



FIVE **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS - july** **STATES**

- **Uttarakhand - has decided to constitute village cow protection committees and pay up to Rs. 5,000 per month to its members for “protecting and nurturing stray cows”.**
 - ✓ The project is expected to provide jobs to residents of around 50 villages, with an initial investment of Rs.1 crore in the next six months.
 - ✓ The decision was taken during a meeting of the Uttarakhand Animal Welfare Board chaired by animal husbandry minister Saurabh Bahuguna on July 9.
 - ✓ Further, the state government has decided to increase the annual budget dedicated to the protection of stray cattle from Rs.2.5 crore to Rs.15 crore
- **Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia - launched ‘Mission Kushal Karmi’ to upgrade the skills of construction workers**



- ✓ The Delhi government launched this programme with the help of Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) and Delhi Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board on July 6
- ✓ It is being conducted in association with Simplex, NAREDCO and India Vision Foundation
- ✓ Under this 15 days special training programme, workers will undergo upskilling which will boost their future incomes by upto Rs. 8,000 per month

- ✓ Further, to compensate for the loss of wages during the training, all the construction workers will be provided with an amount of Rs 4,200 each
 - ✓ The objective of the programme is to provide on-the-job skill development training to over 2 lakh registered construction workers in industry demand-driven job roles in the construction sector in a year
 - ✓ Under this program, for the first time in the country, a university, DSEU, will go to the workers and train them.
- **The Chhattisgarh Government - has received an in-principle approval from the Centre to go ahead with the World-bank funded school education project**
- ✓ The Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) under the Union Finance Ministry had given an in-principle approval for the \$300 million (approximately Rs. 2,100 crore) school education project in the State
 - ✓ Similarly, the World Bank has also approved in-principle that it's willing to fund the project.
 - ✓ A team of the World Bank will be visiting Chhattisgarh later this month for the first stage of discussion on the project terms
 - ✓ Under the project, the Chhattisgarh Government will borrow \$300 million over a period of five years at significantly lower than market rates, and repay it over a period of 20 years
 - ✓ The World Bank has been associated with India's school education system since 1994
 - ✓ Recently, it has signed the \$500 million Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (STARS) in 2021
 - ✓ The STARS initiative aims to improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian States - Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan

NATIONAL

- **On July 9, Union home minister Amit Shah - said a committee would be formed under the Union home secretary to formulate a strategy to tackle the menace of cyber attacks**
- ✓ The minister's direction came during the meeting of the Northern Zonal Council, comprising five states and three Union Territories, held in Jaipur, which expressed concern on cyber crimes.
 - ✓ The meeting also discussed various other issues of inter-state and Centre-state concern, including expansion of banking network in rural areas.
 - ✓ The panel on cyber crimes will comprise representatives of all state governments and departments concerned
 - ✓ It would prepare a unified strategy to deal with the cyber crime menace.

- ✓ The minister, who chaired the meeting, stressed on the need to train police officers, public prosecutors, telecom companies and their point of sale agents in new technology.
 - ✓ He called for maximum use of IT tools to detect cyber-crimes and systematic measures to prevent their recurrence.
 - ✓ The Minister asked states and UTs to conduct awareness campaigns on cyber-vigilance.
 - ✓ Further, he informed the participants that 19 meetings of the regional councils and 24 meetings of the standing committee were held between 2014 and 2022.
- **Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani - chaired a conference on the ministry's schemes with stakeholders on July 9**



- ✓ On July 7, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) issued new guidelines under its centrally sponsored scheme 'Mission Vatsalya' aimed at the welfare and rehabilitation of children.
- ✓ All the States/UTs have signed the Memorandum of Undertaking with the Ministry for implementation of the scheme
- ✓ It will be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in partnership with state governments and UT administrations, with a fund-sharing pattern of 60:40.
- ✓ However, for the eight states in the Northeast — as well as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and the UT of Jammu and Kashmir — the Centre and state/UT's share will be 90:10.
- ✓ As per the new guidelines, all states are directed to retain the official name of children and said that only a "correct translation to local language is permissible."
- ✓ At state level, there will be a committee headed by the Chief Secretary to monitor, review and promote convergence in the implementation of the scheme
- ✓ The scheme also underlines the process of how central funds and benefits will be disbursed to the states and approved via the 'Mission Vatsalya Project Approval Board'.
- ✓ The board will be chaired by the WCD secretary, who will be responsible for scrutinising and approving financial proposals received from the states and union territories

