

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 12, 2021

### TAMIL NADU

- The social defence department – has proposed to conduct a statewide survey to identify juveniles who have left observation homes and are out of school or aren't getting admissions.
- ✓ The survey will be conducted along with the state education department
- ✓ It will help in providing formal education to the deserving children and those needing job placements will be provided skill training.
- ✓ The phase-wise survey is likely to start in Chennai, Kancheepuram, and neighbouring districts.

### STATES

- Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath – launched the “Draft Population Policy 2021-30” on July 11, coinciding with World Population Day
- ✓ According to the CM, the sole aim of the new policy was to align the state's reproductive rate to its development goals.



- ✓ The CM said the policy was in line with the sustainable development goals set by the United Nations till 2030, covering the life cycle of every citizen from birth to old age.
- ✓ The policy aims to bring down the reproductive rate of the state to 2.1% by 2026 and 1.9% by 2030.
- ✓ Yogi said the larger objective of the policy was to stabilise the population and to bring prosperity to the lives of the people
- ✓ The CM has also launched a “Population Stability Fortnight” programme during the event.
- ✓ He also stressed the need for an “adequate gap” between two children to control population.

## NATIONAL

- **Drug regulator DCGA - to consider emergency use nod for Covid vaccines developed by Zydus Cadila for children above 12 years of age by this week**
  - ✓ If the approval is given, vaccine supply is likely to start by August-September.
  - ✓ The locally developed DNA vaccine candidate against the Covid-19, ZyCov-D, would be the fifth vaccine to get EUA in India.
  - ✓ Currently, Covishield, Covaxin and Sputnik V are being administered under the national Covid-19 immunisation programme.
  - ✓ Cipla has already obtained an EUA to import Moderna’s anti-Covid jab but it is yet to be available in the country.
  - ✓ ZyCoV-D is a three-dose, intradermal vaccine which is applied using the PharmaJet needle-free system.
  - ✓ It can be stored at 2-8 degree celsius and has shown good stability at temperatures of 25 degree celsius for at least 3 months.
  - ✓ The vaccine’s availability will be a boost to supplies as well as offer protection to children of 12-18 years.
  - ✓ Apart from Cadila, Bharat Biotech is also testing Covaxin on children.
- **On July 11, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - urged people to nominate their choice of persons, who are doing exceptional work at the grassroots, for Padma awards.**
  - ✓ Nominations are open till 15th September at the link of a website <http://padmaawards.gov.in>.
  - ✓ The Padma awards, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri are amongst the highest civilian awards of the country.
  - ✓ In the last few years, the government has been honouring scores of unsung heroes with the Padma awards for their life-long contributions to the society and achievements in different fields.
  - ✓ Instituted in 1954, these awards are announced on the occasion of the Republic Day every year

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - to interact and motivate the Tokyo Olympics-bound Indian contingent via video conferencing on July 13**
- ✓ The interaction follows the Prime Minister's recent review about preparations and felicitation of the contingent which will represent the nation at Tokyo-2020.
- ✓ He had also discussed the inspirational journeys of some of the athletes in his radio talk show, Mann Ki Baat
- ✓ Newly appointed sports and youth affairs minister Anurag Thakur, his deputy Nishith Pramanik and law minister Kiren Rijju, who was the sports minister before Thakur, will also attend the event.
- ✓ A total of 126 athletes across 18 sports disciplines from India will leave Tokyo.
- ✓ This is the biggest-ever contingent sent by India to any Olympics.
- ✓ The 69 cumulative events across the 18 sport disciplines is also the highest ever participated by the country.
- ✓ There are several notable firsts in terms of participation in this year's Olympics.
- ✓ For the first time in its history, a fencer from India (Tamil Nadu's Bhavani Devi) has qualified for the Olympic Games.
- ✓ Nethra Kumanan is the first ever female sailor from India to qualify for an Olympic Games.
- ✓ Sajjan Prakash and Srihari Nataraj are the first swimmers from India to qualify for an Olympic Games by achieving the 'A' Qualification Standard in swimming.
- **Union Minister for Road transport - Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the country's first commercial liquified natural gas (LNG) filling station in Nagpur on July 11**
- ✓ During the event, the Minister urged to use more of alternate fuels such as LNG, CNG or ethanol to manage the surging petrol prices



