



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 16, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- Annamalai University in Chidambaran – to host the 11th World Tamil Conference in 2021
- ✓ This was informed by the University's vice chancellor Murugesan

STATES

- Meghalaya - became 1st state in the country to ensure conservation of water and have its own State Water Policy.



- ✓ The draft policy was approved by Meghalaya's State Cabinet in a meeting chaired by state's Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma
 - ✓ The draft policy would work towards addressing water issues, conservation, and protection of water sources in state
 - ✓ It seeks to protect catchment areas, improve management of water resources while actively involving community participation
 - ✓ At village level, various committees will be formed and issue of groundwater will also be taken care by this policy.
 - ✓ A separate Water Sanitation Village Council at the village level would be constituted for the effective implementation of the policy
- **For the first time, West Bengal government - observed 'Save Water Day' on July 12, 2019 across the state to spread the message of water conservation**
- ✓ On the eve of the day, West Bengal's Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and eminent persons of different fields took part in Padayatra across the entire state



- ✓ During the observance of the day, the Chief Minister urged people to save water and join social programmes for the precautionary measure
 - ✓ The State already has a dedicated water conservation programme namely 'Jal dharo Jal bharo' (Collect water, store water).
 - ✓ The state is also planning to observe a 'student day' to spread information about the importance of water conservation to the society
- **Kharchi Puja festival - celebrated in Tripura from July 10 till July 16**



- ✓ It is one of the most popular festivals in Tripura and is celebrated at Old Agartala in the temple premises of 14 gods
- ✓ All of rituals during puja are of tribal origin, which includes worshipping of 14 gods and mother earth
- ✓ On the day of Puja, 14 gods are carried to Saidra river by members of chantai where gods are bathed in holy water and are brought back to temple

NATIONAL

- **The government - introduced a new bill to amend the Motor Vehicles Act on July 15 -that also provides for higher penalties for violations and protection of good samaritans, among other provisions.**
 - ✓ The bill was passed in the previous Lok Sabha but could not get approval from the Rajya Sabha.
 - ✓ According to the bill, the motor vehicle owner or the insurer would pay ₹5 lakh compensation in case of death and ₹2.5 lakh for grievous hurt
 - ✓ It seeks to increase penalties for violations, facilitate grant of online learning licence, simplified provisions for insurance to provide expeditious help to accident victims and their families, and protection of good Samaritans
 - ✓ The period for renewal of transport licence would be increased to five years from three years and enable licensing authority to grant licence to differently-abled persons.
 - ✓ Another provision proposed is to raise the time limit for renewal of driving licence from one month to one year before and after the expiry date
- **The government - introduced the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019, in Lok Sabha on July 15 – aiming to ban commercial surrogacy and protect women from exploitation**
 - ✓ It seeks to allow only a “close relative” to act as surrogate to infertile couples for “ethical altruistic” reasons

- ✓ The bill was introduced by health minister Harsh Vardhan.
 - ✓ The bill also provides for constitution of surrogacy boards at national and state levels
 - ✓ It stipulates that the intending couples should not abandon such a child under any condition
 - ✓ Only Indian couples who have been legally married for at least five years would be allowed to opt for surrogacy
 - ✓ The bill proposes to prohibit foreigners, NRIs and PIOs from commissioning surrogacy in the country
 - ✓ Even singles, homosexuals and live-in couples cannot apply for surrogacy.
 - ✓ Besides, couples who already have children will not be allowed to opt for surrogacy. Couples will need a certificate from a doctor stating that they are medically unfit to produce a child.
 - ✓ The bill seeks to allow ethical altruistic surrogacy to the intending infertile Indian married couple between the age of 23-50 years and 26-55 years for female and male, respectively
 - ✓ The bill also specifies that the surrogate mother should be an ever married woman having a child of her own and between the age of 25-35 years.
 - ✓ The bill was passed by Lok Sabha in December 2018 but lapsed as it could not get the Rajya Sabha's approval.
- **The Union Environment Ministry - has chosen 12 beaches in India to compete for a 'Blue Flag' certification**
- ✓ These beaches are at Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Bhogave (Maharashtra), Ghoghla (Diu), Miramar (Goa), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala), Eden (Puducherry), Mamallapuram (Tamil Nadu), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), Golden (Odisha), and Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).
 - ✓ The certification is an international recognition conferred on beaches that meet certain criteria of cleanliness and environmental propriety
 - ✓ The Blue Flag programme for beaches and marinas is run by the international, non-governmental, non-profit organisation FEE (the Foundation for Environmental Education).
 - ✓ It started in France in 1985 and has been implemented in Europe since 1987, and in areas outside Europe since 2001, when South Africa joined.
 - ✓ Japan and South Korea are the only countries in South and southeastern Asia to have Blue Flag beaches.
 - ✓ Spain tops the list with 566 such beaches with Greece and France follow with 515 and 395, respectively
 - ✓ There are nearly 33 criteria that must be met to qualify for a Blue Flag certification, such as the water meeting certain standards such as waste disposal facilities, disabled-friendly facilities, first aid equipment and no access to pets in the main areas of the beach

