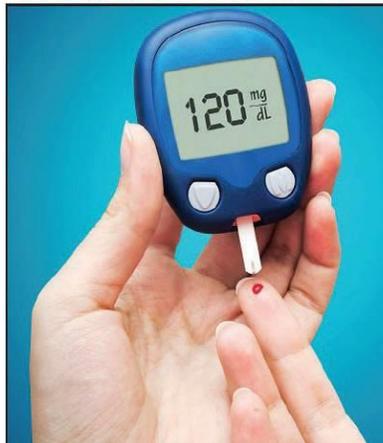


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 14, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu Government – to launch a doorstep medical care programme to offer home-based dialysis units to people with chronic renal failure.**
- ✓ The initiative is named as 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam'
- ✓ Initially, the state will launch a mass screening programme over the next 10 days to identify people with non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension in the state
- ✓ Later, those with diabetes or hypertension will undergo preliminary screening and consultation at PHCs.
- ✓ Government nurses and paramedical staff will deliver medicines and do continuous routine screening of the patients at their houses.
- ✓ They will also carry glucometers and BP apparatus with them for routine screening

'MAKKALAI THEDI MARUTHUVAM'



➤ Those with elevated blood sugar and or BP will be sent to the nearest govt facility for tests and consultations

➤ Their blood sugar and pressure will be tested periodically by health workers when they visit patients' homes to also deliver drugs

➤ Peritoneal dialysis machines and physiotherapy services will also be provided at home

- ✓ The state has at least one crore people who may require constant medical support for hypertension and diabetes

- ✓ Within six months, the state aims to bring down the deaths due to non-communicable diseases from at least five lakh every year to less than half the count

NATIONAL

- **The Union Cabinet – has approved the share sale of the state-run insurance giant, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).**
- ✓ The Cabinet committee on economic affairs, which met last week, had given its in-principle approval for the IPO of LIC

ALL CHANGES IN PLACE

➤ The government has put in place all the legislative changes to ensure that the LIC IPO takes place during the current fiscal

➤ LIC chairman M R Kumar's term has also been extended by nine months

➤ Milliman has been appointed as the actuary and EY the advisor



➤ LIC is also planning to audit its half-yearly accounts for the period ended September 2021 for the first time

- ✓ A panel headed by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will decide on modalities such as the exact amount of stake dilution, its timing and pricing.
- ✓ The government, which holds 100% equity holding in LIC, is planning to sell a portion of its stake in the process.
- ✓ To facilitate the IPO, the government has also given its nod to raising the LIC's authorised share capital to Rs 25,000 crore.
- ✓ Besides, the Department of Economic Affairs, under the Finance Ministry, recently also amended the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules.
- ✓ Up to 10% of the LIC IPO issue size would be reserved for policyholders.
- ✓ The government plans to unveil the mega IPO by the end of the current fiscal year.
- ✓ LIC's IPO is expected to be the biggest in India with many analysts expecting a share sale in excess of Rs.1 lakh crore.
- ✓ It is part of the government's plan to raise Rs.1.75 lakh from asset sales in state-run companies in the current fiscal year which ends in March.

- ✓ Of the Rs 1.75 lakh crore, Rs 1 lakh crore is to come from selling the government's stakes in public sector banks and financial institutions.
 - ✓ The remaining Rs 75,000 crore would come as CPSE disinvestment receipts.
 - ✓ To ensure the smooth launch, the government has also extended LIC chairman M R Kumar's term by nine months.
 - ✓ Deloitte and SBI Capital have been appointed pre-IPO advisors.
 - ✓ LIC has appointed Milliman as the actuary and Ernst & Young (EY) as the advisor for calculating the 'embedded value' of the firm.
 - ✓ 'Embedded value' is a valuation method unique to insurance companies that includes the net present value of future earnings from policies and is crucial for pricing shares.
 - ✓ LIC is also planning to audit its half-yearly accounts for the period ended September 2021 for the first time.
 - ✓ As part of its privatization process, the government aims to complete strategic sale of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), Shipping Corp, Container Corporation, Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd, Pawan Hans and Air India, among others, by March 2022.
 - ✓ Besides, IDBI Bank would be privatised in the current fiscal.
- **Serum Institute of India (SII) - to commence the production of Russia's Sputnik V in the country in September 2021**
- ✓ The Pune-based pharma major has initiated a technology transfer with Russia's sovereign wealth fund, Russian Direct Investment Fund
 - ✓ The companies intend to produce over 300 million doses of Sputnik V in India per year.
 - ✓ Sputnik V vaccine was launched on a "soft pilot basis" by Hyderabad-based Dr Reddy's Laboratories
 - ✓ As part of the technical transfer process, SII has already received cell and vector samples from the Gamaleya Center.
- **The centre – had recently released Unified District Information System for Education Plus report (UDISE+) for 2019-2020.**
- ✓ UDISE+, which was launched in 2018-2019, is the largest Management Information Systems on school education.
 - ✓ It covers 1.5 million schools, 8.5 million teachers and 250 million children.
 - ✓ It is an advanced and improved version of UDISE that was launched in 2012-2013 by integrating DISE for elementary education & SEMIS for secondary education.
 - ✓ UDISE+ helps in measuring education parameters across classes 1 to 12 in government as well as private schools in India.
- **The Ministry of Law – has recently notified Essential Defence Services Ordinance 2021**

