

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 21, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- **On July 20, Metrowater - appointed the Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO) as consultants for the Rs.1,958.25 crore project to provide 24/7 water supply to Kodambakkam and Adyar zones in Chennai.**
- ✓ In this regard, WATCO will prepare the detailed project report and map pipelines in the two zones.
- ✓ The project, announced in the 2022-23 state budget, seeks to replace old pipelines and lay new ones in areas where they are not present.
- ✓ Further, the capacity of upstream and downstream reservoirs is also to be increased, as per the terms of the project.
- ✓ WATCO had prepared the detailed project report for Puri to get 24/7 water supply.
- ✓ Currently, Metrowater supplies 1,000 million litres a day to the capital city.

STATES

- **On July 20, the Rajasthan assembly - passed the Rajasthan Honour of Dead Body Bill-2023, aimed at ending the use of the dead body as a tool of protest.**
- ✓ The bill prohibits people from holding a sit-in or protest with a family member's body
- ✓ It proposes a jail term of up to two years and fine in case of violation, while the punishment in case of non-family members will be imprisonment ranging from five months to six years.
- ✓ A one-year sentence has been proposed if a deceased person's family refuses to accept the body.
- ✓ As per the bill, executive magistrates have been given the power to conduct the last rites of the deceased within 24 hours.
- ✓ The bill also stipulates DNA and genetic profiling of unclaimed bodies to preserve their record.

- ✓ The bill was proposed in the wake of a rising trend of holding protests and demonstrations using bodies as a bargaining tool to put pressure on the authorities.
- ✓ The state had recorded 306 such protests since January 2019
- ✓ The legislation will put a stop to the misuse of bodies and ensure cremation/ burial of a deceased person with dignity within a stipulated period of time

NATIONAL

- **On July 20, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal - had informed Rajya Sabha that cases pending in various courts in the country had crossed the five-crore mark.**
- ✓ In a written reply, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said over 5.02 crore cases were pending in various courts -- the Supreme Court, the 25 high courts and subordinate courts.

JUSTICE DELAYED

Year	District/ subordinate courts	High courts	Supreme Court
July 2023	4.4 crore	60.6 lakh	69,766
April 2021	3.8 crore	56.6 lakh	67,279
March 2020	3.2 crore	46.4 lakh	60,603
Dec 2018	2.9 crore	49.8 lakh	56,994

➤ Note: The figures above are total pending cases in courts on given dates
 ➤ Source: Law ministry/National Judicial Data Grid

- ✓ As per data from the Integrated Case Management System (ICMIS) by the Supreme Court of India, as on July 1, there are 69,766 cases pending in the Supreme Court
- ✓ The total number of cases pending in the high courts and the district and subordinate courts as on July 14 are 60,62,953 and 4,41,35,357 respectively, as per information made available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)
- ✓ According to the Minister, the pendency of cases in courts can be attributed to several factors, including non-availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, cooperation of stakeholders such as the Bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants
- ✓ Further, the Law Minister informed Lok Sabha that the Supreme Court has disposed of 25,959 cases so far this year while the 25 high courts have settled 5,23,338 cases
- **The population of Muslims in 2023 - is estimated to be 19.7 crore, the government informed Parliament on July 20.**
- ✓ In her written reply in Lok Sabha, minority affairs minister Smriti Irani said Muslims accounted for 14.2% of the total population as per Census 2011
- ✓ She said as per Census 2011, the Muslim population was 17.2 crore.

- ✓ According to the Minister, the population share of Muslims in 2023 was projected going by the same proportion of 14.2%.
 - ✓ According to the report of the technical group on population projections in July 2020, the country's projected population in 2023 was 138.8 crore.
 - ✓ The minister also gave information on literacy rate, labour force participation and access to basic facilities like water, toilets and housing.
 - ✓ She further said as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2021-22 by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation, the literacy rate of Muslims aged seven years and above stood at 77.7%.
- **On July 20, the government - banned the export of non-basmati white rice with immediate effect**
- ✓ The move is aimed at ensuring adequate availability in the domestic market and to prevent the risk of rise in prices.
 - ✓ The most common price of rice across cities has increased by Rs.5 a kg in the past one year and at present, it was selling at Rs.35 a kg.
 - ✓ In a notification, the Directorate-General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said that export of white rice has been put under the "prohibited" category instead of the earlier "free" list.
 - ✓ The export ban also includes semi-milled or wholly milled grains.
 - ✓ According to the food ministry, the domestic prices of rice are on an increasing trend with the prices registering an increase of 11.5% over a year and 3% over the past month.
 - ✓ The export duty of 20% on non-basmati white rice was imposed in September 2022 to lower the price as well as ensure availability in the domestic market.
 - ✓ India has been the world's largest exporter of rice in the last decade with more than 40% share in global rice trade and non-basmati rice accounts for 80% of the total rice exports.
 - ✓ The major importers of rice from India are Bangladesh, China, Nepal, Iran and some African countries.
 - ✓ In 2022-23, India exported 17.8 tonnes of non-basmati rice and in the first two months of the current financial year, around 2.8 tonnes of this rice has been exported.
- **India - has surpassed the pre-pandemic record of childhood immunization coverage, according to a report released by the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on July 18**
- ✓ India recorded 93% DPT3 (diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus) coverage in 2022, surpassing the pre-pandemic record of 91% in 2019, and a rapid increase from 85% in 2021
 - ✓ The vaccine against DPT is used as the global marker for immunization coverage.

