

# Daily Current Affairs

## 08 July 2024

### India-Russia Annual Summit

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on a three day official visit to **Russia and Austria**. In the first leg of his visit, Mr. Modi will be in Moscow for **the 22nd Annual Summit between India and Russia**.
- The annual summit would provide an opportunity for Prime Minister Modi and **Russian President Vladimir Putin** to review the whole range of **bilateral issues**, including defence, trade linkages, investment ties, energy cooperation, education, culture, and people-to-people exchanges.



- They will also share perspectives on **regional and global developments of mutual interest**. Both leaders will also assess the status of bilateral engagements in groupings such as BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the G20, the East Asia Summit, and the UN.
- Russian President will host a private dinner for the Prime Minister tomorrow. On Tuesday, the Prime Minister's interactions would include an interface with the Indian community in Russia.
- He will also lay a wreath at **the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Kremlin** and visit the **Rosatom Pavilion at the exhibition venue in Moscow**.
- In the **second leg of his two-nation tour**, Prime Minister will be visiting **Austria from the 9th to the 10th of this month** at the invitation of the Chancellor of Austria. This will be **Prime Minister's first visit to Austria**.



- He will hold restricted delegation-level talks with the Chancellor of Austria as well as a high-level business engagement. Austria is an important central European country and offers excellent opportunities for bilateral cooperation in infrastructure, renewable energy, high-tech areas, start-up sectors, media, and entertainment.

## Masoud Pezeshkian

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated **Masoud Pezeshkian** on his election as the **President of the Islamic Republic of Iran**. In a social media post, Mr Modi said that he was looking forward to working closely with Mr Pezeshkian to further strengthen the warm and long-standing bilateral relationship for the benefit of the people of India and Iran and the region.



## 133rd Durand Cup

- **Durand Cup, Asia's oldest and India's most prestigious club-based football tournament, is set to enter its 133rd edition in 2024.**
- This historic competition, which has been a cornerstone of **Indian football for over a century**, continues to evolve and expand, bringing together the best teams from across the country.



- The Durand Cup has a rich **history dating back to 1888** when it was first held in Shimla. Initially started by the **British Armed Forces** stationed in India, it has grown to become a symbol of **India's football legacy**.
- The tournament is named after **Mortimer Durand**, who was the Foreign Secretary of British India at the time of its inception.
- **Currently, the Durand Cup is jointly organized** by the Indian Army and the All India Football Federation (AIFF). This partnership maintains the tournament's historical military connections while ensuring it meets modern football standards.



## SEHER Program

- **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)** and **TransUnion CIBIL** have launched SEHER, a credit education program designed to empower women entrepreneurs in India.
- **SEHER aims to provide financial literacy** content and business skills, facilitating access to essential financial tools for growth and employment creation.
- **Address financial awareness** as a major hurdle for MSME development by educating women on finance aspects, including CIBIL Rank and commercial credit reports. Financial unawareness is a significant barrier for MSME growth.



- **Empower women entrepreneurs by providing** comprehensive support across entrepreneurship promotion, finance access, market linkages, training, mentoring, and business development services.
- Enhance women's financial knowledge and skills for managing businesses and achieving sustained growth, contributing to India's USD 5 trillion economy target.
- **Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)**, incubated in NITI Aayog in 2018 as an aggregator platform that transitioned as a public-private partnership in 2022 to build a comprehensive ecosystem supporting women entrepreneurs across India.





## WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PLATFORM

- WEP aims at empowering women entrepreneurs by overcoming information asymmetry and providing continuum of **support across different pillars** - Entrepreneurship promotion, Access to Finance; Market Linkages; Training and Skilling; Mentoring and Networking and Business Development Services. For this, WEP adopts a wide array of interventions with a focus on convergence and collaboration with existing stakeholders.

