

6<sup>th</sup> July 2024

## Keir Starmer Appointed UK PM



### Key Points:

- ❖ Labour Party chief Keir Starmer replaced Rishi Sunak as the Britain Prime Minister, with election results pointing at a crushing loss for the Conservatives. Labour, out of power since 2010, has pledged a foreign policy of "progressive realism", seeing a more volatile world "as it is not as we would want it to be", said David Lammy, who is expected to become foreign secretary.
- ❖ The United Kingdom is set to see the Labour Party come to power after 14 years of Conservative rule. With results in 648 out of 650 seats of the House of Commons declared, Labour has won 412 seats, while the Tories(Conservative Party ) are down to only 121. 326 seats are required to form a government. On the other hand, the Conservatives were reduced to 120 seats. This is the biggest defeat of the Conservative Party in the last 200 years.

## No religious markers, make-up or deodorants permitted, Indian Army



### Key Points:

- ❖ The Indian Army has reiterated to its personnel that they must adhere to official rules for "wearing trinkets and religious symbols in uniform".
- ❖ The orders were issued after some Army personnel were seen wearing religious markers, chains, and other accessories in recent social media posts.
- ❖ The regulations explicitly say "No unauthorised ornament or emblem is to be worn with uniform", but a signet ring is permitted. Watch chains and trinkets cannot be worn with uniform in a manner where they are visible.
- ❖ Army Dress Regulations specifically mention that no chains or sacred threads are to be worn around the neck. If worn, they are to be concealed properly so they are not visible.
- ❖ The paragraph in the regulations on "Wearing of Trinkets or Religious Symbols in Uniform" says, "No personnel will wear any type of bracelets when in uniform."

- ❖ A single sacred thread can be worn on the wrist (multiple threads are not permitted though) on the day of pooja. 'Kada' can be worn only by Sikh Officers, JCOs, Other Ranks and Non-Sikh Officers commanding Sikh troops.
- ❖ No tilak/ vibhuti or any other symbol will be worn/ applied while in uniform". According to the regulations, married female personnel can wear the mangalsutra around their necks in a way that is not visible in the uniform.
- ❖ The orders regarding make-up and cosmetics in uniform strictly prohibit lipstick and coloured nail polish. Bindis are also not permitted. Vermillion (sindoor) may be applied on the hair parting, only if it is not visible when a beret/peak cap is worn.
- ❖ Female personnel wearing the Indian Army uniform will not wear any cosmetic/ make-up in any uniform. False eyelashes, eyeliner, kohl (kaajal) and application of facial make-up are not permitted.
- ❖ Only transparent fingernail varnish/ nail paint is permitted to be worn. Facial foundation cream, that acts as a sun-protection agent may be applied conservatively and worn in the field/ outdoor or in operations areas.
- ❖ Application of henna (mehendi) on hands, when in uniform, on duty, is strictly prohibited," the orders say.
- ❖ Except for small earrings and engagement/wedding/eternity/signet rings, no jewellery is to be worn by any personnel in uniform. For female personnel, only one set of ear piercings is allowed.
- ❖ Wearing of earrings is allowed in uniform, provided that a single pair of decorative style (pearl or gemstone) accessory, of a size not greater than 5 mm in diameter is worn.
- ❖ One engagement/wedding ring can be worn on the ring finger's left hand. Although, no ring is to be worn on ceremonial parades when wearing ceremonial orders of dress. What other restrictions are in place? Applying any fragrances — deodorants, perfumes, etc. — is strictly prohibited for personnel in uniform. However, after-shave lotions may be used.

### Odisha To Get Five Royal Bengal Tigers



#### Key Points:

- ❖ The forest department has finalized a proposal to bring five Royal Bengal Tigers (RBTs) to the two tiger reserves in Odisha.

### Bajaj Launches World's First CNG Bike



#### Key Points:

- ❖ It runs on a 2-litre petrol tank and a 2kg CNG tank. The combined range is claimed to be 330 km.
- ❖ It also offers the option of switching between petrol and CNG fuel while on the move. The fuel cap cover for CNG and petrol refilling is the same.
- ❖ Bajaj also states that it emits 26 percent less carbon dioxide and 43 percent less nitrogen oxide than a regular petrol-powered motorcycle.
- ❖ Jazz Freedom CNG bike comes in three variants.
- ❖ More than 11 safety tests have been done on the bike. The tank did not leak even after coming under a 10 tonne loaded truck.
- ❖ Union Minister Nitin Gadkari claimed that the cost of running a CNG two-wheeler will be around Rs 1 per kilometer.

