

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS –jULY 23,

TAMIL NADU

- **The State Archaeology Department – has discovered the remnants of a large ancient conch industry in Korkai in Tuticorin district**
- ✓ The Department has started excavations in the region after about 52 years
- ✓ Korkai is said to have been an ancient harbour in Tamil Nadu where most of the commercial activities with other countries was performed in ancient Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ This is the site in which the Tamil Nadu State Archaeology Department conducted its first excavation, after it was established in 1969.
- ✓ However, the excavation was stopped soon afterwards.



- ✓ After restarting the excavation now, the department found numerous sawed or cut conches alongwith uncut conches and pieces of bangles that had been made using shells or conches
- ✓ They have also found a perforated terracotta pipeline in three stages, which may have been used to drain industrial effluence.

NATIONAL

- **Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) - will become the first temple administration in the country to deploy the anti-drone technology**

- ✓ TTD will be employing an anti-drone technology developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to safeguard the revered Lord Venkateswara temple at Tirumala.
 - ✓ The DRDO anti-drone technology is estimated to cost Rs.25 crore per system.
 - ✓ The system consists of Radio Frequency Jamming feature which disables the communication and GPS of the drone by detecting it from a distance of 4 km with 'Soft Kill' options.
 - ✓ In addition, the anti-drone system disables the remote locating system within a range of 3 km
 - ✓ The DRDO's latest technology also has the option of 'Hard Kill' using which the system detects small drones in a range of 150 meters to 1 km and then targets and destroys them
 - ✓ The DRDO designated defence PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) to manufacture and market its anti-drone systems.
 - ✓ On July 6, the DRDO had arranged a demonstration of its anti-drone system at Kolar in Karnataka for the tri-services
 - ✓ Earlier, on June 27, it has to be recalled that a drone was used to target the Indian Air Force (IAF) base in Jammu with explosives, leaving two personnel injured
 - ✓ This attack on the IAF station was the first such instance of Pakistan-based terrorists deploying unmanned aerial vehicles to strike at vital installations in India
- **The Centre - has moved a proposal to amend the 102nd constitutional amendment Act, enacted in 2018, to restore state's power to decide OBCs**
- ✓ The proposal will overturn the May 5 Supreme Court judgment in the Maratha reservation case by a 5-judge Constitution Bench
 - ✓ As per the verdict, only the President can declare any community as OBC based on the recommendation of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).
 - ✓ The proposal seeks to restore the rights of states to identify the OBCs for the "state list" of castes eligible for Mandal reservations in education and employment under state governments.
 - ✓ The 102nd Constitution Amendment adds two clauses in Article 342 as Article 324A on the President declaring any socially or educationally backward class, in consultation with the state governor.
 - ✓ The draft Bill was readied by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
 - ✓ It seeks to add a clarification clause in Article 342A that the state governments shall have the power to identify and include the OBCs or socially and educationally backward classes in their respective lists
 - ✓ The third clause will have to be inserted as Article 342A(3)
 - ✓ Accordingly, the third clause will state that the power to notify the OBCs on the state list would be with the state governments

DEFENCE

- **India and UK – conducts a mega bilateral maritime exercise in Bay of Bengal, to improve interoperability between the two navies.**



The UK's Carrier Strike Group (CSG), led by HMS Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier (front) with an Indian Shivalik Multi-role Frigate (second from front) during the joint maritime exercise in the Bay of Bengal. (PTI)

- ✓ The Indian Navy and UK Carrier Strike Group (CSG)-21 have successfully completed a two-day bilateral passing exercise (PASSEX) during July 21-22, 2021
- ✓ The drill was led by the new 65,000-tonne aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth
- ✓ The exercise witnessed 10 warships, two submarines and over 20 aircrafts coming together for the maritime drill
- ✓ Indian Navy ships missile frigate Satpura, Jyoti, Kavaratti, destroyer Ranvir, Kulish, and a Kilo-class submarine took part in PASSEX.
- ✓ The anti-submarine warfare (ASW) capable long-range, multi-mission maritime patrol aircraft P-8I also participated in the exercise.
- ✓ The exercise also saw the first-time participation of the fifth-generation F-35B 'lightning' stealth fighter jets, which operated from HMS Queen Elizabeth's deck.
- ✓ In July last year, the US Navy's nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68), along with its CSG, conducted a PASSEX exercise with the Indian Navy.

