

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS –JULY 26, 2021

STATES

- **Telangana's Ramappa temple, also known as Rudreswara temple – becomes the country's 39th world heritage site on July 25**
- ✓ The historic Rudreswara temple, an architectural marvel created in stone, became UNESCO's first world heritage site in Telangana.



- ✓ Located at Palampet in Mulugu district, the iconic temple was voted for inclusion in the world heritage sites' list at the 44th virtual session of the World Heritage Committee of the UNESCO, which is currently underway at Fuzhou in China
- ✓ Altogether, 17 countries backed the resolution, which was strongly supported by Russia, while Norway opposed it.
- ✓ This temple is known as Ramappa temple, named after the sculptor who, for 40 years, executed the work in the temple.
- ✓ Earlier, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), in its report presented before the World Heritage Committee for the 44th session, favoured that the heritage tag be deferred.
- ✓ But, as most of the members attending the Fuzhou session backed the 13th century Rudreswara temple, it got the prized heritage tag.

- ✓ The Charminar and the Qutub Shahi tombs, which were submitted to UNESCO for the heritage tag, are at present in tentative list.
 - ✓ The temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, and other small temples within the complex were constructed by Kakatiya rulers - Rudradeva and Recharla Rudra - between the 12th and 13th centuries.
 - ✓ Work on the main temple began in 1213 CE and completed 40 years later.
 - ✓ Built with sandstone and a sandbox foundation, the temple has decorated beams and columns made of granite.
 - ✓ The temple's unique feature is its tower or Vimana, which is in the shape of a pyramid.
 - ✓ The Vimana has been constructed using porous bricks, which are light in weight.
 - ✓ These bricks, one of the features of the Kakatiya rulers, are popularly known as floating bricks.
 - ✓ It represents the architectural and cultural beauty of the former rulers of Orugallu, modern day Warangal, with the kingdom expanding to many parts of modern Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
 - ✓ There are 21 Members in the World Heritage Committee with the current Chair of the Committee being China
- **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan - virtually launched UNESCO's 'Historic Urban Landscape' project for 'Gwalior and Orchha' cities of the state through video conferencing recently.**



- ✓ The project, started in the year 2011, seeks the inclusive and well-planned development of fast-growing historical cities while preserving the culture and heritage.
- ✓ Only eight cities in the entire South Asian region have been recognised under the UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape Project
- ✓ Varanasi and Ajmer are the other two Indian cities recognised by UNESCO under the project.
- ✓ Orchha and Gwalior have been included as the 7th and 8th cities.
- ✓ The cities will be jointly developed by UNESCO, Government of India and Madhya Pradesh by focusing on their historical and cultural improvement
- ✓ Both Gwalior and Orchha are located in the Northern part of Madhya Pradesh

- ✓ The city of Gwalior hosts the historic Gwalior Fort, Scindia Royal Palace called Jai Vilas Palace and other monuments
- ✓ Orchha town is situated on banks of the Betwa river and has several scenic places and historical monuments.

NATIONAL

- **On July 25, Union Home Minister Amit Shah – visited Sohra (Cherrapunji) and inaugurated the Green Sohra Afforestation Campaign**



- ✓ He also launched Greater Sohra Water supply scheme during the occasion, graced by the state Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma
 - ✓ The Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme was conceptualised by the government of Meghalaya and funded by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) under North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) in the year 2019 at an amount of Rs. 24.08 crore.
 - ✓ The project aims to provide tap water supply to Sohra Town and 12 habitations around it, covering a population of over 22,000 people
 - ✓ The Green Sohra Afforestation Campaign is a joint initiative of Director General of Assam Rifles (DGAR) and Government of Meghalaya
 - ✓ The plantations under the campaign would be completed within 3 years and maintenance support would be provided up to 5 years.
 - ✓ The entire area of Cherrapunji is going to be adopted by Assam Rifles for the purpose of plantation.
 - ✓ “Evergreen Northeast”, was the slogan of this campaign highlighting the importance of tree plantation and afforestation in the state
- **Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal - introduced the Inland Vessels Bill, 2021 in the Lok Sabha on July 22, 2021**
 - ✓ The new bill has been tabled in order to promote safe and economic transportation and trade through inland waters in the country.
 - ✓ The Bill, if passed, will ensure the safety of navigation, protection of life and cargo, and prevent pollution

- ✓ It aims to bring uniformity in the laws relating to around 4000km inland waterways and to ensure transparency and accountability of the administration of inland water transportation



