

# **Weekly Current Affairs**

## **1st Week**

### **July 2022**



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### Important News: State

#### Aurangabad and Osmanabad city

##### Why in News:

- The Uddhav Thackeray cabinet approved the proposal to change the name of Aurangabad city to Shambaji Nagar and Osmanabad city to Dharashiv.



##### key points:

- Aurangabad was founded in 1610 by Malik Ambar, the Siddi general of the Nizamshahi dynasty of Ahmednagar, at which time the city was named Khirki or Khadki.
- Malik Ambar's son Fateh Khan changed the name of Aurangabad city to Fatehpur after the death of Malik Ambar in the year 1626.
- In the year 1653, the Deccan was invaded by Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, and established his capital in the city of Aurangabad, which Aurangzeb named Aurangabad.

##### Source: Indian Express

#### Pensioners Awareness Program

##### Why in News:

- Pensioners Awareness Program organized in Puducherry by the Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare (DOP&PW).



### key points:

- This is the first physical event to cover the southern region of the country after the pandemic, attended by over 300 pensioners from Chennai and Puducherry in collaboration with the Pensioners Associations of Chennai and Puducherry.
- It aims to sensitize the pensioners about the changes made under the Government's "Ease of Life" initiative and under these special sessions were organized on digital methods of submission of Annual Life Certificate along with Income Tax matters related to pensioners. Is.
- The objective of these programs is to spread awareness among Central Government pensioners about various rules and procedures of pension eligibility and procedures, as well as to make the pensioners aware of the changes taking place from time to time through various amendments in the policy and procedures.

**Source: Indian Express**

### Honey testing lab launched in Nagaland

#### Why in News:

- Honey Testing Lab was launched in Nagaland by the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar.



### key points:

- During the event, Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar also inaugurated a honey testing laboratory at Dimapur in Nagaland.
- The main objective of the Honey Testing Laboratory is to provide assistance to beekeepers and processors in testing the honey produced.
- India is one of the 5 largest producers of honey in the world, honey production in India has increased by 242 percent compared to the year 2005-06, while its export has increased by 265 percent.

- Adulteration is a major problem in the production of honey. It uses high fructose corn syrup or rice, tapioca, sugarcane, and beet syrups, the honey testing laboratory aims to reduce this adulteration.

**Source: PIB**

## Important News: India

### 'Entrepreneurial India' program

#### Why in News:

- Participated in the 'Entrepreneur India' program organized by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Delhi.



#### key points:

- Prime Minister launched major initiatives like 'Improving and Accelerating MSME Performance' (RAMP) scheme, 'Capacity Building of First Time MSME Exporters' (CBFTE) scheme and new facilities of 'Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program' (PMEGP) during the event was also done.
- During the 'Entrepreneur India' program, the Prime Minister also digitally transferred assistance to the beneficiaries of PMEGP for the year 2022-23, announced the results of the MSME Idea Hackathon, 2022, and distributed the National MSME Awards, 2022.
- The MSME Idea Hackathon, 2022 aims to promote and support the creativity of individuals, adoption of the latest technologies, and innovation among MSMEs.

**Source: PIB**

### Ayush Wellness Center (AWC) at Rashtrapati Bhavan

#### Why in News:

- The Center for Advanced AYUSH Health at President's Estate, New Delhi was inaugurated by the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind in the presence of the Union Minister of AYUSH.



**key points:**

- The country's first AYUSH Wellness Clinic (AWC) with all systems was established in the President's Estate in July 2015, through a joint initiative by the Ministry of AYUSH and the President's Secretariat.
- The Anganwadi Center offers treatment facilities in the streams of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy, as well as caters to the medical needs of the President, officials of the President's Secretariat, and residents of the President's Estate.
- Ayush Wellness Center acts as a precursor to many such clinics in various government departments across the country and reputed institutions like AIIMS.

**Source: PIB**

**E-learning platform**

**Why in News:**

- Dak Karmayogi, an e-learning portal of the Department of Posts, was launched by the Minister of Communications, Railways, Electronics, and IT Shri Ashwini Vaishnav and Minister of State for Communication Shri Devusinh Chouhan in a function organized at Stein Auditorium of India Habitat Centre.