- ✓ India is set to apply for certification for two beaches, at Shivrajpur and Ghoghla, by July-end.
- ✓ About ₹20 crore have been spent on each and the FEE jury will decide by October if these beaches meet the mark
- **In a first of its kind transportation, an IWAI (Inland Waterways Authority of India) ship carrying Bhutanese cargo - was flagged off from Dhubri in Assam to Narayanganj in Bangladesh**



- ✓ The cargo will be carrying around 1000 MT stone from Bhutan to be delivered in Bangladesh over river Brahmaputra
- ✓ In return journey of the vessel Bangladesh will send jute and rice to Bhutan in same vessel
- ✓ Till now, they were exported through land route by trucks to Bangladesh
- ✓ This new route development is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of promoting cargo transportation via inland waterways
- ✓ The transport of cargo via this route will reduce travel time by 8 to 10 days, and will cut down transportation cost by 30%
- ✓ This is for the 1st time that an Indian waterway is being used for transport of cargo between two countries, using India for transit

INTERNATIONAL

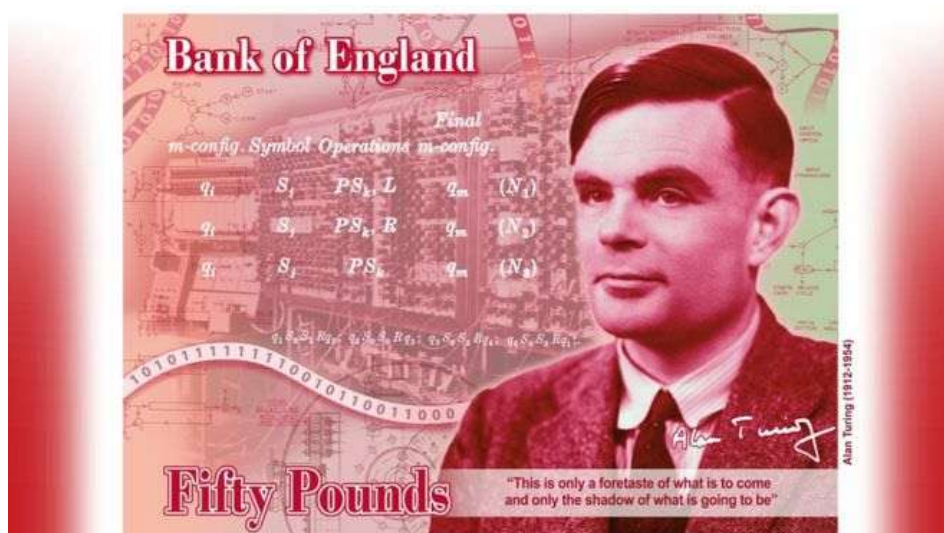
- The foundation stone of Baba Guru Nanak University (BGNU) - was laid at Nankana Sahib, in Pakistan's Punjab province



- ✓ Nankana Sahib is the birth place of founder of Sikhism Baba Guru Nanak Dev.
- ✓ This university, to be constructed at a cost of Rs 258 crores, would help promote religious tourism in Pakistan
- ✓ In 2017 during the government of Pakistan Muslim League (N) (PML-N), the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) gave a final approval to project

PERSONALITIES

- Bank of England – has chosen Alan Turing, the computing pioneer who became one of the most influential code breakers of World War II - to be the new face of its highest denomination 50-pound note.




- ✓ The central bank announced last year that it wanted to honour personalities in the field of science on the next version of the bill
- ✓ Turing was chosen from a list of 227,299 nominees that included Charles Babbage, Stephen Hawking, Ada Lovelace and Margaret Thatcher (who worked as a chemical researcher before entering politics)
- ✓ Turing played a pivotal role in the development of early computers
- ✓ The bank plans to put the new note, showing the photo of Turing taken in 1951, into circulation by the end of 2021
- ✓ The note was last redesigned in 2011
- ✓ Bank of England bills feature Queen Elizabeth's face on one side, and a notable figure from British history on the other
- ✓ Scientists previously honoured in this way include Newton, Darwin and the electrical pioneer Michael Faraday.
- ✓ The current £50 features James Watt, a key figure in the development of the steam engine, and Matthew Boulton, the industrialist who backed him
- ✓ Alan Turing had a strong India connection.
- ✓ His father was an Indian Civil Service (ICS) officer in the erstwhile Madras presidency
- ✓ His mother, Ethel Sarah Stoney, grew up in India, her father having been chief engineer of the Madras Railway.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) – was forced to abort the launch of Chandrayaan-2 early on July 15 due to a leak in the helium bottle of the cryogenic engine of GSLV-MkIII

