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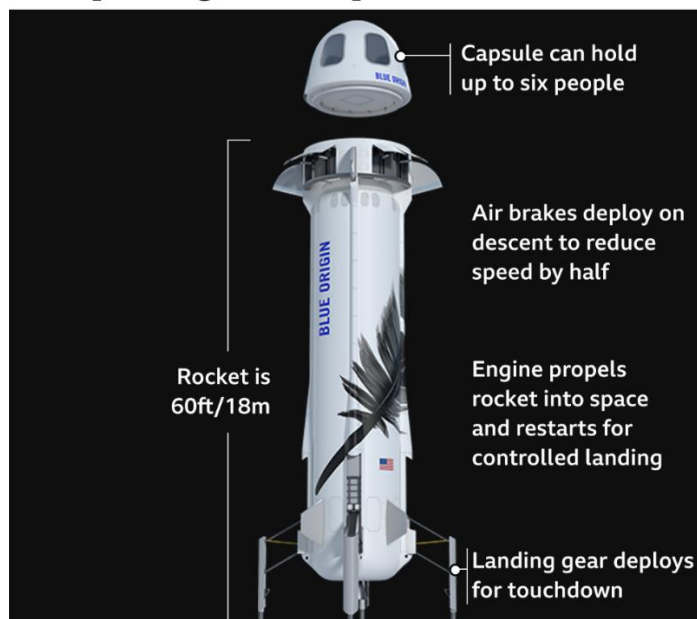
DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

21st - 22nd July 2021

Jeff Bezos launches to space aboard New Shepard rocket ship

- Billionaire Jeff Bezos blasted into space today, in the first crewed flight of his rocket ship, **New Shepard**. He was accompanied by Mark Bezos, his brother, Wally Funk, an 82-year-old pioneer of the space race, and an 18-year-old student.
- They travelled in a capsule with the biggest windows flown in space, offering stunning views of the Earth. New Shepard, built by Bezos' company **Blue Origin**, is designed to serve the market for **space tourism**.
- The mission marked another milestone in the space race started by private companies. It was the first time in the history of a commercial company launching a privately funded and built spacecraft from a private launch range with astronauts on board.
- British billionaire Richard Branson, who soared miles above the earth in his **Virgin Galactic** rocket plane earlier this month, congratulated Amazon founder Jeff Bezos after his first trip to the space.

New Shepard: Reusable rocket designed to take passengers into space



Vice President addresses the Inaugural session of World Universities Summit

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu today asked universities to become thought leaders in finding solutions to global challenges including climate change, poverty, and pollution.
- World Universities Summit was organized by **O.P. Jindal University**, Sonipat virtually.
- He called for promoting **multi-disciplinary approaches** and emphasized the need for collaborative academic effort to create sustainable and scalable solutions to the challenges around us.

NASA's New Spacecraft: NEA Scout

- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has announced that its new spacecraft, named **Near-Earth Asteroid Scout or NEA Scout**, has completed all required tests and has been safely tucked inside the **Space Launch System (SLS) rocket**.
- Also known as a **CubeSat**, its main mission is to fly by and collect data from a near-Earth asteroid.
- It will take about two years to cruise to the asteroid and will be about 93 million miles away from Earth during the asteroid encounter.
- NEA Scout is equipped with **special cameras** and can take pictures ranging from 50 cm/pixels to 10 cm/pixels.
- The images gathered **by NEA Scout** will provide critical information on the asteroid's physical properties such as orbit, shape, volume, rotation, the dust, and debris field surrounding it, plus its surface properties.
- **Near Earth Asteroids** despite their size, could pose a threat to Earth and understanding their properties could help us develop strategies for reducing the potential damage caused in the event of an impact.



First Human Infection case with Monkey B virus (BV)

- **China** has reported the first human infection case with Monkey B virus (BV).
- Monkey B virus is an **alphaherpesvirus enzootic** (endemic) in macaques and it was initially isolated in 1932.
- **Alphaherpesviruses** are pathogens or neuroinvasive viruses that establish lifelong infections in the peripheral nervous system of humans and many other vertebrates.
- The infection can be transmitted via direct contact and exchange of bodily secretions of monkeys and has a **fatality rate of 70% to 80%**.

India Inequality Report 2021: Oxfam

- The report titled “**India Inequality Report 2021: India’s Unequal Healthcare Story**” released by Oxfam India shows that the socio-economic inequalities seep into the health sector and disproportionately affect health outcomes of marginalized communities due to the absence of **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)**.
- The report suggested that the states which are attempting to reduce existing inequalities and with higher expenditure on health had lower confirmed cases of Covid-19.
- Oxfam is a confederation of 20 independent charitable organizations focusing on the alleviation of global poverty, founded in 1942 and led by Oxfam International. It is a major non-profit group with an extensive collection of operations.

