

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS –JULY 17, 2021

STATES

- **The draft Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilization and Welfare) Bill, 2021 - is open for public suggestions in public domain till July 19, 2021.**
- ✓ It was released by the Uttar Pradesh Law Commission to control, stabilise and ensure the welfare of state population
- ✓ The draft bill, among other provisions, seeks to provide incentives to couples who follow the two-child policy.
- ✓ It also proposes measures to exclude people with over two children from availing benefits under various schemes, including government subsidies
- ✓ The bill restrict people with more than 2 children from availing government jobs and in contesting local polls
- ✓ It also says that it shall be the duty of the government to introduce a compulsory subject relating to population control in all secondary schools.
- ✓ Under the new provisions of the bill, public servants will get two additional increments during entire service and maternity.
- ✓ They will also get a paternity leave of 12 months, with full salary and allowances.
- ✓ It also proposes to increase employer's contribution fund under national pension scheme by 3 %.
- ✓ The Yogi Adityanath government unveiled the policy on population control for 2021-30 on the occasion of the World Population Day on July 11.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh has a total fertility rate of 2.7% currently, whereas it should ideally be less than 2.1%
- ✓ In June, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had announced that his newly-formed government would gradually implement a two-child policy for availing benefits under specific schemes funded by the state

NATIONAL

- **On July 16, the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti – notifies Krishna and Godavari river management boards**
- ✓ The gazette notifications issued by the centre defining the jurisdiction of the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) and the Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) will come into effect from October 14.
- ✓ From then, the KRMB and GRMB will have the jurisdiction over the operations and maintenance of the common reservoirs in both Krishna and Godavari basins in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh
- ✓ The notification brings 35 projects in the Krishna basin and 71 in the Godavari basin, under the purview of respective boards
- ✓ The respective boards are empowered to operate the headworks of barrages, dams, reservoirs, regulating structures, part of canal network, transmission lines and the power houses at the projects.
- ✓ They will take care of water sharing as per awards made by the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal and the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal.
- ✓ The Centre constituted the two river management boards on June 2, 2014 for administration, regulation, maintenance and operation of such projects on the Godavari and the Krishna rivers

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The 21st Session of India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC) - was held recently through video conference**



- ✓ This session was co-chaired by Piyush Goyal, Commerce & Industry Minister and Luigi Di Maio, Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation of Italy.
- ✓ Both the countries held discussions on bilateral trade & Investment and economic cooperation across the areas of Textile, Food Processing, Railways, Leather, Start-ups and promotion of SMEs.
- ✓ During the discussion, the other issues raised by India were - Mutual recognition of COWIN Vaccine Certificate, opening of Travel restrictions, long duration of Business Visas and Portability of social security benefits for Indians working in Italy.

- ✓ The bilateral trade between India and Italy has increased from EUR 708 million to EUR 8.5 billion in between 1991 and 2011.
- ✓ However, bilateral trade started declining since 2012.
- ✓ In 2017, both the countries had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enhance bilateral cooperation in the health sector.
- ✓ Italy is 5th largest trading partner of India in European Union and 25th across the World during 2017–18.

DEFENCE

- **UK's largest warship HMS Queen Elizabeth – enters Indian Ocean to conduct mega wargame exercises with Indian navy by around July 26**
- ✓ This is the maiden voyage of HMS Queen Elizabeth and its task group into the Indian Ocean
- ✓ The warships will also sail to the South China Sea for military drills with the US Navy and Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force.
- ✓ The aircraft carrier group entered the Indian Ocean region after a series of engagements and operations in the Mediterranean after transiting the Suez Canal.
- ✓ The warship has a fleet of F35B stealth fighter jets onboard and is accompanied by six Royal Navy ships, a submarine and 14 naval helicopters.
- ✓ The 65,000-tonne carrier will participate in the Konkan exercise with warships of the Indian Navy in the Bay of Bengal
- ✓ The drills are expected to be conducted around the Andaman and Nicobar Islands with the involvement of Indian destroyers, submarines and P8I anti-submarine warfare aircraft.
- ✓ On its way back to the UK later in the year, the carrier group is expected to join another tri-services exercise with the Indian military in the Arabian Sea in October.
- ✓ The carrier strike group, led by HMS Queen Elizabeth, sailed into the Indian Ocean shortly after the UK's posted its first international liaison officer at the Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) in Gurugram.
- ✓ The US, Australia, France and Japan had already posted their liaison officers at the centre
- ✓ The IFC-IOR tracks shipping and monitors threats such as maritime terrorism and piracy in regional waters.

ECONOMY

- **Chinese smartphone maker, Xiaomi - has become the world's second biggest smartphone maker over the past quarter following an 83% jump in shipments**
- ✓ This marks the first occasion that Xiaomi has broken into the top two, historically dominated by Samsung and Apple.

- ✓ Samsung had a 19% share in the second quarter, while Xiaomi had 17% and Apple was at 14%.
- ✓ Xiaomi was highly active during the period, launching two flagship devices within the first four months of the year.
- ✓ Its Mi 11 Ultra device featured one of the largest camera sensors in a smartphone to date
- ✓ Compared with Samsung and Apple, the average selling price of Xiaomi is around 40% and 75% cheaper respectively

OBITUARY

- **Danish Siddiqui, a Pulitzer Prize-winning Indian photojournalist with the Reuters news agency - was killed on July 16**



- ✓ Siddiqui was covering fighting between Afghan security forces and the Taliban in the Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province, near Afghanistan's border with Pakistan.
- ✓ Siddiqui was embedded as a journalist with Afghan special forces in the former Taliban bastion of Kandahar since this week.
- ✓ He was part of a team that was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography in 2018 for documenting Myanmar's Rohingya refugee crisis.
- ✓ Born in 1983, Siddiqui became a journalist after a Master's degree in Mass Communications from Delhi's Jamia Milia Islamia University.
- ✓ He joined Reuters in 2010 after stints at Hindustan Times and TV Today.
- ✓ Siddiqui's work has covered wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Rohingya crisis, pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong and unrest in India.
- ✓ He also dealt with the war in Iraq, the Nepal earthquake, protests in Hong Kong, the Easter Sunday blasts in Sri Lanka.
- ✓ Siddiqui's body has been handed over by Taliban to the International Committee of Red Cross
- ✓ Afghanistan has witnessed a series of terror attacks in the last few weeks with the US withdrawing majority of its troops from the country and aiming to complete the drawdown by August 31, 2021
- ✓ This ends nearly two decades of US military presence in Afghanistan

SPORTS

- **On July 16, the International Cricket Committee (ICC) - announced the pools for its flagship event, the T20 World Cup**
- ✓ The marquee event is set to be played in the UAE and Oman from October 17 to November 14
- ✓ India and Pakistan are placed in Group 2 along with World Test Championship winners New Zealand and Afghanistan.
- ✓ The Group 1 has West Indies, England, Australia and South Africa.
- ✓ The Groups of Super 12s have been selected on the basis of team rankings as of 20 March 2021, according to the International Cricket Council.
- ✓ Two teams will join each of the groups from the qualifying rounds.
- ✓ Eight teams will contest the first round including automatic qualifiers Sri Lanka and Bangladesh
- ✓ The remaining six teams booked their spot through the ICC men's T20 World Cup Qualifier 2019.
- ✓ Ireland, Netherlands and Namibia join Sri Lanka in Group A, while Oman, PNG and Scotland face Bangladesh in Group B

