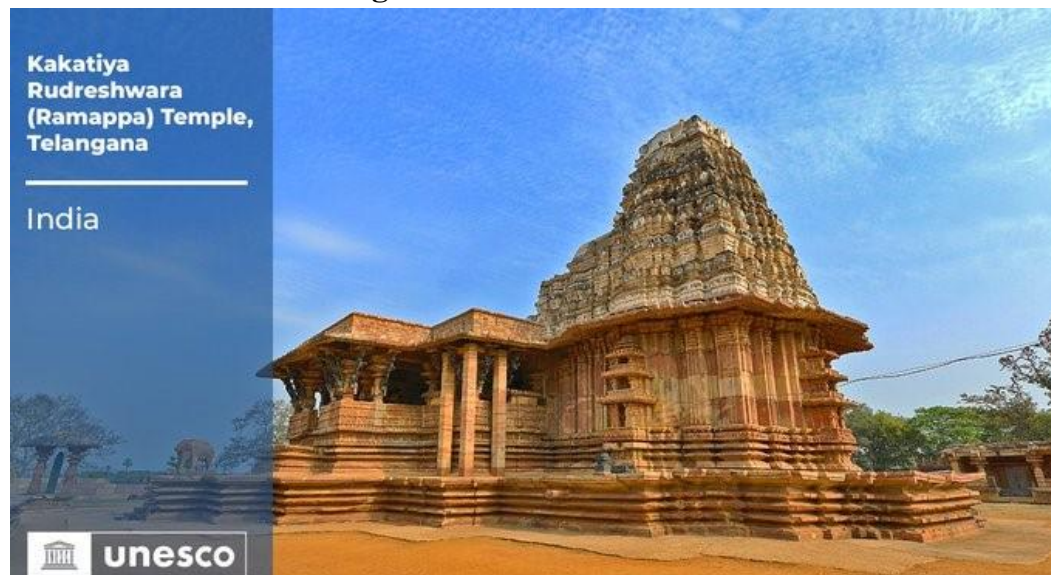


## Daily Current Affairs 27/07/2021

### 1. Rudreswara Temple at Palampet, Warangal, Telangana inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List



#### Why in News

- **Rudreswara Temple**, (also known as the **Ramappa Temple**) at Palampet, Mulugu district, near Warangal in the state of Telangana has been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list.
- It is India's **39th World Heritage Site**.
- The decision was taken at the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO.

#### Key Points

- Rudreswara temple was proposed by the government as its only nomination for the UNESCO World Heritage site tag for the year 2019.

#### About the Rudreswara (Ramappa) Temple

- The Rudreswara temple was constructed in 1213 AD during the reign of the **Kakatiya Empire** by **Recharla Rudra**, a general of Kakatiya king Ganapati Deva.
- The presiding deity here is Ramalingeswara Swamy.
- The temple is also known as the Ramappa temple, after the sculptor who executed the work in the temple for 40 years.
- The temple stands on a 6 feet high star-shaped platform with walls, pillars and ceilings adorned with intricate carvings that attest to the unique skill of the Kakatiyan sculptors.

#### World Heritage Site in India:

- The **first sites** to be inscribed were Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Agra Fort, and Taj Mahal, of which all were inscribed in the 1983 session of the World Heritage Committee.
- Presently, there are **39 World Heritage Sites located in India**. Out of these, **31 are cultural, 7 are natural, and 1 is mixed**.
- India has the 6<sup>th</sup> largest number of sites in the world.

### About World Heritage Site:

- A World Heritage Site is a landmark or area with legal protection by an international convention administered by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**.
- The World Heritage Sites list is maintained by the international **World Heritage Program** administered by the **UNESCO World Heritage Committee**.
- The programme began with the "**Convention Concerning the Protection of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage**", which was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO on 16 November 1972.

### Types:

- Cultural heritage sites
- Natural heritage sites
- Mixed heritage sites (contain elements of both natural and cultural significance)

**Note:** Recently, the **England's city Liverpool** has been removed from UNESCO's list of world heritage sites.

**Source: PIB**

## 2. Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

### Why in News

- **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)** have touched new heights in terms of performance in Exports, Investment and Employment in the last 3 years.

### Key Points

#### Performance:

- **Exports** of Rs. 22,840 Crore in 2005-06 has increased to Rs. 7,59,524 Crore in 2020-21.
- **Investment** of Rs. 4,035.51 Crore in 2005-06 has increased to Rs. 6,17,499 Crore (cumulative basis) by 2020-21.
- **Employment** provided to 1,34,704 persons in 2005-06 has increased to 23,58,136 persons (cumulative basis) in 2020-21.

**Note:** In various Special Economic Zones (SEZs) across the country, 1096 Nos. of units have been registered during the last three years.

### About Special Economic Zones (SEZs):

- A Special Economic Zone is an area in which the trade and business laws are different from the rest of the country.



Government of India

## Special Economic Zones in India

Ministry of  
Commerce & Industry



- SEZs are located within a country's national borders, and their aims include increasing trade balance, employment, increased investment, job creation and effective administration.

