



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS - JULY 28, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **On July 27, the Tamil Nadu government - announced a new annual award, Thagaisal Tamilar award**
 - ✓ It will be conferred in recognition of the individuals who have made great contributions for the development of Tamil Nadu and Tamils.
 - ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin had ordered the institution of the new award and also ordered the constitution of a committee to select the awardee.
 - ✓ The committee headed by the chief minister will comprise industries, Tamil official language and culture minister Thangam Thennarasu and chief secretary V Irai Anbu.
 - ✓ The award consists of Rs 10 lakh cash and a certificate.
 - ✓ The chief minister will give away the award during Independence Day celebrations.
- **On July 27, Chief Minister M K Stalin - inaugurated 25 CNG (compressed natural gas) stations in Chennai and Tiruvallur and one main station of Gujarat-based Torrent Gas through video conferencing**



- ✓ The company will invest Rs.5000 crore in the state over the next five years, providing employment for around 5000 persons.
 - ✓ During the event, the CM assured that the government will take steps to facilitate faster rollout of the CGD (city gas distribution) infrastructure in Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ Torrent Gas has announced a price of Rs.51.35 per kg for CNG, in Chennai and Tiruvallur, which is the second-lowest CNG price in the country after the NCR region
 - ✓ Torrent Gas, in its efforts to promote and build an ecosystem suitable for widespread adoption of CNG, has tied up with car and vehicle manufacturers.
 - ✓ Existing petrol car users can also get their cars converted to CNG by fitting their vehicles with CNG kits from government approved retrofitters.
 - ✓ As the initial part of the project, the city gate station (mother station) has been set up in an area of 1.4 acre at Vallur near Ennore, from where piped gas will be supplied to the CNG station for vehicles.
 - ✓ Torrent Gas plans to commission 50 CNG stations by September this year and 100 CNG stations by June next year and 500 by March 2023.
 - ✓ As per the plan, within the next year, at least 70,000 households in Chennai will be covered by PNG (piped natural gas) supply, which is a cheaper alternative to LPG cylinders.
 - ✓ At current prices, PNG is about 40 % cheaper than LPG.
- **On July 27, Chennai-based National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) - deployed a buoy fitted with sensors off the coast of Puducherry**
- ✓ The buoy will automatically measure and transmit various parameters that will be used to generate a five-day forecast on water quality through a computer model.
 - ✓ It will be available for the public through a smartphone app.
 - ✓ The buoy, anchored 1.5km from the coast, will be dedicated to the nation on July 28.



- ✓ A similar buoy deployed earlier this year off Chennai's Marina beach has been periodically transmitting data to NCCR servers.

- ✓ The solar-powered buoy measures dissolved oxygen, water temperature, conductivity (salinity), depth, blue-green algae, turbidity, pH and chlorophyll.
- ✓ It will also study atmospheric temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, besides wave speed and direction of currents.
- ✓ The buoy in Puducherry will measure the same parameters.
- ✓ Both buoys can withstand rough weather including six-metre high waves.
- ✓ Based on the data, the NCCR team will also calculate the water quality index alongwith remedial measures to improve it, if needed
- ✓ After the southwest monsoon ends in September, NCCR plans to deploy similar buoys off Visakhapatnam and Lakshadweep.
- ✓ At present, it collects water samples manually in more than 22 locations along the 7,500km Indian coast every month to measure quality.