- ✓ He said the use of ethanol as vehicle fuel would help save at least Rs.20 per litre despite its lower calorific value compared to petrol.
- ✓ His ministry is likely to announce a policy for flex-fuel engines soon, which will encourage automobile manufacturers to produce them.
- ✓ These engines can run on more than one fuel and also a mixture of fuels.
- ✓ Gadkari said he had urged the government to privatise the petroleum and natural gas sector, which has already been opened up.

- ✓ Last year, the petroleum ministry simplified guidelines for authorisation for bulk and retail marketing of petrol and diesel.
- ✓ This was done to increase private sector participation in the marketing of petrol and diesel.
- **The 'Jal Shakti' (water resources) ministry – had urged states to speed up rainwater conservation exercise by revitalising existing ponds and water bodies, and provisioning check dams.**
- ✓ In this regard, the centre has asked the states to use rural workforce under MGNREGA scheme to create water conservation structures
- ✓ This exercise will be launched under the ongoing campaign – 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan'-2 – with the theme 'catch the rain where it falls, when it falls'.
- ✓ The campaign will cover all rural and urban areas of all districts across India
- ✓ Earlier, under the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan-1' of 2019, only 1,592 water-stressed blocks out of 2,836 blocks are covered in 256 districts of the country.
- ✓ The latest assessment of 'dynamic groundwater resources' in India has shown a sign of improvement in 2020 compared to 2017.
- ✓ The numbers of 'over-exploited' and 'critical' assessment units have, in fact, declined while the number of 'safe' units has increased in 2020 compared to the 2017 levels.
- ✓ Tapping rainwater by constructing artificial recharge structures, revitalising existing ponds and water bodies, creating new water bodies, provisioning check dams, and rejuvenating wetlands and rivers are the key components of the campaign which was launched on the occasion of World Water Day on March 22.

## **INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS**

- **On July 10, India – evacuated all its personnel from Kandahar in Afghanistan by a special flight, following uncertainty amidst the advancing Taliban into the region**
- ✓ The Indian mission is now manned only by local Afghan staff and has not been closed.
- ✓ According to the claims of Taliban militants, they have taken control of about 85% of Afghanistan
- ✓ The Kabul embassy is the only one that is still fully functional with Indian personnel.

## **CONFERENCES & SUMMITS**

- **Indian and Pakistan foreign ministers – to meet each other in the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group meeting on July 13-14, which is to be held in Tajikistan's Dushanbe**
- ✓ For the second time this year, foreign minister S Jaishankar will come face to face with his Pakistan counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi

- ✓ The SCO meeting will review the worsening security situation in Afghanistan.
- ✓ It will also be attended by Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi
- ✓ After the meeting, the countries are expected to come up with a joint statement on Afghanistan where the recent US withdrawal has emboldened the rampaging Taliban insurgents.
- ✓ Afghanistan foreign minister Hanif Atmar is also expected to participate in the meeting.
- ✓ Jaishankar and Qureshi will face each other in back to back meetings this time
- ✓ Both the leaders are expected to participate in a south and central Asia connectivity meeting later this week in Uzbekistan's Tashkent.
- ✓ Wang will also participate in the meeting in Tashkent.
- ✓ Jaishankar and Qureshi were together in Dushanbe in March too this year for a Heart of Asia conference on Afghanistan without having any bilateral exchange
- ✓ NSA Ajit Doval and his counterpart Moeed Yusuf also together attended a meeting of SCO NSAs last month in Dushanbe but again there was no meeting between the two.
- ✓ The SCO summit is also expected to be held physically this year in Tajikistan, the current chair of SCO.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **British entrepreneur Sir Richard Branson - became the first person to blast off to space in his own spaceship 'Virgin Galactic's VSS Unity' on July 11**
- ✓ Amazon's Jeff Bezos is expected to take his trip to space on July 20, the 52nd anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, on Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket.



