

## Weekly Current Affairs 28<sup>th</sup> June – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

### Important News: State

#### Gujarat International Maritime Arbitration Centre (GIMAC)

##### Why in the News?

- The Gujarat Maritime University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Financial Services Centres Authority in GIFT City to promote the Gujarat International Maritime Arbitration Centre (GIMAC).



##### Key Points

- This will be the first centre of its kind in the country that will manage arbitration and mediation proceedings with disputes related to the maritime and shipping sector.
- The GIMAC will be part of a maritime cluster that the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) is setting up in GIFT City at Gandhinagar.



##### Need of GIMAC:

- There are over 35 arbitration centres in India. However, none of them exclusively deals with the maritime sector.
- The arbitration involving Indian players is now heard at the Singapore Arbitration Centre.
- Globally, London is the preferred centre for arbitration for the maritime and shipping sector.

**Source: Indian Express**

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## Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy at AMA, Ahmedabad

### Why in the News?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a **Japanese Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy** at the **Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA), Ahmedabad.**

### Key Points

#### About Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy:

- It is a joint endeavour of the Japan Information & Study Centre at the AMA and the Indo-Japan Friendship Association, Gujarat, supported by the Hyogo International Association Japan.
- It has traditional Japanese elements such as Shoji Interior, Red Bridge Guzei, Glory of Tori, fusion Chabutaro, Taki waterfall, Kimono scroll and Tsukubai basin.
- The **Kaizen Academy** will promote the work-culture of Japan in India, and increase business interactions between the two countries.
- **Kaizen** translates to 'change for the better' or 'continuous improvement'. Kaizen is a Japanese business philosophy that focuses on gradually improving productivity by involving all employees and by making the work environment more efficient.
- **Zen** is a Japanese school of Mahayana Buddhism emphasizing the value of meditation and intuition.

#### India-Japan Relations:

- Japan-India bilateral and multilateral cooperation, including Japan-Australia-India-US quadrilateral cooperation, towards realising a free and open Indo-Pacific
- Possible Cooperation between India and Japan in areas like 5G, strengthening of industrial competitiveness and development projects in the northeastern state.

#### Recent Developments between India and Japan:

- Supply Chain Resilience Initiative
- In 2020, India and Japan signed a logistics agreement that will allow armed forces of both sides to coordinate closely in services and supplies. The agreement is known as the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement.
- 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership' in 2014
- The India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement 2011
- **Defence Exercises:** Bilateral exercises: SHINYUU Maitri (Air Force), JIMEX (Naval) and Dharma Guardian (Army). Malabar exercise (Naval Exercise) with the USA.

## Important News: India

### 6th Anniversary to commemorate launch of PMAY-U, AMRUT & Smart Cities Mission celebrated by MoHUA

#### Why in the News?

- **The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** organised an online event to commemorate 6 years of the three transformative Urban Missions vis. **Smart Cities Mission (SCM), Atal Mission for Urban Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U).**
- The date also marked the 45 years of establishment of National Institute of Urban Affairs, an autonomous body of MoHUA, tasked to bridge the gap between research and practice on issues related to urbanization.



## Key Points

### Progress:

#### Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U):

- 1.12 crore houses sanctioned and over 83 lakh houses grounded under PMAY-U.
- 16 lakh families benefited from PMAY-U's Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS).
- Government investment under PMAY-U created around 689 crore person days of employment translating into around 246 lakh jobs.
- Affordable Rental Housing Complexes scheme under PMAY-U for urban migrants/ poor has elicited remarkable response on ground.

#### Atal Mission for Rejuvenation & Urban Transformation (AMRUT):

- So far, 105 lakh household water tap connections and 78 lakh sewer/ septage connections are provided under AMRUT Mission.
- 88 lakh street lights replaced with energy efficient LED lights leading to energy savings of 193 crore units.
- 84.6 lakh tons carbon footprint was reduced through various initiatives under AMRUT, as per TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute).

#### Smart Cities Mission (SCM):

- 70 cities have developed and operationalised **Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs)** under Smart Cities Mission.
- 310 Smart Road projects, 57 Smart Solar Projects and 101 Smart Water Projects completed.

#### Important Launches during the event:

##### India Smart Cities Awards 2020:

- These awards were given across the themes of Governance, Social Aspects, Culture, Urban Environment, Economy, Sanitation, Built Environment, Water, Urban Mobility.
- Some interesting themes were added this year for the **Sustainable Business model of ICCC** and **Innovation award** specially in COVID Management.
- **Indore & Surat** won the **City Award** jointly this year for their overall development and **Uttar Pradesh** won the **State award**.

##### Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) 2.0

- CSCAF 2.0 was launched in September 2020 with an aim to provide an overarching roadmap to formulate, implement and monitor urban climate actions in India.
- The **top 9 performing cities** which have been awarded 4 star rating are Ahmedabad, Surat, Indore, Pune, Rajkot, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Pimpri-Chinchwad and Vadodara.

