



## **EVE** **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-june**

### **NATIONAL**

- On June 24, the BJP-led NDA's presidential nominee Droupadi Murmu - filed her nomination papers for the July 18 presidential election in the Rajya Sabha secretariat at the Parliament Library Building in New Delhi.



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed her name for the nomination, which was seconded by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- ✓ The second set of proposers were the chief ministers of BJP-ruled states, the third set of proposers were MLAs and MPs from Himachal and Haryana and the fourth set were MLAs and MPs from Gujarat.
- ✓ Later, Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over the set of papers to Returning Officer P C Mody.
- ✓ Murmu was also accompanied by Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Piyush Goyal, Arjun Munda and BJP president J P Nadda
- ✓ Several chief ministers of BJP ruled states including Yogi Adityanath, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Manohar Lal Khattar, B S Bommai, Bhupendra Patel, Himanta Biswa Sarma, Pushkar Singh Dhami, Pramod Sawant and N Biren Singh were present during the occasion

- ✓ Besides the NDA leaders, YSR Congress' V Vijaysai Reddy and BJD leader Sasmit Patra, who are not part of the alliance, were also in Parliament to back her nomination.
  - ✓ Every set of nomination has to have 50 proposers and 50 seconders among elected representatives.
  - ✓ Former Governor of Jharkhand and a former Odisha minister, Draupadi Murmu is the first woman tribal leader to file her nomination for the top constitutional post of the country
  - ✓ She will face opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha in the presidential contest
  - ✓ Murmu, if elected, will be the first tribal president and the country's second female President after UPA-nominee Pratibha Patil
  - ✓ She will also be the youngest president ever, second only to N Sanjeeva Reddy, who was a few days elder to her when he became the President.
  - ✓ Droupadi Murmu was a member of the Odisha Legislative Assembly from Rairangpur between 2000 and 2004
  - ✓ She again served as MLA in the Odisha assembly from 2004 to 2009
  - ✓ In 2007, the Odisha assembly honoured her with the 'Nilakantha Award' for best MLA.
  - ✓ Droupadi Murmu was a national executive member of BJP's ST Morcha from 2013 to 2015 and served as BJP district chief of Mayurbhanj (West) in 2010 and 2013.
  - ✓ She was also a member of the national executive of BJP ST Morcha from 2002 to 2009
  - ✓ Apart from Draupadi Murmu, Varahagiri Venkata Giri, the fourth president of the country, also had an Odisha connection
  - ✓ Popularly known as V V Giri, he was born and brought up in Berhampur city in Ganjam district of Odisha
  - ✓ Giri served as the third vice president of the country from May 13, 1967 to May 3, 1969.
  - ✓ Following president Zakir Hussain's death, Giri served as acting president from May 3, 1969 to July 20, 1969
  - ✓ Later, Giri served as the fourth president from August 24, 1969, to August 24, 1974 after defeating Congress nominee Neelam Sanjiva Reddy
  - ✓ After the end of his term, he was given Bharat Ratna in 1975.
- **On June 24, the road transport ministry - published a draft standard for "Star Rating" of new cars on safety parameters under a new framework, Bharat NCAP**
- ✓ Bharat NCAP is proposed to be rolled out across the entire country from April 2023
  - ✓ Under the new framework, car buyers would be able to know how safe is the vehicle that they are planning to buy both for adults and children

- ✓ India has mandatory crash test norms for cars and the Bharat NCAP rating based on crash tests will be of superior standard.