- ✓ The nearly 71-year-old Branson and five crewmates, including aeronautical engineer Sirisha Bandla, took off from his Virgin Galactic space tourism company
- ✓ Sirisha Bandla, Beth Moses, Colin Bennett and pilots Dave Mackay and Michael Masucci accompanied Branson.
- ✓ The crew reached an altitude of about 88 kilometres above space over the New Mexico desert and then safely glided back home to a runway landing

- ✓ During the around 15 minutes trip, the crew experienced three to four minutes of weightlessness and witnessed the curvature of the Earth
- ✓ Branson also became only the second septuagenarian to depart for space, after Astronaut John Glenn, who flew on the shuttle at age 77 in 1998.
- ✓ Bandla became the third Indian-origin woman to fly into space after Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams.
- ✓ Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma is the only Indian citizen to travel in space.
- ✓ Branson founded Virgin Galactic in 2004
- ✓ His space dream almost came to an end in 2014 when a Virgin Galactic rocket plane broke apart during a test flight, killing one pilot and seriously injuring the other, considerably delaying the program.
- ✓ Since then, VSS Unity has successfully reached space three times, in 2018, 2019 -- which included the first crew member who wasn't a pilot -- and finally in May this year.
- ✓ Bezos' Blue Origin company intends to send tourists past the so-called Karman line 62 miles (100 kilometers) above Earth, which is recognised by international aviation and aerospace federations as the threshold of space.

## SPORTS

- **Argentina - defeated Brazil by a solitary goal at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro on July 10 to claim their first Copa America title since 1993**
- ✓ It is history for Argentina's captain and soccer great, Lionel Messi as he lifted his first senior International trophy, after making his debut for Argentina 16 years ago

### MESSI WINS 1ST INT'L TITLE AS ARGENTINA CLINCH 15TH COPA

Argentina won their first major title since 1993 after riding on an Angel di Maria goal to beat Brazil 1-0 in Copa America final. And Messi finally lifted his first big trophy for the national team, after 15 years, 4 World Cups & 6 Copa appearances, filling in one of the biggest gaps in his decorated career



- This was Argentina's 15th Copa title, tying Uruguay atop the all-time winners' charts. They snapped a 4-game scoreless streak in the finals of major tournaments
- This is the 1st time Argentina defeated Brazil in a major tournament final since 1937. They are the only team with 3 wins against Brazil at Rio's Maracana

Messi was the joint top scorer (4 goals) & had 5 assists, winning the Golden Boot and tournament's Best Player award

**THE RONALDO LINK:** Messi's greatest int'l triumph comes exactly 5 yrs after his biggest rival, Ronaldo, won his 1st int'l trophy with Portugal (July 10, 2016)

“ What a beautiful madness! This is unbelievable! Thank you, God! We are the champions!  
— LIONEL MESSI

- ✓ Messi finished the tournament as joint top goalscorer with four goals and was elected joint best player with Neymar.
  - ✓ The 34-year-old Messi has 10 La Liga titles, 4 UEFA Champions League medals and 6 Ballon d'OR awards.
  - ✓ PSG and Brazilian star Neymar has to wait for his first major international trophy.
  - ✓ He was out with injury in the 2019 Copa America which Brazil won.
  - ✓ Argentina have defeated Brazil in the Copa América final for the first time since 1937
  - ✓ They have equaled Uruguay's record as the most successful nation in the tournament's history in the process with 15 titles
- **World No. 1 Novak Djokovic - won a record-equalling 20th Grand Slam title and sixth Wimbledon title after defeating first-time finalist Matteo Berrettini of Italy in a four set final**
- ✓ He's now level with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal in the list of most singles Grand Slam titles in men's history.



