

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 22, 2019

TAMIL NADU

◆ The Tamil Nadu government - proposes to set up centres of excellence in five core industrial sectors

- ✓ The Centres will be training unemployed youth with assured placement besides upskilling employed youth in new areas.
- ✓ The government has invited companies from five core sectors, automobiles, hospital and healthcare, construction and infrastructure, logistics and transportation and manufacturing and capital goods, to take the programme forward
- ✓ A consortium of companies would be established for each sector to run the 'apex training centre' (ATC)
- ✓ The Rs 100 crore programme would be funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as part of the phase- II of TN investment promotion programme (TNIPP).
- ✓ JICA and TN government would fund the project equally, contributing Rs 50 crore each
- ✓ Each ATC (apex training centre) would be established at a cost of Rs 20 crore.
- ✓ Each centre will be a special purpose vehicle (SPV) as a non-profit company under section 8 of the Companies act 2013.
- ✓ The SPV will be implemented as a public private partnership with a contribution of Rs 1 crore as equity from the government side and another equal contribution of Rs 1 crore from a consortium of industries in the sector.
- ✓ The centres will be run by a lead implementation partner (LIP), representing a consortium of companies of the relevant sector
- ✓ TN skill development corporation (TNSDC) would sign agreement with the selected LIPs and courses would commence by January or February.
- ✓ The secretary of the labour department would be chairperson of each centre, while the LIP would come up with the training courses

NATIONAL

- ◆ **Harsh Vardhan, Union Health Minister, released the National Digital Health Blueprint (NDHB) report recently, seeking inputs from various stakeholders**



- ✓ The blueprint aims to create a National Digital Health Eco-system that will support Universal Health Coverage in an inclusive, easily accessible, affordable, efficient, timely and safe manner
 - ✓ It will also aim to ensure a wider reach of healthcare services through the provision of a wide range of data, information and infrastructure services.
 - ✓ The National Digital Health Blueprint can be accessed at www.mohfw.gov.in for eliciting feedback, inputs or comments from all stakeholders.
 - ✓ The report will be available for the next three weeks
- ◆ **National Insurance Company Limited, United India Assurance Company Limited and Oriental India Insurance Company Limited - will soon be merged into a single insurance entity**
 - ✓ The move was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget 2019-20 speech
 - ✓ The General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 will soon be amended to enable the merger of non-life insurance companies.
 - ✓ The three companies together had over 200 insurance products with a total premium of Rs 41,461 crore
 - ✓ The combined net worth of these three companies is Rs 9,243 crore with a market share of around 35%
 - ✓ The combined entity will become the largest non-life general insurance Indian company with value of Rs 1.2-1.5 lakh crore.
 - ✓ EY (Ernst & Young) were earlier appointed as a consultant for the merger by the three insurance companies

◆ **The Lok Sabha - passes The National Investigative Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on July 15, 2019**

- ✓ Through this bill, special powers have been given to the officers of NIA
- ✓ Three important amendments have been done to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act of 2008
- ✓ First important amendment is that circle of investigation has been extended.
- ✓ At present, the NIA can investigate offences under Acts such as the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, and the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967.
- ✓ Now NIA will be able to investigate cases related to human trafficking, terrorism, cyber-crime or terrorism, prohibited arms and ammunition
- ✓ Another major change under this amendment is that NIA's jurisdiction has been extended.
- ✓ Now officers of NIA will have same powers as police officers.
- ✓ Another change done in NIA is related to the establishment of special trials courts for the offences that come under NIA's purview.
- ✓ After amendment, Bill gives NIA officers the power to investigate offences committed outside India, subject to international treaties and domestic laws of other countries.