### Robot commits suicide in South Korea



#### Key Points:

- ❖ In a surprising turn of events, a robot civil servant working for the Gumi City Council in South Korea has sparked a national debate after what many are calling the country's first "robot suicide."
- ❖ The incident happened around 4 pm last Thursday, leaving the community both puzzled and mourning.
- ❖ The robot, dubbed the 'Robot Supervisor,' was discovered in a heap at the bottom of a stairwell between the first and second floors of the council building.
- ❖ Witnesses described seeing the robot behaving strangely, "circling in one spot as if something was there," before its untimely descent.
- ❖ According to the Daily Mirror report, this robot was assisting in municipal work. An official of the municipal team said that the robot had been helping the residents of Gumi city in administrative work for about a year.
- ❖ It was found in an inactive state below the stairs last week. That is, it was not active. The official said that eyewitnesses saw the robot moving around before falling, as if something was wrong. He said that an investigation is being conducted to find out the circumstances of the incident.

- ❖ It is also being said that the robot was under stress due to work. The official further said, 'The parts of the robot have been collected and the company that designed it will analyze it.' Another official expressed regret and said, 'It was officially part of the city's municipality and was one of us.'
- ❖ This robot, developed by Bear Robotics in California, worked from 9 am to 6 pm and also had its own public service card.

### President Droupadi Murmu Gives Away Gallantry Awards



#### Key Points:

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu on Friday (5th July 2024) conferred 36 Gallantry Awards to the personnel of the Armed Forces, Central Armed Police Forces, and State and Union Territory Police.
- ❖ The awards were conferred during the Defence Investiture Ceremony (Phase-1) at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi this evening.
- ❖ The Gallantry Awards include ten Kirti Chakras and 26 Shaurya Chakras. Out of these, seven personnel were awarded Kirti Chakras posthumously and seven Shaurya Chakras posthumously.

- ❖ The awards were given to the personnel for displaying conspicuous gallantry, indomitable courage, and extreme devotion to duty. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi are among those who attended the function.

### NIC and Spices Board Sign MoU for AI-Based Cardamom Disease Study in Sikkim



#### Key Points:

- ❖ The National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the Spices Board of India have signed an MoU to develop Artificial intelligence (AI) tools for detecting and classifying large cardamom diseases in Sikkim.
- ❖ The project, spearheaded by NIC's Centre of Excellence in AI in Kolkata, aims to analyze images of cardamom leaves to identify diseases early.
- ❖ This initiative follows three months of discussions and marks a significant step in leveraging AI for agricultural advancements in Sikkim.

## NITI Aayog to launch Sampurnata Abhiyan



### Key Points:

- ❖ NITI Aayog has launched Sampurnata Abhiyan Campaign to achieve saturation of six key indicators in Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks across the country.
- ❖ This is a three-month campaign running from June 4 to September 30. It seeks to achieve saturation in each of the six identified indicators in the 112 Aspirational Districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks under the Aspirational Districts Programme and Aspirational Blocks Programme.
- ❖ NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the relevant Central Ministries and Departments, as well as the Governments of States and Union Territories, will work together to ensure the effective and rapid development of these Districts and Blocks.
- ❖ This collaboration will focus on improved planning and implementation, capacity building, and establishing systems for service delivery

## NPCI international partners with Network International to expand UPI acceptance in UAE



### Key Points:

- ❖ Now Indian travellers or NRIs in UAE will be able to make Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments through QR code through Point-of-Sale machines.
- ❖ NPCI International Payments Ltd. (NIPL), in partnership with Network International, a leading digital commerce enabler across the Middle East and Africa, has facilitated the acceptance of QR-code-based Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments across point-of-sale (POS) terminals in the UAE.
- ❖ This initiative aims to provide seamless transaction experiences for Indian tourists in the UAE. With over 200,000 POS terminals spread in various sectors such as retail, hospitality, transport, and supermarkets, the UPI acceptance rollout will encompass a diverse range of establishments, including popular tourist and leisure attractions

**Dhirendra Ojha appointed as Director General of PIB**



**Key Points:**

- ❖ Senior Indian Information Service (IIS) officer Dhirendra Ojha has been appointed as Director General of Press Information Bureau (PIB).
- ❖ Ojha will replace Sheyphali Sharan, who has been appointed as the Director General of the Publications Division.

**P. Geetha wins first ever K. Saraswathi Amma Award for feminist studies**



**Key Points:**

- ❖ Writer, critic and feminist activist P. Geetha was presented with the first K. Saraswathi Amma Award for her work "Aan Thachukal" on MT Vasudevan Nair's scripts.
- ❖ It is instituted by WINGS (Women's Integration and Growth Through Sports) Kerala. Saraswathi Amma published her first short story in 1938.
- ❖ In her time, she was dubbed as a 'men hater', later the feminist world hailed her as the forerunner of feminist literature.
- ❖ Saraswathi Amma was a bold writer who stood alone against the then patriarchal literary world. WINGS is an organisation formed with an objective of making women bold and independent. Founder of WINGS – N.A. Vinaya



PW Web/App: <https://smart.link/7wwosivoicgd4>