

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 20, 2023

STATES

- **Madhya Pradesh government - has announced the establishment of 9,000 'CM Rise' schools across the state**



- ✓ The move is aimed at improving the quality of education in the state through modern techniques
- ✓ Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan made this announcement recently and revealed that the schools would be named after the esteemed social reformer, Babasaheb Ambedkar.
- ✓ The CM Rise schools aim to deliver quality education by incorporating 'smart classes.'
- ✓ Under the initiative, students will be taught by teachers from Delhi and Mumbai, thereby ensuring access to high quality educational resources.
- ✓ Additionally, the schools will feature modern labs, sports grounds, and other essential facilities to create an optimal learning environment.
- ✓ To further empower students, the government will establish Atal Tinkering Labs in these schools to instill a spirit of innovation and creativity among students, providing them with opportunities to explore and develop their skills.

NATIONAL

- **On July 19, the Union Cabinet - cleared changes to the mediation bill which makes mediation voluntary instead of mandatory as provided for in the original bill tabled in Rajya Sabha in December 2021.**
- ✓ The bill, moved by the Union ministry of law and justice, was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on law
- ✓ The committee had recommended reducing the maximum time limit for completing mediation by half (90 days from 180 days) and also making it voluntary for parties.
- ✓ The amendments will be moved during passage of the bill in Parliament during the monsoon session beginning on July 20.
- ✓ The Mediation Bill includes an institutional framework for settling civil or commercial disputes through mediation before parties approach a court or tribunal.
 - ✓ Under this new legislation, participation in pre-litigation mediation is likely to be mandatory to find an efficient way of dispute resolution and free up the judiciary of avoidable litigation.
 - ✓ The bill also proposes to set up a Mediation Council of India that will register mediators and recognise mediation service providers and institutes.
- ✓ The Cabinet also cleared the Registration of Press and Periodicals Bill, which seeks to replace the Press and Registration of Books (PRB) Act, 1867.
 - ✓ It will focus on ease of doing business and decriminalization of some earlier offences by introducing monetary penalties instead
 - ✓ The new law is expected to make the registration process for newspapers and periodicals simpler and remove penal provisions for not including the name of the printer or operation of printing presses by newspapers.

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Proposed action

Key bills likely to be tabled in Parliament during the monsoon session.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ BIOLOGICAL Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2022▶ JAN Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023▶ MULTI-STATE Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022▶ DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019▶ FOREST (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023▶ MEDIATION Bill, 2021▶ GOVERNMENT of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (To replace Ordinance)▶ POSTAL Services Bill, 2023▶ NATIONAL Cooperative University Bill, 2023▶ DIGITAL Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023▶ ANCIENT Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ NATIONAL Dental Commission Bill, 2023▶ NATIONAL Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill, 2023▶ DRUGS, Medical Devices and Cosmetics Bill, 2023▶ REGISTRATION of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023▶ JAMMU and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023▶ CINEMATOGRAPH (Amendment) Bill, 2023▶ PRESS and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023▶ ADVOCATES (Amendment) Bill, 2023▶ MINES and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023▶ RAILWAYS (Amendment) Bill, 2023▶ NATIONAL Research Foundation Bill, 2023
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Source: Lok Sabha Bulletin