SPORTS

- **The Tokyo 2020 Olympics - will officially start on July 23 at the National Stadium in the Japanese capital, Tokyo**
- ✓ Only 15 global leaders, including Japan's Emperor Naruhito, French President Emmanuel Macron and US First Lady Jill Biden will grace the opening ceremony in a nearly empty 68,000-capacity stadium
- ✓ Japanese Emperor Naruhito will formally open the Olympic Games as his grandfather Hirohito did in 1964
- ✓ After a journey across Japan's 47 prefectures involving some 10,000 runners, the Olympic flame will be the centrepiece of the ceremony.
- ✓ A state of emergency was declared in the Japanese capital on 8 July and will stay in place until 22 August

- ✓ Even the medal ceremony has been modified this year because of the pandemic and athletes will have to pick up their medal themselves to hang around their necks
- ✓ The Games have been hailed as the most “innovative” ever and have been scheduled to appeal to younger people with karate, 3×3 basketball, skateboarding, climbing and surfing all making their Olympic debut
- ✓ Baseball and softball have also returned to the competition for the first time since the 2008 Games in Beijing
- ✓ At a ceremony in Argentina in 2013, the IOC awarded the 2020 Games to Tokyo, beating out Madrid and Istanbul
- ✓ The Japanese capital previously hosted the Summer Games in 1964.
- ✓ The logo for the event was unveiled in April 2016, consisting of the indigo-chequered design of Tokyo-based Asao Tokolo, representing “Unity in Diversity”.
- ✓ The two mascots – Miraitowa and Someity – were anime-style creatures, with one in blue and one in pink
- ✓ They were created by Fukuoka-based illustrator Ryo Taniguchi and are supposed to symbolise tradition and innovation.
- ✓ Azusa Iwashimizu, a member of Japan’s 2011 Women’s World Cup winning team, becomes the first to carry the Olympic flame in March 2021
- ✓ Australia’s women’s softball team become the first athletes to arrive in Japan for the event in June 2021
- ✓ Laurel Hubbard will become the first transgender athlete to compete in the Olympics.
- ✓ Hubbard, 43, competed in men’s weightlifting competitions before transitioning in 2013
- ✓ North Korea announced earlier that it will not take part in the Games because of the coronavirus risks.
- ✓ Tokyo announces a new state of emergency on July 8 and bans all spectators from Olympic competitions in the area.
- ✓ Japan wins the first event of the Tokyo Olympics – a women’s softball match against Australia – on July 21.
- ✓ The Olympics will feature 33 sports at 339 events across 42 venues.
- ✓ About 11,000 athletes from 204 national Olympic committees are expected, along with a team of refugee athletes competing under the Olympic flag.
- ✓ A total of 20 Indian athletes from seven sports and six officials will represent the country in the Olympics opening ceremony
- ✓ Boxing great MC Mary Kom and Indian hockey team skipper Manpreet Singh were the flag-bearers at Japan National Stadium.
- ✓ India have sent their largest ever contingent of more than 125 athletes to the Olympics
- ✓ The Tokyo Olympic Games were earlier slated to be held from July 24 to August 9, 2020 while the Paralympic Games were scheduled to be held from August 25 to September 6, 2020

- ✓ The Olympic games had never been postponed in its 31 editions since the first modern Olympics in 1896, but they were cancelled thrice in 1916, 1940 and 1944 due to World War I and II.
- ✓ The 2020 Summer Olympic Games are scheduled to take place between 23 July and 8 August, and the Paralympic Games between 24 August and 5 September

INDIA AT THE GAMES

2020 TOKYO

- > Total athletes | 127 (largest ever)
- > Participating events | 18

2016 RIO

- > Participants | 117
- > Medals | 2
(1 silver, 1 bronze)

2012 LONDON

- > Participants | 83
- > Medals | 6
(2 silver, 4 bronze)

2008 BEIJING

- > Participants | 57
- > Medals | 3 (1 gold, 2 bronze)

> India's performance since 2000

- > Medals | 13 (1 gold, 4 silver, 8 bronze)

> This will be the first time that a fencer (CA Bhavani Devi) and a woman sailor (Nethra Kumanan) would be representing India at Olympics

“ Will step into the ring to fight for the gold, to make us all proud again | **MC Mary Kom**, BOXING

TOKYO IN NUMBERS

- > July 23 | Opening
- > Aug 8 | Closing
- > 205 countries & regions

12 years | Age of youngest participant. Hend Zaza, table tennis, Syria

66 years | Oldest participant. Mary Hanna, equestrian, Australia (6th Olympic appearance)

\$14.8 billion

Games budget, including \$0.9bn for virus countermeasures. Expenses up by \$2.68 billion due to Games' postponement