COUNTDOWN TO ANTICLIMAX

July 14, 6.51am: 20-hour countdown begins	
9.30am-11.40am: Propellant filling of liquid core stage done	
10pm: Liquid oxygen filling in cryo stage begins	
July 15, 12.16am: Liquid hydrogen filling in cryo stage begins	
1.30am: Propellant filling gets over; a leak detected in cryogenic engine	
1.55am: Countdown put on hold, mission control announces that launch has been aborted	

- ✓ The launch was called off just 56 minutes before the scheduled lift-off at 2.51am (at T Minus 56 minutes)
- ✓ After filling liquid oxygen (oxidiser) and liquid hydrogen (fuel), helium was being filled.
- ✓ The procedure is to pressure the helium bottle up to 350 bars and regulate the output to 50 bars.
- ✓ After filling helium, it was noticed that the pressure was dropping, indicating there was a leak, whose exact spot was yet to be pinpointed
- ✓ The mission was aimed at putting a rover on the moon's South Pole, where no country has gone before.
- ✓ The present launch window for Isro closes by July-end and the next best launch window (which ensures full 14 Earth days for the lander and the rover on Moon) comes in September
- ✓ Missing the deadline means the orbiter's life may be reduced to six months from the present one year
- ✓ Every launch has an optimal window to achieve the desired results
- ✓ While Monday (July 15) had the longest window of 10 minutes — between 2.51am and 3.01am — Isro will have a window of one minute a day for the rest of the month
- ✓ Isro missed the previous launch window in January 2019 due to changes made to the design of the spacecraft while the testing and integration phase got extended.
- ✓ Among those in the VIP gallery of the mission control centre was President Ram Nath Kovind
- ✓ The ₹978-crore Chandrayaan-2 project is to use GSLV-MkIII , which is a three-stage vehicle — two large solid boosters as the first stage, two liquid engines (Vikas) as the second stage and an indigenous cryogenic upper stage powered by a CE-20 engine (which is causing the snag now)
- ✓ The cryogenic stage uses liquid hydrogen (LH2) as fuel and liquid oxygen (LOX) as oxidiser.
- ✓ GSLV-MkIII can lift up to four tonnes, whereas the earlier versions of GSLVs and the most successful rocket PSLV can carry much less mass
- ✓ The manned mission slated for 2022 and missions to Sun -Aditya (2020) and Venus (2023) are all dependent on the same rocket which now needs to be fixed
- ✓ Isro has been planning to use an upgraded version of GSLV-MkIII for Gaganyaan which would take three Indian astronauts to space for five to seven days.
- ✓ To meet this 2022 deadline, which was to coincide with the nation's 75th year of Independence, Isro is planning to have two unmanned missions of Gaganyaan - first in December 2020 and the second in July 2021

APPOINTMENTS

- Senior BJP leader Kalraj Mishra - was appointed Governor of Himachal Pradesh on July 15



- ✓ He replaces Acharya Devvrat, who has been transferred and appointed the Governor of Gujarat.
- ✓ Mr. Mishra, 78, had resigned as Union Minister in 2017 after he crossed the age of 75, the BJP's unofficial age limit for holding an elected post.

AWARDS

- Director Kaushik Ganguly's Bengali film 'Nagarkirtan' - has won the prestigious 2019's SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) film festival, bagging 4 awards in total, including Best Feature Film



- ✓ 'Nagarkirtan' was honoured with Best Feature Film, Best Original Score awards, Best Director and Best Actor awards
- ✓ This year is 9th edition of SAARC film fest, which took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka
- ✓ It focusses on films created in South Asia and first screened after 1 May 2017
- ✓ Two other Indian films won awards at 2019 edition of festival
- ✓ A 20-minute film 'Na Bole Wo Haram' by debutant director Nitish Patan won the Best short film award
- ✓ Walking With the Wind, by Praveen Morchhale won the Special Jury Award for Direction and Story.