- ✓ The government has planned to table 31 bills, including the one to replace the Delhi services ordinance, and amendments to the forest conservation law, for passage during the monsoon session of Parliament
 - ✓ The Delhi services ordinance seeks to give power of transfer and posting of bureaucrats to the Centre.
- ✓ The list of the proposed legislations that are likely to be taken up during the session include the Data Protection Bill, Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill to check film piracy, National Research Foundation Bill, Jan Vishwas Bill and Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill.
- **The Delhi Police - have received a complaint against 26 Opposition parties for naming their alliance 'I.N.D.I.A' (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance).**
 - ✓ The complaint, filed by Delhi resident Dr Avinish Mishra, alleges improper use of the name of I.N.D.I.A and for "undue influence" during elections
 - ✓ The INDIA alliance is a new political coalition, previously known as the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), and comprises 26 opposition parties for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls
 - ✓ The new name was proposed by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during an opposition meeting in Bengaluru on July 18.
 - ✓ The 26 opposition parties include Indian National Congress (INC), All India Trinamool Congress (TMC), Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Janta Dal (United), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Sharad Pawar, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC), People's Democratic Party (PDP), Communist Party of India (Marxist), Communist Party of India (CPI), Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP), Shiv Sena (UBT), Samajwadi Party (SP), Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), Apna Dal (Kamerawadi), All India Forward Bloc, Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK), Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), Kongunadu Makkal Desai Katchi (KMDK), Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), Manithaneya Makkal Katchi (MMK), Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), and Kerala Congress (M), Kerala Congress (Joseph).
 - ✓ The case has been registered under Section 2(c) of the Emblems Act defines "name" to include any abbreviation of a name.
 - ✓ Section 5 of the Emblems Act provides for a punishment with a fine which may extend to five hundred rupees to be imposed on any person who is found to be contravening provisions of Section 3 of the Emblems Act.
- **The Supreme Court - has issued new guidelines on designating lawyers as 'Senior Advocates' in the apex court.**
 - ✓ The new eligibility criteria and rules titled 'Guidelines for Designation of Senior Advocates by the Supreme Court of India, 2023', will replace the earlier guidelines issued in 2018.

- ✓ The new guidelines were issued by the court following the judgment in the *Indira Jaising Vs Supreme Court* case, which modified the criteria
 - ✓ As per the new guidelines, the eligibility criteria and weightage of marks are to be given based on years of practice, contribution to judgments, legal publications and teaching assignments among other aspects.
 - ✓ The Advocates Act provides for two categories of lawyers – Advocates and Senior Advocates.
 - ✓ Under Section 16(2) of the Act, the Supreme Court and the High Court have the power to designate an advocate as a Senior Advocate with his consent as a recognition of their ability, standing at the bar or special knowledge or experience in law.
 - ✓ The candidates need to be at least ten years' standing as an Advocate or ten years' combined standing as an Advocate and as a District and Sessions Judge or as a Judicial Member of any Tribunal in India to be designated as Senior Advocates at the Supreme Court, as per the new guidelines.
 - ✓ They must practice mainly in the Supreme Court but advocates with domain expertise of practising before specialised Tribunals may be given concession
 - ✓ The age limit for applying for the designation of Senior Advocate is now 45 years unless the age limit is relaxed.
 - ✓ The selection for the designation of Senior Advocates will be done by the Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates, which will be headed by CJI as the Chairperson
- **The Centre - recently announced the sale of subsidised chana dal under the brand name 'Bharat Dal' to provide relief to consumers from price rise.**



- ✓ Union Food Minister Piyush Goyal launched the sale of 'subsidised' chana dal under the brand name 'Bharat Dal' on July 17
- ✓ The dal will be available for Rs 60 per kg for a 1 kg pack and Rs 55 per kg for a 30 kg pack.

- ✓ The chana dal, under this arrangement, is also made available to state governments for supplies under their welfare schemes
 - ✓ Chana dal is being sold in NAFED's (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation) retail locations in Delhi-NCR
 - ✓ It will also be available at retail stores of NCCF, Kendriya Bhandar and Mother Dairy's Safal.
 - ✓ Chana has multiple nutritional health benefits as it is rich in fibre, iron, potassium, vitamin B, selenium beta carotene and choline which are required by human body for controlling anaemia, blood sugar, bone health etc. and even for mental health.
- **The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship - has launched AI for India 2.0, a free online training program focused on Artificial Intelligence.**



- ✓ The program was launched recently on World Youth Skills' Day (July 15).
- ✓ This initiative is a collaboration between Skill India and GUVI, a company incubated by IIT Madras and IIM Ahmedabad.
- ✓ The online program holds accreditations from the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) and IIT Madras, aiming to equip young individuals with cutting-edge skills.
- ✓ The launch event was graced by Dharmendra Pradhan, the Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- ✓ Notably, the new course is available in nine different Indian languages for users.

