

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS –JULY 13, 2021**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **On July 13, the Tamil Nadu government - will launch the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) under universal immunisation programme.**
- ✓ The initiative is expected to help reduce deaths due to pneumonia and meningitis among children below five.
- ✓ Around 9.23 lakh children are expected to benefit from the programme in the coming year.
- ✓ Health minister Ma Subramanian will inaugurate the programme at a government health centre in Poonamallee
- ✓ Under the programme, every child will take three doses of PCV — in the 6th week, 14th week and 9th month — for protection from pneumonia
- ✓ PCV will be provided free to children along with other vaccines under the universal immunisation programme.
- ✓ Currently, a six-week old child receives oral polio vaccine (OPV), rotavirus vaccine (oral drops), inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) and penta vaccine (intramuscular injection).
- ✓ Pneumonia is one of the major causes for death in children below five years of age.
- ✓ It is mostly caused by Haemophilus influenzae and Streptococcus pneumoniae.
- ✓ The incidence of pneumonia due to H influenzae was earlier around 85%.
- ✓ Now, it has reduced to 15% because of the penta vaccine administered by the government under the universal immunisation programme
- ✓ PCV will help reduce pneumonia due to Streptococcus pneumoniae and ultimately reducing the infant mortality rate,.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu rolled out PCV programme in 2019 but only for babies with low birth weight.
- ✓ Later, it was extended to children who suffered from lung diseases and those who underwent cardiac surgeries.

- **On July 12, an all-party meeting in Chennai - unanimously urged the Union government not to clear the Mokedatu dam project pushed by Karnataka**
- ✓ Meanwhile, the BJP government in Karnataka said it would do everything possible to implement the project to meet the drinking water needs of Bengaluru city and for hydel power generation.
- ✓ The all-party meeting led by chief minister M K Stalin unanimously passed three resolutions.
- ✓ The parties said that no construction should be done at Mokedatu without the approval of Tamil Nadu as per the Supreme Court order.
- ✓ They offered full support and cooperation to the state government's initiatives to stall the project, which they said was a challenge to the Constitution.
- ✓ According to the CM, the proposed dam, with a capacity of 67.16tmcft, would affect the interests of Tamil Nadu farmers.
  
- **The state finance department - has increased pensioners' contribution to the Family Security Fund Scheme and has sanctioned Rs. 25 crore to clear pending settlements.**
- ✓ Under the scheme, pensioners make a monthly contribution till the date of death and in return, family members get Rs.50,000 on the death of the pensioner.
- ✓ When the scheme was launched in 1996, each pensioner contributed Rs.20 and Rs.25,000 was paid on their death.
- ✓ The contribution and settlement amount was increased at regular time intervals to run the scheme.
- ✓ But in August 2020, the state government stopped paying the settlements to family members of deceased pensioners, citing fund crunch as the reason.
- ✓ As of May 2021, there are about 13,746 pending claims for settlement
- ✓ Considering the fact that it is an optional and self-supporting scheme, the state finance department issued orders increasing the pensioners' monthly contribution from Rs.80 to Rs.150 on July 7
- ✓ In addition to this, the state has sanctioned Rs.25 crore to settle these backlog claims.
- ✓ This amount has been sanctioned as an advance from the government account to the scheme recoverable over 5 years period without interest.
- ✓ There are seven lakh pensioners in the state and roughly 96,000 among them reside in Chennai.

## **STATES**

- **Assam government – has tabled the Assam Cattle Preservation Bill in the assembly on the first day of the budget session on July 12**
- ✓ The Bill seeks to regulate slaughter, consumption and transportation of cattle

- ✓ Further, sale, offering or display of beef will be prohibited in areas in Assam that are predominantly inhabited by Hindu, Jain, Sikh and other non beef-eating communities
- ✓ The bill was tabled in the assembly by Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.
- ✓ The state government has also announced that prohibition will come into effect within a radius of 5km of any temple, satra (Vaishnavite monastery), or other Hindu religious institutions.
- ✓ It also may be applicable to any other institution or areas prescribed by a competent authority.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

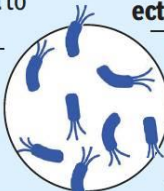
- **On July 12, foreign ministers of European Union (EU) - agreed to launch a global infrastructure plan linking Europe to the world as a counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative to link Europe to Asia**
- ✓ During the meeting, the EU has unveiled a formal path for an ambitious "connectivity" plan called "A Globally Connected Europe" from 2022
- ✓ The EU has already signed partnerships with Japan and India to coordinate transport, energy and digital projects linking Europe and Asia.
- ✓ The EU strategy makes no mention of China.
- ✓ Since 2013, China has launched construction projects across more than 60 countries, over a network of land and sea links across Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Africa.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **Mars and Venus— two of the Earth's closest neighbours — will come closest to each other in the sky on July 12**
- ✓ People can watch these planets with the naked eye
- ✓ This unique phenomenon is part of a 'planetary conjunction' when two planets appear to have come closer, even though they remain quite far away.
- ✓ Mars and Venus are passing close to each other in the sky and will be only 0.5 deg - as wide as the size of the Moon - on July 13
- ✓ The celestial event will become visible about 45 minutes after sunset under clear weather conditions in the western horizon.
- ✓ The two planets will initially stand 16° above the western horizon and then sink below it 1 hour and 42 minutes after the Sun.
- ✓ Before July 12, Moon passed closest to the two planets on July 11.
- ✓ After July 12, the next Venus-Mars conjunction will occur on February 22, 2024.
- ✓ The last conjunction between the two happened on August 24, 2019, but the planets were only 3° from the Sun and were therefore not visible from the Earth.