**key points:**

- The e-learning portal has been developed 'in the Institute' under the vision of 'Mission Karmayogi' as envisioned by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to bring efficiency to the work of all Government of India employees and to achieve the objectives of 'Minimum Government' and 'Maximum Governance'. With the aim of bringing about a change in the working efficiency of the bureaucracy. ,



- During the program Meghdoot Awards in eight different categories were also presented to the employees by Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology, and Minister of State for Communication Shri Devusinh Chouhan.
- Meghdoot Award was instituted in the year 1984, this award is the highest award of the Department of Posts at the national level for overall performance and excellence.
- The Meghdoot Award is conferred in eight categories, with the awardees being awarded medals, certificates and a cash prize of Rs 21,000.

**Source: Indian Express**

## 12th India Chem-2022

### Why in News:

- The meeting to plan the upcoming 12th India Chem-2022 was chaired by the Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya.



### key points:

- The theme of the 12th India Chem-2022 event this year is "Vision 2030 - Chem and Petrochemicals Build India".
- The 12th India Chem-2022 is one of the biggest events in the chemical and petrochemical sector in the Asia-Pacific region to be organized by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals in association with FICCI from 6-8 October 2022.
- The India Chem exhibition aims to showcase the huge potential of the Indian chemical industry and various industry sectors (such as chemicals, petrochemicals, agrochemical industries, processes, and machinery).
- India is not only the sixth largest chemical producer in the world but also exports chemicals to more than 175 countries, which accounts for 13 percent of India's total exports.

**Source: PIB**

## Drug-Free India Campaign on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse

### Why in News:

- Drug-Free India Campaign Run - the 19th run against drug abuse - was organized by Social Justice and Empowerment Department at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Bhishma Pitamah Marg in Pragati Vihar, New Delhi.



#### key points:

- This year's theme is "Share Facts on Drugs, Save Lives".
- The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed every year on 26 June to strengthen the steps taken and cooperation to build a world free of drug abuse.
- This run is organized with the aim of creating awareness and presenting a united front against drug abuse.
- "NashaMukt Bharat Abhiyan is an initiative related to the mass program for Run – Run Against Drugs" which also includes 1 Km, 5 Km, 10 Km runs, Zumba Classes, and Aerobics.

**Source: PIB**

#### India New Car Assessment Program

##### Why in News:

- A notification has been issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, under which a new rule 126E has been proposed to be inserted in the CMVR (Central Motor Vehicles Regulation), 1989 with regard to the India New Car Assessment Program (BNCAP).



**key points:**

- Under the new law, approved motor vehicles of Category M1 with a gross vehicle weight of fewer than 3.5 tons, manufactured or imported into the country, will be applied as per the Automotive Industry Standards (AIS)-197, as amended from time to time, the global benchmark and far exceeds the minimum regulatory requirements.
- As per the latest amendment, India will assess the level of safety of its occupants by NCAP rating by evaluating the vehicle in the areas of (a) Adult Occupant Protection (AOP) (b) Child Occupant Protection (COP), and (c) Safety Assistive Technologies. The vehicle will also be awarded a star rating from one to five stars based on its scoring against various tests conducted as per AIS 197.
- Vehicles will be examined in Testing Agencies equipped with necessary infrastructure facilities covered in Rule 126 of CMVR 1989 for the New Car Assessment Programme.

**Source: PIB**

**Organized seminar on anti-human trafficking awareness**

**Why in News:**

- A one-day seminar on Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness was organized by National Commission for Women (NCW) in collaboration with the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D).



**key points:**

- The one-day awareness session discussed the introduction, concept, types, and existing response mechanisms of human trafficking and the psycho-social impact of trafficking as well as the role of civil society organizations in its prevention.
- The seminar was divided into four technical sessions, 'Introduction: Concepts, Patterns and Existing Response Mechanisms of Human Trafficking', 'Different Dimensions of Human Trafficking', 'Psycho-Social Effects of Trafficking' and 'Emancipation, Post-Emancipation Care and Rehabilitation Role of NGOs in '.
- Seminar on Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness State Commission for Women, Women and Child Development Departments of States/UTs, Senior Police Officers, Senior Officers of Para Military Forces, Government Organizations, National Commissions, Administrative, Judiciary, and Police



Training Institutes, Non-Governmental Organizations, directors of medical institutions and universities/colleges were included.