- ✓ Unlike in other countries where the New Car Assessment Programmes (NCAP) are carried out by non-government entities, there will be a Bharat NCAP authority in India.
  - ✓ However it will be optional for the vehicle manufacturers to submit their cars for an assessment
  - ✓ The central government can also ask the authority to select a particular variant of a model for assessment “in interest of public safety” at any of the designated crash test centres.
  - ✓ The authority will also host the safety ratings of all new car models on a website for public knowledge
  - ✓ The safety ratings will be based on three vehicle features — Adult Occupant Protection (AOP), Child Occupant Protection (COP) and Safety Assist Technologies (SAT).
  - ✓ Announcing the decision, Union minister Nitin Gadkari said Bharat NCAP will serve as a “consumer-centric platform, allowing customers to opt for safer cars based upon their Star Ratings”.
  - ✓ He added this will promote a healthy competition among original equipment manufacturers in India to manufacture safer vehicles.
  - ✓ The norm proposes the guidelines for vehicle selection for star rating.
    - ✓ For example, at least 30 vehicles of a model have to undergo the test to get a rating, if the sale of that model clocked 30,000 units in the previous year.
  - ✓ Further, the manufacturer will have to provide the base variant for the tests.
    - ✓ The base variant has been defined as the one that is fitted with the standard items that are featured across all ranges of that particular model.
- **The recruitment in the IAF under the new Agnipath scheme - kicked off on June 24, with around 3,800 candidates registering ‘online’.**
- ✓ The IAF training for 3,000 Agniveers is scheduled to begin from December 30 this year after the exams and medical tests in two phases.

- ✓ The scheme triggered widespread protests by youth in several states against the short-term recruitment of all new soldiers, airmen and sailors, with no pension and ex-servicemen benefits, into the armed forces.
  - ✓ However, the government has ruled out any rollback of the Agnipath scheme
  - ✓ Under the Agnipath scheme, 46,000 Agniveers (40,000 for Army and 3,000 each for IAF and Navy) will be recruited this year
  - ✓ Out of the total recruited Agniveers, only 25% will be eventually selected after four years for induction into the regular military cadre to serve for another 15 years.
  - ✓ The government has also announced a series of concessions for the 75% Agniveers to be demobilised from each batch, including 10% reservation in the central armed police forces (CAPFs), Assam Rifles, Coast Guard and 16 defence PSUs
  - ✓ The Agnipath scheme was announced on June 14.
- **A rare 10th century Pala goddess Kurukulla sculpture - was restituted to India from Paris on June 24.**



- ✓ The sculpture, which was originally from the site of Hasra Kol in Bihar, was stolen sometime between 1983 and 2000.
- ✓ There was an attempt to auction the sculpture at Sotheby's (London) in 1999 and at Bonhams auction house (London) in 2013.
- ✓ Both were unsuccessful and the lot was withdrawn before the sale as doubts were raised about the illicit nature of its removal from India
- ✓ Two experts approached the India Pride Project with information about the whereabouts of the rare sculpture and of the current owners' intent to voluntarily hand over the sculpture to India.
- ✓ A thorough case study was prepared and presented to the Archaeological Survey of India and the decision was taken to go ahead with the restitution.

# SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On June 24, the Supreme Court - upheld the findings of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) that had given a clean chit to then chief minister Narendra Modi and 63 others in the 2002 Gujarat riots case.**
- ✓ It also dismissed a petition filed by Zakia Jafri, wife of former Congress MP Ehsan Jafri who was killed by rioters, and activist Teesta Setalvad demanding a probe against a “larger conspiracy” behind the riots
  - ✓ Ehsan Jafri, a former Congress MP, was among the 68 people killed at Ahmedabad's Gulberg Society during the violence on February 28, 2002, a day after the Godhra train burning that claimed 59 lives.
- ✓ The court pulled up former IPS officers R B Sreekumar and Sanjiv Bhatt for giving false testimonies to sensationalise the issue by incriminating PM Modi and others.
- ✓ The bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar and consisting of Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar had examined all the allegations made against PM Modi and other state officials as well as the findings provided by former CBI director R K Raghavan-led and SC-appointed SIT
- ✓ The Justices rejected the allegation that communal riots that erupted in Gujarat after a mob set afire a compartment of Sabarmati Express at Godhra junction carrying kar sevaks killing 58 of them in 2002 were pre-planned
- ✓ The riots that the Godhra carnage triggered killed 1,044 people, mostly Muslims.
- ✓ The Central government had informed the Rajya Sabha in May 2005 that 254 Hindus and 790 Muslims were killed in the post-Godhra riots.