### ICT initiatives under Smart Cities:

- **ICCC Maturity Assessment framework (IMAF):**

It is a self-assessment tool kit developed to assess the maturity of **Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCC)** across key aspects of functionality, technology, governance and citizen/stakeholders engagement.

- **Smart Cities ICT standards**

Standardization journey under Smart Cities Mission began in Dec 2018 at Varanasi with an International Conference organised by **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**.

### TULIP Report:

- ‘**TULIP-The Urban Learning Internship Program**’ was launched last year on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020 in partnership with AICTE.
- TULIP is a platform to connect graduates to Urban Local Bodies and Smart Cities to co-create new solutions for our cities.

### About Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U):

- PMAY-U was launched on 25th June 2015.
- The Mission addresses urban housing shortage among the EWS/LIG and MIG categories including the slum dwellers by ensuring a pucca house to all eligible urban households by the year 2022.

### About Atal Mission for Rejuvenation & Urban Transformation (AMRUT):

- AMRUT was launched by the Prime Minister in June 2015 with the focus to establish infrastructure that could ensure adequate robust sewage networks and water supply for urban transformation by implementing urban revival projects.

### About Smart Cities Mission (SCM):

- SCM was launched by the Prime Minister on 25 June, 2015.
- The main objective of the Mission is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure, clean and sustainable environment and give a decent quality of life to their citizens through the application of ‘smart solutions’.

Source: PIB

## “The India Story” booklet on Indian initiatives shaping energy transition

### Why in the News?

- Minister of State (I/C) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, R.K. Singh launched “The India Story” booklet on Indian initiatives shaping energy transition.
- The booklet was launched at the event on “**Accelerating Citizen Centric Energy Transition**”, organized by **The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, in collaboration with the **Permanent Mission of India (PMI)** to the **United Nations** and the **Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)**.
- The Minister also launched a website which will act as a repository of energy transition related knowledge resources from around the world.

### Key Points

#### Main Points of the booklet:

- In the last 6 years, India’s installed renewable energy capacity has increased by over two and a half times and stands at more than **141 Giga Watts** (including large Hydro), which is about **37 percent** of the country’s total capacity (as on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021).
- During the same period, the installed solar energy capacity has increased by over 15 times and stands at 41.09 GW.
- **India’s renewable energy capacity is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest in the world.**

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### **Investment opportunities in India's RE sector:**

- India has a very liberal foreign investment policy for renewable allowing 100% FDI through the automatic route in the sector.
- During the last 7 years, over US\$ 70 billion investment has been made in renewable energy in India.
- A **Renewable Energy Investment Promotion and Facilitation Board** Portal has also been developed to provide one-stop assistance and facilitation to the Industry and Investors for development of projects and bringing new investment to the Renewable Energy sector in India.

### **Recent initiatives in renewable energy sector:**

- Green Term Ahead Market and Green Day Ahead Market
- Viability Gap Funding options for Offshore Wind Energy

### **Initiatives shaping India's Energy Transition:**

#### **Electrification**

- Green Energy Corridor
- Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA)
- National Smart Grid Mission and Smart Meter National Programme

#### **Renewable Energy**

- The Wind Energy Revolution
- National Solar Mission
- National Biofuels Policy and SATAT
- Small Hydro Power
- National Hydrogen Energy Mission
- Production-Linked Incentive Scheme

#### **Energy Efficiency**

- Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA)

#### **Clean Cooking**

- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

#### **Global Initiatives**

- International Solar Alliance
- Clean Energy Ministerial
- Mission Innovation

**Source: PIB**



## “Enforcing Contracts Portal”

### Why in the News?

- **The Department of Justice, New Delhi** launched “Enforcing Contracts Portal”.
- **The Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice**, as the nodal department, has been monitoring an array of legislative and policy reforms to strengthen the “Enforcing Contracts” regime for Ease of Doing Business in India.



### Key Points

- The portal aims to promote ease of doing business and improve the ‘Contract Enforcement Regime’ in the country.
- The portal provides easy access to latest information on commercial cases in Dedicated Commercial Courts of Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Kolkata.

### Need:

- The Doing Business Report of World Bank Group benchmarks business regulations across 191 economies of the world.
- Within this, the **Ease of Doing Business index** is a ranking system which is an indication of an economy’s position relative to that of other economies across 11 areas of business regulation.
- Currently, only the cities of Delhi and Mumbai are under the purview of the Ease of Doing Business survey by World Bank.
- Kolkata and Bengaluru are likely to be included in the Doing Business Report in future.
- **Note: India** ranked 63rd out of 190 countries in **Ease of Doing Business 2020**: World Bank Report.

Source: PIB

## Important News: World

### Bhutan’s Tax Inspectors Without Borders programme

#### Why in the News?

- **Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB)**, a joint initiative of the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**, launched its programme in Bhutan.
- **India** was chosen as the Partner Jurisdiction and has provided the Tax Expert for this programme.