#### **Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in India:**

- India was one of the first in Asia to recognize the effectiveness of the **Export Processing Zone (EPZ)** model in promoting exports, with **Asia's first EPZ set up in Kandla, Gujarat in 1965.**
- The **Special Economic Zones Act, 2005**, was passed by Parliament in May, 2005 which received Presidential assent on the 23rd of June, 2005.

#### **The main objectives of the SEZ Act are:**

- To generate additional economic activity
- To create employment opportunities
- To promote exports of goods and services
- To develop infrastructure facilities
- To promote investment from domestic and foreign sources

**Source: PIB**

### **3. Laws for surveillance in India, and the concerns over privacy**



#### **Why in News**

- In response to the finding by a global collaborative investigative project that Israeli spyware Pegasus was used to target at least 300 individuals in India, the government has claimed that all interception in India takes place lawfully.

#### **Key Points**

##### **About Pegasus:**

- Pegasus is a spyware developed by the Israeli cyberarms firm NSO Group that can be covertly installed on mobile phones running most versions of iOS and Android.



- It is any malicious software designed to enter your computer device, gather your data, and forward it to a third-party without your consent.

#### **The laws covering surveillance in India:**

- Communication surveillance in India takes place primarily under two laws — **the Telegraph Act, 1885** and the **Information Technology Act, 2000**.
- While the Telegraph Act deals with interception of calls, the IT Act was enacted to deal with surveillance of all electronic communication.
- A comprehensive data protection law to address the gaps in existing frameworks for surveillance is yet to be enacted.
- Under the IT Act, all electronic transmission of data can be intercepted.
- So, for a Pegasus-like spyware to be used lawfully, the government would have to invoke both the IT Act and the Telegraph Act.

#### **Associated Issues with the Surveillance:**

- Affects Fundamental Rights
- Legal Loopholes
- Authoritarian Regime
- Threat to Freedom of Press

#### **Recent Steps Taken in India:**

- Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiative
- National Cyber security Coordination Centre
- Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)
- Computer Emergency Response Team - India (CERT-IN)
- Cyber Swachhta Kendra

#### **International Mechanisms:**

- Budapest Convention on Cybercrime
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

**Source: Indian Express**

## **4. India, UK conduct naval exercise in Bay of Bengal**

### **Why in News**

- **Indian Navy** participated in a **bilateral Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** with the **United Kingdom's Royal Navy** in the Bay of Bengal from 21 to 22 Jul, 2021.

### **Key Points**

- **The bilateral Maritime Exercise** was designed to hone the ability of the two navies to operate together in the maritime domain.



- The maiden exercise between Indian Navy and the Royal Navy's latest Aircraft Carrier, HMS Queen Elizabeth included participation of Carrier Strike Group (CSG)-21 comprising Type 23 Frigates and an *Astute*-class submarine in addition to the other surface combatants.
- Indian Navy was represented by *IN Ships Satpura, Ranvir, Jyoti, Kavaratti, Kulish* and a submarine.

**Note: India Navy and US Navy** conducted a **Passage Exercise** from March 28-29, 2021 in the eastern Indian Ocean Region.

**Source: PIB**

## 5. India's first green hydrogen plant at Mathura refinery

### Why in News

- India's largest oil firm **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** will build the nation's **first 'green hydrogen' plant at its Mathura refinery.**
- It aims to prepare for a future catering to the growing demand for both oil and cleaner forms of energy.



### Key Points

- This will be the nation's first green hydrogen unit.
- Hydrogen, in itself, is a clean fuel but manufacturing it is energy-intensive and has carbon byproducts.
- **Green hydrogen** production - the ultimate clean hydrogen resource - uses renewable energy to create hydrogen fuel.

### Note:

- Forecasts state that Indian fuel demand climbing to 400-450 million tonnes by 2040 as against 250 million tonnes now.
- The demand growth makes it imperative to pursue refining expansion as well as expand in CNG, LNG, biodiesel and ethanol.

**Source: Business Standard**

## 6. Kerala's oldest learner Bhageerathi Amma dies at 107

- Kerala's oldest learner, Bhageerathi Amma who passed a state literacy mission examination at the age of 105, passed away.
- Bhageerathi was awarded the Centre's **Nari Shakti Puraskar** in 2020 for her contribution towards women empowerment.



Source: Indian Express

## 7. July 23, National Broadcasting Day



### Why in News

- In India, “National Broadcasting Day” is celebrated on 23rd July every year to make people aware of the importance of radio.

### Key Points

- On this day in the year 1927, the broadcast of radio started from Bombay station for the first time in the country under a private company called Indian Broadcasting Company of India (IBC).

### History of National Broadcasting Day

- Broadcasting service was started in 1927 with two privately owned transmitters in Mumbai and Kolkata.
- After that, in 1930, the government took these transmitters under its control.
- Till 1935, it was known as Indian Broadcasting Service. But in the year 1936 its name was changed to **All India Radio (AIR)** and in 1956 it came to be known as ‘**Aakashvani**’.
- **All India Radio** is owned by **Prasar Bharti**, which is a statutory autonomous body set up by an Act of parliament.

**Note:** Prasar Bharati has 470 broadcasting centers across the country, covering approximately 92% of the country's area and 99.19% of the total population.

**Source:** newsonair

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