◆ **Palau - has signed International Solar Alliance Framework agreement**

- ✓ With the signing, it has become 76th country that joined International Solar Alliance.
- ✓ Palau is a part of the Micronesia region in the western Pacific Ocean with over 500 islands
- ✓ Apart from this, Palau is a host country for 2020 edition of the 'Our Oceans conference'
- ✓ This conference will focus on issues such as climate change, sustainable fisheries and marine pollution
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched The International Solar Alliance (ISA) with then French President Francois Hollande at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris in November 2015

◆ **The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill 2019 - was passed by the Lok Sabha with a voice vote on July 19, 2019**

- ✓ The bill aims to accelerate the process of appointment of chairperson and members of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).
- ✓ The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill 2019 amends the Protection of Human Rights Act 1993
- ✓ It seeks to include the provision that besides CJI, even a Judge of the Supreme Court can be the chairperson of the NHRC
- ✓ As per the Human Rights Act, only a person who has been the Chief Justice of India can be made the NHRC chairperson.

- ✓ Similarly, at state level, the bill proposes amendment to enable any person who has been a judge of a High Court to be the chairperson of SHRC
- ✓ The bill proposes amendment to extend the appointment to three members of NHRC, of which at least one should be a woman.
- ✓ It also proposes reduction of term of office of chairpersons and members of NHRC and SHRC to three years or till the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ **June 2019 - was recorded as the hottest June ever with temperatures soaring up to nearly 10 degree Celsius above the average temperature recorded this time of the year**

- ✓ According to the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), a European climate agency, the global average temperature for June 2019 was the highest-ever recorded
- ✓ According to the data released by NASA, the global average land-ocean temperature was 0.93 degree Celsius above the normal temperature while taking 1951 to 1980 as base years.
- ✓ The temperature is the highest in recorded history since 1880.
- ✓ The second-highest recorded was June 2016 at 0.82°C above normal temperatures

DEFENCE

◆ **Lucknow - will host the 11th biennial edition of DefExpo from February 5 to 8, 2020**

- ✓ The main theme of DefExpo India-2020 will be 'India: the emerging defence manufacturing hub' and the focus will be on 'Digital transformation of defence'
- ✓ The exhibition will also highlight Uttar Pradesh as an attractive destination for investment in the defence sector and act as a platform for joint ventures in the industry
- ✓ The State has four units of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. and will get one of the two Defence Industrial Corridors announced by the Centre recently.
- ✓ The previous two editions of the biennial were held in Chennai and Goa

◆ **INS Sagardhwani - has set sail from Kochi for a scientific venture called 'Marine & Allied Interdisciplinary Training and Research Initiative (MAITRI)**

- ✓ The ship's mission was conceptualized by DRDO
- ✓ It was built indigenously by M/s GRSE Ltd, Kolkata and commissioned on 30 Jul 1994.



- ✓ It is in consonance with the Prime Minister's vision of 'Safety And Growth of All in the Region (SAGAR)' to promote closer cooperation in socio-economic aspects, as well as greater scientific interaction.
- ✓ The SAGAR MAITRI mission will primarily be engaged in data collection from the entire North Indian Ocean, focusing on the Andaman Sea and adjoining seas and establishing long term collaboration with eight IOR countries in the field of 'Ocean Research and Development'.

APPOINTMENTS

◆ **India's Vivek Kohli and M P Singh - have been elected as chairman and secretary general respectively of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation (CTTF)**

- ✓ Kohli defeated incumbent Alan Ransome of England, who both secured 22 and six votes respectively.
- ✓ MP Singh, who is secretary general at Table Tennis Federation of India (TTF), was unanimously elected as secretary general of CTTF

AWARDS

◆ **Ravinder Kumar Malik, an Indian bodybuilder - has won Mr. South Asia title**



- ✓ He was crowned the overall champion at 12th South Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship in Kathmandu.
- ✓ Ravinder Malik, the winner of 80 kg category, was adjudged best bodybuilder among the winners of nine senior men's weight categories
- ✓ Afghanistan won team championship by securing a top position with 535 points.
- ✓ Host Nepal finished second with 445 points, while India remained third with 380 points.