## TAX INSPECTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

### Key Points

- This programme is expected to be of about 24 months' duration through which India in collaboration with the UNDP and the TIWB Secretariat aims to aid Bhutan in strengthening its tax administration by transferring technical know-how and skills to its tax auditors, and through sharing of best audit practices.
- The focus of the programme will be in the area of International Taxation and Transfer Pricing.
- This programme is another milestone in the continued cooperation between India and Bhutan and India's continued and active support for South-South cooperation.

### About Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB):

- TIWB, a joint OECD/UNDP initiative launched in July 2015 to strengthen developing countries' auditing capacity and multinationals' compliance worldwide.
- TIWB deploys qualified experts in developing countries across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean to help build tax capacity in the areas of audit, criminal tax investigations and the effective use of automatically exchanged information.

Source: PIB

## Important News: Economy

### 'itat e-dwar', an e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal

#### Why in the News?

- Union Minister for Law & Justice, Communications and Electronics & IT, Ravi Shankar Prasad, launched the e-filing portal of **Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)**, 'itat e-dwar'.



## आयकर अपीलीय अधिकरण

## INCOME TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

### Key Points

- The 'itat e-dwar' portal will enhance accessibility, accountability and transparency in day to day working of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT).
- The newly developed e-Filing Portal would enable the parties to file their Appeals, Miscellaneous Applications, documents, paper books, etc., electronically.
- More than 18 crore cases are available in the **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)** and suggested that cases of ITAT should also be integrated in the NJDG.

### National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG):

- NJDG, a flagship project implemented under the aegis of the eCourts project, has been recognized as a significant innovation under the Ease of Doing Business initiative of the Government of India.
- The portal is a national repository of data relating to cases pending and disposed of in all district and taluka courts of the country.

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- The portal has been developed around the concept of elastic search technology enabling efficient case management and monitoring of cases leading to effective disposal of cases.

**Source: PIB**

## Relief package to support Indian economy in fight against COVID-19 pandemic

### Why in the News?

- Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman announced a slew of measures to provide relief to diverse sectors affected by the **2<sup>nd</sup> wave of COVID-19 pandemic**.
- A total of 17 measures amounting to **Rs. 6,28,993 crores** were announced.



### Key Points

#### Economic relief from Pandemic

- **Loan Guarantee Scheme for COVID Affected sectors:** Under this new scheme, additional credit of Rs 1.1 lakh crore will flow to the businesses. This includes Rs 50,000 crore for the health sector and Rs 60,000 crore for other sectors, including tourism.
- **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS):** The government has decided to expand the ECLGS, launched as part of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Package in May 2020, by Rs 1.5 lakh crore.
- **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro Finance Institutions:** This is a completely new scheme announced which aims to benefit the smallest of the borrowers who are served by the network of Micro Finance Institutions. Guarantee will be provided to Scheduled Commercial Banks for loans to new or existing NBFC-MFIs or MFIs for on lending upto Rs 1.25 lakh to approximately 25 lakh small borrowers.
- **Extension of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ANBRY):** ANBRY was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct, 2020. It incentivises employers for creation of new employment, restoration of loss of employment through EPFO.
- **Free food grains under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY):** In the wake of the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic, the scheme was relaunched in May 2021 to ensure food security of the poor/vulnerable. 5 kg of food grains will be provided free of cost to NFSA beneficiaries from May to November 2021. Estimated financial implications of the scheme will be Rs 93,869 crore, bringing the total cost of PMGKY to Rs 2,27,841 crore.

#### Strengthening Public Health

- Besides supporting the health sector through credit guarantee scheme, a new scheme for strengthening public health infrastructure and human resources with outlay of Rs. 23,220 crore was also announced.

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## Impetus for Growth & Employment

For this the following eight schemes were announced:

- Release of Climate Resilient Special Varieties
- Revival of Northeastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation: A revival package of Rs 77.45 crore will be provided.
- Rs. 33,000 crore Boost for Project Exports through National Export Insurance Account
- Rs. 88,000 crore boost to Export Insurance Cover
- Digital India: Rs. 19,041 crore for Broadband to each Village through BharatNet PPP Model
- Extension of Tenure of PLI Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing
- Rs 3.03 lakh crore for Reform-Based Result-Linked Power Distribution Scheme
- New streamlined process for PPP Projects and Asset Monetization

Source: PIB

## World Bank approves USD 500 million loan to support India's informal working class

### Why in the News?

- The World Bank has approved a USD 500 million loan programme to support India's informal working class to overcome the current pandemic distress.
- The loan will create greater flexibility for states to cope with the ongoing pandemic, future climate and disaster shocks.



### Key Points

- Of the USD 500 million commitment, USD 112.50 million will be financed by its concessionary lending arm **International Development Association (IDA)** and USD 387.50 million will be a loan from **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**.
- The loan has a **maturity period of 18.5 years** including a grace period of five years.
- The funds will be utilised in social protection programmes for urban informal workers, gig-workers, and migrants.
- A **National Digital Urban Mission** will create a shared digital infrastructure for people living in urban areas through investments at the municipal level to help scale up urban safety nets and social insurance for informal workers.
- It will also include gender-disaggregated information on women workers and female-headed households.
- Street vendors are an integral part of India's urban informal economy.
- The programme will give street vendors access to affordable working capital loans of up

to Rs 10,000.

**Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** will identify them through an IT-based platform. Some five million urban street vendors could benefit from the new credit programme.

**About Informal Sector Worker:**

- The informal sector is the part of any country's economy that is neither taxed nor monitored by any form of government.
- The workers who indulge in the informal sector are informal sector workers or informal workers.
- India's estimated 450 million informal workers comprise 90 percent of its total workforce, with 5-10 million workers added annually.
- Nearly 40 percent of these are employed with MSMEs.

**Some Initiatives by the Government:**

- Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan Yojana
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission
- PM SVANidhi

**About World Bank:**

- The World Bank was created at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference.
- It comprises two institutions: the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**, and the **International Development Association (IDA)**.

**Membership :**

- 189 countries (IBRD)
- 173 countries (IDA)

**Source: Indian Express**

## Important News: Defense

### DRDO successfully test fires enhanced Pinaka rocket

**Why in the News?**

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully test fired extended range version of indigenously developed Pinaka rocket from a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL) at Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.



**Key Points**

- 25 Enhanced Pinaka Rockets were launched in quick succession against targets at different ranges.
- The enhanced range version of Pinaka Rocket System can destroy targets at distances up



to 45 kms.

- The rocket system has been developed jointly by **Pune based Armament Research and Development Establishment** and **High Energy Materials Research Laboratory** with manufacturing support from M/s Economic Explosives Limited, Nagpur.

**Source: PIB**

## Integrated bilateral exercise of Indian Navy and Indian Air Force with US Navy

### Why in the News?

- The two-day integrated bilateral exercise between Indian and US Forces in the **Indian Ocean Region** concluded on June 24, 2021.
- Indian Navy along with Indian Air Force participated with US Navy Carrier Strike Group in the exercise.



### Key Points

- The exercise has been a key enabler in building interoperability and strengthening the defence coordination between the two nations and witnessed high tempo-naval operations at sea.
- These included intense air dominance exercises, advanced air defence exercises, anti-submarine exercises, tactical manoeuvres and cross deck helicopter operations.
- The exercise has been another milestone in strengthening cooperation between the two countries and reinforcing the shared values as partner militaries, in ensuring freedom of seas and commitment to an open, inclusive Indo-Pacific and a rules-based international order.

**Source: PIB**

## First Indigenous Aircraft Carrier: INS Vikrant

### Why in the News?

- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh reviewed the progress of construction of the **first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC), INS Vikrant** built by M/s Cochin Shipyard Ltd., at Kochi.
- INS Vikrant would be commissioned in the first half of 2022, which would be the most potent sea-based asset.
- He recalled a recent approval accorded by the Defence Acquisition Council for Request for Proposal (RFP) of Project 75-I under the Strategic Partnership model, which will give further fillip to indigenous development of niche manufacturing technologies.

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### Key Points

- The ship shall operate MiG-29K fighter aircraft, Kamov-31 Air Early Warning Helicopters, the soon to be inducted MH-60R multi-role helicopter and the indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopters.

**Note:** The successful completion of the 40,000 tonne aircraft carrier puts India in the elite group of four nations -- the US, Russia, France and the UK- -in the world capable of designing and constructing aircraft carriers.

- The Raksha Mantri lauded Indian Navy for its contribution in the fight against COVID-19 - from bringing back Indian citizens from overseas during **Operation Samudra Setu I** and ferrying in Liquid Medical Oxygen from abroad during **Operation Samudra Setu II** - despite the danger of spread of the virus onboard warships.

**Note:** At present, India has only one aircraft carrier, the Russian-origin INS Vikramaditya.

**Source:** PIB

## Exercise Sea Breeze 2021

### Why in the News?

- Ukraine and the United States launched joint naval exercise 'Sea Breeze 2021' in the Black Sea in a show of Western cooperation with Ukraine.
- The exercise comes days after Russia-U.K. row over warships in disputed waters.

### Key Points

- The Sea Breeze Exercises, which have taken place 21 times since 1997, will involve some 5,000 military personnel from more than 30 countries.
- The exercises will last two weeks and involve around 30 ships, including the missile destroyer USS Ross.

### Significance of Black Sea for Russia:

- The unique geography of the Black Sea region confers various geopolitical advantages to Russia.
- Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 and claims the waters around the peninsula as part of its territory.



### About Black Sea:

- The Black Sea is a marginal sea of the Atlantic Ocean lying between Europe and Asia.
- The bordering countries of Black Sea are: Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Turkey, Romania and Bulgaria.

Source: The Hindu

## Science and Technology

### New Generation Agni-P Ballistic Missile

#### Why in the News?

- DRDO successfully flight tested a **New Generation Nuclear Capable Ballistic Missile Agni-P (Agni-Prime)** from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha, Balasore.

#### Key Points

- **Agni-P** is a new generation advanced variant of the Agni class of missiles.
- **Agni-P** was developed under the **Integrated Guided Missile Development Program**.
- It is a canisterised missile with range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 kms.



