



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 1, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **The state social welfare and women's empowerment department – to activate village level child marriage prohibition committees to crack down against child marriages**
- ✓ The report of Child Rights and You (CRY) indicates high instances of illegal child marriages in certain regions of the state
- ✓ Child Rights and You (CRY), a non-governmental organisation, published a report recently saying that child marriages had increased by 40% in 10 blocks and 72 tribal villages in Salem, Dharmapuri, Ramanathapuram and Dindigul districts.
- ✓ In 2020 alone, 318 child marriages were reported in CRY-operating areas in the four districts.
- ✓ During May 2020, 98 child marriage cases were reported in these districts, as against 60 cases reported during the corresponding period in 2019.

STATES

- **On May 31, Kerala – became the first state in the country to pass a resolution supporting the Lakshadweep islanders' protest against various decisions taken by the new administration.**
- ✓ The Kerala assembly unanimously adopted a resolution calling on the Centre to recall Lakshadweep administrator Praful Khoda Patel and take immediate steps to protect the lives and livelihood of the islanders.
- ✓ The resolution was moved by chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan
- ✓ It had criticized the enforcing of a Goonda act in the Islands, the attempts made to destroy the people's livelihood of fishing, to eliminate their staple food of beef and to close down dairy farms
- ✓ The resolution said that steps are also being taken to abolish all democratic systems in Lakshadweep and impose bureaucratic domination.
- ✓ The powers of the district panchayat and the village dweep panchayat have been transferred to the administrator.

- ✓ The departments of fisheries, health, education, animal husbandry and agriculture are also being removed from the control of the district panchayat.

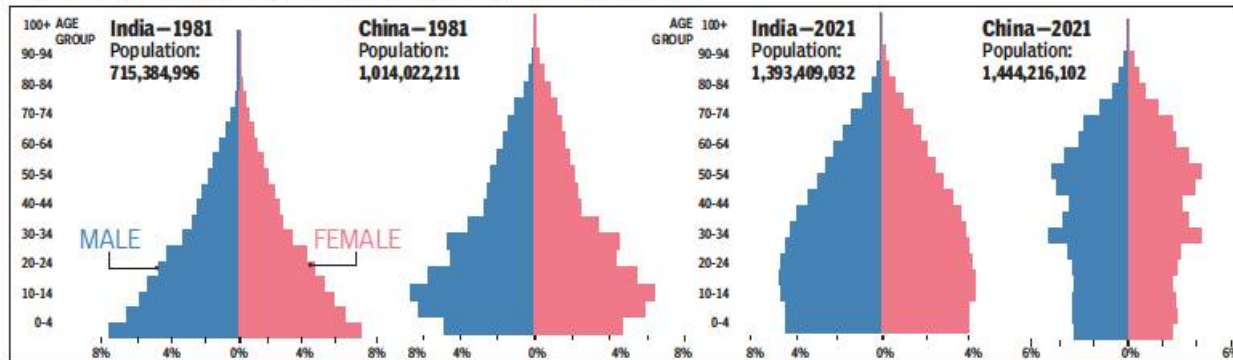
NATIONAL

- **India - to soon commence trials to test the safety, immunogenicity and efficacy after mixing doses of different brands of anti-Covid-19 vaccines**
 - ✓ The trials will currently include Covaxin, Covishield and Sputnik-V which have emergency use authorisation in the country
 - ✓ Some studies in the UK and Spain have shown mixing of Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines to be safe and immunogenic.
 - ✓ The decision has also been endorsed by the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI).
 - ✓ The study is expected to start soon and likely to take about two months
 - ✓ It will be conducted by the government in collaboration with vaccine manufacturers.
 - ✓ Apart from testing the feasibility of mixing doses of different vaccines, the study will also evaluate whether mixing of doses help boost immune response to the virus.
 - ✓ It has to be recalled that India has recently changed the dosing schedule for Covishield to 12-16 weeks
 - ✓ The government also plans to review the live data generated from vaccination of people over next three months to see whether increasing the gap also impacts the immune response or help generate more antibodies.
 - ✓ In January 2021, Britain allowed people to be given a different vaccine for second dose on rare occasions like “vaccine shortage”
- **The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), along with the Chennai-based National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE) - has launched a nationwide study to determine vaccine effectiveness in preventing severe Covid-19 infection.**
 - ✓ The study will be carried out at 11 sites across 10 cities.
 - ✓ The research will assess real-world efficacy of the Covid vaccines by tracking nearly 3,900 citizens.
 - ✓ Of these, 1,300 will be Covid-positive people who were hospitalised after vaccination.
 - ✓ The rest will be people who have tested negative (via RT-PCR), but have been vaccinated
 - ✓ The research will help determine true vaccine ability, especially since there have been reports of people testing positive and hospitalized after inoculation.
 - ✓ The 11 sites picked for the ICMR-NIE research are all hospitals in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Odisha, Delhi and Tamil Nadu.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On May 31, China's ruling Communist Party - said that it would allow all married couples to have three children**
- ✓ This puts an end to the two-child policy that has failed to boost the country's declining birthrates
- ✓ China faces a severe shortage of workers, thereby affecting the economy in the near future.