- An Anti-Human Trafficking Cell (Anti-Human Trafficking Cell) on 2nd April 2022 by the National Commission for Women with the objective of dealing with cases of human trafficking, raising awareness among women and girls, capacity building, and training anti-trafficking units, and sensitizing and empowering law enforcement machinery. AHTC) was established.

**Source: The Hindu**

## Jyotirgamaya - the end of the festival showcasing the talent of unheard artists

### Why in News:

- Jyotirgamaya, a unique festival showcasing the talent of rare musical instruments from across the country including street performers, train entertainers, temple artists, etc., culminated at Kamani Auditorium in New Delhi.



### key points:

- The talent of unheard artists from all corners of the country was showcased during the 5-day festival, in which 15 artists displayed their art every day, totaling 75 performances.
- During the festival, a live exhibition was organized at the Fine Arts Gallery showcasing musical instruments like Kamaicha, Ravanahatha, Rabab, Pung, Sarangi, Jodi Pava, and Khol, which are related to different parts of our country.
- Workshops on the manufacturing of rare musical instruments like Maddalam, Rudra Veena, Dukkad, Shehnai, and Nadaswaram were organized in Jyotirgamaya Utsav which were observed daily with enthusiasm by artists, scholars, researchers, students, etc.
- During the event, an exhibition of 20 rare instruments was displayed for the audience at the festival.

**Source: PIB**

## Important News: World

### UN report on internet shutdown

### Why in News:

- According to the United Nations Report on Internet Shutdown, Internet shutdown affects the safety and well-being of people and hinders the flow of information as well as harms the economy.



### key points:

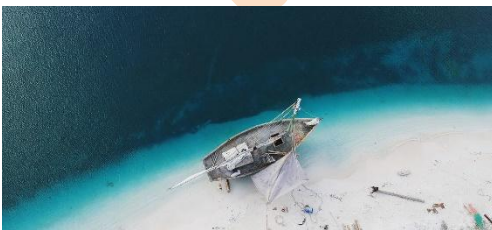
- Internet shutdowns are measures taken by or on behalf of a government to deliberately disrupt the use of online information and communication systems.
- According to the KeepItOn alliance, there were 931 internet shutdowns in 74 countries from 2016-2021.
- According to the report, internet connection was blocked or interrupted 106 times by India, out of which at least 85 times in India's internet shutdown has been done in Jammu and Kashmir.
- According to the report, the main reason for Internet shutdowns from 2016-2021 is about half of all Internet shutdowns recorded by civil society groups, in the context of protests and political crises related to social, political, or economic grievances.

### Source: The Hindu

### United Nations Ocean Conference: 'Blue Deal'

### Why in News:

- A “Blue Deal” has been adopted at the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference to enable sustainable use of marine resources for economic development.



### key points:



- According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Blue Deal covers innovation to facilitate global trade, investment, and a sustainable ocean economy.
- The main goal of the Blue Deal is for coastal and island developing nations to benefit from the sustainable development of the ocean economy, including fisheries and aquaculture, coastal tourism, maritime transport, offshore renewable energy, ecosystem services, and marine genetic resources.
- The Blue Deal will also be helpful in generating employment opportunities for the developing countries, with the help of which the means of generating revenue for these countries will increase.

**Source: Times of India**

Free speech through offline and online medium

**Why in News:**

- The '2022 Resilient Democracies Statement (RDS)' has been signed by India with the G7 countries.



**key points:**

- The main objective of the Resilient Democracies Statement is to protect the freedom of the actors of civil society, freedom of expression, and opinion through online and offline means.
- Under the Resilient Democracies Statement, India will work towards equitable, inclusive, and sustainable solutions to global challenges, while also affirming a rules-based international order.
- The '2022 Resilient Democracies' Statement signed with the G7 countries is in line with the 2021 Carbin Bay Open Societies Statement.

**Source: The Hindu**

Status of EU candidates

**Why in News:**

- The European Parliament voted to grant EU candidate status to Ukraine and Moldova.



**key points:**

- The European Union's candidacy for Georgia was approved by the European Parliament.
- European Council President Charles Michel made the announcement after discussions between the leaders of the 27 EU member states.
- To join the 27-member EU bloc, the three countries are required to complete a series of political and economic reforms.

