

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-APRIL 15,2022

STATES

- **Karnataka government – has announced a new initiative, Vinaya Samarasya Yojana, an awareness programme meant to eradicate untouchability in rural areas across the state.**
- ✓ The campaign will be implemented across all gram panchayats in Karnataka.
- ✓ The initiative was planned for launch by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on April 14 on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti
- ✓ Under the new scheme, panchayats where untouchability is eradicated will get additional funds as a token of encouragement from the government.
- ✓ The scheme was announced in the Karnataka budget for 2022-23 to create awareness about untouchability in the state.
- ✓ The scheme is named after a three-year-old Dalit boy Vinay, whose family was penalised after he tried to enter a temple in Karnataka's Koppal district.
- ✓ The incident took place in September 2021 at Miyapur village in Kushtagi taluk, where Dalits are not allowed to enter temples even now
- ✓ Miyapur has a population of 1,500 people, mostly Ganigas, with only about 91 villagers belonging to the Dalit community.
- ✓ The conviction rate in cases of atrocities against the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs) has stood at barely 7% in Karnataka

NATIONAL

- **On April 14, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - inaugurated a state-of-the-art museum dedicated to former prime ministers of the country**
- ✓ The Prime Minister became the first official visitor of the museum as he purchased the first ticket before the inauguration by making digital payment
- ✓ The Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya is located in Teen Murti Complex, Delhi and is dedicated to the contributions of all 14 past prime ministers of the country since Independence.



- ✓ It highlights the leaders' political career, their contribution to the country and will also take visitors through the country's history including the freedom struggle.
- ✓ The museum also commemorates 75 years of India's independence as a part of the "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" celebrations.
- ✓ The museum is aimed at sensitising and educating the younger generation about the leadership, vision and achievements of all our prime ministers
- ✓ Holograms, virtual reality, augmented reality, multi-touch, multi-media, interactive kiosks, computerised kinetic sculptures, smartphone applications and interactive screens have been used to make the museum highly interactive
- ✓ The logo of the museum represents the hands of the people of India holding the Dharma Chakra symbolizing the nation and democracy
- ✓ The museum is designed based on appropriate use of archives (collected works and other literary works, important correspondences), personal items, gifts and memorabilia (felicitations, honours, medals conferred, commemorative stamps, coins etc.), speeches of the prime ministers, anecdotal representation of their ideologies and different aspects of their lives



- ✓ A separate section has also been set aside for displaying the gifts all PMs received from across the globe while in office.

- ✓ Information from all PMs were collected from Prasar Bharti, Doordarshan, Film Division, Sansad TV, Ministry of Defence, Toshakhana of MEA, media reports as well as families of Prime Ministers
 - ✓ The museum features a display on the life and contributions of the country's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, with a number of gifts received by him from all over the world shown for the first time.
 - ✓ The museum has 43 galleries, spread out across 15,619 square metres, and is built at a total cost of Rs 306 crore
 - ✓ Visitors will be able to navigate inside the museum with an app-based route map
 - ✓ The Teen Murti Bhawan, the site of the new museum, was the official residence of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister.
 - ✓ The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) was set up in his memory on its premises as an autonomous institution under the Union Culture Ministry.
 - ✓ At the 43rd annual general meeting of NMML in 2018, the NMML Society considered a proposal for the PMs museum on the campus.
 - ✓ The proposal was cleared by the then Home Minister Rajnath Singh.
 - ✓ Despite objections by the Congress, the foundation stone for the new museum for Prime Ministers was laid at the complex in October 2018
- **On April 14, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) - predicted normal and fairly well-distributed monsoon rainfall for most parts of India during June-September period**
- ✓ The official weather agency has further reduced the new 'rainfall normal' for the four-month season from 88 cm to 87 cm



- ✓ It'll be the fourth consecutive year in which India is expected to receive 'normal' to 'above normal' southwest (summer) monsoon rainfall.
- ✓ As per the agency, there is 60% forecast probability of good rainfall, indicating a big relief to rain-fed areas.
- ✓ Quantitatively, the monsoon seasonal (June to September) rainfall is likely to be 99% of the long period average (LPA) with a model error of +/-5%
- ✓ The LPA of the seasonal rainfall over the country as a whole for the 1971-2020 period is 87cm.

RAIN FORECAST

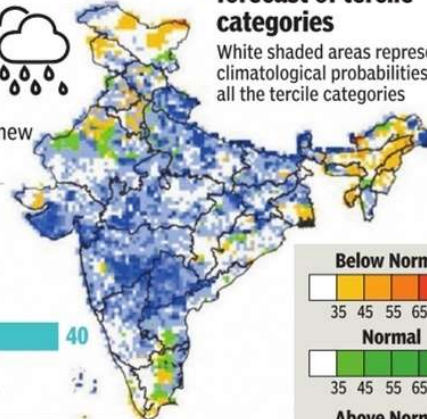
IMD on summer (June-Sept) monsoon 2022

- It's likely to be the fourth consecutive year of normal monsoon
- Quantitatively, the seasonal rainfall is predicted to be 99% of LPA (Long Period Average) with model error of $\pm 5\%$
- Monsoon to be calculated on the basis of new LPA of 87 cm (1971-2020 data) from June 1



Map shows probability forecast of tercile categories

White shaded areas represent climatological probabilities for all the tercile categories



60% probability of good rainfall

Category	% of LPA	Probability** (%)
Deficient	< 90	14
Below normal	90-96	26
Normal	96-104	40
Above normal	104-110	15
Excess	>110	5

** Forecast probability

Updated All-India 'rainfall normal' shows marginal decline in rainfall over long period

Annual normal rainfall (mm)