POPULATION PYRAMIDS: INDIA VS CHINA



- ✓ The party made the announcement after a meeting by the Politburo, a top decision-making body.
- ✓ It said the decision would “improve the country’s population structure and help implement a national strategy to actively respond to the aging population”.
- ✓ China’s family planning restrictions were introduced in 1980, when the party first imposed a “one-child” policy to slow population growth
- ✓ In 2013, the government allowed parents who were from one-child families to have two children themselves.
- ✓ Two years later, the limit was raised to two children for everyone, effective January 1, 2016.
- ✓ Further, the supportive measures by the government were also announced alongwith the new policy
- ✓ Accordingly, the government will lower educational costs for families, step up tax and housing support, guarantee the legal interests of working women and clamp down on “sky-high” dowries
- ✓ Births in China have fallen for four consecutive years, including in 2020, when the number of babies born dropped to the lowest since the Mao era.
- ✓ The total fertility rate — an estimate of the number of kids born over a woman’s lifetime — now stands at 1.3, well below the replacement rate of 2.1.
- ✓ In 2020, the number of people age 60 and above in China stood at 264 million, accounting for 18.7% of the population.
- ✓ That figure is set to grow to over 300 million people, or about one-fifth of the population, by 2025, according to the government.

- **On May 31, the World Health Organisation – has revealed the new names of coronavirus variants by replacing the alphanumeric names**
- ✓ The WHO had now assigned the letters of the Greek alphabet in a bid to simplify discussion, avoid complication and to ensure easy pronunciation.
- ✓ Accordingly, the variant in India — B.1.617 — is split into sub-lineages
- ✓ The B.1.617.2 variant of concern is named as ‘Delta’, while the B.1.617.1 variant of interest is called ‘Kappa’.
- ✓ The other three variants considered “of concern” by the WHO and known generally by the public as the variants found in UK, South Africa, Brazil have now been given the letters Alpha, Beta, Gamma, according to the order of their detection.
- ✓ Other variants of interest continue down the alphabet.
- ✓ Historically, viruses have often been associated with the locations.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Hyderabad-based specialty biopharma player, Celon Laboratories - has developed an alternative emulsion-based Amphotericin B injection**
- ✓ Liposomal Amphotericin B is used to treat Mucormycosis, more commonly known as black fungus
- ✓ The company developed the emulsion-based formulation for the drug in-house in just three weeks
- ✓ It has a capacity to manufacture 10,000 vials per day, which will be enough to cater to nearly 6,000 patients per month.
- ✓ Celon Labs has been manufacturing Liposomal Amphotericin B since 2013
- ✓ However, the unavailability of a critical ingredient – lipoids, which is sourced from Germany, forced the company to develop the emulsion-based formulation.
- ✓ The ingredients in the injection include Amphotericin API, soyabean oil, egg lecithin and glycerin.
- ✓ The emulsion-based formulation is an ideal alternative to Liposomal Amphotericin B in combating black fungus

DEFENCE

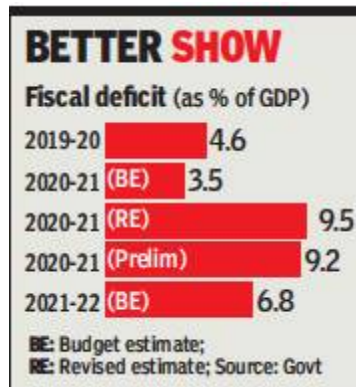
- **On May 31, India - announced its second negative arms imports list, in a bid to boost domestic defence production and exports**
- ✓ As per the new list, 108 `items’ will be progressively banned from December 2021 to December 2025
- ✓ The defence ministry’s second arms embargo list is now called as the ‘second positive indigenisation list’
- ✓ It includes only a few fully-formed weapon systems, platforms and sensors.
- ✓ These include next-generation corvettes, single-engine light helicopters, AEW&C (airborne early warning and control) systems, medium-power radars for mountains, land-based MRSAM (medium-range surface-to-air missile) systems,

mini fixed-wing UAVs, battlefield surveillance radars, anti-material rifles and infantry mine-protected combat vehicles.

- ✓ The bulk of the list, however, includes sub-systems, peripherals, accessories and some types of ammunition.
- ✓ They range from steering gear for warships, thermal imaging sights for small arms and fire detection-suppression systems for tanks to air conditioning plants for submarines, high-altitude water-purification systems and drop-tanks for Jaguar and Mirage-2000 fighters.

