

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 29, 2021**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **The Tamil Nadu government – has initiated the third sero survey on June 28**
- ✓ The sero survey will determine the percentage of population that has been exposed to Covid-19 and has developed immunity towards coronavirus.
- ✓ This survey will provide an estimate of those who developed antibodies from vaccination and those who were infected in the second wave
- ✓ Around 25,000 samples from across the state's 38 districts will be collected as part of the survey
- ✓ The second sero survey was completed in April, 2021
- ✓ The task force will use the data from the sero survey to study the depth of the spread of the virus and areas where the next infection wave is likely to strike.
- ✓ A team from ICMR has also reached the state to conduct their own sero survey and they will start collecting samples from Coimbatore on June 29, 2021.

### **NATIONAL**

- **On June 28, Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman – unveiled a new economic stimulus package to provide relief to Covid-hit sectors, such as tourism, health infrastructure and small businesses**
- ✓ The total financial implications of the fresh set of measures is pegged at ₹6,28,993 crore, some of which will be spread over five years
- ✓ The package included some measures that were already announced such as the provision of food grains to the poor till November and higher fertiliser subsidies
- ✓ The FM announced an expansion of the existing Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) by ₹1.5 lakh crore from ₹3 lakh crore to ₹4.5 lakh crore.
- ✓ ECLGS scheme was announced as part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat package in 2020
- ✓ The FM also announced a new ₹7,500 crore scheme to guarantee loans upto ₹1.25 lakh to small borrowers through micro-finance institutions

- ✓ She also unveiled a fresh loan guarantee facility of ₹1.1 lakh crore for healthcare investments in non-metropolitan areas and sectors such as tourism.
- ✓ Of this, ₹50,000 crore will be provided to healthcare while Covid-hit sectors such as tourism will get ₹60,000 crore loans at a maximum 8.25%
- ✓ Accordingly, both public and private hospitals can avail a maximum of Rs 100 crore with a guarantee duration of three years.
- ✓ A separate ₹23,220 crore has been allocated for public health with a focus on paediatric care
- ✓ This grant will also be utilised for increasing ICU beds, oxygen supply and augmenting medical care professionals for the short term by recruiting final year students and interns.
- ✓ Further, indirect support for exports worth ₹1.21 lakh crore over the next five years and new seed varieties for farmers were also included in the package
- ✓ Under Digital India, an additional ₹19,041 crore is allotted over the next two years to expand broadband coverage to each village gram panchayats through BharatNet PPP Model
- ✓ Further, Rs 3.03 lakh crore was allocated to revamp DISCOMs
- ✓ The Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana will be extended from June 30, 2021 till March 31, 2022
- ✓ The scheme was announced in 2020, under which both the Employee's and Employer's share of contribution of EPFO will be borne by the govt for new employees earning less than ₹15,000 a month
- ✓ Separately, large-scale electronics manufacturers under the Production-Linked Incentive scheme have been granted an additional year to meet their production targets

## ₹23K CR FOR PAEDIATRIC CARE & HOSPITAL BEDS

<p><b>ECO RELIEF</b>   Of ₹1.1L cr loan guarantee scheme, health sector to get ₹50k. Separately, ₹23k cr allocated for paediatric care/paediatric hosp beds</p> <p>➤ Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) expanded by ₹1.5L cr to a total of ₹4.5L cr. Also, Credit Guarantee Scheme for micro-finance institutions</p>	<p><b>TOURISM</b>   Up to ₹10 lakh loan to travel agencies and ₹1L loan to 10.7k tourist guides</p> <p>➤ Free 1 month tourist visa to first 5L tourists</p> <p><b>FOOD FOR POOR</b>   Free food-grain to poor till Nov 2021 to take total cost of PMGKAY to ₹2.3L cr</p>	<p><b>EXPORT, INFRA</b> ₹33k cr for project exports through natl export insurance a/c; ₹88k cr for export insurance cover</p> <p>➤ ₹3L cr for reform-based result-linked power distribution scheme</p> <p>➤ ₹19k cr for broadband in all villages</p>
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- ✓ The Centre offered loans up to ₹10 lakh to travel agents and 1 lakh for registered tourist guides based on government guarantees.
- ✓ The government also decided to allow free visas for up to 5 lakh foreign tourists by March at a cost of Rs. 100 crore
- ✓ Under Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana, 5 kg of food grains will be provided free of cost to NFSA beneficiaries from May to November this year.

