

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 27, 2023

NATIONAL

- **The government - tabled the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023 in the Lok Sabha on July 26.**
- ✓ The Bill seeks to include provisions for digital registration and electronic delivery of certificates of births and deaths for the benefit of the general public.
- ✓ The bill amends the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 (18 of 1969), which could streamline the processes for registering births and deaths.
- ✓ The proposed legislation would require the Aadhaar numbers of both parents and any informants during birth registration, provided they are available.
- ✓ Junior Minister Nityanand Rai introduced the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023 on behalf of home minister Amit Shah, marking the first amendment since its inception
- ✓ One of the key aims of the bill is to establish national and state-level databases for registered births and deaths.
- ✓ The new legislation aims to position the birth certificate as the definitive proof of a person's date and place of birth
- ✓ The birth certificate would be crucial for various processes, including school admissions, driver's license issuance, voter list preparation, marriage registration, government employment, Public Sector Undertakings, passport issuance, Aadhaar number issuance, among others.
- ✓ The bill would be applicable to individuals born on or after the commencement of the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023.
- ✓ As per the Bill, all medical institutions would be required to provide cause of death certificates to the Registrar, with a copy being given to the closest relative.
- ✓ Besides, in light of potential disasters or epidemics, the bill proposes the appointment of Special "Sub-Registrars" to speed up the registration of deaths and issuance of death certificates.

- **The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay - has renamed its main building as 'Nandan Nilekani Main Building' in recognition of its distinguished alumnus and Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani**



- ✓ The move recognises Infosys chairman Nandan Nilekani's philanthropic support towards the institute
 - ✓ Nilekani had recently donated Rs.315 crore to the institute to mark 50 years of his association with it.
 - ✓ This is also one of the largest donations made by an alumnus in India.
 - ✓ Nilekani had previously contributed Rs 85 crore to the institute, raising his total donation to Rs 400 crore.
 - ✓ He had joined IIT-Bombay as a student of B Tech (electrical engineering) in 1973.
 - ✓ Nilekani was also awarded the prestigious Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1999, followed by an Honorary Doctorate in 2019 as part of the 57th convocation of IIT-B.
 - ✓ He also served on the board of governors of the institution from 2011 to 2015.
 - ✓ From 1999 to 2009, Nilekani also served on the Board of the IIT Bombay Heritage Foundation
- **On July 26, the Lok Sabha - passed the Forest Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 with a voice vote**
 - ✓ The Bill was passed after a brief debate which was responded to by Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav.
 - ✓ The Bill introduces a number of important changes to the original Forest Conservation Act, 1980.
 - ✓ It seeks to exempt land within 100 km of the country's borders from the purview of conservation laws and permit setting up of zoos, safaris and eco-tourism facilities in forest areas.
 - ✓ Additionally, the amendment allows forest land to be used for non-forest activities such as wireless communications, fencing, bridges, culverts, and various other facilities.

- ✓ The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023 was first introduced in Parliament in March 2023
- ✓ It was then referred to a 31-member Joint Parliamentary Committee chaired by BJP MP Rajendra Agrawal and comprising 14 BJP MPs.
- ✓ Having approved all proposed changes, the committee presented its report on July 20.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **OpenAI CEO Sam Altman - launched an ambitious cryptocurrency project 'Worldcoin' on July 24.**



- ✓ The Worldcoin project is owned by a San Francisco and Berlin-based technology company called Tools for Humanity (TFH), founded by Altman, Alex Blania and Max Novendstern in 2019.
- ✓ The Worldcoin project ecosystem involves three key elements - World ID, Worldcoin token (WLD) and World App
 - ✓ World ID is a personalised biometric digital identity of the user, which the company claims is privacy preserving.
 - ✓ The World ID will be created after a customer signs up after doing an in-person iris scan through WorldCoin's spherical hardware device 'orb'.
 - ✓ The 'Orb' creates a unique biometric identity of the user through eyeball scanning, which will be proof that the user is a real human and not a bot.
 - ✓ The Worldcoin token is a crypto token or a digital currency which will be initially distributed among users for free as they sign up, defining that they are unique humans
 - ✓ The Worldcoin digital currency can be used for transactions and payments through a World-ID compatible app called World App.
- ✓ Worldcoin's flagship device Orb and its services will be rolled out in 35 cities across 20 countries in the coming months.
 - ✓ As of now, the services will be immediately available in Dubai, Hong Kong, London, Los Angeles, Mexico City, Miami, New York, Paris, San Francisco, São Paulo, Seoul, Singapore and Tokyo.

- ✓ There are currently 18 locations with the device in India, most prominently across Delhi-NCR and Bengaluru.
- ✓ Though TFH started in 2019, the Worldcoin project went into beta testing phase around 18 months back and the beta phase has 2 million sign-ups.