### **About Agni missile:**

- The Agni missile is a family of medium to intercontinental range ballistic missiles developed by India.
- Agni missiles are long range, nuclear weapons capable surface to surface ballistic missile.

### **The family comprises the following:**

- **Agni-I:** Range: 700–1,200 km (Operational)
- **Agni-II:** Range: 2,000–3,500 km (Operational)
- **Agni-III:** Range: 3,000–5,000 km (Operational)
- **Agni-IV:** Range: 3,500–4,000 km (Operational)
- **Agni-V:** Range: 5,000–8,000 km (Operational)
- **Agni-VI:** Range: 11,000–12,000 km (Under development)

### **About Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP):**

- IGMDP was an Indian Ministry of Defence programme for the research and development of the comprehensive range of missiles.
- The programme was managed by the DRDO and Ordnance Factories Board in partnership.
- The project started in 1982–83 under the leadership of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

### **The missiles developed under the programme:**

- Intermediate-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile: **Agni**
- Short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile: **Prithvi**
- Short-range low-level surface-to-air missile: **Trishul**
- Medium-range surface-to-air missile: **Akash**
- Third generation anti-tank missile: **Nag**

**Source: The Hindu**

## Environment

### New Spider Species named 'Icius Tukarami' after 26/11 Martyr Tukaram Omble

#### Why in the News?

- Scientists have discovered two new species of jumping spiders in Maharashtra and named one of them as 'Icius Tukarami', after Tukaram Omble, the Mumbai Police Assistant Sub-Inspector who was killed during the 26/11 terror attacks in the city.
- The second species of the jumping spider was called Phintella cholkei.

#### Key Points

- This species is distributed in Thane and Aarey Milk Colony in Mumbai.
- The research paper was published in the Russian science journal Anthropoda Selecta.
- Mr Omble, unarmed, was killed while he tried to capture terrorist Ajmal Kasab on the night of November 26, 2008.

## Schemes

### PMFME Scheme under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

#### Why in the News?

- **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME)** Scheme launched under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan marks the **completion of its one year.**
- **Launched on 29th June 2020**, the PMFME Scheme is currently being implemented in **35 States and Union Territories.**

#### Key Points

#### Milestones achieved under the PMFME Scheme

#### One District One Product:

- Under the **One District One Product (ODOP)** component of the PMFME Scheme, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries approved ODOP for 707 districts for 35 States and UTs, including 137 unique products as per the recommendations received by States/UTs.
- **Capacity Building and Incubation Centres:** Under the Capacity Building component of the PMFME Scheme, the **National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management** and the **Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology** have been performing a key role in providing training and research support to selected enterprises/groups/clusters in partnership with the State Level Technical Institutions.
- **Seed Capital:** Seed Capital worth Rs. 25.25 Crore has been disbursed to State Rural Livelihood Mission.
- The PMFME Scheme envisages financial support of Rs. 40,000 for working capital and purchase of small tools for each member of SHGs engaged in food processing activities.
- **Implementation and Funding:** With an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore over a period of five years from **2020-21 to 2024-25**, the scheme envisions to directly assist the 2,00,000 micro food processing units for providing financial, technical, and business support for upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.

#### About the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme:

- Launched under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, PMFME Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- It aims to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food

processing industry and to promote formalization of the sector and provide support to Farmer Producer Organizations, Self Help Groups, and Producers Cooperatives along their entire value chain.

**Note:**

- The Indian food and grocery market is the world's 6 largest, with retail contributing 70 percent of the sales.
- The Indian food processing industry accounts for 32 percent of the country's total food market, one of the largest industries in India and is ranked fifth in terms of production, consumption, export and expected growth.

**Other Schemes Related to Food Processing:**

- Mega Food Park Scheme
- Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry

## Awards and Honours

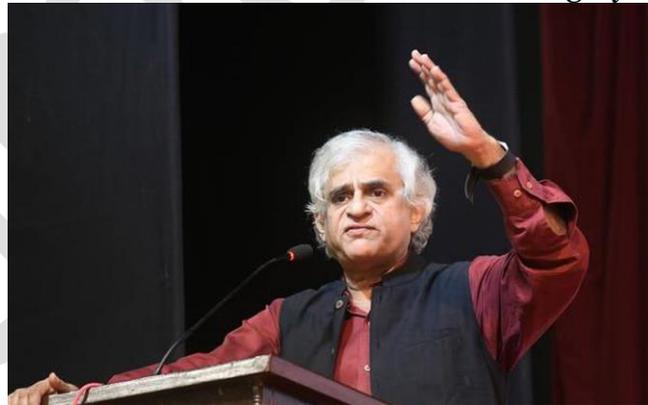
### P. Sainath awarded 2021 Japan's Fukuoka Grand Prize

**Why in the News?**

- Noted journalist P. Sainath has been selected as one of the three recipients of the Fukuoka Prize for 2021.
- Mr. Sainath received the 'Grand Prize' of the Fukuoka Prize while Prof. Mio Kishimoto and Thai writer and filmmaker Prabda Yoon received the Academic Prize and the Arts and Culture Prize respectively.

