

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 6, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **Manali – has become the first zone of the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) to have an all-women team to manage solid waste.**
- ✓ It is also the best performing zone in Chennai city for its success in source segregation of solid waste
- ✓ The all-women team has about 400 women support staff that includes battery-operated vehicle drivers, sweepers, assistant supervisors, supervisors, unit officers, administrative staff and zonal head.



- ✓ The team was launched in February this year as part of the Ramky Environ Engineers Limited, which was under contract with the GCC for solid waste management.
- ✓ Manali zone collects about 70 tonnes of household waste per day, of which around 65% is sent to the micro-composting centres.

STATES

- **The Odisha State Cooperative Handicrafts Corporation Ltd - has submitted the application for the geographical indication (GI) tag to the famous silver filigree of Cuttack**

- ✓ The silver filigree is used to create jewellery and religious and cultural icons



- ✓ Odisha exports the three-dimensional miniature models of the Jagannath temple, the Konark temple and the Mukteshwar arch made using the silver filigree
- ✓ The craft has influence of Persians, Indonesians, Mughals and the Greeks, even though there is no clear proof of its origin
- ✓ The silver filigree work exists in the Cuttack region since the 12th century and the art received considerable patronage under the Mughals.
- ✓ A distinctive product of the Cuttack cluster is the Dama chain, made only by women
- ✓ It has intricate mesh-like links woven into each other to create a continuous set of loops, which are then woven into pieces of jewellery.

NATIONAL

- **The CBSE – has announced that it will conduct the Class X and XII board exams in two parts from the present 2021-22 academic session**
- ✓ The first term questions will be objective, while the second term exams will be subjective.

EXAMS IN NOV-DEC '21 AND MAR-APR '22

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Each term exam will be given equal weightage in the final results/assessments ➤ Each term will have its unique syllabus ➤ Second term exams papers will | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> not include anything from the first term syllabus and vice versa ➤ For current session, first term exam in Nov-Dec 2021, second term in March-April 2022 |
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FIRST TERM

- To be conducted in Oct-Nov
- Questions will be of objective type
- Exam will be of 90 minutes

SECOND TERM

- To be conducted in Feb-Mar
- Questions will be of subjective type
- Exam will be of 120 minutes

- ✓ There will be no overlapping of syllabus with the first and second term having unique syllabus
- ✓ The final marks will be given on the basis of performance in both these exams, which will carry equal weightage.
- ✓ For the present session, the first term objective exam will be held in November-December 2021, while the second term exam with subjective questions will take place in March-April 2022.
- ✓ In general, the board will conduct the Term I exam in October-November and Term II in February-March and for the full syllabus
- ✓ The question paper will have multiple choice questions with a time limit of 90 minutes and for the current pandemic period, it will cover only the rationalised syllabus of Term I.
- ✓ At the end of the second term, the board will organise Term II, which will be of 120-minute duration with subjective questions of different formats.

CBSE'S NEW BOARD GAME

WHAT CHANGES TO COME FROM 2021

- Class X & XII Board exams will now comprise of two parts – First & Second Term exams
- Class X & Class XII students will be evaluated on the basis of first & second term performances
- Each term exam will be given equal weightage in the final results/ assessments
- Each term will have its unique syllabus
- Second term exam papers will not include anything from the first term syllabus & vice versa
- Question papers will be prepared by CBSE
- Changes are applicable for Class X & XII students from the 2021-22 academic session
- CBSE to ask schools to follow similar structure

FIRST TERM

- To be conducted in November-December
- Questions will be of objective type
- Exam will be of 90 minutes
- School will upload the answer scripts immediately on the CBSE portal



SECOND TERM

- To be conducted in March-April
- Question will be subjective type
- Exam will be of 120 minutes
- School will upload the answer scripts immediately on the CBSE portal

- ✓ The students will have to record their answers on OMR sheets, which after scanning may be directly uploaded on the CBSE portal by the school on the very same day.
- **On July 5, Union AYUSH Minister Kiren Rijiju – launched the Ayurveda dataset on the Clinical Trial Registry-India (CTRI) Portal**
- The Ayurveda Dataset of CTRI has been jointly developed by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) under the Ministry of Ayush.