- **The scientists from Chennai-based National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) - have developed a key ingredient for luxury cosmetic and skin care products from a type of bacteria**
- ✓ The ingredient has UV protection and anti-ageing properties
- ✓ It was developed from a novel strain of bacteria found on the seabed sediment in the Andaman Sea.
- ✓ This was one of the two technologies transferred to the industry by NIOT recently.
- ✓ The other technology is a bio-surfactant, which is an emulsifying agent
- ✓ This is also made from bacteria found in deep sea sediment in the Andaman Sea
- ✓ It is used in food like ice creams, agriculture and pharma industry, as an alternative to chemical surfactant.
- ✓ The team from Marine Biotechnology group at NIOT identified a novel strain of *Bacillus clausii* to produce a key ingredient 'ectoine'
- ✓ Ectoine is a molecule which is capable of protecting the skin from ultraviolet radiation and has anti-ageing properties.
- ✓ At present, ectoine is being imported and the new technology will reduce the cost of manufacturing and the dependency

<b>TECH TO CUT COST OF PRODUCTION</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ NIOT scientists identified a novel strain of <i>Bacillus clausii</i>, a <b>bacteria found in seabed sediment in Andaman Sea</b> to produce ectoine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Technology is an <b>indigenous alternative to imported ectoine</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Ectoine is a key ingredient in luxury skin care products</b> with anti-UV and anti-ageing properties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ NIOT also <b>developed a biosurfactant from a seabed sediment bacteria called <i>Brevibacterium</i></b> as an emulsifying agent and an alternative to chemical surfactant for food, agricultural, industrial and pharmaceutical industries</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>They excised gene coding of ectoine molecule</b> and inserted it in <i>E. coli</i> bacteria and optimised for faster growth of bacteria &amp;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>better yield of ectoine</b></li> </ul>



- ✓ Earlier in July, NIOT director G A Ramadass signed an agreement for technology transfer of cosmetic ingredient with Cosmos Biotech LLP, Bengaluru.
- ✓ The biosurfactant was also developed from a deep sea bacteria called *Brevibacterium*
- ✓ This microbe-derived biosurfactant has advantages over their synthetic counterparts
- ✓ It is biodegradable, non-toxic and is highly stable and works efficiently in a wide range of pH, temperature and salinity levels.
- ✓ The technology was transferred to EcoBuildCorp Private Limited, Bengaluru through National Research Development Corporation for the purpose of commercialisation.

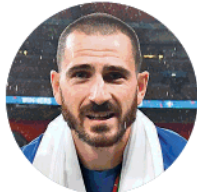



# SPORTS

- Italy - won the European Championship 2020 by beating England 3-2 on penalties on July 11 at Wembley, UK



- ✓ The match ended 1-1 in normal and extra-time and was then decided by penalties for only the second time in history after the 1976 Euro in which Czechoslovakia defeated West Germany
- ✓ Italy last won the Euro in Rome in 1968, the first time a team clinched the title on home soil.

<p><b>PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT</b> <b>GIANLUIGI DONNARUMMA (ITALY)</b> At 22 years of age he has already played 215 games in Serie A and at Wembley Stadium he donned the Azzurri shirt for the 33rd time. Donnarumma is said to have been 1.90 metres tall at the age of 11 – so much bigger than the other players on the pitch that his mother Marinella had to bring a birth certificate to prove doubters wrong</p>	<p><b>EURO 2020 ROLL OF HONOUR</b></p>  <p><b>STAR OF THE FINAL</b> <b>Leonardo Bonucci (Italy)</b> "It was such a strong defensive performance from the 34-year-old. He showed distribution out from the back and the all-important equaliser," Uefa technical observer Packie Bonner said of Bonucci's showing.</p>	<p><b>YOUNG PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT</b> <b>PEDRI (SPAIN)</b> Pedri, 18, received widespread acclaim for his majestic performances, particularly in the semifinal loss to Italy when he completed 65 of the 66 passes he attempted across the 120 minutes of action</p>									
<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>7</b> Matches</td> <td><b>719</b> Minutes played</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>3</b> Clean sheets</td> <td><b>4</b> Goals conceded</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>9</b> Saves</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		<b>7</b> Matches	<b>719</b> Minutes played	<b>3</b> Clean sheets	<b>4</b> Goals conceded	<b>9</b> Saves		<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>629</b> Minutes played</td> <td><b>76.1</b> Distance covered in km</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>92.3%</b> Pass completion</td> <td><b>38.23</b> Distance covered in possession in km</td> </tr> </table>  <p><b>PEDRI</b></p>	<b>629</b> Minutes played	<b>76.1</b> Distance covered in km	<b>92.3%</b> Pass completion
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<p><b>TOP SCORER</b> <b>CRISTIANO RONALDO (PORTUGAL)</b> He may have played only four games but he has nevertheless finished as top scorer with five goals and an assist. Czech Republic's Patrick Schick missed out on the prize because of no assists</p>	<p><b>Cristiano Ronaldo, Portugal (5 goals, 1 assist, 360 minutes)</b></p>	<p><b>Patrick Schick, Czech Republic (5 goals, 0 assists, 404 minutes)</b></p> <p><b>Karim Benzema, France (4 goals, 0 assists, 349 minutes)</b></p>									

- ✓ They have now won their second Euro title after 53 years, the longest gap between two trophies

- ✓ With the win, Italy's win also extended their unbeaten run in international football to 34 matches
- ✓ The victory streak is just one less than the world record of 35 managed by Spain during their golden run from 2007 to 2009.
- ✓ The Euro 2020 is the sixth major title - 4 World Cups & 2 Euro Trophies – for Italy and they are now only behind Germany (7) on the list of teams with the most major trophies in international football.
- ✓ England was playing in its first major final since they won the World Cup in 1966.