**Key Points**

- Sainath dedicated the prize to his fellow journalists who are reporting from rural India and to PARI (People's Archive of Rural India), the news website he founded in 2014.
- Sainath has been the recipient of many awards, including the Amnesty International Global Human Rights Journalism Prize and the Ramon Magsaysay Award.



**About Fukuoka Prize:**

- The Fukuoka Prize is an award established by the city of Fukuoka and the Fukuoka City International Foundation to honor the outstanding work of individuals or organizations in preserving or creating Asian culture.
- There are three prize categories: Grand Prize, Academic Prize, and Arts and Culture Prize.

**Source: The Hindu**

## Deepika Kumari reclaims world no.1 ranking after hat-trick of gold medals



- Star Indian archer Deepika Kumari regained the number one position in the global rankings following her hat-trick of gold medals at the **Archery World Cup Stage 3 in Paris**.
- **Gold in all 3 recurve events:** Women's individual, team and mixed pair events.
- She has 9 gold, 12 silver and 7 bronze medals in the World Cup.

**Source: Indian Express**

### Important Days

#### June 26, International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

##### Why in the News?

- June 26 every year is observed as International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking or World Drug Day to create awareness about issues related to drugs and seek international cooperation to combat its effects on health, society, and governance.



##### Key Points

- The **theme** for 2021 is **'Share Facts on Drugs, Save Lives'**.

##### History:

- The day June 26 was chosen by the UN General Assembly, on December 7, 1987. The assembly made the decision to observe this day as an expression of its resolution to make international society free of drug abuse.

##### In India:

- The Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Thawarchand Gehlot launched the **website** for the **Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)** on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.



## SHARE FACTS ON DRUGS

*Save lives*

### About Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA):

- The 'Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan' or a 'Drugs-Free India Campaign' was flagged off on 15th August 2020 across 272 districts of the country found to be most vulnerable based on the data available from various sources.
- According to the National Comprehensive Survey conducted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, there are more than 60 million drug users in the country of which a large number of users are in the age group of 10-17 years.
- There are more than 500 voluntary organizations across the country, which are assisted financially under the **NAPDDR scheme** of the Ministry.

### About National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR):

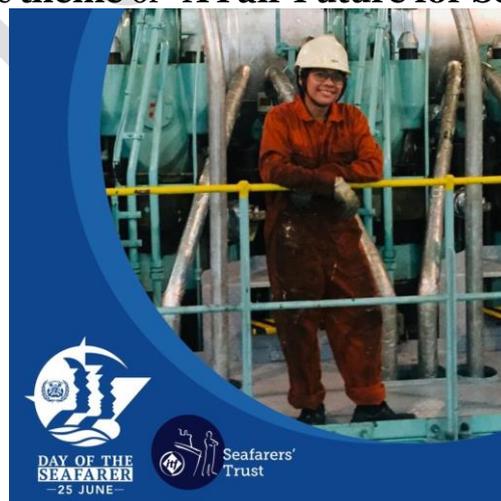
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated and is implementing a NAPDDR for 2018-2025.
- The Plan aims at reduction of adverse consequences of drug abuse through a multi-pronged strategy.

**Source: PIB**

## June 25, Day of the Seafarer

### Why in the News?

- The Day of the Seafarer, held on 25 June every year, draws global attention to the contribution that seafarers make to world trade.
- The **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**'s 2021 Day of the Seafarer campaign has chosen the **theme** of "A Fair Future for Seafarers".



### Key Points

#### History:

- The Day of the Seafarer was first celebrated in 2011.

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### In India:

- On the occasion of the 'Day of the Seafarer-2021', Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State (I/C) for Ports, Shipping & Waterways assured that **Advanced Seafarer Wellness Centers** will be provided at all the ports.
- Government has planned in **Maritime Vision 2030** for raising the number of Seafarers from 2,40,000 to above 5 Lakhs in the next ten years. '**M.T. Swarna Krishan**' being the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Flag Vessel of Shipping Corporation of India with all Women Officers onboard was awarded in this function.

Source: PIB

## June 29, National Statistics Day

### Why in the News?

- The National Statistics Day has been designated as one of the Special Days to be celebrated at the national level and is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Late Prof. P C Mahalanobis, on 29th June, in recognition of his invaluable contribution in establishing the National Statistical System.



### Key Points

- The **theme** of National Statistics Day, 2021 is **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)- 2 (End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture)**.
- On this occasion, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation also recognizes the outstanding contribution for high quality research work in the field of applied and theoretical statistics benefiting the official statistical system.
- This year, the winners of Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis National Award in Official Statistics, 2021 and Prof C. R. Rao National Award for Young Statistician, 2021 will be announced.