“SMILE - Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise”

- Recently, the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has formulated this scheme which includes a sub scheme - ‘Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in Begging’.
- It provides for the use of the existing shelter homes available with the State/UT/ULB for rehabilitation of the persons engaged in the act of **Begging**.
- The focus of the scheme is extensively on rehabilitation, medical facilities, counselling, education, skill development etc. It is estimated that an approximate **60,000 poorest persons** would be benefited under this scheme for leading a **life of dignity**.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The first artificial Earth satellite, _____, was launched by the Soviet Union on October 4, 1957.

- A. Sputnik 1
- B. Sputnik 2
- C. Sputnik 3
- D. Sputnik 4

ANSWER: A

2. The first human to go into space was Yuri Gagarin on _____.

- A. April 12, 1961
- B. April 14, 1966
- C. March 12, 1961
- D. March 14, 1966

ANSWER: A

3. _____ crew members Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin made the first lunar landing.

- A. Apollo 8
- B. Apollo 11
- C. Apollo 13
- D. Apollo 14

ANSWER: B

4. Apollo 11 crew members Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin made the first lunar landing on _____.

- A. July 20, 1969
- B. July 25, 1968
- C. June 20, 1969
- D. June 25, 1968

ANSWER: A

5. On Nov. 3, 1957, first animal (dog) Laika was launched aboard in Space through _____.

- A. Sputnik 1
- B. Sputnik 2
- C. Sputnik 3
- D. Sputnik 4

ANSWER: B

6. On April 12, 1961, first human to orbit Earth was Yuri Gagarin on _____.

- A. Vostok 1
- B. Vostok 2
- C. Vostok 3
- D. Vostok 4

ANSWER: A

7. First woman in space was _____.

- A. Valentina Tereshkova
- B. Svetlana Savitskaya
- C. Sally Ride
- D. Judith Resnik

ANSWER: A

8. First woman in space Valentina Tereshkova was on board _____.

- A. Vostok 4
- B. Vostok 5
- C. Vostok 6
- D. Vostok 7

ANSWER: C

9. On _____ Valentina Tereshkova became first woman in space on board Vostok 6.

- A. June 16, 1963
- B. July 16, 1965
- C. June 18, 1972
- D. July 18, 1969

ANSWER: A

10. On Feb. 3, 1966, _____ became the first spacecraft to soft-land on the Moon.

- A. Luna 6
- B. Luna 7
- C. Luna 8
- D. Luna 9

ANSWER: D

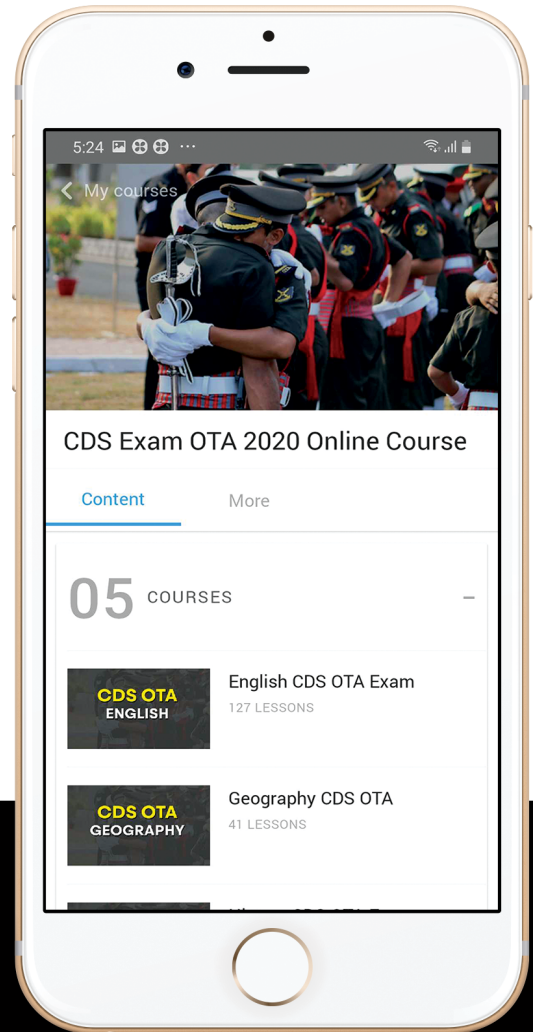




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