SPORTS

◆ India's PV Sindhu – loses the final and finished runner-up at the Indonesia Open BWF Super-1000 title in Jakarta

FALLING AT THE LAST HURDLE

SINCE THE 2016 OLYMPICS, SINDHU WON FIVE FINALS AND LOST 11 FINALS. HERE'S A LIST OF FINAL LOSSES:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| August 19, 2016 | Lost to Carolina Marin in Olympics final |
| Nov 27, 2016 | Lost to Tai Tzu Ying in Hong Kong Open |
| August 27, 2017 | Lost to Nozomi Okuhara at the Worlds |
| Nov, 2017 | Lost to Tai Tzu Ying at Hong Kong Open |
| December, 2017 | Lost to Yamaguchi at World Super Series Finals |
| February, 2018 | Lost to Beiwen Zhang at India Open |
| April, 2018 | Lost to Saina at Commonwealth Games |
| July, 2018 | Lost to Nozomi Okuhara at Thailand Open |
| August, 2018 | Lost to Marin at Worlds in Nanjing, China |
| August, 2018 | Lost to Tai Tzu Ying at Asian Games in Jakarta |
| July 21, 2019 | Lost to Yamaguchi at the Indonesia Open |



- ✓ She went down in straight games against Japan's Akane Yamaguchi to lose her 11th final since Rio Games in 2016
- ✓ This is the maiden BWF World Tour Super 1000 title win for Yamaguchi
- ✓ Earlier, Sindhu became the first Indian to win the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals in December

◆ India's G Sathiyan and Archana Kamath - won the mixed doubles gold at the Commonwealth Table Tennis championship at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Cuttack, Odisha



- ✓ The top-seeded pair defeated Singapore's Yu En Koen Pang and Goi Rui Xuan 11-1, 11-7, 11-4 to win the Guernsey Cup

◆ Chinese Tennis legend Li Na – becomes the first Asian-born player to be inducted into International Tennis Hall of Fame

- ✓ The 37-year-old former Chinese star became the first Asian to win a Grand Slam tournament, capturing the 2011 French Open
- ✓ She was enshrined along with Mary Pierce of France and Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov during a lengthy on-court ceremony
- ✓ She also captured the 2014 Australian Open after being runner-up twice.

◆ India - will be hosting the 13th edition of ICC Cricket World Cup in 2023

- ✓ This will be the first time that India is hosting the cricket tournament on its own

- ✓ Earlier, India had co-hosted the World Cup with its neighbouring nations in all the three previous occasions
- ✓ India has co-hosted the World Cup three times in the past, 1987 with Pakistan, 1996 with Pakistan and Sri Lanka and 2011 with Sri Lanka and Bangladesh
- ✓ The ICC World Cup 2023 will be held in India from February 9-March 26, 2023.
- ✓ It will have 10 teams participating in the event
- ✓ The Cricket World Cup has been hosted most number of times (five) by England
- ✓ The 1987 World Cup was the first edition of the tournament that was not hosted by England, which was jointly hosted by India and Pakistan
- ✓ In 2011, India lifted the World cup after 28 years, thus becoming the first host nation to win the tournament

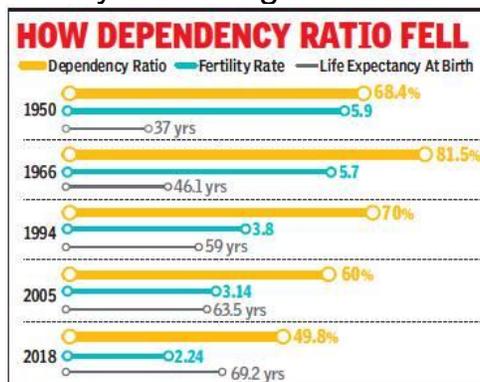
◆ **India's silver medal in the mixed relay event at the Asian Games 2018 - is expected to be upgraded to gold**

