



## **EVE** **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-july** **STATES**

- **For the first time in more than 110 years of Uttar Pradesh's Legislative Council, the country's oldest party Congress - will have no representative at the Council**
- ✓ Deepak Singh, the grand old party's only MLC, is among the 12 members whose term in the Legislative Council came to an end on July 7.
- ✓ However, the Congress is not in a position to send any of its representatives to the Legislative Council at present, as it had won only two of the 403 seats in the assembly elections held earlier this year.
- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council was constituted on January 5, 1887, and its first meeting was held three days later at the then Thornhill Memorial Hall in Allahabad.
- ✓ This Upper House was recognised for the first time through the Government of India Act in 1935.
- ✓ Initially, this House had only nine members, and in 1909, under the provisions of the Indian Council Act, the number was increased to 46 and subsequently raised to 100
- ✓ Congress leader Motilal Nehru became a member of this House in February 1909 and he is considered the first member of the Congress in the Legislative Council.
- ✓ **In another first, the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council will not have a Leader of Opposition, when the term of 13 newly-elected members begins**
- ✓ The Samajwadi Party (SP)'s Lal Bihari Yadav lost his post as the Leader of the Opposition as the party's strength in the 100-member Upper House dropped to just 9 as against 11 earlier
- ✓ Under rule 234 of Upper House, if the number of a political party goes below 10% of the strength of the House (less than 10) then it cannot have the post of the Leader of the Opposition
- ✓ The UP Council continues to be the biggest legislative council in the country even after its 8 seats went to Uttarakhand



- ✓ This mega festival is arranged by the Delhi Tourism Board in collaboration with the Delhi Government at Dilli Haat, Pitampura and Dilli Haat, Janakpuri.
- ✓ The International Mango Festival was first organised in the year 1987.

## NATIONAL

- **The Madhya Pradesh government - anticipates the arrival of the first batch of cheetahs from South Africa on August 15**
  - ✓ In this regard, the preparations are at full swing at Kuno National Park for the world's first intercontinental cheetah translocation project.
  - ✓ However, the exact date of the cheetahs' arrival is still not announced by the Tiger Conservation Authority, as MoUs for the translocation project are still pending with the Namibian and South African governments.
  - ✓ India is to get 20 cheetahs — 12 from South Africa and eight from Namibia — for captive breeding.
  - ✓ A team of forest officers from Kuno had gone to Namibia recently to learn to handle cheetahs under the 10-day training sessions.
  - ✓ The training sessions included methods of capture, placement of cheetah traps, catching an entire group of cheetahs, handling the animals once they have been captured, and human safety.
  - ✓ They were also trained in administering anaesthesia to cheetahs and managing the recovery period.
- **The Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change - organized 'Hariyali Mahotsav' (Tree Festival) on July 8 at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi**

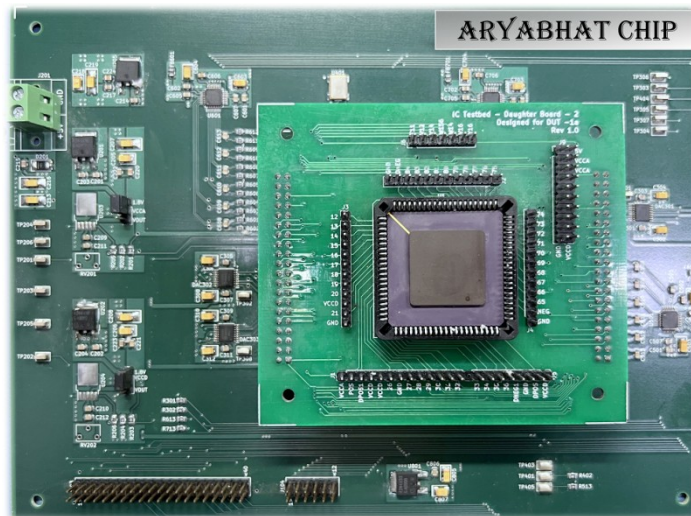


- ✓ The event was organized in collaboration with the State Governments, Government of Delhi, Police Institutions, and Delhi Schools
- ✓ The festival was conducted to promote plantation drives and raise awareness about the importance of trees in protecting our environment for current and future generations against air pollution and global warming.

