

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 4, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu - began the vaccination drive for pregnant women for the first time in the country at Pennadam in Cuddalore district**
- ✓ Health minister Ma Subramanian formally launched the drive on July 3
- ✓ A day earlier, Union Ministry of Health gave its approval for the vaccination of pregnant women in the country based on recommendations of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI).
- ✓ Till now, all groups except pregnant women were eligible for Covid vaccination.
- ✓ As per the studies, Covid infection during pregnancy may lead to rapid deterioration of health of pregnant women, causing an increased risk of severe diseases, and affecting the fetus too
- ✓ Pregnant women can opt for vaccination at any stage of their pregnancy after registration on CoWIN portal or by walk-in registration at the nearest centre

- **Archaeologists in Pudukkottai – have discovered three rare Aasiriyam (declaration) stone tablets, dating back to the period between the 13th and 16th centuries**
- ✓ Aasiriyam tablets are documentations sculpted in stone tablets assigning a person or team as a custodian responsible to manage and take care of a temple, a water body or a village.



- ✓ The three stone tablets were located within a radius of 25km in Thirumayam town.
 - ✓ They were found in fragments and were written in readable Tamil script.
 - ✓ The tablet mentioned about Agamara Manickanar, who was appointed as custodian of the Thevarmalai Sivan temple whose chief deity is identified as Nayagar Nambigal.
 - ✓ During the years between the 13th and 16th centuries, the present day Pudukottai district was ruled by a number of small chieftains.
 - ✓ They appointed reliable and able persons as Aasiriyam (custodian or protector) of the properties.
 - ✓ In Panaiyur Kulamangalam, the 14th century tablet found identifies one Bahuya Nayakkar as the Aasiriyam of the village.
 - ✓ Similarly, in Sevvalur village near Ponnamaravathi, a team named A Virutharaiyargal, probably a group of men, were appointed as custodians of the village.
- **The labour department – has registered around 5 lakh migrant workers from other states in its ‘online’ portal, till now.**
- ✓ The exercise has been undertaken to create a complete database of the guest workers from other states by the end of October this year.
 - ✓ The department launched the portal in April 2020 to create a real-time database of the guest workforce in the state.
 - ✓ As of now, the department may have registered around 15% of the total workforce in the state
 - ✓ The state is expected to have around 30 to 35 lakh guest workers employed in various sectors.
 - ✓ A majority of them hailed from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Jharkhand.
 - ✓ They mostly work in textiles and garments, brick kiln, and construction and manufacturing sectors.
 - ✓ The Supreme Court, on June 19, issued an order to the Union and state governments to register the guest workers by the end of December this year
 - ✓ The task has to be expedited to facilitate the workers getting benefitted from various welfare schemes.
 - ✓ The exercise, however, would be a continuous process as the majority of guest workers would keep moving with change in jobs.

STATES

- **BJP’s State Vice President Pushkar Singh Dhami – to be the new Uttarakhand Chief Minister**
- ✓ The BJP named the 45-year-old as the 11th chief minister of Uttarakhand, replacing Tirath Singh Rawat

- ✓ Dhami will be the youngest to become Chief Minister in the 21-year-old history of the Himalayan state.
- ✓ Before Dhami, Union Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank was the youngest Chief Minister of the State at the age of 49 years.

FROM KOSHYARI'S OSD TO 11TH CHIEF MINISTER



Outgoing CM Tirath Singh Rawat proposed the name of Dhami (R) at a BJP legislature meeting

- Dhami is a 2-time MLA from Khatima in Kumaon region's Udham Singh Nagar district
- Was officer on special duty to former CM B S Koshyari and considered close to him
- Also BJP state vice-president, Dhami to be Uttarakhand's 11th CM in 21 years
- The ex-member of ABVP is a post-graduate in human resources from Lucknow university

“ My party (BJP) has always kept me under its wings, just like my mother. My party has appointed a common worker, son of an ex-serviceman born in the border district of Pithoragarh, to serve the people. I will carry forward the work done by my predecessors

—PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI, CM

- ✓ Two-time MLA from Khatima in Udham Singh Nagar, Dhami's name was proposed in the BJP legislature party meeting by outgoing CM Tirath Rawat.
- ✓ The oath-taking ceremony of the new CM is likely to take place on July 7
- ✓ Dhami will be the third CM of the hill state in the last four months
- ✓ His predecessor Tirath Singh Rawat became CM in March this year after Trivendra Singh Rawat's exit due to dissent in the party
- ✓ The state has less than a year to go before the next assembly elections.
- ✓ Dhami had earlier served as Officer on Special Duty during the tenure of Bhagat Singh Koshyari, the present governor of Maharashtra and former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand for a brief period.
- ✓ Dhami had a long association with BJP's youth wing in Uttarakhand since 1990.
- ✓ He was a member of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the student wing of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), till 1999.
- ✓ Dhami then became the chief of Uttarakhand unit of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha and stayed on the post till 2008.
- ✓ Dhami is a qualified lawyer, and holds a LLB degree from Lucknow University