- ✓ In South-East Asia, the number of zero dose children, those who have not received the first dose of DPT vaccine, halved from 4.6 million in 2021 to 2.3 million in 2022
- ✓ Similarly, the number of partially vaccinated children, those who had received at least one dose of DPT vaccine but did not complete the primary series of three doses, reduced from 1.3 million in 2021 to 650,000 in 2022, a 50% decline.
- ✓ The region had the best immunization recoveries among all WHO regions that can be majorly attributed to efforts being made by India and Indonesia

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On July 20, the Supreme Court - referred the Delhi government's plea challenging the Centre's Delhi services Ordinance to a five-judge Constitution Bench.**
- ✓ The Constitution bench of SC is a bench of five judges or more to deal with constitutional issues.
- ✓ The court was hearing the petition filed by the Delhi government challenging the Centre's Ordinance that removes services from the control of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCTD)
- ✓ The verdict was delivered by a bench, headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud and comprising Justices P.S. Narasimha and Manoj Misra.
- ✓ The Centre had, on May 19, promulgated the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023, to create a National Capital Civil Service Authority for transfer and posting of Group-A officers in Delhi.
- ✓ The Ordinance was brought after a five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court had, on May 11, granted control over services in Delhi excluding police, public order, and land to the elected government.
- ✓ Thereafter, Delhi's AAP government had moved the Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of the Ordinance, saying it violates the scheme of federal, democratic governance entrenched for the NCTD in Article 239AA and appealed for an immediate interim stay
- ✓ On May 20, the Centre had also moved the Supreme Court seeking review of the May 11 judgment.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India and Japan - have signed a memorandum for semiconductor design, manufacturing, equipment research, talent development and to bring resilience in the semiconductor supply chain.**
- ✓ With this, Japan has become the second Quad partner after the US to sign an agreement with India for the joint development of the semiconductor ecosystem and maintain resilience of its global supply chain.

- ✓ The agreement was signed between Union minister for electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw and Japan's minister of economy, trade and industry Yasutoshi Nishimura in New Delhi on July 20.



- ✓ The nations will create an “implementation organisation” that will work on government-to-government and industry-to-industry cooperation
- ✓ With around 100 semiconductor manufacturing plants, Japan is among the top five countries to have a semiconductor ecosystem.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The Science20 (S20) Summit of G20 - will be held at Isha Yoga Center, Coimbatore from July 21-22**



- ✓ Over 100 delegates from 20 countries, including academicians, scientists, experts and policy makers will attend the meeting
- ✓ The delegates will also have an interactive session with Sadhguru, the founder of Isha Foundation.
- ✓ During this summit meeting of the Science 20 Engagement Group, the deliberations of previous three meetings will be consolidated and presented.

- ✓ The group has discussed the themes of Green Energy, Connecting Science with Society and Holistic Health in the previous meetings and will be presenting a joint communique from 20 nations on the themes.
- ✓ Established in 2017, the S20 is one of the most recent engagement groups of the G20, promoting an official dialogue with the scientific community.

DEFENCE

- **The annual IAF Day parade and fly-past - will take place on October 8 in Prayagraj (Allahabad) this year**



- ✓ The Central Air Command at Prayagraj will host the ceremony this year
- ✓ The decision is in continuance of the PM Modi government's directive to take major events out of the national capital region (NCR) to different parts of the country.
- ✓ The IAF parade, held in Chandigarh last year, was the first time the event was shifted out of the NCR
- ✓ The Army, too, had conducted its annual day parade on January 15 in Bengaluru this year
 - ✓ This was also the first time that the Army Day functions were held outside New Delhi.
- ✓ The IAF was officially raised on October 8, 1932, with its first aircraft flight coming into being in April 1933 with six Royal Air Force trained officers and 19 Havai Sepoys (air soldiers).