**Source: All India Radio**

## Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) Scheme

**Why in News:**

- The Partnership Plan for Global Infrastructure and Investment was formally launched by President Biden and the leaders of the G7.



**key points:**

- It is a \$600 billion fund-raising plan for the developing world in a move seen as a counterpoint to China's Belt and Road plan.
- The initiative will be geared towards tackling climate change, improving global health, achieving gender equality, and building digital infrastructure.
- The infrastructure plan was first unveiled at the 2021 G7 summit in the UK.
- Initially known as Build Back Better World, the project was renamed PGII at the 2022 summit.

**Source: The Hindu**

## 5-day UN Ocean Conference

### Why in News:

- The 5-day United Nations Oceans Conference was organized by the governments of Kenya and Portugal.



### key points:

- During the conference, leaders of 130 countries of the world will deliberate for five days to explore the possibility of an international agreement on the protection of the world's oceans, seas, and marine resources.
- The Oceans Summit is being held at a crucial time as the world seeks to address the many challenges that require structural changes and innovative and green solutions to achieve SDG Goal 14, which includes oceans, seas, and marine resources.
- On the first day of the 5-day conference, the Indian delegation was led by the Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh along with other members of the Indian delegation.

**Source: News on Air**

## Gun safety law

### Why in News:

- Federal gun safety law is signed by US President Joe Biden.





**key points:**

- The gun safety law was introduced following shootings at an elementary school in Texas and a supermarket in Buffalo New York.
- The new gun safety law has expanded the scope of background checks for gun-buying youth aged 18 to 21.
- The bill was passed by the House of Representatives by a vote of 234 to 193, after which the bill was also passed through a vote by the Senate.
- The main objective of the gun safety law is to secure the lives of the people.

**Source: Livemint**

## Important News: Economy

### Business Reform Action Plan-2020

**Why in News:**

- The Business Reform Action Plan-BRAP 2020 was released by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi.



**key points:**

- Based on the implementation of the Business Reform Action Plan-2020, seven top achiever states (Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu) have been identified.
- According to the report submitted by the Business Reform Action Plan-2020, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh have been placed in the category of target states, while Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Kerala, Rajasthan, and West Bengal has been placed in the Aspirational States category.
- According to the report, Andaman and Nicobar, Bihar, Chandigarh, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Puducherry, and Tripura have been placed under the emerging business ecosystem category.
- The objective of the Business Reform Action Plan is to promote a culture of mutual learning from the best practices of the states and to improve business opportunities in each state and union territory.

**Source: Business Times**

## Important News: Defense

### ISRO test-fires PSLV-C53 rocket

#### Why in News:

- PSLV-C53 rocket will be test-fired by the Indian Space Research Organization - ISRO.



#### key points:

- PSLV-C53 rocket will also launch three Singapore satellites (155 kg NUSAAR satellite and 2.8 kg Scub-1 nanosatellite from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore).
- PSLV-C53 rocket will be launched from the second launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Center in Srihari Kota.
- PSLV-C53 rocket is the second dedicated commercial mission of New Space India Limited, a newly formed public entity under the Department of Space.
- PSLV-C53 rocket will launch the primary payload, DS-EO 365 kg earth observation satellite, into an orbit of 570 km altitude measured from the equator.

**Source: Indian Express**

### 4th Synergy Conference

#### Why in News:

- The 4th Synergy Conference between the Indian Army and Defense Accounts Department (DAD) was held in New Delhi.



#### key points:

- This year the Synergy conference was co-chaired by the Vice Chief of the Army Staff (VCOAS) and the Controller General of Defense Accounts (CGDA) along with senior officers of the Indian Army and Defense Accounts Department.
- The primary objective of the Synergy conference is to discuss the Agneepath scheme and to discuss the timely implementation of the planned system of pay and allowances for Agniveers.
- The Department's vision to leverage the power of technology and deploy innovative business process re-engineering to fundamentally transform bill-processing and payment systems were taken up by CGDA with the aim of improving service delivery of the Armed Forces during the conference.
- Various initiatives organized by DAD like DARPAN (Defence Account Receipt, Payment & Analysis) and the roadmap for the upcoming centralized pay system were also presented during the Synergy conference.