- ✓ Under the new regulations, four existing portals – TrackChild (for missing/found children), CARINGS (for the adoption of children), ICPS portal (for monitoring the scheme) and Khoya-Paya (citizen-centric application for missing and sighted children) will now be integrated by the NIC under one single portal
- ✓ Under child care institutions, the ministry has also announced 'Vatsalya Sadan' which will be an integrated home complex, children home, observation home, special home and place of safety
- ✓ Juvenile Justice Boards and child welfare institutions will also be located within the same premises for implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act and states have been asked to propose such set-ups for 75 children in each home.
- ✓ The Mission Vatsalya in partnership with States and districts will execute a 24x7 helpline service for children as defined under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.
- ✓ The Child Helpline 1098 under Mission Vatsalya shall run in coordination with State and district functionaries and integrated with the Emergency Response Support System 112 (ERSS-112) helpline of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs
- ✓ All state governments and UT administrations have been asked to prepare their financial proposal and plans for the year 2022-23 under the Mission Vatsalya Scheme on the basis of the new guidelines
- ✓ The norms of Mission Vatsalya scheme, earlier titled Child Protection Scheme, became applicable from 1 April 2022.
- ✓ The WCD ministry has launched three new missions -- Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan, Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya.
- ✓ The schemes for women were named Mission Shakti while child welfare schemes are now called Mission Vatsalya and Mission Poshan will be the nutritional schemes.
- ✓ The child protection services scheme encompasses the adoption resource agencies, child protection units, child welfare and protection committees, juvenile justice boards, among others.

➤ **India's first Autonomous Navigation facility, TiHAN - was inaugurated by Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Science & Technology at the IIT Hyderabad campus recently on July 4**

- ✓ The Minister also appreciated that IIT Hyderabad has established a new post-graduation course of M.Tech in Smart Mobility, which is the first-of-its-kind in India
- ✓ TiHAN stands for 'Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation'
- ✓ It is a multidisciplinary initiative that will make India a global player in the futuristic and next generation 'smart mobility' technology.
- ✓ The technology was developed at a budget of Rs. 130 crore by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology
- ✓ TiHAN Testbed will provide a unique platform for high quality research between academia, industry and R&D labs both at the national and international level



- ✓ TiHAN will act as the country's first integrated test facility for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and unmanned ground/surface vehicles (UGV)
- ✓ The first-of-its-kind, state-of-the-art testbed will be helpful in investigating the operation of unmanned and connected vehicles in a controlled environment by simulating various scenarios that may occur in real-life traffic operations
- ✓ In India, there is presently no such testbed facility for assessing autonomous vehicle performance
- ✓ TiHAN is recognized as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

INTERNATIONAL


- **On July 9, Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa – said he would resign on July 13, hours after thousands of protesters stormed his official residence**
- ✓ Following an emergency meeting, Parliament Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena asked President Rajapaksa and PM Ranil Wickremesinghe to resign immediately to make way for an all-party government.



- ✓ Rajapaksa, who left the official residence as a precaution ahead of the planned weekend protests, appears to have gone underground
- ✓ The PM has held the job for about two months after earlier protests forced out his predecessor.

- ✓ It was also decided to call for elections within a short period of time and to install a new government
 - ✓ Rajapaksa became Sri Lankan President in November 2020.
 - ✓ The island nation of 22 million people is struggling under a severe foreign exchange shortage that has limited essential imports of fuel, food and medicine, plunging it into the worst economic crisis since independence in 1948.
 - ✓ Soaring inflation, which reached a record 54.6% in June, is expected to hit 70% in the coming months
 - ✓ The government has defaulted on its \$51 billion external debt and is seeking an International Monetary Fund bailout.
- **On July 8, World's richest man Elon Musk - announced that he will drop his \$44 billion offer to buy Twitter after the company failed to provide enough information about the number of fake accounts.**