STATES

- **Karnataka home minister Basavaraj Bommai - will be sworn in as the 23rd CM of the state on July 28**
- ✓ The 61-year-old three-time MLA from Shiggaon in Haveri district is the son of late S R Bommai, former Karnataka CM and ex-Union minister.
- ✓ It makes the Bommais the second father-son duo after H D Deve Gowda and H D Kumaraswamy to become CMs in Karnataka.
- ✓ Senior Bommai was the CM for nine months in 1989.
- ✓ Two-term MLC, Basavaraj Bommai is an engineering graduate, who started out by working for the Tatas in Pune for three years before turning as an entrepreneur

6 CURRENT CMs' DADS WERE ALSO CMs

➤ There have been at least **19 instances of 2 or more members of a family being CMs**, including

the father-daughter duo of Mufti Muhammad Sayeed & Mehbooba Mufti (J&K) and husband-wife combo of Lalu Prasad & Rabri Devi (Bihar) and MGR and Janaki Ramachandran (TN)

➤ **14 are father-son combos.**

Current CMs whose fathers also occupied the post once include Andhra's **Jagan Mohan Reddy** (Y S Rajasekhar Reddy), Arunachal's **Pema Khandu** (Dorjee Khandu), Jharkhand's **Hemant Soren** (Shibu Soren), Meghalaya's **Conrad Sangma** (P A Sangma), Odisha's **Naveen Patnaik** (Biju Patnaik) and TN's **M K Stalin** (M Karunanidhi).

Bommai will be the 7th



Basavaraj Bommai

JOURNEY SO FAR


- Born in January 1960 at Dharwad
- Studied mechanical engineering in BV Bhoomaraddi College of Engineering (1983)
- Followed in his father's footsteps, joined Janata Dal
- Elected to Upper House twice (1998, 2003) from Janata Dal
- Joined BJP in 2008, a year after his father passed away; wins first election from Shiggaon, Haveri
- Water resources minister in 2008 in the first Yediyurappa government
- Became home minister first and then law and parliamentary affairs minister in Yediyurappa's fourth term

- ✓ Originally from the Janata Parivar, Basavaraj Bommai joined the BJP just before 2008 assembly elections.
- ✓ He served as water resources minister between 2008 and 2013 and as Minister for Home Affairs, Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Legislature from July 2019.

- ✓ He also served as political secretary to former Chief Minister JH Patel and was also Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Council.
- ✓ For the past two years, Bommai was Yediyurappa's trusted No 2 assisting him in day-to-day administration.
- **Dholavira, a Harappan-era metropolis in the Kutch region of Gujarat - declared as 'UNESCO World Heritage Site' (WHS) on July 27**

A HARAPPAN DELIGHT

- Dholavira is the fifth largest excavated site in south Asia after Harappa and Mohenjo Daro in Pakistan, Rakhigarhi in India, and Ganwerwala in Pakistan
- It's second Harappan site after Mohenjo Daro to get the Unesco World Heritage Site tag
- The city is known for its impeccable town planning, adherence to ratio, water management system, and possible access to sea in its formative years



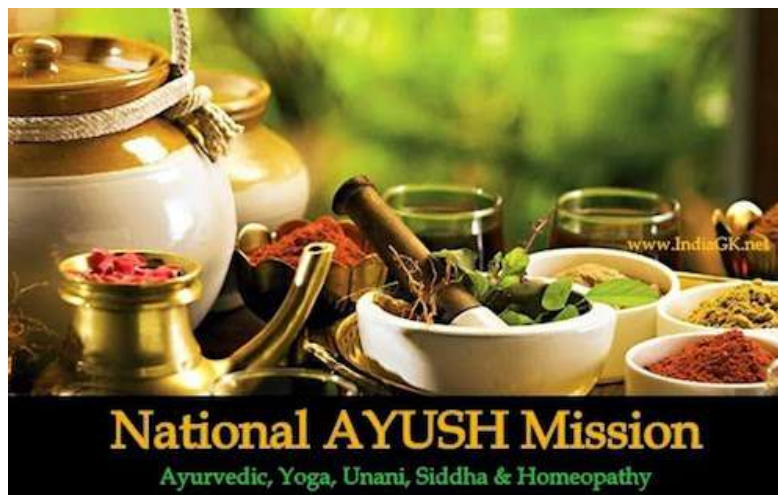
- According to the Unesco website, the town thrived for 1200 years (3000 BCE-1800 BCE) before its decline

