardize the connectivity methods for instant payments around the world. In the past, each country's FPS needed its unique links to each other's. With Nexus, these systems only need one way to connect to the platform.
- This makes the process much easier and **cuts down on the time and money needed for integration**. Some of the biggest benefits are faster purchases (often finished in less than 60 seconds) and lower costs, which lead to more users and happier users.



- **Founding Members of Project Nexus:** At its commencement, Project Nexus will include the Fast Payment Systems (FPSs) of four Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)—Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand—alongside India. These nations, recognized as the founding members of the Nexus

platform, formalized their participation and mutual commitment at a signing event held in Basel, Switzerland, on June 30, 2024.

## Ashwin Ramaswami

- **An Indian-American** man named Ashwin Ramaswami, 24, has been backed by US Senator Jon Ossoff for the Georgia State Senate spot in District 48.
- It is important to note that **Ramaswami is the first Gen-Z candidate** to run for a US state government. Shawn Still, a Republican State Senator, is running against him. Still has been charged with trying to change the results of the 2020 election with former president Donald Trump.



- **Ramaswami is a Democrat** who used to work as an expert in voting security. He is very different from the current candidate, Shawn Still, who is a Republican and is part of the **Make America Great Again (MAGA)** movement. Senator Ossoff's support for Ramaswami contrasts his dedication to election security and Still's claimed role in tampering with the 2020 election results.
- **If Ramaswami wins**, he will be the youngest and first Indian American state lawmaker in Georgia.
- This would be a historic event. His campaign, which has raised a lot of money, is focused on important problems like making housing and healthcare more accessible.
- **Ramaswami's platform and plan for running a grassroots** campaign show that he is committed to protecting democratic processes and state government from far-right influences.

## 41,000-Year-Old Ostrich Nest

- In Prakasam, Andhra Pradesh, archaeologists found an ostrich nest that is **41,000 years old**. This is the **oldest known nest** of its kind anywhere in the world. The site gave us important information about the megafauna of prehistoric India, including possible hints about how they went extinct.
- Assistant professor Devara Anil Kumar at MS University, Vadodara, led the group that found what used to be a **nest that could hold 30 to 40 eggs**, but only 9 to 11 egg shells were found.



- **Megafauna are usually big animals** that weigh more than 50 kg. The word refers to a group of big animals, such as mega omnivores like ostriches, which can grow to be nine feet tall and weigh between 90 and 140 kg.
- This group helps us learn more about their **eating habits and ecological roles**, as well as their life cycles and times when they go extinct. This discovery is very important because it backs up proof that ostriches lived in southern India 41,000 years ago.
- Such information had been **given by fossils and artifacts** discovered in other places, like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Maharashtra. This led to talks about how species move around the world because of continental drift and human activity.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. NIRMAN Portal LAUNCHED BY**

- A. Union Minister G Kishan Reddy
- B. Union Minister JP Nadda
- C. Union Minister Anurag Thakur
- D. Union Minister Chirag Paswan

**ANSWER: A**

**2. Project Nexus Seen In News Is Launched By**

- A. ISRO
- B. CSIR
- C. RBI
- D. SBI

**ANSWER: C**

**3. Locarno Film Festival Career Award 2024 Awarded To**

- A. Amir Khan
- B. Sharukh Khan
- C. Akshay Kumar
- D. Hritik Roshan

**ANSWER: B**

**4. Archaeologists Have Uncovered A 41,000-year-old Ostrich Nest In Which State**

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

**ANSWER: C**

**5. Sujata Saunik Became First Female Chief Secretary Of Which State**

- A. Gujarat
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Haryana
- D. Rajasthan

**ANSWER: B**

**6. Which University Collaborated With Haryana Government For Establishment Of A Centre Of Excellence In Forensic Science Training In Panchkula**

- A. National Law University
- B. Indian Institute of Science
- C. Banaras Hindu University
- D. Gujarat Forensic Sciences University

**ANSWER: D**

**7. Name Of India's New Explosive That Has Been Certified By The Indian Navy**

- A. SEBEX 2
- B. SITBEX 1
- C. SIMEX 4
- D. SEBEX 1

**ANSWER: A**

**8. Which Country Sent Its First Coal Consignment To India Via The International North-south Transport Corridor**

- A. Iran
- B. Russia
- C. Armenia
- D. Azerbaijan

**ANSWER: B**

**9. Which Entity Holds Position Of India's Most Valuable Brand**

- A. Infosys
- B. HDFC Group
- C. Tata Group
- D. SBI

**ANSWER: C**

**10. Which Country Is Set To Launch New Banknotes Featuring Advanced Holography**

- A. China
- B. United States
- C. United Kingdom
- D. Japan

**ANSWER: D**

**11. By What Percentage Did RBI Increase The Ways And Means Advances Limit For States/UTs**

- A. 28%
- B. 20%
- C. 35%
- D. 15%

**ANSWER: A**

**12. Who Has Been Appointed As New Director Of The Indian Agricultural Research Institute**

- A. Ashok K Singh
- B. S K Singh
- C. T R Sharma
- D. Ramesh Kumar

**ANSWER:C**

**13. In Which Year Did India Enact The Geographical Indications Of Goods (Registration And Protection) Act**

- A. 2000
- B. 2002
- C. 1999
- D. 2005

**ANSWER: C**

**14. Who Has Been Appointed As New Chairman Of Central Board Of Direct Taxes**

- A. Pragya Sahay Saksena
- B. Anil Choudary
- C. Pravin Kumar
- D. Ravi Agrawal

**ANSWER: D**

**15. Where Is Air India Establishing South Asia's Largest Flight Training School**

- A. Ahmedabad
- B. Amravati
- C. Chennai
- D. Tiruchirappalli

**ANSWER: B**

**16. In Which Year Was The Simla Agreement Signed**

- A. 1972
- B. 1965
- C. 1980
- D. 1991

**ANSWER: A**

**17. Which Country's Navy Signed A Deal For An 800-ton Ocean Going Tug With India**

- A. Maldives
- B. Mauritius
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Bangladesh

**ANSWER: D**

**18. Which Financial Institution Launched "MSME Sahaj"**

- A. HDFC Bank
- B. ICICI Bank
- C. Axis Bank
- D. State Bank of India

**ANSWER: D**

**19. Which Sport Did Bhupinder Singh Rawat Play Professionally**

- A. Cricket
- B. Hockey
- C. Football
- D. Tennis

**ANSWER: C**

**20. Who Among The Following Was Not One Of The Founding Fathers Of The All India Muslim League**

- A. Nawab Moshin - ul-Mulk
- B. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
- C. Aga Khan
- D. Nawab Salimullah of Dacca

**ANSWER: B**