ECONOMY

- **The Indian economy – grew 1.6% in the January-March quarter of 2020-21, according to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on May 31**
 - ✓ The sharp recovery comes after two consecutive quarters of contraction due to the impact of the strict lockdown
 - ✓ For the full year, however, the GDP contracted 7.3%, lower than the estimated 8% earlier
 - ✓ The 7.3% contraction was the sharpest in nearly four-decades as the Covid-induced lockdown hurt the economy
 - ✓ India was among the few leading global economies that witnessed positive year-on-year growth in the six months of October'20 -March'21
 - ✓ The other economies that registered positive growth in the last two consecutive quarters are China, Taiwan and Vietnam
 - ✓ The NSO data showed growth in the March quarter was robust across sectors with agriculture, industry and services sector displaying signs of revival.
- **The Centre - closed last year with a fiscal deficit of 9.2% of GDP, against the revised estimate of 9.5%, on account of better than expected revenue receipts.**
 - ✓ However, this is the highest fiscal deficit on record for the Centre
 - ✓ The actual fiscal deficit was estimated at ₹18.2 lakh crore, as against ₹18.4 lakh crore in the revised estimates presented by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the start of February.



- ✓ Further, the GDP has performed in a positive manner to reduce the fiscal deficit
- ✓ As per the revised reading released by the National Statistical Organisation on May 31, the value of economic activity was pegged at a little less than ₹197.5 lakh crore.
- ✓ This was better when compared to the previously estimated GDP of ₹194.8 lakh crore in 2020-21
- ✓ However, the estimated fiscal deficit is still almost twice the Budget estimate of 4.6% of GDP in 2019-20.
- ✓ For the current financial year, the government has kept a fiscal deficit target of 6.8% of GDP, due to the second wave of the pandemic
- ✓ The preliminary data released by the Controller General of Accounts on May 31 showed that expenditure was 1.8% higher than the revised estimate and was estimated at ₹35.1 lakh crore.
- ✓ During 2020-21, revenue receipts were estimated at ₹16.3 lakh crore, almost 105% of the revised estimates.
- ✓ Tax revenue was estimated to be nearly 6% higher than the revised estimate.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Lt-General Manoj Pande – has been appointed as the Chief of the Army’s Eastern Command at Kolkata**



- ✓ Lt-General Ajai Singh was named the new chief of the tri-Service Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC).
- ✓ The Navy also has some new top appointments in its headquarters
- ✓ Vice Admiral Ravneet Singh was named as the new deputy chief of Indian Navy, while D K Tripathi has been appointed as the chief of personnel
- ✓ Further, Sandeep Naithani was named as chief of materiel, Rajesh Pendharkar as director-general of naval operations and Kiran Deshmukh as controller of warship production and acquisition.

SPORTS

- **Former India Open gold-medallist Sanjeet (91kg) – bagged the lone gold among Indian men boxers in the Asian Boxing Championships in Dubai on May 31.**



- ✓ He displayed a stunning victory over Kazakhstan's Olympic-medallist Vassiliy Levit by 4-1 margin
- ✓ Levit was chasing his fourth gold of the tournament and is an Olympic silver-medallist
- ✓ However, defending champion Amit Panghal (52kg) and Shiva Thapa (64kg) settled for silver medals in the Championships
- ✓ With 15 medals in this edition, India surpassed its previous best-ever show at this Championship, achieved in 2019, when the country secured 13 medals in all, including two gold.
- ✓ This time too, the country finished with two gold.
- ✓ Panghal lost 2-3 to Shakhobidin Zoirov of Uzbekistan in what was a repeat of the 2019 world championship final, which had also ended in Zoirov's favour.
- ✓ Thapa (64kg) also lost by the same margin to Mongolia's Baatarsukh Chinzorig, the reigning Asian Games silver-medallist.
- ✓ This was Thapa's fifth successive podium finish and second silver at the showpiece.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Milk Day - June 1



- ✓ The day aims to recognize and appreciate the contribution of milk as a global food
- ✓ It also seeks to highlight the importance of milk and dairy products in our lives

- ✓ Theme 2021 - “Sustainability in the dairy sector with messages on nutrition”
- ✓ The day is celebrated since 2001 by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of United Nations.
- ✓ India is one among the largest producer of milk in world.
- ✓ By 1975, India became self-sufficient in milk production and all imports of milk and milk products were stopped.
- ✓ The credit for the achievement of success in milk production in India goes to Dr Verghese Kurien.
- ✓ White Revolution in India was started by Dr Verghese Kurien in 1970.
- ✓ He was instrumental in the establishment of institutions like Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd and National Dairy Development Board.
- ✓ It's a well-known fact that milk is rich with calcium, a mineral that promotes healthy teeth and bones.