THE TWITTER TAKEOVER SAGA

April 4 Elon Musk discloses over 9% stake in Twitter	
April 5 Twitter says Musk will join company's board	
April 10 Musk says he will not join Twitter board	
April 14 Musk offers \$54.20/share, a 38% premium to Twitter's April 1 closing price	
April 15 Twitter adopts poison pill to protect company from takeover	
April 21 Musk lines up \$46.5 billion in financing for the deal	May 25 Twitter investors vote against re-electing Musk ally to board in the next session
April 25 Twitter board accepts Musk's offer	May 26 Musk sued by Twitter investors for stock 'manipulation' during takeover
April 29 Musk sells Tesla shares worth over \$8bn in a bid to finance takeover	June 6 Musk threatens to walk away from the buyout deal if Twitter fails to provide data on spam and fake accounts
May 2 Musk seeks to get more external investors	July 8 Musk says he is terminating the deal because Twitter breached multiple provisions of the merger agreement. Twitter says it would pursue legal action
May 5 Musk discloses \$7.14 billion funding	
May 13 Musk says Twitter deal on hold pending review of spam and fake accounts. Later tweets that he remains committed to the deal	

- ✓ Twitter's board responded by threatening to "pursue legal action" to enforce the terms of the \$44 billion deal struck by Musk in April, including a \$1 billion break-up fee if he decides to cancel the agreement

- ✓ In a regulatory filing by his lawyers, Musk said Twitter had not provided information necessary to calculate the number of fake accounts, which the company has said is lower than 5%.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India - has been elected a member of the Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) for the 2022-2026 cycle.**
- ✓ The elections for the Intergovernmental Committee took place during the 9th General Assembly of the 2003 Convention held at UNESCO headquarters, Paris, from 5th to 7th July 2022
- ✓ India has served as a member of the ICH Committee twice — from 2006 to 2010 and from 2014 to 2018.
- ✓ According to UNESCO, the core functions of the ICH Committee are to promote the objectives of the convention, provide guidance on best practices and make recommendations on measures for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage.
- ✓ It also examines requests submitted by States Parties for the inscription of intangible heritage on the Lists as well as proposals for programmes and projects
- ✓ Against the four seats falling vacant within the Asia-Pacific group, six countries — India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, and Thailand — had presented their candidature.
- ✓ India was selected after receiving 110 votes from the 155 State Parties that were present and voting
- ✓ The Intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention comprises 24 members and is elected in the General Assembly of the Convention according to the principles of equitable geographical representation and rotation.
- ✓ As a member of the intergovernmental committee, India will have the opportunity to closely monitor the implementation of the 2003 Convention.
- ✓ India ratified the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in September 2005
- ✓ With 14 inscriptions on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, India also ranks high in the listing of intangible cultural heritage.
- ✓ After the inscription of Durga Puja in 2021, India submitted the nomination for Garba of Gujarat to be discussed in 2023.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy, Parshottam Rupala – inaugurated the country's first 'Animal Health Summit 2022' at NASC Complex, New Delhi**



- ✓ Rupala was the chief guest at the inaugural function organized by Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) and the Agriculture Today Group on July 6
 - ✓ The two-day event will host several panel discussions ranging from topics such as Animal Health policy initiatives to Business environment & investment opportunities in the Animal Health sector.
 - ✓ During his speech, the Minister said that by ensuring good animal health, veterinarians are playing a very significant role
 - ✓ The main aim of the summit is to understand the significance of animal health towards the broader objective of the country's food and nutrition security, rural incomes and prosperity and overall economic development.
- **The 10th edition of World Peace Forum 2022, organised by Tsinghua University – concluded on July 5 in Beijing**



- ✓ It is being organised under the theme “Preserving International Stability: Commonality, Comprehensiveness and Cooperation”
- ✓ The event featured panel discussions that deliberated the polarized situation in Asia and in the Indo-Pacific region
- ✓ India's former Foreign Secretary and former National Security Advisor Shiv Shankar Menon participated virtually in a panel discussion on 'The US Indo-Pacific Strategy and its implications on Regional Security'
- ✓ The session was attended by the experts from China, Australia, Singapore and other ASEAN countries.