**Source: PIB**

### Abhyas - Successfully Tested High-Speed Expandable Aerial Target (HEAT)

#### Why in News:

- Abhyas - High-Speed Expandable Aerial Target (HEAT) was successfully flight tested from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha.



**key points:**

- The target aircraft was flown from a ground-based controller in a pre-determined low-altitude flight path which was monitored by various tracking sensors deployed by ITR including radar and an electro-optical targeting system.
- The exercise has been designed and developed by the Aeronautical Development Establishment of the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
- Abhyas - High-Speed Expandable Aerial Target Vehicle was launched with the aim of using twin under-slug boosters which provide the initial speed to the vehicle.
- The target aircraft is equipped with Micro-Electromechanical Systems-based Inertial Navigation System for navigation along with the Flight Control Computer for guidance and control along with Indigenous Radio Altimeter for very low altitude flight and Data Link for encrypted communication between the Ground Control Station and Target Aircraft.

**Source: Times of India**

## 17A (P17A) Ship

**Why in News:**

- The foundation stone for the construction of the seventh ship (Y-12654) of the Indian Navy's iconic P17A was formally laid by Rear Admiral GK Harish, Director General, Naval Design (Surface Ship Group) at M/s Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai.



**key points:**

- Such keel laying is a major activity in shipbuilding, marking the formal start of the warship building process at the building berth.
- Seven warships are being built under the P17A category, out of which four are being built at MDL and three at GRSE with MDL as the lead yard.
- The construction of the P17A ships differs from the concept of battleship building by adopting the modern technology 'Integrated Construction (IC)', where the blocks are prepared before being added to reduce the construction period of the warships.
- The main objective of ship 17A (P17A) is to enhance the firepower of the Indian Navy Fleet.

- The 17A (P17A) warships are being built indigenously in line with self-reliant India and India's 'Make in India' commitment, with 75 per cent of the order of equipment and systems at indigenous firms, including MSMEs, with indigenous material.

**Source: Livemint**

### Mk III Squadron

#### Why in News:

- Indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter Mk III Squadron inducted into service of Indian Coast Guard at Porbandar, Gujarat.



#### key points:

- The Mk III Squadron has been set up as a step toward achieving self-reliance in the field of Search and Rescue (SAR) and Maritime Surveillance in line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.
- The Mk III helicopter is indigenously manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- The Mk III squadron is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment like electro-optical sensors, Shakti engines, a full glass cockpit, a high-intensity searchlight, an advanced communication system, an automatic detection system as well a SAR homer with advanced radar.
- Presently 13 ALH Mk-III aircraft have been inducted into the Indian Coast Guard in a phased manner, out of which four aircraft are stationed at Porbandar.
- Since inducting into service, ALH Mk-III aircraft have carried out several operational missions including night SAR for the first time off the coast of Diu.

**Source: Indian Express**

### Operation Sankalp

#### Why in News:

- The stealth frigate of the Indian Navy, INS Talwar is currently deployed for Operation Sankalp to commemorate the third consecutive year of Indian Navy presence in the Gulf to safeguard India's maritime interests.





**key points:**

- In view of the deteriorating security situation in the Gulf region, following the attack on merchant ships in the Gulf of Oman in June 2019, the Indian Navy has launched Maritime Security Operations, code 'Op Sankalp' in the Gulf region.
- The main objective of Operation Sankalp is to ensure safe passage for Indian flag ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz.
- Operation Sankalp is being carried forward in close coordination with all stakeholders including the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Shipping, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and the DG Shipping.

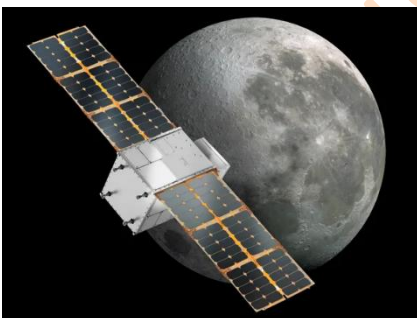
**Source: PIB**

## Science and Technology

### NASA's Capstone Mission

**Why in News:**

- Capstone mission launched by NASA.



**key points:**

- Capstone is a microwave oven-sized CubeSat, weighing just 55 pounds (25 kg).