- ✓ The Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) for fertilizers was increased to Rs 42,275 crore.
- ✓ Further, an additional Rs 14,775 crore will be given to stakeholders, for DAP (Di-ammonium Phosphate) and NPK-based complex fertilisers.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - paid rich tributes to late former Prime Minister PV Narsimha Rao on his 100th birth anniversary on June 28, 2021**



- ✓ Rao, a veteran Congress leader, was born on June 28, 1921 in Karimnagar, now in Telangana.
- ✓ He was the country's 9<sup>th</sup> prime minister, who served the nation between June 1991 and May 1996
- ✓ Rao was the first leader outside the Nehru-Gandhi family to last a full-term as Prime Minister after being elected in 1991.
- ✓ He was also the first leader from South India and second from a non-Hindi-speaking region to become the Prime Minister
- ✓ Apart from Telugu, his mother tongue, the late leader had an excellent command of Marathi.
- ✓ He could speak 8 Indian languages (Hindi, Oriya, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Sanskrit, Tamil and Urdu) and 8 foreign languages (English, French, Arabic, Spanish, German, Greek, Latin and Persian).
- ✓ The idea of a nuclear test in India was first proposed by Narsimha Rao, though it was implemented by late PM, AB Vajpayee later.
- ✓ Rao had laid the foundation for trade liberalisation and the re-integration of the Indian economy with the global economy.

## DEFENCE

- **On June 28, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - successfully tested the new generation nuclear-capable 'Agni Prime' ballistic missile**
- ✓ The surface-to-surface advanced two-stage missile, having a range of 1000 to 2000 km, was test-fired from a mobile launcher from the Abdul Kalam Island near Balasore off Odisha coast



- ✓ Agni-P is a canister-launch missile and is the advanced version of Agni-1 missile
- ✓ Canisterisation of missiles allows it to be stored for long periods, swiftly transport it through rail or road when required, and fire it from anywhere they want
- ✓ Agni Prime has improved parameters, including manoeuvrability and accuracy, when compared with the earlier versions of the Agni missile
- ✓ The Agni-P missile has been developed with new propulsion systems and composite rocket motor casings as well as advanced navigation and guidance systems.
- ✓ It is a completely new missile, the smallest and lightest among the entire Agni series of ballistic missiles
- ✓ The missile's launch was tracked and monitored by various telemetry and radar stations positioned along the eastern coast
- ✓ The missile will gradually replace the Agni-I (700-km) missiles in the arsenal of the tri-Service SFC, which also has the Prithvi-II (350-km), Agni-II (2,000-km) and Agni-III (3,000-km) missile units.
- ✓ Agni missiles are one of the five developed by the DRDO under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme which was started in 1983
- ✓ Prithvi, Trishul, Akash and Nag are the other four.
- ✓ The Agni missiles are manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited.
- ✓ Agni-V, the longest of the Agni series, is the country's first Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile having a range of over 5,000 km
- ✓ It is now in the process of being inducted by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC).

## APPOINTMENTS

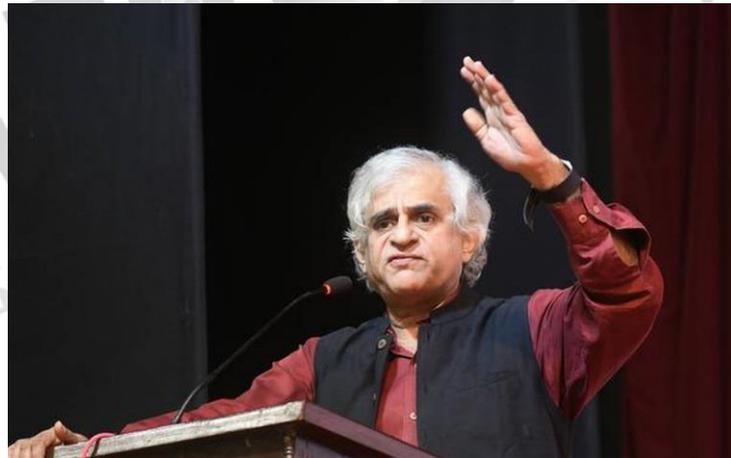
- **On June 28, the government - extended senior advocate and renowned constitutional expert K K Venugopal's tenure as attorney general for India by another year.**
- ✓ Venugopal will now continue in the constitutional post for another year till June 30, 2022.
- ✓ Venugopal was first appointed as AG on June 30, 2017, during the Modi government's first term



- ✓ Turning 90 years in September 2021, Venugopal will become the oldest senior advocate to hold the constitutional post.
- ✓ Renowned jurist M C Setalvad was India's first attorney general and had the longest tenure from 1950 to 1963.
- ✓ Last year, Venugopal had agreed to continue for a year, till June 30, 2021, after a lot of persuasion from the Union government.