**Note:** After every five years, **World Statistics Day** is celebrated on October 20.

Source: PIB

## July 01, National Doctors' Day

### Why in the News?

- National Doctors' Day is a day celebrated to recognize the contributions of physicians to individual lives and communities.
- This day serves to show gratitude to all those doctors who have selflessly aided us in our time of need and tirelessly worked for the health of their patients.

### Key Points

#### History of National Doctors' Day

- The National Doctors' Day is celebrated on July 1 all across India to honour the

legendary physician and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal, **Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy**. He was born on July 1, 1882 and died on the same date in 1962.

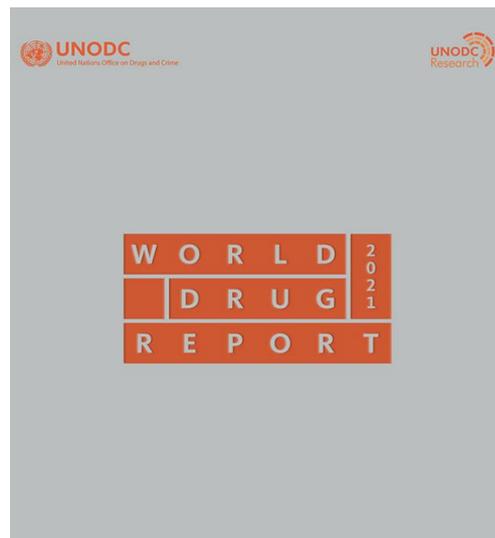
- The National Doctors' Day was first observed in 1991.

## Reports and Indexes

### World Drug Report 2021: UNODC

#### Why in the News?

- Every year, the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** issues the World Drug Report, full of key statistics and factual data obtained through official sources.



#### Key Points

##### Findings of the Report:

- Around 275 million people used drugs worldwide in 2020, while over 36 million people suffered from drug use disorders.
- In the last 24 years **cannabis** potency had increased by as much as four times in parts of the world, even as the percentage of adolescents who perceived the drug as harmful fell by as much as 40 percent.
- The percentage of  $\Delta 9$ -THC – the main psychoactive component in cannabis - has risen from around 6 percent to more than 11 percent in Europe between 2002 and 2019.
- In surveys of health professionals across 77 countries, 42 percent asserted that cannabis use had increased.
- Between 2010 and 2019 the number of people using drugs increased by 22 percent, owing in part to global population growth.
- According to the latest global estimates, about 5.5 percent of the population aged between 15 and 64 years have used drugs at least once in the past year.

**Drug markets** on the **dark web** only emerged a decade ago but major ones are now worth at least \$ 315 million in annual sales. Although this is just a fraction of overall drug sales, the trend is upwards with a fourfold increase between 2011 to mid-2017 and mid-2017 to 2020.

##### Related International Initiatives:

- Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961
- The Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971
- The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and

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Psychotropic Substances, 1988

- International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26th June).

### About United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC):

- It is a United Nations office that was established in 1997 as the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention by combining the United Nations International Drug Control Program and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division in the United Nations Office at Vienna, Austria. And was renamed the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2002.

Source: The Hindu

## Detailed Project reports of LiDAR survey of forest areas

### Why in the News?

- Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar released the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of LiDAR based survey of forest areas in **10 states**.
- The 10 states are Bihar, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, and Tripura.



### Key Points

- The project was awarded to **WAPCOS** in July 2020 at a cost of Rs.18.38 Crore for implementation in 26 states over 261897 hectare.
- The DPR's for the remaining 16 states will also be released shortly.
- The project, which was awarded to **WAPCOS, a PSU under the aegis of Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India** is a first of its kind and a unique experiment using LiDAR technology which will help augment water and fodder in jungles areas thereby reducing human-animal conflict
- State forest departments will use **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)** funds towards implementation of these projects.

### About LiDAR:

- **LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging)** is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges (variable distances) to the Earth.
- A lidar instrument principally consists of a laser, a scanner, and a specialized GPS receiver.
- Airplanes and helicopters are the most commonly used platforms for acquiring lidar data over broad areas.

Source: PIB

## New Appointments

### Tenure of Attorney General K.K. Venugopal extended by a year

#### Why in the News?

- The central government has extended the tenure of Attorney General (AG) for India K.K. Venugopal by a year.
- Venugopal will continue on the constitutional post till 30 June 2022.
- With this extension, Venugopal will complete 5 years as AG next year. Venugopal, who will turn 90 on 6th September this year, is the oldest person to serve on this post.

#### Key Points

- K K Venugopal took over as the 15th Attorney General for India on July 1, 2017.
- In 2002, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan and in 2015 Padma Vibhushan.



#### About the Attorney General for India:

- The Attorney General for India is the Indian government's chief legal advisor, and is its principal barrister in the Supreme Court of India.
- They are appointed by the President of India on the advice of the Union Cabinet under Article 76 of the Constitution.

**Source: Indian Express**

### Praveen Sinha appointed as Special Director of CBI

#### Why in the News?

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed CBI Additional Director Praveen Sinha as the Special Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).