- ✓ This ordinance prohibits employees engaged in essential defence services from taking part in any agitation or strike, which is termed as 'illegal'
 - ✓ Recently, major federations affiliated with 76,000 employees of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) announced that they would go on indefinite strike from July 26 to protest against government's decision to corporatize the OFB.
 - ✓ According to the new ordinance, any person who commences a strike or goes or remains on or takes part in any such strike shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term up to one year or with a fine up to Rs 10,000 or both.
 - ✓ Further, persons instigating or inciting others to take part in strike shall also be punishable with imprisonment for a term up to two years and fines.
 - ✓ The ordinance would cover employees involved in production of defence equipment, services & operation, maintenance of industrial establishment connected with military and in repair & maintenance of defence products will come under the purview of Ordinance.
 - ✓ The Union Cabinet had recently approved a long-pending proposal of restructuring about 200-year-old Ordnance Factory Board on in June 2021.
 - ✓ Earlier, OFB was operating 41 ammunition and military equipment production facilities
 - ✓ This has been subsumed into seven state-owned corporations to improve its accountability, efficiency and competitiveness.
- **e-commerce major, Flipkart - has launched its new app called 'Shopsy' for facilitating online business.**



- ✓ The new app seeks to help persons starting online businesses without any investment
- ✓ Once the users register on this app, they will be able to share catalogues of 15 crore products which are offered by Flipkart sellers.
- ✓ Products will range across categories like beauty, fashion, mobiles, electronics & home with potential customers targeted through popular social media & messaging apps.
- ✓ Commission percentage will vary based on the category of products being ordered.

- ✓ With the Shopsy app, Flipkart aims to develop over 25 million online entrepreneurs using digital commerce by 2023.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On July 13, Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba - formally became the Prime Minister of Nepal for a record fifth time after the Supreme Court's intervention.**



- ✓ The 75-year-old veteran politician took the oath of office during a swearing-in ceremony
 - ✓ President Bidya Devi Bhandari appointed him in accordance with Article 76(5) of the Constitution
 - ✓ Deuba has replaced incumbent 69-year-old K P Sharma Oli, who accused the SC of “deliberately” passing the verdict in favour of the Opposition parties.
 - ✓ Oli's position had become untenable after Deuba staked claim to form government with support from 149 MPs in the 275-member House of Representatives.
 - ✓ The five-member Constitutional Bench led by Chief Justice Cholendra Shumsher Rana said that Oli's claim to the post of prime minister was unconstitutional.
 - ✓ Previously, Deuba served as Nepal's Prime Minister four times from June 2017-February 2018, June 2004-February 2005, July 2001-October 2002 and September 1995-March 1997, but has never served a full term.
 - ✓ This time as well, he is to serve only until parliamentary elections are held by 2022.
 - ✓ Deuba is required to seek a vote of confidence from the House of Representatives within 30 days.
- **Thailand – has become the first country to publicly announce mix-and-match of a Chinese vaccine and a Western-developed shot**
 - ✓ It will use AstraZeneca vaccine as a second dose for those who got Sinovac's shot as their first dose in a bid to increase protection
 - ✓ The move is attributed to a recent study undertaken in the country that raised doubts about the longer-term protection of the Sinovac vaccine.

- ✓ The second dose of AstraZeneca would be given three or four weeks after the first Sinovac shot.
- ✓ In Thailand, 618 medical workers out of 677,348 personnel who got two Sinovac doses became infected from April to July.
- ✓ A preliminary Thai study of 700 medical staff indicated that Sinovac's protection rate ranged between 60% and 70% for the first 60 days after the second dose
- ✓ However, the rate steadily went down over time and appeared to reduce by 50% every 40 days.
- ✓ Meanwhile, WHO chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan advised against mixing and matching vaccines, calling it a "dangerous trend".

ECONOMY

- **On July 13, Global ratings agency Standard & Poor's (S&P) – retained the long-term rating of India at BBB(-) with a 'stable' outlook**
- ✓ This is the 14th consecutive year when S&P has kept long-term foreign currency and local currency sovereign credit at the lowest investment grade.

SLIPPING GRADES

Global agencies on India

Agency	Rating	Outlook
Moody's	BAA3	Negative
S&P	BBB-	Stable
Fitch	BBB-	Negative

*All are lowest investment grades

- ✓ The short-term rating of the country was held at 'A-3'.
- ✓ According to the rating agency, India's economy is projected to grow 9.5% for the full year after a contraction of 7.3% in 2020-21.