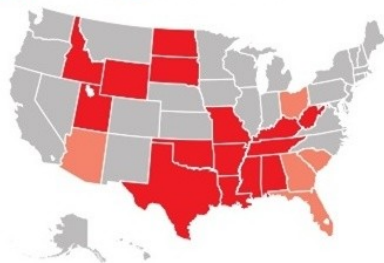
## INTERNATIONAL

- **On June 24, the US Supreme Court - took the dramatic step of overturning the landmark 1973 Roe vs Wade ruling that has been the basis for legal abortions across America.**
- ✓ The court, in a majority ruling, upheld a Republican-backed strict Mississippi law that bans abortion after 15 weeks.
- ✓ The ruling is widely seen as one of the most consequential decisions by the SC
- ✓ It will result in an almost immediate ban on abortions, with some exceptions, in most conservative, Republican-governed states.
- ✓ Roe vs Wade ruling recognised that the ‘right to personal privacy under the constitution’ protects a woman’s ability to terminate her pregnancy.
- ✓ The SC in a 1992 ruling called ‘Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania vs Casey’ reaffirmed abortion rights and prohibited laws imposing an “undue burden” on abortion access.
- ✓ The latest ruling overturned the 1992 Casey decision as well and restored the ability of states to ban abortion

# WHERE US STATES STAND

## Prohibited or restricted

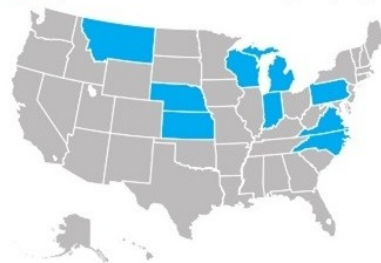
● Total Ban ● Gestational limit



20 states; 25.5 million women of reproductive age

## Uncertain

● Dependent on new law or change in party control



10 states; 12.1 million women of reproductive age

## Legal

● Protected ● Expanding access



20 states and D.C.; 26.5 million women of repro. age

## What Did Roe Vs Wade Say

By a 7-to-2 vote, the **Supreme Court in Roe vs Wade in 1973 established a constitutional right to abortion**, striking down laws in many states that had banned the procedure. The court said states could not ban abortions before fetal viability, the point at which the fetus can survive outside the womb. That was around 28 weeks at the time; because of improvements in medical technology, it is around 23 weeks now



## Which States Banned It Today

Abortion is now banned in **5 US states**, with trigger laws in 8 more states set to take effect in the coming days. Laws in 4 states – **Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri & South Dakota** – went into effect on Friday in response to the SC decision. **Oklahoma** passed a law in May prohibiting nearly all abortions

## Where World Stands On Abortion

### Countries Where Abortion Is Illegal

According to Center for Reproductive Rights, a global legal advocacy organization, there are **24 countries** where abortion is completely prohibited, including **Andorra** and **Malta** in Europe, **El Salvador** and **Honduras** in Central America, **Senegal** and **Egypt** in Africa, the **Philippines** and Laos in **Asia**

### Fewer Restrictions

From Japan to India, to most of Europe, Canada and Australia, there are few restrictions other than gestational limits. France, for example, has a gestational limit of 16 weeks, Spain's limit is 14 weeks and Italy's is 90 days. In South Africa and Mozambique, abortion is permitted but limited to the first 12 weeks of pregnancy



### Recently Relaxed Restrictions

1 Colombia (2022), 2 Mexico (2021), 3 Ireland (2018), 4 Argentina (2020)

### Significant Restrictions

50+ countries and regions permit abortions only when the woman's health is at risk. These include **Libya, Iran, Indonesia, Venezuela and Nigeria**. Others have exceptions for cases of rape, incest, or fetal abnormality, like in **Brazil**. In January 2021, a near-total ban on abortion was introduced in **Poland**, only allowing the procedure in cases of rape, incest, or when the mother's life is at risk