- ✓ The Bill will enable a single law instead of separate rules framed by each state.
- ✓ According to the Bill, the certificate of registration granted under the law will be deemed to be valid in all states and union territories, thereby avoiding the need to seek separate permissions from states.
- ✓ The newly presented Bill will replace the Inland Vessels Act of 1917.
- ✓ The Bill will also provide a central database for recording the details of vessels and their crew on an electronic portal, thus improving transparency in the system
- ✓ The Union Cabinet gave its nod to the Inland Vessels Bill, 2021 in June this year

INTERNATIONAL

- **China – announced a ban on the operation of all tutoring institutions run on profit basis in core school subjects**
- ✓ The new regulations aim to improve schools' educational and teaching quality and to comprehensively regulate tutoring businesses in after-school tutoring institutions
- ✓ By announcing the ban, the government expects to effectively reduce students' burden from excessive homework, school tutoring and family education expenditures within the next one year
- ✓ Tutoring institutions for non-core subjects will also follow strict new rules.
- ✓ The establishment of tutoring institutions in core school subjects for students will be disallowed and existing institutions will be registered as non-profit institutions
- ✓ Under the new policy, listed companies will not be allowed to invest in tutoring institutions in core school subjects
- ✓ Foreign capital is not allowed to control or participate in such institutions through mergers and acquisitions, entrusted operations, franchise chains and other methods.
- ✓ Further, the government has also banned institutions from providing tutoring on weekends, summer, winter or statutory holidays, or providing foreign curricula.

- ✓ It also prohibits institutions from hiring foreign personnel outside China to carry out tutoring activities within the country
 - ✓ China now has 24 listed education companies on different stock markets on the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and the U.S. with latest capitalization in total topping 150 billion yuan (\$23.14 billion)
 - ✓ The rule changes shocked the country's private tutoring sector, initiating a sell-off in the shares of the educational companies which includes the US-listed Gaotu Techedu and TAL Education Group
 - ✓ In May, the Chinese government announced that it would allow couples to have up to three children, from the previous two child policy.
- **Bangladesh – to launch ‘Jogajog’ as an alternate social media platform for globally popular Facebook**
- ✓ The country is also working to develop a communication app ‘Alapan’ as an alternative to Whatsapp
 - ✓ The government also plans to develop a streaming app as an alternative to YouTube so that the huge outflow of money due to advertisement from the country could be prevented.
 - ✓ The government is working to enhance the capacity of the video conferencing system ‘Boithak’ from 100 persons to 300 persons, which is hailed as an alternative to Zoom platform
 - ✓ The Surokha app for corona vaccination registration is being used successfully in Bangladesh
 - ✓ Zunaid Ahmed Palak, Bangladesh’ State Minister for Information and Communication Technology made this announcement during the inauguration of the Entrepreneurship Masterclass Series 2 which is organised by Women e-Commerce.
- **Taiwan – has reached an agreement with Baltic nation, Lithuania to establish a Taiwanese representative office in its capital, Vilnius**
- ✓ Using the name “Taiwan” instead of “Taipei”, this will be the first diplomatic office set up in Europe in the last 18 years by the Taiwan government
 - ✓ China firmly opposes any form of official exchanges between the island of Taiwan and countries that have diplomatic ties with China
 - ✓ Taiwan’s mission in the US is also named "Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the US.”
 - ✓ Besides the office in Lithuania, the island's only overseas "representative office" using Taiwan in its name is the one in Republic of Somaliland, which is not recognised as a sovereign state by the international community.
 - ✓ Taiwan, the self-ruled democracy of around 23 million people, is known officially as the Republic of China
 - ✓ It is recognised as a country by just 15 nations, with the Vatican being the only one in Europe

- ✓ A member of the EU and NATO, Lithuania is known for its strength in lasers, biotechnology, satellites and information technology, as well as agriculture and furniture
- ✓ In May, Lithuania announced it was quitting China's 17+1 cooperation forum with central and eastern European states, calling it "divisive" in nature.
- ✓ Lithuania plans to establish a trade office in Taiwan by the end of this year and has pledged to donate around 20,000 Covid-19 vaccines to Taiwan
- ✓ The Taipei Mission in the Republic of Latvia is currently responsible for promoting relations with Baltic nations, including Lithuania and Estonia

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The 11th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting – was held on July 21 through video conference**