SPORTS

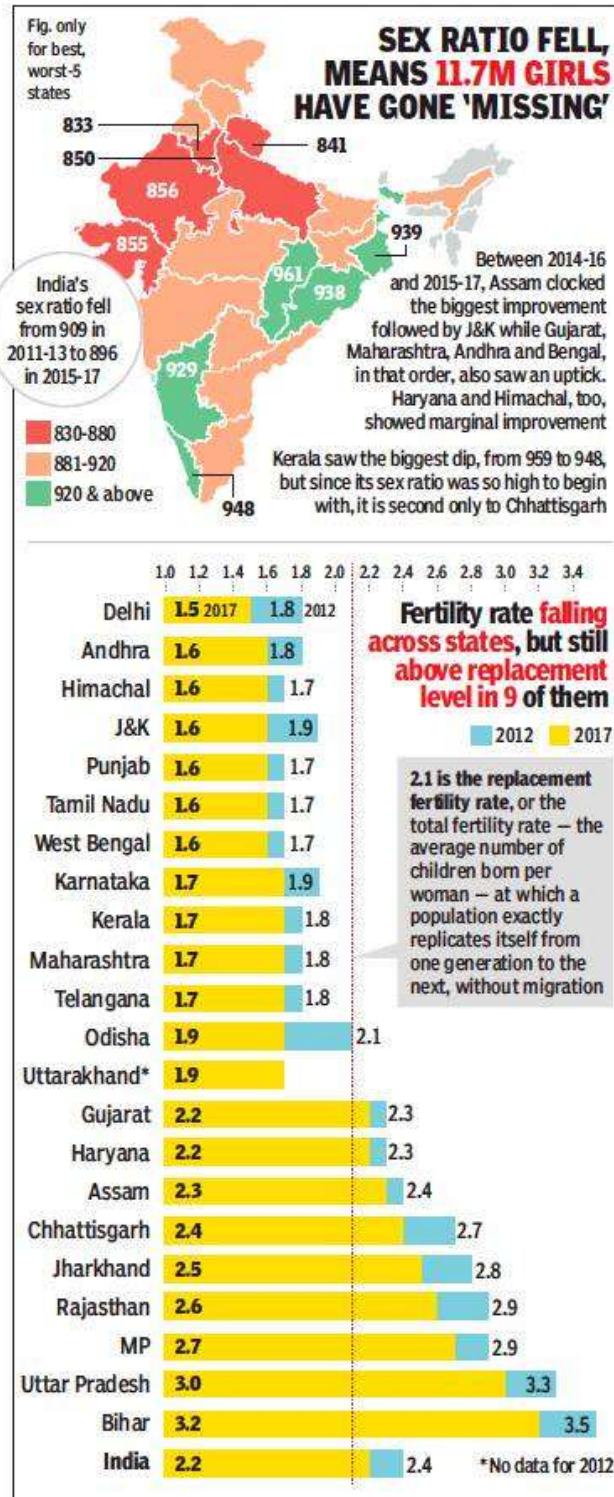
- **Indian shooting sensation, Elavenil Valarivan - signed off her junior career (U-21) with a Gold medal at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl**



- ✓ Elavenil, who had won gold at the same championships last year, shot 251.6 in the final to win gold.
- ✓ She defeated her compatriot Mehuli Ghosh for silver.
- ✓ Elavenil is a student of Gagan Narang's Gun For Glory academy, while Mehuli trains under Joydeep Karmakar
- ✓ Elavenil, who will turn 20 next month, was participating in her last Junior World Cup, as she will not be eligible to shoot in the event next year.
- ✓ The Indian trio of Elavenil, Mehuli and Shreya Agarwal secured team gold with a new junior team World Record with a total score of 1883.3.
- ✓ The earlier record too belonged to the Indian trio of Elavenil, Shreya and Manini Kaushik (1880.7) scored in the World Championships last year
- ✓ In the women's 50m pistol, Priya Raghav and Vibhuti Bhatia claimed silver and brozne with 535 and 531 points respectively
- ✓ With the wins, India is currently on top of the table with six gold, six silver and two bronze medals.

INDIA'S SEX RATIO – A REPORT

- India's sex ratio at birth (SRB) — the number of female babies born for every 1,000 male babies — fell to an all-time low of 896 in 2015-2017
- ✓ This would translate into approximately 117 lakh girls missing in the country in a span of three years



- ✓ Uttar Pradesh alone accounts for about 34.5 lakh missing girls or about 30% of the total, followed by Rajasthan with 14 lakh, Bihar with about 11.6 lakh and Maharashtra and Gujarat, each with about 10 lakh girls missing in the three years.
- ✓ India's total fertility rate — the number of kids likely to be born to a woman — which was stuck at 2.3 from 2013 onwards, fell to 2.2 in 2017, close to the replacement level fertility of 2.1.
- ✓ Replacement fertility is the level at which a population can replace itself from one generation to the next without growing or declining and it is estimated at 2.1 children per woman
- ✓ Below this level, the population starts shrinking
- ✓ The pressure to have smaller families in a society that prefers boys, along with access to sex determination methods and methods of getting rid of female babies could be leading to an alarmingly skewed sex ratio