- ✓ The move may follow a 4-year ban of Bahrain's Kemi Adekoya for failing a dope test by Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU)
- ✓ India's mixed relay team comprising Hima Das, Mohammad Anas, Arokia Rajiv and M R Poovamma had won silver at Jakarta Asian Games 2018.
- ✓ Kemi Adekoya had also won gold in the 400m hurdles at the Asian Games
- ✓ With Adekoya's gold medal disqualified, India's Anu Raghavan will be the line to be awarded bronze in the event.
- ✓ Anu finished fourth in the event
- ✓ India, which finished eighth at Asian Games 2018, ended up with its record-best medal haul in the history of Asian Games with a total of 69 medals including 15 gold, 24 silver and 30 bronze

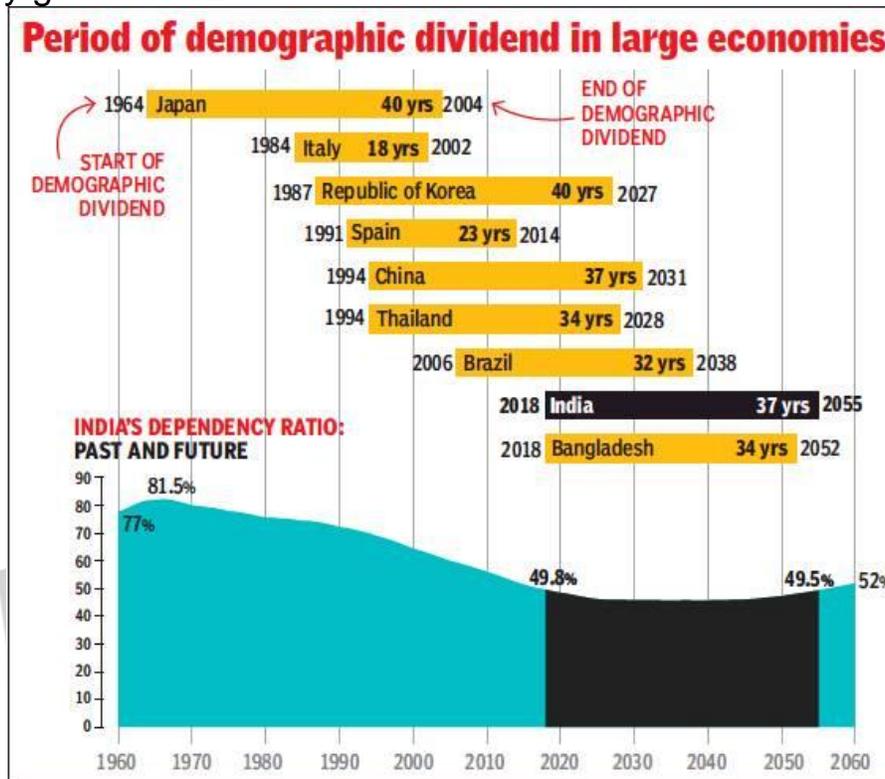
INDIA ENTERS DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND PERIOD – A REPORT

◆ **India – entered the 37-year period of 'Demographic dividend' since 2018**

- ✓ Since 2018, India's working age population (people between 15 and 64 years of age) has grown larger than the dependant population — children aged 14 or below and people above 65 years of age



- ✓ This increase in the working-age population is going to last till 2055, or 37 years from its beginning
- ✓ Many Asian economies — Japan, China, South Korea — were able to use this 'demographic dividend', defined by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as the growth potential that results from shifts in a population's age structure
- ✓ This transition happens largely because of a decrease in the total fertility rate (TFR), which is the number of births per woman, after the increase in life expectancy gets stabilized.



- ✓ Japan was among the first major economies to experience rapid growth because of changing population structure.
- ✓ It is, however, important to note that this change in population structure alone cannot push growth
- ✓ The UN agency further states that countries can only harness the economic potential of the youth bulge if they are able to provide good health, quality education and decent employment to its entire population.