- ✓ The MGC initiative involves 6 countries — India, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam
- ✓ It was launched in 2000 to ensure cooperation among the partner countries in a range of areas including transport, communication, tourism, education and culture.
- ✓ External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar co-chaired the meeting along with Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Prak Sokhonn
- ✓ During the meeting, the foreign ministers from Mekong countries reviewed the progress made on cooperative efforts since their 10th meeting in Bangkok on August 1, 2019
- ✓ They have also discussed its future direction with the aim of strengthening and expanding efforts against Covid-19 and exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest and concern.
- ✓ To mark the 20th anniversary of the MGC Ministerial meeting, there will be a launching of a brand-new MGC website

- ✓ Mekong river flows from its source on the Tibetan Plateau in China through various Southeast Asian countries such as Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam

APPOINTMENTS

- **Odisha-born IRS officer, Rasmi Ranjan Das - has been appointed to the UN tax committee as a member for the term period from 2021 to 2025.**



- ✓ Rasmi Ranjan Das is Joint Secretary – (FT&TR-I), Central Board of Direct Taxes, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- ✓ He is one among the distinguished group of 25 tax experts from around the world chosen as the member for the committee, formally known as the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters
- ✓ Other members of the UN Tax Committee were appointed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres
- ✓ Das has around 28 years of experience as Member of Indian Revenue Service (IRS) in policy making and implementing Direct Tax Laws in India.
- ✓ He holds a PG Diploma in Public Policy and Management from the IIM Bangalore and a PG Degree in International Relations from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
- ✓ Since 2018, Das is Indian Delegate to Inclusive Framework (IF), which is a group of more than 135 countries monitoring BEPS
- ✓ He is a member of its Steering Group which is involved in building a consensus-based solution to address direct tax challenges posed by digitalization of the economy.
- ✓ Also Das is Indian delegate since 2016 to OECD's Task Force on Digital Economy (TFDE) and member of TFDE bureau.
- ✓ The new Committee membership brings together tax practitioners with expertise in a wide range of areas, such as double tax treaties, transfer pricing, avoiding and resolving tax disputes, taxation of the industries, taxation of the digital economy, environmental taxation, and value-added taxes

- ✓ The first meeting of the new membership of the Committee will take place in October 2021, during which the experts will determine the work plan for their term

SPORTS

- **Indian rowers, Arvind Singh and Arjun Lal - gave Indian rowing its best ever result at the Olympics so far on July 25**
- ✓ They produced a tactically brilliant race reaching the semifinals of the men's lightweight doubles sculls at the Sea Forest Waterway in Tokyo
- ✓ It is the first time that the tricolour will have representation at this stage of the Olympics in rowing.
- ✓ The previous best overall by an Indian rower was the 13th place finish by Dattu Bokanal in men's single scull at 2016 Rio.



- ✓ On the same day, Eight-time Olympic artistic gymnast Oksana Chusovitina failed to secure a place in the vault final in her last ever Olympic Games
 - ✓ The 46-year-old legendary athlete Oksana made her sporting debut in junior competitions in 1987, representing the Soviet Union.
 - ✓ Born in Uzbekistan in 1976, Chusovitina's Olympic journey began in Barcelona in 1992, where she won team gold, adding silver in the vault in Beijing 2008.
 - ✓ In another interesting victory, Japan's Abe siblings made history as the first siblings to win gold medals on the same day.
 - ✓ Japanese judoka Uta Abe won in the women's 52kg category in Tokyo on July 25, hours before her brother Hifumi took gold in the men's 66kg final
- **Indian junior wrestler Priya Malik - clinched gold at the World Cadet Wrestling Championships in Budapest on July 24.**



- ✓ Priya Malik defeated Kseniya Patapovich of Belarus in the title clash in the women's 73kg weight category.
- ✓ The Cadet World Championship is a tournament where the "Greco-Roman, Freestyle and Women wrestlers" worldwide below the age of 17 compete.
- ✓ Priya had also won the gold medal in the 2019 edition of the Khelo India in Pune and then went on to win gold at the 17th School Games in Delhi.
- ✓ Overall, India won 13 medals, including 5 Golds at the World Cadet Championships in Budapest, Hungary.
- ✓ Tannu, Komal, Aman Gulia, Sagar Jaglan, Chirag and Jaideep were also among the players who clinched gold alongside the Freestyle Team.
- ✓ Jaskaran Singh and India Women's Wrestling team won silver while Ankit Gulia, Varsha, and Sahil had to settle for bronze.

