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TODAY'S IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS

BANKING

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APPOINTMENTS

Senior IAS officer Govind Mohan appointed New Union Home Secretary

- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of Culture Ministry Secretary **Govind Mohan** as the next **Union Home Secretary**.
- ❖ He will take over as Home Secretary on the completion of the tenure of **Ajay Kumar Bhalla** on August 22.



Rahul Navin has been appointed as Director of Enforcement Directorate (ED)

Acting Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief **Rahul Navin** was appointed as the full-time director of the federal Anti-Money laundering agency for a period of **two years**.

Chairman of Mahindra Group Anand Mahindra was appointed as the chairman of the newly-established Young India Skills University in Telangana



AWARDS & HONORS

India adds three new Ramsar sites to wetlands network, bringing the total to 85



The Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary, the Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary, and the Tawa Reservoir have been designated as Ramsar sites, bringing the total number of such sites in India to 85.

- ❖ The three new sites are the **Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary**, the **Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary** in (Tamil Nadu) and the **Tawa Reservoir** (Madhya Pradesh).
- ❖ India is one of the ‘**contracting parties**’ to the **Ramsar Convention**, signed in Ramsar, Iran on 2nd February, 1971.
- ❖ Currently, **Tamil Nadu** harbours the maximum number of Ramsar sites (**18 sites**), followed by **Uttar Pradesh (10 sites)**.
- ❖ India has **19 types of wetlands**, with **Gujarat** having the maximum area, followed by **Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh** and **West Bengal**.
- ❖ India’s Ramsar wetlands comprise around **10%** of the total wetland area in the country across **18 States**.
- ❖ The **United Kingdom (175)** and **Mexico (142)** — smaller countries than India — have the maximum Ramsar sites, whereas Bolivia spans the largest area with **148,000 sq. km** under the Convention’s protection.

70th National Film Awards 2024

- ❖ The award winners were announced by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B)**.
- ❖ Honoring the best films and cinematic achievements of the year 2022. The winners will be felicitated by President Droupadi Murmu in a ceremony in October 2024.



Category	Winners
Best Feature Film	Aattam by Aanand Ekarshi
Best Feature Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	Kantara
Best Direction	Sooraj R Barjatya for Uunchai
Best Actor	Rishabh Shetty for Kantara
Best Actress	Nithya Menen for Thiruchitrambalam & Manasi Parekh for The Kutch Express
Best Cinematography	Ravi Varmam
Best Hindi Film	Gulmohar
Best Supporting Actress	Neena Gupta, Uunchai
Best Supporting Actor	Pawan Malhotra, Fouja

SCHEME

Maharashtra Launches ₹1,500 Monthly Aid under 'Ladki Bahin' Scheme



- ❖ Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis** announced that over **one crore** eligible women in the State will start receiving **₹1,500 per month** under the government's '**Mukhyamantri Ladki Bahin**' scheme, which is set to launch on **August 17th**.
- ❖ The flagship scheme modelled after the '**Ladli Behna Yojana**' introduced by the previous Shivraj Singh

Chouhan-led government in Madhya Pradesh.

- ❖ Under the **Ladki Bahin scheme**, underprivileged (annual family income capped at **₹2.5 lakh**) **women aged 21 to 65 years** will get monthly financial assistance from the government.
- ❖ **July** will be considered the starting month. Consequently, eligible women will receive an **initial installment of ₹3,000** covering **two months**.

U.P. CM launches Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyam Vikas Abhiyan Yojana

- ❖ Announced on **78th Independence Day** to promote **entrepreneurship among youth**.
- ❖ Under the scheme, financial support will be provided to young individuals interested in Entrepreneurship with a target of establishing **one million micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME)** units across the state.



Andhra Pradesh govt aims to double horticulture crop acreage under micro-irrigation by 2029

- ❖ The **Andhra Pradesh** government is considering a proposal to provide **90% subsidy** to **horticulture farmers** opting for micro irrigation under **Andhra Pradesh Micro Irrigation Project (APMIP)**.
- ❖ The proposal aims to increase horticultural production by **at least 15%** every year through a new policy.
- ❖ At present, horticulture crops are being grown on around **15 lakh hectares** in the State and the government aims to increase the acreage by **at least 3 lakh hectares** a year for **five years**, taking the total to around **30 lakh hectares**.
- ❖ **Andhra Pradesh** is the **largest producer** of **fruits** in **India**, contributing **15.6%** of the total production. **Andhra Pradesh** ranks **first** in the productivity of **oil palm, papaya, lime, cocoa, tomato** and **coconut**, while **second** in **chilli** in India.

VVS LAXMAN WILL CONTINUE AS THE HEAD OF THE NATIONAL CRICKET ACADEMY IN BENGALURU



BCCI SECRETARY JAY SHAH CONFIRMED THAT THE FORMER INDIAN BATTER'S TENURE WILL BE EXTENDED BY AT LEAST A YEAR

SPORTS

Former India cricketer VVS Laxman is set to extend his term as the Head of the National Cricket Academy (NCA)

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