### World's First CNG Bike

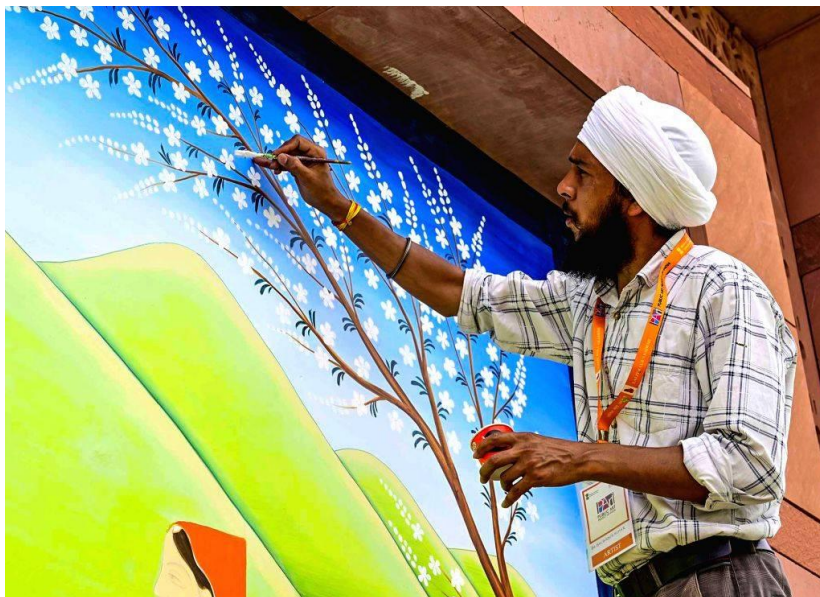
- **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari** launched **Bajaj Auto's new bike, Freedom**, the world's first CNG motorcycle. He praised it as **"eco-friendly"** and **"sustainable,"** highlighting the significant issues of air, sound, and water pollution, and the high cost of fossil fuel imports in India.



- Gadkari called the bike a **“groundbreaking innovation”** on social media, emphasizing its potential for substantial savings in operating costs and pollution reduction. He expressed confidence in India’s automobile industry, predicting it will become the world’s second-largest in five years.
- **Freedom promises to halve daily riding expenses** and features the segment’s most spacious seat for superior comfort. The bike includes a **mono-linked suspension system** for smooth rides on bumpy roads and a **2-litre auxiliary petrol tank** for added convenience.
- It has a **12.5-litre (2 kg) CNG cylinder** with a range of 100 km/kg, and users can switch between CNG and petrol modes via a switch on the left handlebar. The engine is specifically designed for CNG, with tailored piston shapes and larger cooling jets and fins to manage engine temperature.
- **The trellis frame protects the CNG tank**, supplemented by an additional tank shield. The bike underwent rigorous safety testing, including impact tests and extreme scenarios, ensuring compliance with government safety standards.

## Project PARI

- **Project PARI (Public Art of India)**, an initiative by the **Ministry of Culture**, Government of India, being executed by Lalit Kala Akademi and National Gallery of Modern Art seeks to bring forth public art that draws inspiration from millennia of **artistic heritage (lok kala/lok sanskriti)** while incorporating modern themes and techniques.



- These expressions underscore the **intrinsic value that art holds in Indian society**, serving as a testament to the nation's enduring commitment to creativity and artistic expression.
- The **first intervention** under Project PARI is taking place in Delhi. It coincides with **the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee** scheduled to be held in New Delhi, India between 21-31 July 2024.