Decrease in mean rainfall: 16.8 mm

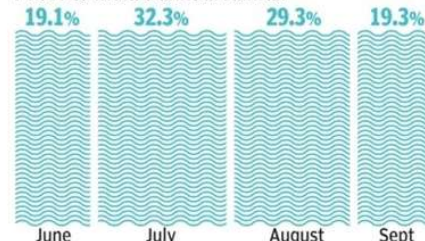
Monsoon period normal rainfall

DECREASE 12 mm



IMD's findings based on 1971-2020 data:

SW monsoon (JJAS) contributes 74.9% to India's annual rainfall



- ✓ Northeast India, some parts of northwest India and southern parts of the South Peninsula will, however, receive 'below normal' rainfall.
- ✓ The spatial distribution, as predicted by IMD, suggests normal to above normal seasonal rainfall over many areas of northern parts of Peninsular India and adjoining Central India, over foothills of the Himalayas and some parts of Northwest India.
- ✓ For the first time, the IMD used an LPA of 87cm as the new normal for seasonal rainfall for the country as a whole, based on 1971-2020 data
- ✓ Earlier, it had been taking the normal of annual 88cm rainfall during June-September based on 1961-2010 data which was revised downward from 89cm three years ago in 2019.
- **The three-dose Covid vaccine, ZyCoV-D — has received the subject expert committee's (SEC) approval for a two-dose regimen**
- ✓ The vaccine, which is not yet available in the private market, is manufactured by Zydus Lifesciences' (formerly known as Cadila Healthcare)
- ✓ The company supplies its three-dose deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) vaccine — ZyCoV-D — to the Centre at Rs 265 per dose and the needle-free applicator device at Rs 93 per dose.
- ✓ It had already received an order for 10 million doses from the Centre in August 2021, but the vaccine was rolled out only in February this year.

- ✓ The company had received emergency use authorization for the vaccine for use in adolescents (12-18 age group), besides the adult population in August last year
 - ✓ The two-dose regimen for ZyCoV-D has shown 66.6% efficacy in the interim analysis of Phase 3 clinical trials, and the vaccine can be stored at 25 degrees Celsius for three months
 - ✓ In another development, the company has initiated mix-and-match clinical trials of its vaccine, ZyCoV-D as a booster shot, with the primary vaccine being either Covishield or Covaxin.
 - ✓ At present, the government has allowed the same vaccine as the first two doses, as a precaution dose
 - ✓ The SEC, an expert panel under the health ministry, gives recommendations to the Drugs Controller General, who takes a final call on the vaccine or drug.
- **The Centre – has started work on a “Model Ropeway” Act indicating the responsibilities of all stakeholders, particularly the rope-way operators**
- ✓ The move is prompted by the Deoghar ropeway accident in Jharkhand on April 10, killing three people
 - ✓ The incident took place after two cable cars collided with each other due to a technical glitch on the ropeway at Trikut Hills close to Baba Baidyanath Temple.
 - ✓ The Trikut ropeway, according to the Jharkhand tourism department, is India's highest vertical ropeway and is around 766-metre long
 - ✓ As ropeways are part of the ‘state list’, the Centre can suggest a model law which can work as a template for the states.
 - ✓ In the last budget presentation, the Centre announced rolling out of a flagship “Parvatmala” programme across hill states to develop ropeway facilities for providing last mile connectivity.
 - ✓ Ropeways are also being explored as an option for seamless connectivity in the most congested areas of Indian cities.
 - ✓ Jharkhand doesn't have its own law on ropeways and it derives power from the ‘The Bihar and Orissa Aerial Ropeways Act of 1924’.
 - ✓ The law does not have enough legal and penal provision for maintenance failures.
 - ✓ However, the laws enacted by Gujarat and Maharashtra for ropeways have stronger provisions and meet the current requirement.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The US food and drug administration (FDA) - has put on hold the phase 2/3 clinical trials of Bharat Biotech's Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin, in USA.**
- ✓ According to a press release by Ocugen Inc, the FDA had taken this step, after the US firm had on its own voluntarily stopped giving the dose to participants of the trial OCU-002 following WHO's observations on Covaxin manufacturing plants in India.
 - ✓ Ocugen Inc is Bharat Biotech's partner for US and Canada for Covaxin

- ✓ WHO had earlier suspended the supply of Covaxin through US procurement agencies, after its inspectors identified good manufacturing practice deficiencies in the Bharat Biotech's manufacturing plants.
- ✓ OCU-002 is Ocugen's Phase 3 immuno-bridging study of Covaxin.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Chagas Day – April 14



- ✓ The day is observed every year to highlight the fatal disease that can lead to severe cardiac and digestive issues
- ✓ The disease progress slowly and often shows an asymptomatic clinical course
- ✓ Also known as “silent or silenced disease”, it affects mainly poor people without access to health care
- ✓ The World Chagas Disease Day was celebrated for the first time in 2020, following the approval from the World Health Assembly in May 2019
- ✓ Theme 2022 - “Finding and reporting every case to defeat Chagas disease”
- ✓ There are approximately 6-7 million people infected with Chagas disease worldwide, with 10,000 deaths, every year.
- ✓ Chagas disease is a potentially fatal parasitic disease caused by the microorganism *Trypanosoma cruzi*.
- ✓ It is transmitted to humans by insects - known as vinchucas, kissing bugs, or chirimachas, by blood transfusion or organ transplantation, by consuming contaminated food, and during pregnancy and labor.
- ✓ People in regions like Central America, Mexico and South America are more prone to catching the disease.
- ✓ On April 14, 1990, the first case of Chagas disease in a human was reported, when a Brazilian girl named Berenice Soares de Moura was diagnosed as the first patient of Chagas Disease
- ✓ The disease got its name from Dr Carlos Ribeiro Justiniano Chagas who diagnosed the disease.