- Experts believe that major water reservoirs in the later period may indicate it to be one of the first proofs of how climate and seismic change affect population in the past

- ✓ Dholavira becomes the fourth World Heritage Site in Gujarat after Champaner, Rani ki Vav in Patan, and the historic city of Ahmedabad.
- ✓ This is the second WHS honour for India in less than a week —Ramappa Temple in Telangana's Warangal was granted the status on July 25.
- ✓ The first representation for Dholavira's inscription was made in 2014 by the Government of India.
- ✓ The ancient town, found in 1967 and excavated in 1989-90 for the first time, is the second biggest Harappan site after Rakhigarhi in India.
- ✓ The formal announcement of Dholavira's new title was made during the ongoing 44th session of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee.
- ✓ After Mohenjodaro in Pakistan, Dholavira is the second Harappan site to get the coveted tag in south Asia and the first from India

NATIONAL

- **The Union Cabinet - recently approved continuation of the National Ayush Mission as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for another five years till 2026**
- ✓ The scheme would remain operational from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026 at a budget of Rs 4,607.30 crore.
- ✓ The Centre's share in the scheme would be Rs.3,000 crore, while Rs.1,607.3 crore will be share of states.



- ✓ Under the scheme, old and traditional medicinal systems would be promoted and Ayush wellness centres, medical colleges, hospitals and dispensaries would be set up and upgraded
 - ✓ Further, the Cabinet also approved change of nomenclature and mandate of North Eastern Institute of Folk Medicine (NEIFM) as North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda and Folk Medicine Research (NEIAFMR).
 - ✓ The institute will also provide opportunities for students of Ayurveda and folk medicine in India and also in the neighbouring countries such as Tibet, Bhutan, Mongolia, Nepal, China and other Central Asian countries
 - ✓ The National Ayush Mission was launched on September 15, 2014 and is being implemented by ministry of AYUSH
 - ✓ It seeks to set up 50 bedded integrated AYUSH hospital, AYUSH public health programmes and operationalization of 12,500 AYUSH health and wellness centres
- **Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda – recently launched a ‘School Innovation Ambassador Training Program’**



- ✓ The training program will be imparted in online mode in partnership with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

- ✓ It seeks to train 50,000 school teachers to be ‘mentors’, who will in turn guide students to pursue innovation and entrepreneurship
- ✓ Upon successful completion of the trainings, these trained teachers shall be designated as ‘Innovation Ambassadors’
- ✓ More than 10,000 schools have nominated 5 teachers each from their schools to participate in this free-of-cost training programme.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Pakistan’s parliament – passed the ‘Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Bill, 2021’ recently**
 - ✓ The Bill seeks to criminalise torture and preventing custodial killings by police or other government officials.
 - ✓ It was adopted by the Senate, the upper house of bicameral parliament
 - ✓ According to the Bill, any public servant involved in torture would face up to 10 years imprisonment and a fine of up to Rs. 2 million.
 - ✓ If a public servant, intentionally or negligently fails to prevent the torture, he/she will face up to five years imprisonment and a fine of up to Rs. 1 million
 - ✓ Further, any public servant who commits, abets or conspires to commit the offence of custodial death or custodial sexual violence, shall be punished with imprisonment for life and with fine, which may extend to Rs. 3 million
 - ✓ The fine will be paid to the victim or their legal heirs, according to the bill
 - ✓ If the fine is not paid, the public servant involved would face additional imprisonment
- **International Air Transport Association (IATA) - has launched a first-of-its-kind ‘Global Mobility Aids Action Group’**



- ✓ The Group seeks to examine and improve transport journey of mobility aids, such as wheelchairs, for travellers with disabilities.
- ✓ It will also provide advice and recommendations to airlines and other stakeholders on the establishment of policy, process and standards related to the handling and transport of mobility aids
- ✓ The idea behind setting up the group is to prevent damage or loss to wheelchairs, which are transported by air