- ✓ Twenty-six states are either certain or considered likely to ban abortion.
- ✓ President Biden condemned the ruling, calling it a “sad day” for America and labelling the court’s conservatives “extreme”.
- ✓ Biden said his administration will protect access to contraceptives and will do everything in his power to combat efforts to restrict women from travelling to other states to obtain abortions.
- ✓ Speaker Nancy Pelosi called the ruling a “slap in the face to women”.
- ✓ The SC has become more conservative in recent years with the addition of three appointees made by former President Trump.
- ✓ Within the last week, it has ruled that religious schools are eligible for public funds and struck down gun control laws in New York.

- **On June 24, the US Congress - gave final approval to a compromise intended to stop dangerous people from accessing firearms**
- ✓ The measure now heads to President Biden, who is expected to sign it.
- ✓ The bill would incrementally toughen requirements for young people to buy guns, deny firearms from more domestic abusers and help local authorities temporarily take weapons from people judged to be dangerous.
- ✓ The \$13 billion cost of the move would go to support mental health programmes and for schools, which have been targeted in Newtown, Connecticut, Parkland, Florida and many other infamous massacres.
- ✓ The legislation was a direct result of the killing of 19 children and two teachers at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, exactly one month ago, and the killing of 10 Black shoppers days earlier in Buffalo, New York.

## **INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will visit the Schloss Elmau in southern Germany on June 26 and 27 to attend the annual summit of G7, on an invitation of Chancellor Olaf Scholz**
- ✓ The PM is expected to speak in two sessions that will focus on environment, energy, climate, food security, health, gender equality and democracy
- ✓ After attending the summit, PM Modi will travel to the UAE on June 28 to pay his condolences on the passing away of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the former president of the Gulf nation.
  - ✓ Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of the Gulf nation, passed away on May 13 after battling illness for the last several years
  - ✓ He will also congratulate Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on his election as the new president.
  - ✓ The UAE is India's second largest export destination, and also one of the country's key partners in West Asia for energy and security
  - ✓ India and UAE signed a comprehensive economic partnership agreement in February and the UAE is also home to nearly 3.5 million Indians.
- ✓ Prime Minister will hold meetings with over 12 world leaders during his visit to Germany and the United Arab Emirates
- ✓ He will also speak at an Indian community event in Munich, which is expected to be the largest such programme post-COVID-19
- ✓ Besides India, Germany has also invited Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa as guests for the summit of G7, a grouping of the world's seven richest nations.
- ✓ The summit is being hosted by Germany in its capacity as the chair of G7, comprising of the UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the US.
- ✓ US President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, French President Emmanuel Macron and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau among others will be attending the summit

- ✓ PM Modi last visited Germany in May 2022 with senior members of the Union cabinet for the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of India-Germany inter-governmental consultations
- ✓ During the visit in May, India and Germany signed several agreements on sustainable development that will provide India €10 billion in aid by 2030 to expand the use of clean energy.

## DEFENCE

- **On June 24, India - successfully flight-tested the indigenous vertical launch short range surface-to-air missile (VL-SRSAM) system from a warship off the Odisha coast**
- ✓ The VL-SRSAM system was designed to intercept hostile aircraft, helicopters and drones at very low altitudes
- ✓ The launch of the VL-SRSAM system was conducted against a high-speed aerial target mimicking an aircraft and the target was successfully engaged.
- ✓ The flight path of the vehicle along with health parameters were monitored using a number of tracking instruments deployed by the integrated test range at Chandipur
- ✓ The VL-SRSAM, a shipborne weapon system, is meant for neutralising various aerial threats at close ranges including sea-skimming targets
- ✓ It has been designed for striking at high-speed airborne targets at 40 km to 50 km range and at an altitude of 15km
- ✓ The VL-SRSAM missile has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) in coordination with the Research Centre Imarat (RCI) and the Pune-based Research & Development Establishment (Engineers)
- ✓ Earlier, India successfully tested its nuclear-capable Agni-4 intermediate range ballistic missile, off the APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Retired civil servant Parameswaran Iyer - has been appointed as the new chief executive officer (CEO) of the government's policy think tank Niti Aayog.**
- ✓ He will succeed Amitabh Kant, whose six-year tenure ends on June 30.