BUSINESS/ECONOMY

- **On July 26, Jio Financial Services Limited (JFS) and BlackRock - announced an agreement to start an assets management firm "Jio BlackRock," a 50:50 joint venture.**
- ✓ Jio Financial and BlackRock are targeting initial investment of \$150 million (about Rs 1,230 crore) each in the JV
- ✓ The JV will mark BlackRock's re-entry into the Indian market after it exited in 2018
- ✓ Jio BlackRock combines BlackRock's expertise in investment management, risk management, and technology with Jio Financial Services' local market knowledge and digital infrastructure.
- ✓ As of December 2022, world's largest fund manager BlackRock managed nearly \$8.6 trillion worth of assets globally
- ✓ The Rs.44.39 trillion Indian mutual fund industry is currently dominated by SBI Mutual Fund, ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund and HDFC Mutual Fund.

SPORTS

- **On July 26, little-known Malaysia seamer Syazrul Idrus - became the first male cricketer to take seven wickets in a T20 International**



- ✓ Idrus achieved the feat against China in the opening game of T20 World Cup Asia B Qualifier at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- ✓ Idrus' astonishing figures of 7 wickets for 8 runs, the best bowling figures in a men's T20I, helped Malaysia record an 8-wicket victory over China.
- ✓ All his seven wickets were 'bowled' dismissals.
- ✓ The 32-year-old broke Nigerian Peter Aho's record (6 wkts for 5) against Sierra Leone in 2021.
- ✓ The winner of this tournament will progress to the Asia Regional Final in Nepal in November, with the two leading teams from that event then making it through to the T20 World Cup in 2024.

- ✓ Among full members of the ICC, India's Deepak Chahar holds the record of best bowling figures in a T20I, with his 6 wickets for 7 runs against Bangladesh in 2019
 - ✓ It was the joint-third best overall alongside Dinesh Nakrani, who registered the same figures for Uganda against Lesotho in 2021.
 - ✓ Frederique Overdijk of the Netherlands holds the best bowling figures — male and female — in a T20I with her 7 wickets for 3 runs against France in 2021.
 - ✓ A total of 12 bowlers had previously claimed six-wicket hauls in a men's T20I — including Chahar and another Indian Yuzvendra Chahal, Australia spinner Ashton Agar and Sri Lanka tweaker Ajantha Mendis
- **On July 26, Aditya S Samant of Maharashtra - became India's 83rd chess Grandmaster.**



- ✓ The 17-year old Samant, an International Master, became a GM at the BielChess MTO 2023 tournament.
- ✓ The Maharashtra player had earned his first norm to become a grandmaster at the Abu Dhabi Masters last year in August.
- ✓ He secured his second GM norm at the 3rd El Llobregat Open in December 2022.
- ✓ To become a GM, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 Elo points.
- ✓ Telangana's V Praneeth had in May become the country's 82nd GM.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Brain Day – July 22**



- ✓ World Brain Day is observed every year to raise awareness about brain health
- ✓ The World Federation of Neurology and the World Federation for Neurorehabilitation are the lead agencies observing the campaign to spread awareness about brain diseases this year
- ✓ The day was first observed in 2014 and this is the ninth World Brain Day
- ✓ The theme of this year's World Brain Day is "Brain Health and Disability: Leave No One Behind."
- ✓ On July 22, 1957, the World Federation of Neurology's Public Awareness and Advocacy Committee, at the WCN Council of Delegates assembly on 22 September 2013, proposed that July 22 be celebrated as World Brain Day.

➤ **National Broadcasting Day – July 23**



- ✓ The day is observed across the country every year to make people aware of the importance of broadcasting and radio.
- ✓ The Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) started radio broadcasting from Bombay station for the first time ever on July 23, 1927
- ✓ Radio broadcasting services began in India during the British rule in 1923 under the Radio Club of Bombay.
- ✓ In 1927, two privately owned transmitters in Mumbai and Kolkata commenced the broadcasting services.
- ✓ British Government took over radio broadcasting alongwith these two private transmitters in 1930 and started the Indian State Broadcasting Service (ISBS).
- ✓ On June 8, 1936 the name ISBS was changed to All India Radio and in 1956, it was renamed as 'Aakashvani'.
- ✓ India's public service broadcaster, Prasar Bharati has 470 broadcasting centers across the country, covering approximately 92% of the country's area and 99.19% of the total population
- ✓ All India Radio originally broadcasts programs in 23 languages and 179 dialects, reaching about 150 countries through medium and short wave services.

➤ **Kargil Vijay Diwas – July 26**



- ✓ India celebrates Kargil Vijay Diwas every year to mark the anniversary of the Indian Army's victory against Pakistan on July 26, 1999
- ✓ On this day every year, the Prime Minister pays his tributes to the armed forces at the 'eternal flame', Amar Jawan Jyoti, at India Gate in Delhi.
- ✓ Named 'Operation Vijay', the military campaign involving 2,00,000 Indian troops was fought at an altitude of 16,000 feet
- ✓ Defeating Pakistani soldiers and rebel forces in the war, the Indian Army finally hosted the national flag at Kargil on July 26.
- ✓ It is estimated that as many as 527 Indian soldiers died in the war, while more than 1,300 were injured
- ✓ The Kargil War was fought between India and Pakistan from 3rd May to 26th July 1999 in the Kargil district of Kashmir and along the Line of Control (LoC).
- ✓ Operation Safed Sagar was the codename of this mission.
- ✓ In Trichy cantonment, chief minister M K Stalin placed a wreath at the memorial of Major M Saravanan, who was martyred in the war.