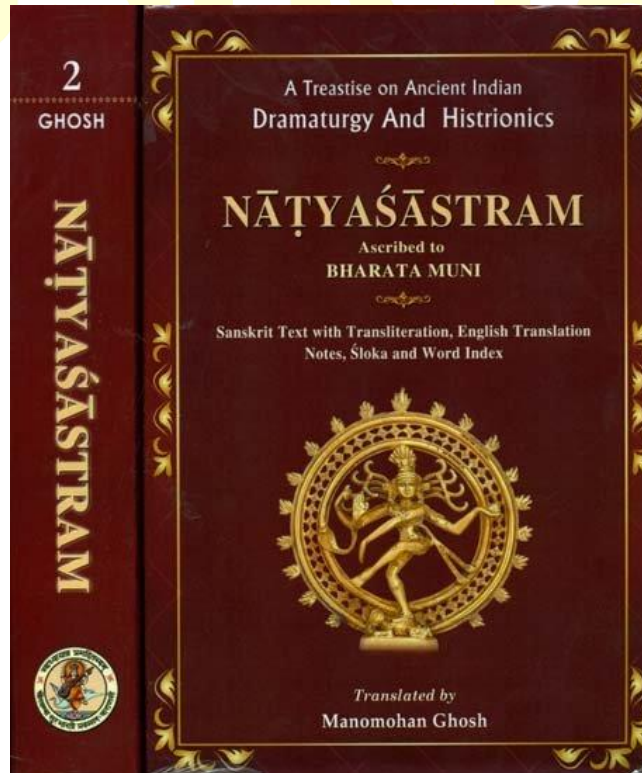
- The representation of art in public spaces is particularly significant, reflecting the nation's rich and diverse cultural heritage. The **democratization of art** through public installations transforms urban landscapes into accessible galleries, where art transcends the confines of traditional venues such as museums and galleries.
- **By integrating art into streets, parks, and transit hubs**, these initiatives ensure that artistic experiences are available to one and all. This inclusive approach fosters a shared cultural identity and enhances social cohesion, inviting citizens to engage with art in their daily lives.
- **Project PARI aims at stimulating dialogue**, reflection, and inspiration, contributing to the dynamic cultural fabric of the nation. **More than 150 visual artists** from all over the country have come together to create the various wall paintings, murals, sculptures and installations being prepared under this project.
- The creative canvas includes but is not limited to artwork inspired by and /or **drawn in styles of Phad paintings** (Rajasthan), **Thangka painting** (Sikkim/Ladakh), miniature painting (Himachal Pradesh), Gond art (Madhya Pradesh), Tanjore paintings (Tamil Nadu), Kalamkari (Andhra Pradesh), Alpona art (West Bengal), Cherial painting (Telangana), Pichhwai Painting (Rajasthan), Lanjia Saura (Odisha), Pattachitra (West Bengal), Bani Thani Painting (Rajasthan),



Warli (Maharashtra), Pithora Art (Gujarat), Aipan (Uttarakhand), Kerala Murals (Kerala), Alpana art (Tripura) and more.



- The proposed sculptures being created for **Project PARI** include **wide ranging ideas** that include but are not limited to paying tributes to nature, ideas inspired by the **Natyashastra**, **Gandhi ji**, **toys of India**, hospitality, ancient knowledge, Naad or Primeval Soun, Harmony of life, Kalpataru – the divine tree etc. In sync with the proposed 46th World Heritage





## Neeraj Chopra

- A 28-member Indian athletics team, led by men's javelin throw defending champion Neeraj Chopra, will compete at the Paris 2024 Olympics, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) announced.



- Chopra made history three years ago by becoming the **first Indian track and field athlete to win a medal at the Olympics**, that too a gold. This time, the Indian javelin throw ace will have Olympic debutant Kishore Jena for company in his pet event.
- The 2024 Summer Olympics, officially the **Games of the XXXIII Olympiad and officially branded as Paris 2024**, is an upcoming international multi-sport event scheduled to take place from 26 July (the date of the opening ceremony) to 11 August 2024 in France, with some competitions starting on 24 July.
- **Paris is the main host city**, with events held at 16 other cities spread across Metropolitan France, plus one subsite in Tahiti—an island within the French overseas country and overseas collectivity of French Polynesia.

## Squash Championships

- In the **Asian Doubles Squash Championships**, India's **Abhay Singh** won both the men's doubles and mixed doubles titles in **Johor, Malaysia**.
- Abhay was paired with **Velavan Senthilkumar in the men's doubles**. He registered a convincing 11-4, 11-5 win over Malaysia's Ong Sai Hung and Syafiq Kamal in the final to clinch the title.

- **Abhay and Joshna defeated** the Hong Kong pair of Cheng Nga Ching and Lai Cheuk Nam Matthew 11-8, 11-10, in the mixed doubles semi-finals.