### Key Points

- Sinha, a Gujarat-cadre IPS officer of the 1988 batch, has served as the agency's acting Director after Rishi Kumar Shukla had retired.
- The post of Special Director is the second senior-most position in the CBI after the Director. The post was vacant for the last three years.

### Facts about Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Founded:** 1 April 1963
- **Director:** Subodh Kumar Jaiswal
- **Parent organization:** Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

**Source:** The Hindu

## Obituaries

### Legendary Musician Parassala B Ponnammal passes away

#### Why in the News?

- Legendary Carnatic musician and Padmashree awardee, Parassala B Ponnammal, passed away.



### Key Points

- Parassala B Ponnammal was a recipient of several notable honours including the Lifetime Achievement Award instituted by Chennai Fine Arts, Sangeetha Prabhakara Award, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Swathi Sangeetha Puraskaram, Sree Guruvayurappan Chembai Puraskaram and so on.

### About Carnatic music:

- Carnatic music, known as Karnāṭaka saṅgītam in the South Indian languages, is a system of music commonly associated with South India, including the modern Indian states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, and Sri Lanka.

**Source:** The Hindu

### Editor of world's only Sanskrit daily KV Sampath Kumar passes away

- KV Sampath Kumar, 64, editor of **Sudharma**, reckoned to be the country's and the world's only Sanskrit daily (newspaper), passed away.
- Sampath Kumar had taken over the mantle from his father Pandit K.N. Varadaraja Iyengar, who had founded Sudharma in 1970.
- He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2020.

## Miscellaneous

### NSDC and WhatsApp launch Digital Skill Champions Programme

#### Why in the News?

- The **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** and **WhatsApp** launched Digital Skill Champions Programme that aims to train Indian youth on digital skills to make them employment ready.
- The partnership identifies two broad areas of collaboration - WhatsApp Digital Skills Academy, and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) and WhatsApp Business App Training sessions.



#### Key Points

- Through this programme, school and university students would be coached to imbibe digital and online skills that would culminate with WhatsApp and NSDC awarding "Digital Skill Champions" certification.
- As part of WhatsApp Digital Skills Academy, youth from tier III and IV cities will be trained on critical aspects of digital safety and online privacy.
- The initiative will kick off with a pilot across 50 campuses in five states - Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- The programme will be imparted through WhatsApp's project implementation partner, InfiSpark.

**Source: PIB**

### Asia's longest and world's fifth longest High Speed Track for automobiles in India

#### Why in the News?

- Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Prakash Javadekar inaugurated **NATRAX- the High Speed Track (HST)** in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

#### Key Points

##### About NATRAX- the High Speed Track (HST):

- It is the **longest** track in **Asia** and **world's fifth longest** High Speed Track for automobiles.
- It is a world class **11.3 km High Speed Track**.

#### One Stop Solution:

- **NATRAX (National Automotive Test Tracks)**, developed in an area of 1000 acres of land, is a **one stop solution** for all sorts of high speed performance tests for widest categories of vehicles from 2 wheelers to heavy tractor trailers.
- Being centrally located in Madhya Pradesh, it is accessible to most of the major

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### Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs).

- Foreign OEMs will be looking at NATRAX for the development of prototype cars for Indian conditions.
- At present, foreign OEMs go to their respective high speed track abroad for high speed test requirements.

## Comprehensive study on not-for-profit hospital model in country

### Why in the News?

- **NITI Aayog** released a comprehensive study on the not-for-profit hospital model in the country, in a step towards closing the information gap on such institutions and facilitating robust policymaking in this area.



### Key Points

#### Findings of the Report:

- There has been relatively low investment in the expansion of the health sector in the private domain.
- The not-for-profit hospital provides not only curative but also preventive healthcare services.
- Most of the not-for-profit hospitals in the country charge lower than the for profit hospitals.
- It links healthcare with social reform, community engagement, and education. It uses government resources and grants to provide cost-effective healthcare to people without being concerned about profits.
- For-profit hospitals account for 55.3% of in-patients, while not-for-profit hospitals account for only 2.7% of in-patients in the country.
- To promote these hospitals, the government should increase **the tax exemption** for donations and membership fees of these hospitals.

#### Challenges:

- Recruitment, Reimbursements, Funding, Compliance burden
- Some of the hospitals, especially those in remote areas, reported challenges because of the high compliance burden of staffing requirements of the Regulations for running a blood bank 1999, Clinical Establishments Act 2010, Pre-Conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques 1994, and Quality standards.

#### Suggestions:

- The report proposes short- and long-term policy interventions—such as developing criteria to identify these hospitals, ranking them through a performance index, and promoting top hospitals for practising philanthropy, among others.

#### Recent Initiatives in Health Sector:

- Prime Minister Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Scheme
- Increased Allocation for Health in Budget 2021
- National Digital Health Mission

- National Medical Commission Act, 2019
- Ayushman Bharat
- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana

**Facts about NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog:**

**Formed:** 1 January 2015

**Headquarters:** New Delhi

**Chairperson:** Narendra Modi

**Vice Chairperson:** Rajiv Kumar

**CEO:** Amitabh Kant

**Source:** PIB

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