- ✓ During the event, the Minister also launched four more portals - AMAR, SAHI, e-MEDHA and RMIS - all developed by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS).
 - ✓ CTRI is a primary register of Clinical Trials under WHO's International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP)
 - ✓ The creation of Ayurveda dataset on the CTRI facilitates usages of Ayurveda terminologies to record Ayurveda based clinical trials
 - ✓ Earlier, the WHO has made it mandatory to create an online registry of clinical trials.
- **On July 5, Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' - launched the NIPUN Bharat initiative through video conference**



- ✓ The initiative will be undertaken by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.
- ✓ NIPUN is the short form for 'National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy'
- ✓ The programme intends to provide an easily accessible environment for basic education and numerical knowledge.
- ✓ Under the initiative, every child will be provided the desired learning competencies in reading, writing and numeracy by the end of class 3, by 2026-27

- ✓ The initiative seeks to provide the foundational literacy and numeracy skills to ensure academic success to the students under the school education programme, Samagra Shiksha.
- ✓ Foundational numeracy is the ability to solve day-to-day problems using numerical methods and analysis.
- ✓ The foundational literacy includes oral language development, decoding, oral reading fluency, reading with understanding and writing skills.

COURT VERDICT

- **The Madras High Court – has ruled that no public buildings can be constructed in the state without providing access and toilet facilities to differently abled people.**
- ✓ The verdict was pronounced by the first bench of Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy on July 5
- ✓ The bench held that the official respondents, particularly the public works department and its officials, should be acquainted with the governing statute and the national building code.
- ✓ This is to ensure that the mandatory instructions therein are adhered to without any exception, as per the Court.
- ✓ The court made the observations while hearing a PIL seeking to implement the provisions of the Persons with disabilities (PWD) (equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation) Act in the state.

COMMITTEES

- **On July 5, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade – set up a nine-member council to advise the government on the steps needed to accelerate digital commerce and prevent digital monopolies**
- ✓ Infosys Non-Executive Chairman Nandan Nilekani has been named as one of the members.



- ✓ The panel will suggest measures to accelerate Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), which is a project initiated by the DPIIT under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ✓ Other members of the council include - RS Sharma, CEO of the National Health Authority; Adil Zainulbhai, Quality Council of India (QCI) chief; Anjali Bansal,

Founder of Avaana Capital; Arvind Gupta, Co-founder of Digital India Foundation; Dilip Asbe, head of the National Payments Corporation of India; Suresh Sethi, MD & CEO, NSDL e-Governance; Praveen Khandelwal, chief of the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT); and Kumar Rajagopalan, CEO of the Retailers Association of India.

- ✓ ONDC aims to digitise the entire value chain, standardise operations, promote inclusion of suppliers, achieve efficiencies in logistics, and enhance value for consumers.
- ✓ The project has been assigned to the Quality Council of India (QCI)
- ✓ Earlier, Nandan Nilekani served as the Chairman of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which issues Aadhaar cards.
- ✓ Besides, he has been part of many committees on financial aspects such as GST, pension scheme etc.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **On July 5, Prime Minister Narendra Modi – inaugurated and addressed the Co-Win Global conclave 2021**



- ✓ During his speech, the PM said that India's CoWin platform for Covid vaccination is being made open source
- ✓ This means, the tech backbone portal of India's vaccination programme will be available to any country for health interventions across the world.
- ✓ The conclave saw participation from more than 140 countries, including representatives from European Commission and UN Offices
- ✓ The portal is designed for tracking first and second vaccine doses, scheduling appointments, registering beneficiaries and issuing vaccination certificates that can be linked to passports.
- ✓ The conclave was organised to share the "success story" of CoWIN digital platform.

- ✓ Ministers from five countries — Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Afghanistan and Guyana — participated in the conclave.
- ✓ The CoWin platform has become the fastest tech interface in the world to amass over 200 million registrations in four months, and then reaching 300 million a month thereafter.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Andy Jassy – officially takes over as the CEO of Amazon from Jeff Bezos on July 5, 2021**
- ✓ Bezos has served as the CEO of Amazon since starting the company exactly 27 years ago on July 5th, 1994 as an online bookseller