## Dhruv Sitwala

- **In Billiards, Dhruv Sitwala** clinched the Asian Championship title last night. Sitwala defeated Ace Indian cueist and compatriot Pankaj Advani 5-2 in the final. With the loss, Pankaj fell short in his quest to secure a hat-trick of titles.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Masoud Pezeshkian Seen In News Relates To**

- A. Iraq
- B. Iran
- C. Israel
- D. Tahiti

**ANSWER: B**

**2. Miniature Painting Belongs From**

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Gujarat
- D. Kerala

**ANSWER: A**

**3. Natyashastra Is Written By**

- A. Valmiki
- B. Bharata
- C. Vishwamitra
- D. Kashyapa

**ANSWER: B**

**4. Where Was 'Global Conclave On Plastic Recycling & Sustainability' Inaugurated**

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Bengaluru
- C. New Delhi
- D. Chennai

**ANSWER: C**

**5. Name Of Multilateral Initiative Aimed At Streamlining Retail Cross-border Payments Involving RBI & ASEAN Countries**

- A. Project Nexus
- B. Global Connect
- C. Swift Cross
- D. Unity Payments

**ANSWER: A**



**6. Which State Launched 'Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin' Scheme**

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Gujarat

**ANSWER: C**

**7. Where 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference On Steel Slag Road Organized By CSIR Held**

- A. Mumbai
- B. Kolkata
- C. New Delhi
- D. Chennai

**ANSWER: C**

**8. In Which Indian State Was A New Species Of Horned Frog Recently Discovered**

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Manipur
- D. Arunachal Pradesh

**ANSWER: D**

**9. Which Country Has Built A New Presidential Palace And Other Government Buildings In Vanuatu**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**10. Where Was Indian Air Force Weapon Systems School Inaugurated**

- A. Mumbai
- B. Bangalore
- C. Hyderabad
- D. New Delhi

**ANSWER: C**

**11. Who Has Been Appointed As Additional National Security Adviser In India**

- A. T.V. Ravichandran
- B. Rajinder Khanna
- C. Pavan Kapoor
- D. Pankaj Kumar Singh

**ANSWER: B**

**12. Who Created "World's First AI Dress" With Robotic Snakes Attached To It**

- A. Hiroshi Ishiguro
- B. Christina Ernst
- C. Marc Raibert
- D. Takeo Kanade

**ANSWER: B**

**13. Which Two Organizations Signed An Mou To Develop AI Tools For Detecting & Classifying Large Cardamom Diseases In Sikkim**

- A. National Informatics Centre & Spices Board of India
- B. Indian Council of Agricultural Research & Spices Board of India
- C. National Informatics Centre & Ministry of Agriculture
- D. Indian Space Research Organisation & Spices Board of India

**ANSWER: A**

**14. Where Was 24th Meeting Of Council Of Heads Of State Of Shanghai Cooperation Organization Held**

- A. Tehran, Iran
- B. Astana, Kazakhstan
- C. Beijing, China
- D. New Delhi, India

**ANSWER: B**

**15. What Is 'Junk DNA'**

- A. Regions of DNA that code for proteins
- B. Noncoding regions of DNA
- C. DNA used in cellular respiration
- D. DNA that is completely functional

**ANSWER: B**

**16. Which Country Chaired The 'Colombo Process'**

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Bangladesh
- C. India
- D. Nepal

**ANSWER: C**

**17. Which Company Has Launched The 'Health Saathi' Plan**

- A. Paytm
- B. Google
- C. Amazon
- D. Flipkart

**ANSWER: A**

**18. Who Has Been Appointed As Chairperson Of National Medical Commission**

- A. Dr. B.N. Gangadhar
- B. Dr. A.K. Mishra
- C. Dr. S.K. Sharma
- D. Dr. P.K. Das

**ANSWER: A**

**19. Who Launched Book 'Kargil War: The Turning Point' Authored By Colonel M B Ravindranath**

- A. M B Ravindranath
- B. K T Parnaik
- C. Rajendra Singhji
- D. Malathi Das

**ANSWER: B**

**20. Which Among The Following Is NOT A Vedanga**

- A. Kalpa
- B. Sankya
- C. Nirkuta
- D. Chhanda

**ANSWER: B**