- ✓ The programme involves plantation activities at 75 Nagar Vans, 75 km of road length around 75 Police establishments, 75 schools in Delhi, and 75 degraded sites across the country as part of the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- Researchers from Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Science – have developed a design framework for the creation of next-generation analog computing chipsets



- ✓ These analog chipsets are designed to operate quicker and with less power than the digital chips used at present in most electronic gadgets.
- ✓ The team created a prototype of an analog chipset named ARYABHAT-1 (Analog Reconfigurable Technology and Bias-scalable Hardware for AI Tasks) using their innovative design methodology
- ✓ ARYABHAT-1 is especially helpful for AI-based applications which deal with object or speech recognition systems, like Alexa or Siri.
- ✓ They are also very useful in operations that require massive parallel computing at high speeds.
- ✓ Most computing equipment, including mobile phones, laptops, and desktop computers, utilize digital chips due to the simplicity and scalability of the design process
- ✓ Analog computing could be better than digital computing in situations where precise calculations are unnecessary

## ECONOMY

- The Reserve Bank of India - has given in-principle approvals to Pine Labs, Razorpay and Stripe for a payment aggregator licence.



- ✓ Over 160 operators have shown interest in acquiring the aggregator licence that will grant them regulatory recognition.
- ✓ Currently, there are dozens of firms operating in the payment space, which are treated as service providers to RBI-regulated entities.
- ✓ As payment aggregators have improvised with their innovations and drive customer acquisitions, the RBI has decided to regulate the entities.
- ✓ Until now, the payment companies have been operating as agents of banks and the RBI regulates them through the banks they serve.
- ✓ Companies that are already operational but are not granted a licence will end up being technology providers, with the banks taking responsibility for the operations.

## OBITUARY

- **Former Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe - died at age 67 after being shot during a campaign speech in the city of Nara in western Japan on July 8**



- ✓ This is the first time in around a hundred years that a sitting or former premier of Japan has been assassinated
- ✓ Abe was the longest-serving Japanese prime minister in history in terms of consecutive days in office, before stepping down in 2020, citing health reasons.
- ✓ Police arrested shooting suspect Tetsuya Yamagami, 41, who admitted to shooting Abe using a homemade gun.
- ✓ The parliamentary election in Japan is scheduled for July 10, in which Abe's Liberal Democratic Party was expected to cruise to victory.
- ✓ According to police, the suspect, an ex-member of Japan's Self-Defense Forces, said he holds hatred toward a certain group, which he thought Abe was linked to.
- ✓ Shootings are extremely rare in Japan because of strict gun ownership laws
- ✓ Under Japan's firearms laws, the only guns permitted for sale are shotguns and air rifles — handguns are outlawed
- ✓ The laws and the thorough process of background checks have kept the number of private gun owners in Japan extremely low.

- ✓ In 2018, Japan, a country of 125 million people, only reported nine deaths from firearms — compared with 39,740 that year in the United States.
- ✓ Shinzo Abe was prime minister of Japan twice, from 2006-07 as the country's youngest PM at age 52 and again from 2012-20.
- ✓ He was succeeded by Yoshihide Suga and later by Fumio Kishida.
- ✓ Abe also served as Chief Cabinet Secretary during 2005-2006 when Junichiro Koizumi was Prime Minister and later in 2012 as leader of opposition



- ✓ India has announced one day of state mourning on July 9 as a mark of respect for former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe
- ✓ In a blog titled “My Friend, Abe San”, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Shinzo Abe, describing him as “an outstanding leader of Japan, a towering global statesman, and a great champion of India-Japan friendship”.
- ✓ In his first stint in 2006-07, Abe visited India and addressed Parliament.
- ✓ During his second stint, he visited India thrice (January 2014, December 2015, September 2017) — the most visits by any Japanese PM
- ✓ Shinzo Abe was the first Japanese PM to be chief guest at India's Republic Day parade in 2014
- ✓ In 2014, Shinzo Abe and Prime Minister Narendra Modi agreed to upgrade bilateral ties to "Special Strategic and Global Partnership"

## SPORTS

- **Former FIFA president Sepp Blatter and French Soccer legend Michel Platini - were both cleared of corruption charges by a Swiss court on July 8 after a seven-year investigation during which they stepped out of the sport.**
- ✓ As per the court, the pair's account of a 'gentlemen's agreement' for FIFA to pay Platini 2 million Swiss francs (\$2.05 million) for consulting work was credible and considered not a fraudulent payment.

- ✓ As a result Blatter, who led FIFA for 17 years, was cleared of fraud by the Federal Criminal Court in the southern city of Bellinzona.



- ✓ Platini, a former France national team captain and manager, was also acquitted of fraud.
- ✓ The two had denied the charges against them.
- ✓ Swiss prosecutors had accused Swiss national Blatter and Platini of unlawfully arranging for FIFA to pay the Frenchman two million Swiss francs (\$2.06 million) in 2011.
- ✓ The case ended the reign of Blatter as FIFA president in disgrace and spoiled Platini's hopes of succeeding him after Platini was banned from football when the affair came to light.