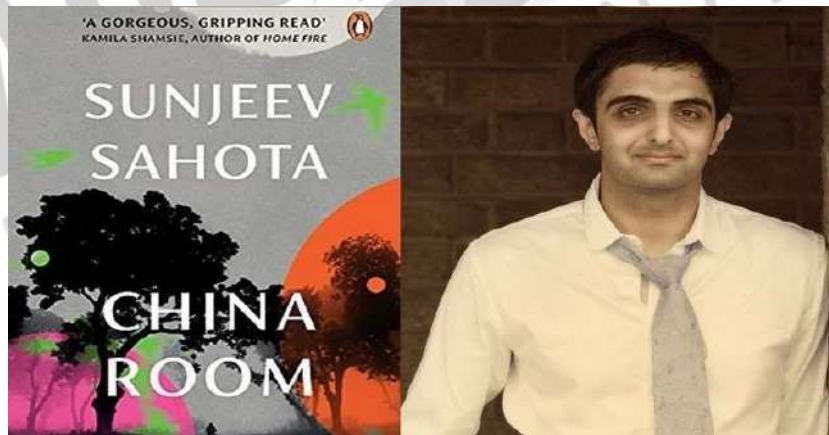
- ✓ Mobility Aids Action Group will have accessibility organizations (representing travellers with disabilities), ground service providers, airlines, airports and mobility aids manufacturers as its members

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **The Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan - has fully vaccinated 90% of its eligible adult population within just seven days.**
- ✓ The tiny country, situated between India and China and home to nearly 8,00,000 people, started the vaccination of second doses on July 20 in a mass drive
- ✓ The initiative has been hailed by UNICEF as “arguably the fastest vaccination campaign.”
- ✓ In April, Bhutan inoculated around 90% of adults with the first dose in under two weeks after India donated 5,50,000 AstraZeneca vaccine shots.
- ✓ But the country faced a shortage for months after India stopped exports.
- ✓ Bhutan was able to restart its drive last week after half a million Moderna doses arrived from the US under the UN-backed Covax programme.

PERSONALITIES

- **Indian-origin British novelist Sunjeev Sahota - is among 13 authors longlisted for this year’s Booker Prize for fiction for his novel ‘China Room’**



- ✓ The 40-year-old, whose grandparents emigrated from Punjab in the 1960s, has been previously shortlisted for the 2015 Booker Prize for ‘The Year of the Runaways’
- ✓ Sunjeev is also a winner of the European Union Prize for Literature in 2017.
- ✓ Sahota is joined on the longlist alongwith previous winner British-Japanese author Kazuo Ishiguro for ‘Klara and the Sun’ and other previously shortlisted writers South African Damon Galut for ‘The Promise’ and American Richard Powers for ‘Bewilderment’.

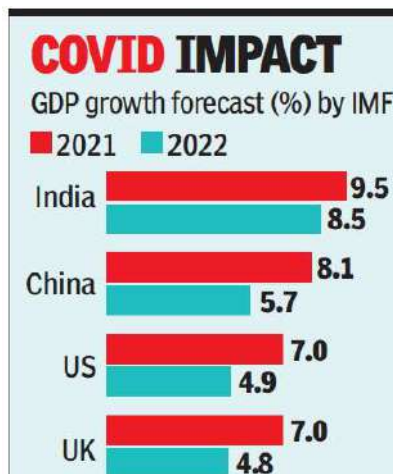
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **For the first time ever, astronomers – have found evidence of water vapour in the atmosphere of Jupiter’s moon ‘Ganymede’**
 - ✓ The discovery has been made using new and archival datasets from Nasa’s Hubble telescope
 - ✓ It opens up the possibility that there could be presence of life on the largest moon of our solar system.
 - ✓ According to a study, the water vapour forms when ice from the moon’s surface turns directly into gas from solid, a process called sublimation.
 - ✓ The finding will give a big boost to European Space Agency’s mission, JUICE (Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer), which is planned for launch in 2022.