- The Capstone - Cislunar Autonomous Positioning System Technology Operations and Navigation Experiment are designed to test a unique, elliptical lunar orbit, known as a near-rectilinear halo orbit (NRHO).
- CAPS (Cyslunar Autonomous Positioning System) is an autonomous navigation software from Capstone
- If CAPS is successfully tested, this software will allow future spacecraft to determine their location without relying exclusively on Earth-based tracking.

**Source: Livemint**

### Performance Standards for BIS EV Batteries

#### Why in News:

- Test specifications for Lithium-Ion (Li-Ion) Traction Battery Packs and Systems (Performance Testing) for Electric Vehicles have been published by the Bureau of Indian Standards.



#### key points:

- The standard for battery packs and systems IS 17855:2022 ISO 12405-4:2018 Manufactured accordingly.
- The newly created standard covers testing procedures for basic characteristics of performance, reliability, and electrical performance for high power or high energy applications for battery packs and systems.
- BIS is the national standards body of India for the harmonious development of activities of standardization, marking, and quality certification of batteries.
- BIS has been made a National Standards Body of India under the BIS Act 2016.
- Certification, hallmarking, eco mark, compulsory registration, and laboratory services are included as functions of BIS.

**Source: Indian Express**

## Environment

### Environmentally sensitive areas

#### Why in News:

- Farmers in Kerala are protesting against the Supreme Court order to set up eco-sensitive zones of 1 kilometer around all protected areas, wildlife sanctuaries, and national parks.



#### key points:

- As per the National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016), lands within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries have been notified as eco-fragile zones or eco-sensitive zones (ESZs), under unusual circumstances. The range of 10 km can be increased or decreased.
- The environmentally sensitive area is designed to serve as a "shock absorber" as well as a transition zone for protected areas.
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas The main objective is to reduce the negative impact on the "fragile ecosystems" by some human activities happening nearby.
- Gadgil committee and Kasturirangan committee have been constituted by the central government to identify eco-sensitive areas.

Source: The Hindu

## Schemes

### PLI Scheme for White Goods

#### Why in News:

- Under Phase II of the PLI Scheme for White Goods (AC & LED Lights), 15 companies have been selected with a committed investment of Rs 1,368 crore.



**key points:**

- After evaluating 19 applications received in the second phase, 15 companies with a committed investment of Rs 1,368 crore have been selected, including 6 companies for manufacturing AC components with a committed investment of Rs 908 crore and a committed investment of Rs 460 crore. Includes 9 LED companies.
- The PLI scheme in White Goods has been designed to create a complete component ecosystem for the Air Conditioner and LED Light industry in India and to make India an integral part of the global supply chain.
- The Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI Scheme) for White Goods (Air Conditioners and LED Lights) was approved by the Union Cabinet on April 2021 to be implemented from FY 2021-22 to FY 2028-29 with an outlay of Rs 6,238 crore.

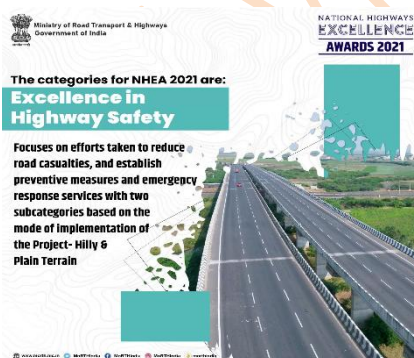
**Source: The Hindu**

## Awards and Honours

### "National Highway Excellence Award" 2021

**Why in News:**

- “National Highway Excellence Award” 2021 by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways in the presence of Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari to companies/stakeholders for best performing road properties and toll plazas across the country were provided.



**key points:**



- With a view to strengthening and augment the road infrastructure in the country, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has launched 'National Highway Excellence' in the year 2018 with an objective to encourage stakeholders in the highway construction and maintenance process and inculcate a spirit of healthy competition among them.
- The objective of the National Highway Excellence Awards is to recognize and award companies with the best-performing road assets and toll plazas in the country.
- The awards have been allocated for the following categories for the year 2021 award cycle -
  1. Excellence in Project Management
  2. Excellence in Highway Safety
  3. Excellence in Operations and Maintenance
  4. Excellence in Toll Management
  5. Innovation
  6. Green highway
  7. Excellent work in challenging conditions
  8. Bridge construction
  9. Tunnel construction

**Source: PIB**

## Books and Authors

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## Important Days

### International Asteroid Day



- International Asteroid Day is observed globally on 30 June every year.
- This year the theme of International Asteroid Day is "small is beautiful".
- International Asteroid Day is widely observed each year to raise public awareness of the danger of asteroid impacts and to inform the public of the worldwide crisis communication actions to be taken in case of a credible near-Earth object threat. goes.
- In the year 2016, June 30 was declared by the United Nations General Assembly as International Asteroid Day, and to implement it, resolution A/RES/71/90 was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.