APPOINTMENTS

- **President Joe Biden – has nominated Indian-American Dr Rahul Gupta, West Virginia's former health commissioner, as the top anti-drug official of the United States**
- ✓ According to the White House, Dr. Gupta will be the first physician to lead the Office of National Drug Control Policy, also known as the "drug czar".
- ✓ Gupta, a primary-care doctor who led Biden's transition efforts for the drug policy office, would replace Regina LaBelle



- ✓ The three-decade-old drug policy office coordinates policy around fighting substance-use disorders, including the response to opioid crisis that has worsened during the pandemic.

OBITUARY

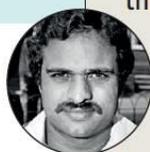
- **Former Indian cricketer and 1983 World Cup winner Yashpal Sharma (66 years) - has died of cardiac attack in Delhi on July 13**
- ✓ Yashpal was one of the heroes in India's World Cup triumph in 1983.
- ✓ He played a pivotal role in the cup by scoring 240 runs at an average of 34.28 during the tournament
- ✓ Yashpal is best remembered for his knock of 61 against England in the 1983 World Cup semifinal.
- ✓ In a career spanning from 1979 to 1983, Yashpal played 37 Tests for India and scored 1606 runs with two centuries and nine fifties, apart from playing 42 ODIs

MR CONSISTENT WHEN IT COUNTED

➤ Yashpal Sharma played 37 Tests & 42 ODIs between 1978 & '85, but is best remembered for being one of the heroes of the 1983 World Cup-winning team

➤ He was India's second-highest run scorer after Kapil Dev in the WC. Hit a match-winning 60 against England in the semifinal

➤ His flick for six off Bob Willis & his running out Allan Lamb in the semis are standout moments



“ Yashpal played the game very hard. He put a price on his wicket. He was our Mr Consistent throughout the World Cup & was a brilliant fielder

— Dilip Vengsarkar

Have fond memories of watching Yashpalji bat during the 1983 WC. His contribution to cricket shall be remembered

— Sachin Tendulkar

- ✓ Yashpal made his debut in 1979 against England
- ✓ In Ranji Trophy, he represented three teams — Punjab, Haryana and Railways
- ✓ Yashpal played 160 matches scoring 8,933 runs which included 21 centuries with a highest score of 201 not out.
- ✓ He was an umpire too and stood in a couple of women's ODIs.

- ✓ The multi-faceted former player also served as coach of the Uttar Pradesh Ranji team.
- ✓ Yashpal was one of the selectors in the committee led by his teammate K Srikanth, which picked the team that won the World Cup under MS Dhoni in 2011.

SPORTS

- **Star shooter Saurabh Chaudhary- has featured in the Time magazine's recently-released list of 'athletes to watch out for at Tokyo Olympics'**



- ✓ Saurabh is the only Indian to make it to the coveted list.
- ✓ Besides, the 19-year-old Meerut-based marksman is also the only international shooter to have been named in the list.
- ✓ Saurabh is one of India's prime medal contenders at the upcoming Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ After taking up shooting in 2015, Saurabh has bagged eight shooting World Cup gold medals.
- ✓ Overall, Saurabh has accumulated an impressive haul of medals - 14 gold and six silver - in international competitions
- ✓ In 2018, he became India's youngest gold medalist at the Asian Games.
- ✓ In the next year, Saurabh set a new junior and senior world record in the 10m air pistol category at the International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup
- ✓ Saurabh, part of India's 15-member shooting team in Tokyo, will also pair with Manu Bhaker to form a top contender in the mixed team competition at Olympics
- ✓ The Time Magazine list has 48 elite sportspersons from across the globe
- ✓ It has big names like gymnast Simone Biles, sprinters Allyson Felix, Noah Lyles and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, long distance runner Eliud Kipchoge, swimmers Caeleb Dressel and Katie Ledecky and NBA star Kevin Durant among others.
- ✓ Saurabh, at present, is training at Indian shooting contingent's European base in Zagreb, Croatia.

- ✓ The contingent will leave for Tokyo from Zagreb on July 16, with the shooting competition in Tokyo beginning on July 24.
- ✓ At the Olympics, Saurabh will be seen competing in two different events – men's 10m air pistol and mixed 10m air pistol alongside another teen shooter Manu Bhaker.
- **Deepak Kabra - has become the first Indian to judge the gymnastics competition of the Olympic Games**



- ✓ Kabra will officiate in the men's artistic gymnasts at the Tokyo Games, which starts on July 23.
- ✓ The 33-year-old from Maharashtra was a Gujarat state champion from 2005 to 2009.
- ✓ He had also participated in the 2007 National Games in Guwahati
- ✓ The 2010 Commonwealth Games in India was his first international assignment
- ✓ Kabra became the first Indian judge to officiate in the 2014 Asian Games and Youth Olympics.
- ✓ He also officiated as a judge in the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games in 2018, Youth Olympics in Argentina, besides other international events such as World Cups.
- ✓ Kabra was appointed as a member of the Asian Gymnastics Union's technical committee in 2018.
- ✓ Indian gymnastics will be represented in Tokyo by Pranati Nayak, who won a bronze medal on vault at the 2019 Asian Artistic Gymnastic.
- ✓ Deepa Karmakar remains India's biggest name in gymnastics with her fourth-place finish in women's vault finals in the Rio Games.