BUSINESS/ECONOMY

- **Tata Sons - plans to build a four-billion-pound (about Rs 42,300 crore) electric vehicle battery factory in the UK, which will be its first gigafactory outside India.**
- ✓ Last month, it announced plans to establish a Rs 13,000-crore battery manufacturing facility in Gujarat.
 - ✓ The UK plant will cater to the requirements of Tata Group company Jaguar Land Rover (JLR)
 - ✓ It will create up to 4,000 jobs and have an annual output of 40 gigawatt hours.
 - ✓ The production at the gigafactory is planned to start in 2026.

- ✓ The factory is expected to be set up in Somerset, South West England, while JLR's UK plants are near Birmingham, in central England.
- ✓ The development strengthens Tata Group's presence in the UK, which it entered in 1907.
- ✓ The conglomerate has key investments in IT, beverages, hospitality, automotive, steel and chemicals in the UK.
- ✓ Tata Sons has routed its UK and Gujarat ventures through its fully-owned arm Agratas Energy Storage Solutions.
- ✓ The Gujarat plant will have a capacity to produce 20 gigawatt hours of cells annually and its anchor customer will be Tata Motors.

SPORTS

- **Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa - emerged champion in the V Geza Hetenyi Memorial Super GM chess tournament in Hungary on July 19.**



- ✓ The 17-year-old GM scored 6.5 points to finish clear first in the 10-player event.
- ✓ Praggnanandhaa secured 5 wins, drew 3 games and suffered only 1 defeat in the tournament.
- ✓ After nine rounds of play, he ended up a point ahead of M Amin Tabatabaei (Iran) and Russia's Sanan Sjugirov.

COUNTRY'S WEALTHIEST MLAs – A REPORT

- **Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president and the state's deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar - is the richest MLA in the country, with assets worth Rs.1,413 crore**
- ✓ This is based on a report from the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and National Election Watch (NEW).
 - ✓ The advocacy group has analysed 4,001 sitting MLAs from 28 state assemblies and two Union territories.
- ✓ Karnataka MLAs dominate the list of richest legislators in the country, with 12 in the top 20 and the top three slots occupied them.

STATE HAS 32 BILLIONAIRE-NETAS

TOP 3 RICHEST MLAS IN INDIA		OTHER STATE MLAs IN TOP 20	
DK Shivakumar Congress ₹1,413 crore		> BS Suresha (Cong) – ₹648cr	
KH Puttaswamy Gowda IND ₹1,267 crore		> NA Haris (Cong) – ₹439cr	
Priyakrishna Congress ₹1,156 crore		> HK Suresh (BJP) – ₹435cr	
		> RV Deshpande (Cong) – ₹363cr	
		> MR Manjunath (JDS) – ₹316cr	
		> SN Subba Reddy (Cong) – ₹313cr	
		> Shamanur Shivashankarappa (Congress) – ₹312cr	
		> M Krishnappa (Cong) – ₹296cr	
		> Munirathna (BJP) – ₹293cr	

- ✓ According to the report, 14% of the Karnataka MLAs are billionaires (worth Rs.100 crore), the highest in the country.
- ✓ The second richest is an independent legislator and businessman — K H Puttaswamy Gowda — from Gauri-bidanur, which is 80km from Bengaluru.
 - ✓ Gowda has assets valued at Rs.1,267 crore and has liabilities of a mere Rs.5 crore.
 - ✓ Gowda has Rs.990 crore in immovable assets and Rs.276 crore in movable assets.
- ✓ The third richest is the youngest Congress MLA in the Karnataka assembly, Priyakrishna.
 - ✓ The 39-year-old has declared assets of Rs.1,156 crore.
- ✓ The other Karnataka MLAs in the top 20 are B S Suresha, N A Haris, H K Suresh, R V Deshpande, M R Manjunath, S N Subbareddy, Shamanur Shivashankarappa, M Krishnappa and Munirathna.
- ✓ In his 2023 affidavit, filed before the Election Commission, Shivakumar had disclosed that he has a total of Rs.273 crore in immovable assets, Rs.1,140 crore in movable assets and a liability of Rs.265 crore.
- ✓ Overall, the poorest MLA in the country is Nirmal Kumar Dhara from West Bengal, with an asset of Rs.1,700 and no liabilities