**WINS 20TH GRAND SLAM TITLE:** World no. 1 Novak Djokovic defeated Matteo Berrettini 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 in the Wimbledon final to equal Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal's record of 20 Grand Slam titles each. The Serb, who has won 3 Slam titles this year, **could become the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win the 'calendar Grand Slam' and only the second player ever, after Steffi Graf in 1988, to win the 'Golden Slam' (4 Slams plus Oly gold)** P 16

### Banerjee Makes His Mark

➤ **Samir Banerjee (17)** won the Wimbledon junior men's title beating Victor Lilov of US 7-5, 6-3 & became the **1st Indian-American to win a Grand Slam boys' singles title**

➤ 4 Indians – Ramanathan Krishnan (1954), Ramesh Krishnan ('70), Leander Paes ('90) and Yuki Bhambri (2009) – have so far won the boys' singles title at Grand Slam events

➤ Samir, who was playing only his second junior Grand Slam, stays in New Jersey. His parents moved to the US in 1980s



- ✓ Djokovic has won the first three Grand Slam tournaments of the year and has a chance for a so-called Golden Slam if he also wins the Olympics and the US Open.
- ✓ The only player in the Open Era to accomplish that feat was Rod Laver in 1969.
- ✓ Steffi Graf was the last player to win the Golden Slam in 1988
- ✓ With this victory, Djokovic now owns six Wimbledon titles plus one runner-up appearance over the past 10 editions
- ✓ Roger Federer (8), William Renshaw (7) and Pete Sampras (7) are the leading winners of Wimbledon titles
- ✓ Djokovic, 34 now, is the second oldest Wimbledon champion in history, behind Roger Federer, who won Wimbledon at 35 years and 242 days old in 2017
- ✓ During the final, Marija Cicak from Croatia, became the first female umpire to take charge of a Wimbledon men's singles final.



<p><b>ROAD TO 20TH SLAM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Roger Federer (6 Australian Open, 1 French Open, 8 Wimbledon, 5 US Opens)</li> <li>□ Rafael Nadal (1 Australian Open, 13 French Open, 2 Wimbledon, 4 US Open)</li> <li>□ Novak Djokovic (9 Australian Open, 2 French Open, 6 Wimbledon, 3</li> </ul>	US Opens)	<p><b>BIG THREE:</b> Legends (from l) Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic have redefined men's tennis</p>
	<p><b>For 20th Slam:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Roger Federer: AO: Beat Marin Cilic 6-2, 6-7 (6), 6-3, 3-6, 6-1</li> <li>□ Rafael Nadal: FO: Beat Novak Djokovic 6-0, 6-2, 7-5</li> <li>□ Novak Djokovic: Wimbledon: Beat Matteo Berrettini 6-7, 6-4, 6-4, 6-3</li> <li>□ When Djokovic won his first Slam in 2008</li> </ul>	

- ✓ **Samir Banerjee, 17-year old Indian-American from New Jersey - defeated Victor Lilov (USA) 7-5, 6-3 to clinch the Wimbledon boys title and his first gram slam**
- ✓ Banerjee's father was born in Assam, and his mother was brought up in Andhra Pradesh before both migrated to the USA in the mid-1980s.
- ✓ Prior to winning this Junior Wimbledon title, Banerjee had won four clay-court titles in 2020
- ✓ Banerjee is ranked World No. 19 in the ITF Junior rankings
- ✓ The last time an Indian player won a singles junior Grand Slam title was when Yuki Bhambri won the 2009 Australian Open.
- ✓ Before him, only Leander Paes (Wimbledon 1990, US Open 1991), Ramesh Krishnan (French Open and Wimbledon 1979) and Ramanathan Krishnan (Wimbledon 1954) have won junior singles Majors.