- ✓ India's Ambassador to China Pradeep Kumar Rawat spoke at a panel discussion titled "BRICS Cooperation: Opportunities and Challenges"
- ✓ The discussion was attended by the Ambassadors of Russia, Brazil and South Africa to China
- ✓ The tenth edition of the forum comprises of topics including preservation of world peace, United Nations, European security order, and world order

PERSONALITIES

- **India-born Gita Gopinath - became the first woman and second Indian to feature on the 'wall of former chief economists' of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).**



- ✓ The first Indian to achieve the honour was Raghuram Rajan who was chief economist and director of research of IMF between 2003 and 2006.
- ✓ Gopinath was appointed as IMF chief economist in October 2018 and was later promoted as IMF's first deputy managing director in December last year.
- ✓ Gopinath had served as the first female chief economist of the Washington-based global lender IMF for three years.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **On July 8, the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change - notified the draft demarking the 46,832 sqkm area as eco-sensitive area (ESA) along the Western Ghats in five states, excluding Kerala**
- ✓ The demarked ESA region comprises 449 sq kms in Gujarat, 17,340 sq kms in Maharashtra, 1,461 sq km in Goa, 20,668 sq kms in Karnataka and 6,914 sq kms in Tamil Nadu.

WHAT IS BANNED/ REGULATED IN ESA?

BANNED ➤ Mining, quarrying, sand mining. Existing mines to be shut within 5 years ➤ No new thermal plants, expansion of existing plants ➤ No Red category industries and expansion of firms ➤ Building, construction, township and area development projects	REGULATED ➤ New hydel projects as per environmental impact assessment notification and one plant within 3km distance ➤ Orange/White category industries under strict compliance with environmental regulations ➤ All healthcare establishments can continue as per the law and regulations
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- ✓ A global biodiversity hotspot, the Western Ghats is the origin of Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery and a number of other rivers
- ✓ It extends over a distance of approximately 1,500 km from Tapti river in the north to Kanyakumari in the south through six states namely, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Some of the parts of the Ghats are also inscribed in the UNESCO World Natural Heritage List
- ✓ Originally, the Madhav Gadgil-led committee had recommended designating the entire region as Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) — more than 1 lakh sq kms — in the report submitted to the Environment Ministry in 2011
- ✓ The Kasturirangan panel, constituted soon after, had diluted the ESA region to about 50% area, which also included 20,668 sqkm in Karnataka
- ✓ Later, the Environment Ministry had constituted a High Level Working Group to study the ecology, environmental integrity and holistic development of the Western Ghats
- ✓ It had submitted its report on April 15, 2013 wherein it had identified approximately 37% of the Western Ghats as ecologically sensitive covering an area of 59,940 sq kms.
- ✓ As per the latest central notification, which is the fifth, 1,572 villages in 10 districts have been considered ESA.

SPORTS

- **The 17-seeded Elena Rybakina - has won the women's singles title at Wimbledon by beating World No. 2 Ons Jabeur of Tunisia on July 9.**
- ✓ This is the first Wimbledon women's final that featured a pair of first-time major finalists since 1962.
- ✓ Rybakina is the first player representing Kazakhstan to win a Grand Slam singles title.

- ✓ She was born in Russia but switched nationalities in 2018 after receiving greater financial support from Kazakhstan

RYBAKINA WINS MAIDEN GRAND SLAM



➤ Elena Rybakina beat Ons Jabeur **3-6, 6-2, 6-2** in the Wimbledon final to become the **first tennis player from Kazakhstan** to win a Grand Slam singles championship



➤ Rybakina used her big serve and powerful forehand to overcome Jabeur's mix of spins and slices

➤ Rybakina, 23, was **born in Moscow** and has represented Kazakhstan since 2018

➤ This switch has been a **topic of conversation** as The All England Club **barred all players** who represent **Russia or Belarus** from entering the tournament because of the **war in Ukraine** | **P 17**

- ✓ Rybakina, who turned 23 last month, is the youngest woman to win the Wimbledon title after 21-year-old Petra Kvitová, who won the title in 2011
- ✓ Also, Rybakina, ranked World No. 23, became the second-lowest-ranked woman to win Wimbledon after Venus Williams, who was No. 31 when she won in 2007.
- ✓ Rybakina had never made it past the quarterfinals of a major before this run and no Kazakh singles player had made a major semifinal before Rybakina's run
- ✓ The All England Club did not allow Russian and Belarusian players to compete at this year's tournament in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine
- ✓ Rybakina has won two WTA titles and reached a highest ranking of 12th in January.
- ✓ Tunisia's Jabeur is the first African or Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam final in the modern era