NATIONAL

- **On July 3, Hyderabad-based Pharma major Bharat Biotech - published the results of the Phase-3 trial of indigenously developed 'Covaxin'**
- ✓ The trials involved 25,800 volunteers aged between 18 and 98 years spanning 25 hospitals across the country.
- ✓ The anti-Covid vaccine has indicated an overall efficacy of 77.8% against symptomatic Covid-19 and 65.2% efficiency against the Delta (B.1.617.2) variant that was first detected in India

- ✓ This is higher than the overall 70.4% efficacy reported from the Phase-3 trial results of the AstraZeneca (Covishield) vaccine published in January 2021
- ✓ Also, Covaxin is found to be 93.4% effective against severe symptomatic Covid-19 infection and offers 63.6% protection to asymptomatic patients
- ✓ The vaccine also showed a higher efficacy of 79.4% in those aged below 60 years as compared with 67.8% in those aged 60 years and above.
- ✓ Further, Covaxin was well-tolerated with no cases of anaphylaxis or vaccine-related deaths being reported
- ✓ Bharat Biotech also said that Covaxin was the first to report promising efficacy against asymptomatic infections based on qPCR testing, which will help in reducing disease transmission.
- ✓ Bharat Biotech began recruiting volunteers in November 2020 and completed the exercise in January this year.
- ✓ The company has also applied to the World Health Organisation to obtain an Emergency Use Licence that would aid in getting the vaccine approved in more countries
- ✓ Covaxin has now received emergency use authorisation in 16 countries, including Brazil, India, Philippines, Iran, Mexico, and is in process in 50 countries worldwide.
- ✓ The Vaccine has been developed in association with ICMR-NIV, which had cultured the virus strain that was used to design the vaccine
- **The ministry of women and child development - has released the draft of the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021 in the public domain, asking for feedback till July 14.**
- ✓ The bill once finalised will need the Cabinet approval and assent of both Houses of Parliament to become a law.
- ✓ The new bill aims to tighten the punishment on traffickers and ensures a rehabilitation framework for survivors
- ✓ As per the new bill, any person committing an offence of “trafficking in persons” shall be punished with imprisonment not less than seven years but which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to a fine of at least one lakh rupees.
- ✓ The bill also lists more severe punishments and penalties for offences classified as “aggravated forms of trafficking”, involving grievous injury and attack.
- ✓ Further, the bill proposes that the National Investigation Agency shall act as the national investigating and coordinating agency responsible for prevention and combating of trafficking in persons.
- ✓ Once the law is enacted, the Centre will notify and establish a National Anti-Human Trafficking Committee, for ensuring overall effective implementation of the provisions of this law.
- ✓ This committee will have representation from various ministries with the home secretary as the chairperson and secretary of the women and child development ministry as co-chair.

- ✓ State and district level anti-human trafficking committees will also be constituted to execute the law.

SPORTS

- **Indian tennis player Divij Sharan and his British wife Samantha Murray – have become the first married couple to play the Wimbledon mixed doubles in the last 52 years**



- ✓ In 1968, 13 married couples featured in the field, while in 1974 Jimmy Connors and Chris Evert competed together when they were engaged
 - ✓ More recently, Austrian Jurgen Melzer and Czech Iveta Benesova, who won the title in 2011, married 12 months later.
 - ✓ For Murray Sharan, it was the first ever victory at a Grand Slam tournament, while Sharan has gone till the quarter-finals in the 2018 men's doubles at Wimbledon.
 - ✓ The Indo-British pair won their first round mixed doubles match at Wimbledon on July 2, defeating Uruguayan Ariel Behar and Kazakh Galina Voskoboeva
 - ✓ The duo had decided to compete in Wimbledon in 2014 for the first time.
- **The International Boxing Association (AIBA) - has decided to add three weight categories for men and two for women in its competitions from August this year.**
 - ✓ From the current 10 categories of weight, the men's weight categories have gone up to 13 with the minimum weight reduced to 48kg.
 - ✓ The featherweight (57kg) has been added along with the light middleweight (71kg) and cruiserweight (86kg).
 - ✓ The women's divisions have gone up from 10 to 12 with the addition of light flyweight (50kg) and light middleweight (70kg).
 - ✓ The weight categories for the Elite and Youth men boxers are Minimum weight (48kg), Flyweight (51kg), Bantamweight (54kg), Featherweight (57kg), Lightweight (60kg), Light Welterweight (63.5kg), Welterweight (67kg), Light Middleweight (71kg), Middleweight (75kg), Light Heavyweight (80kg), Cruiserweight (86kg), Heavyweight (92kg), Super Heavyweight (92kg);

- ✓ The weight categories for the Elite and youth women boxers includes Minimum weight (48kg), Light Flyweight (50kg), Flyweight (52kg), Bantamweight (54kg), Featherweight (57kg), Lightweight (60kg), Light Welterweight (63kg), Welterweight (66kg), Light Middleweight (70kg), Middleweight (75kg), Light Heavyweight (81kg), Heavyweight (+81kg).