- **Mynvax, a vaccine technology startup incubated by the Indian Institute of Science’s Society for Innovation and Development – has developed a ‘thermotolerant’ or ‘warm’ vaccine effective against all current SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern**
 - ✓ The heat-tolerant vaccine formulation triggered a strong immune response in mice.
 - ✓ The formulation remained stable at 37 degrees Celsius up to a month, at 100 degrees Celsius for up to 90 minutes and at 70 degrees Celsius for up to 16 hours
 - ✓ This will be a big boost for mass vaccination campaigns, especially in lower-and middle-income countries, which lack expensive cooling mechanisms for the transport of vaccines
 - ✓ Most vaccines require refrigeration to remain effective
 - ✓ Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine must be kept between 2-8 degrees Celsius and the Pfizer preventive requires specialised cold storage at minus 70 degrees Celsius
 - ✓ The IISc-Mynvax vaccine uses a part of the viral spike protein called the receptor-binding domain (RBD) that allows the virus to connect with the host cell to infect it.
 - ✓ The firm has now also signed an agreement to raise \$4.2 million (31 crore) in a Series A round of funding headed by Accel to bring the ‘thermotolerant’ Covid vaccine to market.

ECONOMY

- **On July 27, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) - slashed India’s gross domestic product (GDP) growth to 9.5% for 2021-22, from its earlier estimate of 12.5%**
 - ✓ The agency had cited the impact of the second wave on the economy and recovery process.
 - ✓ In countries with high vaccination coverage, such as the UK and Canada, the impact would be mild.

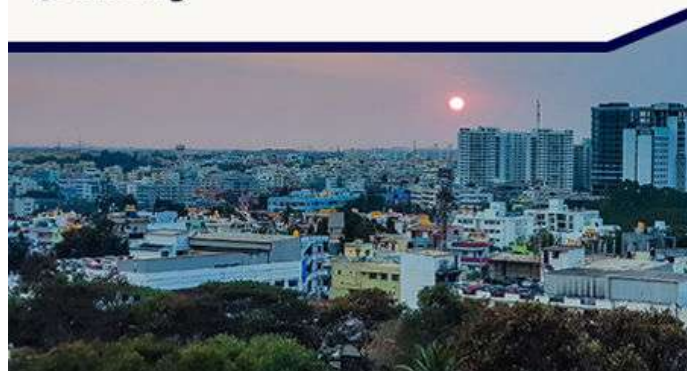


- ✓ Meanwhile, countries lagging in vaccination, such as India and Indonesia, would suffer the most among G20 economies, according to the World Economic outlook update.
- ✓ China is estimated to grow by 8.1% in 2021 and by 5.7% next year
- ✓ India is projected to grow by 8.5% in 2022-23 and still retains the tag of the fastest growing major economy.
- ✓ The RBI now estimates GDP growth at 9.5% for 2021-22, lowering it from its earlier estimate of 10.5%.
- ✓ The global economy is projected to grow 6% in 2021 and 4.9% in 2022.

RANKINGS

- **London - retained its world's best student city status, as per the 'QS Best Student Cities Ranking 2022' released by global higher education consultancy QS Quacquarelli Symonds**