- ✓ The July 5th handover date was previously announced in a shareholder meeting in May.
- ✓ Under Bezos' leadership, the company went on to become one of the world's most prominent technology companies
- ✓ Going forward, Bezos will focus on his private space exploration firm, philanthropy and other ventures.
- ✓ However, he will retain a key role as executive chair at the technology and e-commerce giant
- ✓ Today, Amazon has a market value of more than \$1.7 trillion.
- ✓ The company reported annual revenues of \$386 billion in 2020 from operations in e-commerce, cloud computing, groceries, artificial intelligence, streaming media and more.
- ✓ Bezos had successfully built the cloud infrastructure for the company which became the highly profitable Amazon Web Services.
- ✓ He owns the Washington Post newspaper and was spearheading the efforts to fight climate change.
- ✓ In the immediate future, Bezos will fly to the edge of space onboard a rocket built by his space firm Blue Origin on July 20.
- ✓ Jeff Bezos will be joined by his brother, Mark Bezos, aboard the ship New Shepard's first crewed mission
- ✓ Andy Jassy, joined the company shortly after graduating from Harvard Business School in 1997, and has led AWS since its launch in 2003.
- ✓ He was officially named the division's CEO in 2016.

- ✓ At the end of 2020, AWS controlled around one third of the total cloud computing market, which is the combined total held by its closest rivals Microsoft and Google.

OBITUARY

- **On July 5, tribal rights activist and Jesuit priest Stanislaus LourduSwamy (84 years) - died at a Mumbai hospital after suffering a cardiac arrest**
- ✓ The octogenarian was suffering from Parkinson's disease and was shifted to a private hospital in Mumbai in May after his health started deteriorating.
- ✓ Swamy, who worked for tribal rights in Jharkhand for five decades, was in custody awaiting trial since October 8, 2020 in the Elgar Parishad case under an anti-terror law

ACCUSED OF FURTHERING MAOIST CAUSE	
Oct 8, 2020 Father Stan Swamy (84), Jesuit priest & tribal rights activist in Jharkhand, arrested from Ranchi in Elgar Parishad case, lodged in Taloja jail	
Oct 9 NIA describes him as a cadre of the banned CPI (Maoist) and accuses him of communicating with and receiving funds from other Maoist cadres	
Oct 22 Special NIA court rejects plea for interim bail on health grounds	
Nov 6 Swamy's defence asks for a sipper and straw 'taken away by NIA'	
Nov 26 Swamy again seeks bail	
Dec 4 Given a straw and sipper	
March 22, 2021 Special NIA court rejects Swamy's bail plea saying collective interest of the community outweighs the right of personal liberty of the applicant, cites 'serious' evidence collected	
May 28 HC directs him to be treated in a pvt hosp	

- ✓ Swamy was held invoking the stringent provisions of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA)
- ✓ Swamy was the oldest of 16 activists and lawyers arrested on charges of conspiring to incite violence at Bhima Koregaon village near Pune in Maharashtra on January 1, 2018.
- ✓ The village was rocked by caste clashes during the bicentennial celebration of a war, called 'Elgar Parishad' meet, by Dalits
- ✓ According to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), Swamy had Maoist connections and was working for the frontal organisations of the banned CPI (Maoist)

SPORTS

- **On July 5, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) – announced six-time world boxing champion M C Mary Kom and men's hockey team captain Manpreet**

Singh as India's flag-bearers for the Tokyo Olympics' opening ceremony on July 23 at the Japan National Stadium.



- ✓ It will be the first time that the country's official Games contingent will have two flag-bearers – one male and one female – to ensure “gender parity”, as has been advocated by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- ✓ Star wrestler and World No.1 in men's freestyle 65kg category, Bajrang Punia, will lead the Indian contingent at the closing ceremony on August 8
- ✓ Mary Kom will be featuring in her last Olympics in Tokyo, after winning the historic bronze at the 2012 London Games.
- ✓ In 2016, she had failed to qualify for the Rio Olympics and was also denied a wildcard entry by the IOC.
- ✓ Manpreet, the 29-year-old midfielder, will be playing in his third successive Olympic edition – this time as a skipper – after representing the country in London and Rio.
- ✓ Reigning CWG and Asian Games champion, Bajrang, will be participating in his maiden Olympics and is a strong medal contender in the 65 kg weight category.
- ✓ The IOA also informed that the official contingent size will be around 126 athletes and 75 officials, taking the total number count to 201.
- ✓ The contingent has 78 quota places and the athletes will compete in about 85 medal positions