## AWARDS

- **Acclaimed journalist, P. Sainath - was chosen as one of the three recipients of Fukuoka Prize 2021.**



- ✓ Sainath will receive the 'Grand Prize' of the Fukuoka Prize 2021
- ✓ The other recipients, Prof. Kishimoto Mio of Japan and filmmaker Prabda Yoon of Thailand will receive the Academic Prize and the Prize for Arts and Culture respectively
- ✓ Sainath was awarded for his work of creating a new form of knowledge through his writings and commentaries on rural India and for "promoting civil cooperation".
- ✓ The Fukuoka Prize is given annually to distinguished people to increase awareness of Asian cultures, and for facilitating exchange and mutual learning among the Asian people.
- ✓ The Grand Prize has earlier been awarded to Muhammad Yunus from Bangladesh, historian Romila Thapar, and sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan.

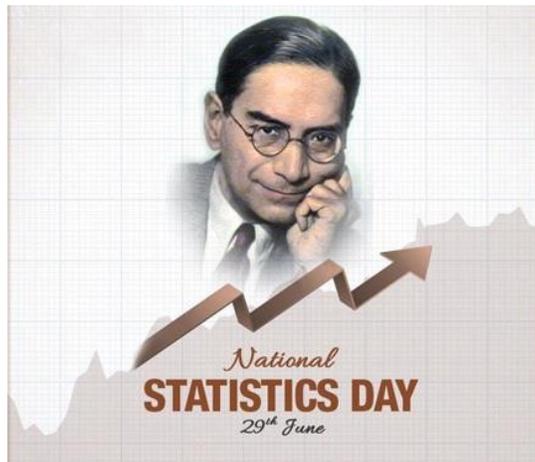
- ✓ Eleven Indians have received the Fukuoka Prize so far, which was established in the year 1990
- ✓ This year's award ceremony will be held online on September 29
- ✓ P. Sainath is the author of book called "Everybody Loves a Good Drought".
- ✓ He was awarded with Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2007
- ✓ He has been actively campaigning over farmer's issues and founded People's Archive of Rural India (PARI) in 2014, which is an online platform focussing on social & economic inequality, poverty, rural affairs, poverty and aftermath of globalization
- ✓ Fukuoka award was established by city of Fukuoka and Fukuoka City International Foundation

## SPORTS

- **The International Cricket Council (ICC) - has confirmed that this year's T20 World Cup will be played in the United Arab Emirates and Oman**
- ✓ The tournament is scheduled to be held from October 17 to November 14, 2021.
- ✓ The tournament was originally set to be staged in India, but had to be shifted, considering the consequences of the second wave of Covid-19
- ✓ The Board of Cricket Control in India (BCCI) will remain the hosts of the event
- ✓ The first round of the tournament, comprising the eight qualifying teams, will now be split between Oman and UAE.
- ✓ The eight teams competing in the preliminary stage are Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Ireland, Netherlands, Scotland, Namibia, Oman and Papua New Guinea.
- ✓ The main leg of the T20 World Cup will be played between 12 teams — eight highest ranked T20I teams and four coming from the qualifiers — and will start in the last week of October.
- ✓ The remainder of this year's IPL precedes the T20 World Cup in UAE.
- ✓ The IPL in India was halted midway this year amidst the devastating second wave of the pandemic
- ✓ This will be the first Men's T20 World Cup played since 2016, when West Indies had beaten England in the final in India

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **National Statistics Day - June 29**
- ✓ This day commemorate the birth anniversary of late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis.
- ✓ It is observed every year to raise awareness about the use of statistics in our daily lives and in creating national economic policies
- ✓ Hailed as the 'father of Indian statistics', Mahalanobis, was born on June 29, 1893, in erstwhile Calcutta, West Bengal.



- ✓ PC Mahalanobis is best remembered for the Mahalanobis distance, a statistical measure used to find the distance between a point and a distribution, which is widely used in the field of cluster analysis and classification
- ✓ He was also associated with the invention of a statistical method called 'Fractile Graphical Analysis' to compare socio-economic conditions of varied groups.
- ✓ He founded the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in the year 1931 and contributed to the design of large-scale sample surveys
- ✓ He then established the National Sample Survey in 1950 and the Central Statistical Organisation to coordinate statistical activities
- ✓ Theme 2021 - End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture (Sustainable Development Goal or SDG 2 of the UN)
- ✓ Goal 2 seeks "sustainable solutions to end hunger in all its forms by 2030 and to achieve food security."
- ✓ In the year 2006, the government has decided to celebrate the day in honour of PC Mahalanobis
- ✓ The Padma Vibhushan recipient, Prof PC Mahalanobis, was one of the members (1955-1967) in the Indian Planning Commission and was instrumental in designing India's industrialization plans, especially the second plan.
- ✓ National Statistics Day is different from the World Statistics Day, which is celebrated every five years on October 20.
- ✓ On the eve of day, the winners of Prof PC Mahalanobis National Award in Official Statistics, 2021 and Prof C. R. Rao National Award for Young Statistician, 2021 will be announced