Bengaluru Best Student City in India:
QS Ranking

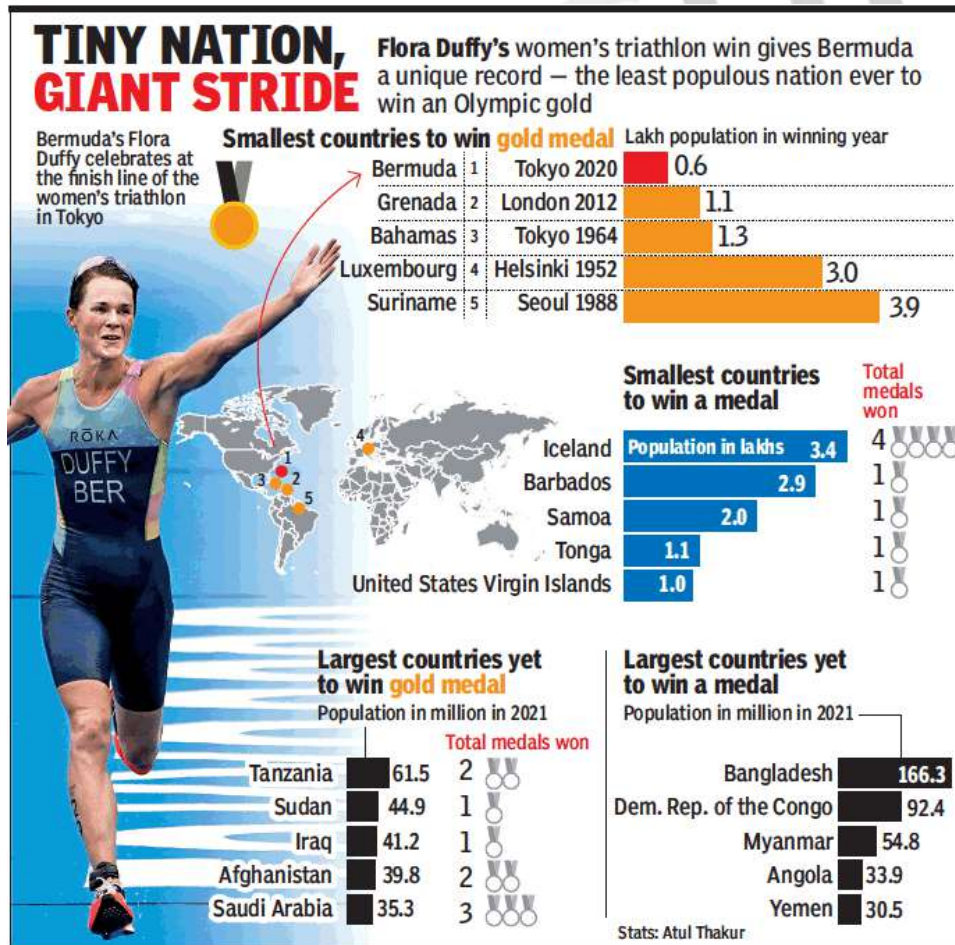


- ✓ This is the third consecutive year that London is ranked at the top of the rankings, mostly due to the presence of top-ranked universities, improving affordability and positive feedback from alumni
- ✓ Munich replaced Tokyo for the second place, while Seoul climbed seven places to share the third position with Tokyo.

- ✓ Bengaluru has been named among the top-10 most affordable cities for students at 7th position globally, even though it had lost three places in the ‘affordability’ indicator
- ✓ Mumbai ranks 52nd globally in the “employer activity” indicator, according to the rankings
- ✓ Overall, Mumbai (106th) and Bangalore (110th) are India’s entry in the rankings for best student cities for 2022.
- ✓ Both cities dropped compared to the previous editions losing twenty-nine places and twenty-one places respectively.

SPORTS

- **On July 27, Triathlete Flora Duffy - bagged the first Olympic gold medal in history for the tiny island of Bermuda in Tokyo.**
- ✓ The 33-year-old crossed the line in the women’s race ahead of Britain’s Georgia Taylor-Brown, with US athlete Katie Zaferes taking bronze.



- ✓ Duffy’s victory makes Bermuda the smallest nation or territory in terms of population --around 70,000 -- ever to win a gold medal at a Summer Games.
- ✓ Bermuda’s only previous Olympic medallist was boxer Clarence Hill, who won a bronze in 1976.

CMs WITH LONGEST TENURE IN KARNATAKA – A REPORT