### GETS TWO-YEAR TERM

➤ 1981 batch retired IAS officer of the UP cadre, **Parameswaran Iyer** is a former secretary, ministry of drinking water and sanitation

➤ Helped rollout and accelerate the flagship Swachh Bharat Mission



➤ Joined the World Bank in 2009, inducted in 2016 through lateral entry to head the drinking water and sanitation department and revive the Swachh Bharat programme

➤ Author of various articles, two books



- ✓ Parameswaran Iyer played a key role in the rollout of the Swachh Bharat mission
  - ✓ On June 23, the appointments committee of the Union Cabinet approved the appointment of Iyer, a retired 1981-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre.
  - ✓ His appointment as Niti Aayog CEO is for two years or until further orders and on the same terms and conditions as were applicable to his predecessor.
  - ✓ Kant is a Kerala-cadre officer and the man behind the 'God's Own Country' campaign to promote tourism
  - ✓ He took many initiatives to establish the Niti Aayog as a test bed for the Narendra Modi government's ideas and initiatives.
  - ✓ Iyer served as the secretary of the department of drinking water and sanitation and led it from the front
  - ✓ In February 2017, he got inside a twin-pit toilet to empty it at a village in Telangana to help people overcome the taboo of cleaning toilets.
  - ✓ PM Modi had termed his act as "remarkable" during one of his 'Mann Ki Baat' programmes.
  - ✓ In July 2020, Iyer resigned as the drinking water and sanitation secretary, citing personal reasons.
  - ✓ Iyer had earlier taken voluntary retirement from the IAS in 2009 but made a lateral entry in 2016 to head the drinking water and sanitation department to help push the Swachh Bharat mission in rural areas.
  - ✓ He has more than 25 years of experience in the water and sanitation areas, and is credited with implementing the Swajal programme.
  - ✓ A professor of management practice at IIM-Ahmedabad, Iyer has written two widely acclaimed books — 'The Swachh Bharat Revolution: Four pillars of India's Behavioural Transformation' and 'Method in the Madness: Insights from my career as an insider-outsider-insider'.
  - ✓ Last year in June, the Centre had extended the tenure of Kant by one year till June 30, 2022.
  - ✓ Kant has been the CEO of the Aayog since 2016.
  - ✓ In 2019, his tenure was extended by two years by the Centre.
  - ✓ During his stint as CEO, Kant led several important initiatives, including the aspirational districts programme aimed at improving the state of the country's most backward districts, which has won praise from global institutions such as the UNDP, and established Niti Aayog as the government's leading think tank.
  - ✓ He also played a key role in several flagship programmes, such as Make in India, Startup India, the National Asset monetisation plan, which surpassed the target set for the first year, and the production-linked incentive scheme for 14 crucial sectors.
- **On June 24, the government - appointed Tapan Kumar Deka, an intelligence operations expert, as the director of Intelligence Bureau.**

- ✓ He succeeds Aravinda Kumar who completes his three-year tenure at the IB helm on June 30.
- ✓ A 1988 batch Himachal cadre IPS officer, Deka was heading the operations desk of IB before he was announced as the next DIB.
- ✓ Deka is known to be a hands-on professional with wide knowledge and experience in various insurgency/terror theatres including the north-east, Kashmir as well as Pakistan-sponsored terror operations.
- ✓ He has handled several challenging assignments including dealing with the post-CAA violence in Assam.
- ✓ He has also tracked Islamic radicalisation and was instrumental in gathering intelligence about the whereabouts of leaders and cadres of Indian Mujahideen, leading to some successful operations and arrests.
- ✓ In yet another key decision, the government cleared a further one-year extension for RAW chief Samant Kumar Goel, an 1984 batch IPS officer.