- International Asteroid Day is observed every year on 30 June 1908 to mark the anniversary of the Tunguska impact on Siberia, the Russian Federation, and to raise public awareness of the asteroid impact threat.

**Source: Livemint**

### International Sailor Day



- In order to recognize the invaluable contribution of seafarers in the commerce and economic system, 'International Sailor Day' is organized every year on 25 June all over the world.
- In the year 2010, International Maritime Organization announced to celebrate 25 June every year as International Sailor Day, after which the first International Sailor Day was organized in the year 2011.
- The primary goal of International Seafarers Day is to make people aware of the important role seafarers play in global trade and transportation.

**Source: Indian Express**

## Sports

### Golden Achievement Award 2021



- Vijay Amritraj of India has been honored with the Golden Achievement Award for the year 2021.
- The Golden Achievement Award is presented annually by the International Tennis Hall of Fame and the International Tennis Federation.
- The Golden Achievement Award is given to an individual in tennis who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of tennis in the field of governance, promotion, and education at the international level.

- Vijay Amritraj is known to be one of the world's most important tennis players who converted professional tennis into the ATP Tour.

**Source: News on Air**

## Reports and Indexes

### Assessment Report of States/UTs under Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP 2020)

#### Why in News:

- Under the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP 2020) by the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, in the presence of the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal, in New Delhi.



#### key points:

- This year's assessment report "BRAP 2020" contains 301 improvement points covering 15 business regulatory areas such as access to information, single window system, labor, environment, sector-wise reforms, and other reforms related to the life cycle of a specific business.
- Sector-wise reforms have been introduced in BRAP 2020 for the first time with 72 reforms in 9 key sectors (Business License, Health Care, Legal Metrology, Cinema Hall, Hospitality, Fire NOC, Telecom, Movie Shooting, and Tourism).
- A feedback-based process has been initiated by DPIIT this year in which feedback is obtained from companies on the quality of implementation of reforms being undertaken by the States and Union Territories.
- Since the year 2014, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) issues Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) to drive business reforms with the aim to create an investor-friendly ecosystem in the country.

**Source: The Hindu**

### India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy Report

#### Why in News:

- A report titled 'India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy' has been released by NITI Aayog.



**key points:**

- The report is the first of its kind to present a comprehensive view and recommendations about the gig-platform economy in India.
- India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy report provide a scientific methodological approach to estimate the current size of the sector and the job creation potential.
- This report aims to leverage the potential of the gig-platform sector to accelerate access to finance through specially designed products for platform workers, self-employed in the business of selling regional and rural cuisine, street food, etc. Recommends engagement of employed persons with platforms to enable them to sell their products in towns and cities, in larger markets.
- Other recommendations from India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy report include conducting a separate calculation to estimate the size of the gig and platform workforce and gathering information during official counts to identify gig workers.

**Source: The Hindu**

### First Report on District Performance Grading Index (PGI-D)

**Why in News:**

- The first report on the District Performance Grading Index (PGI-D) for the years 2018-19 and 2019-20 was released by the Ministry of Education.



**key points:**

- The Performance Grading Index (PGI) for the states has been prepared by the Department of School Education and Literacy and the report for the reference years 2017-18 to 2019-20 has been released.

- Based on the success of the State PGIs, the 83-indicator PGI for the district (PGI-D) is designed to grade the performance of all districts in school education.
- The PGI-D structure consists of a total weightage of 600 points across 83 indicators, which are grouped under 6 categories. These categories are further divided into 12 domains.
- The districts in PGI-D are divided into ten grades, i.e., the highest grade 'Daksh' is awarded to districts scoring more than 90% marks in that category or overall. The lowest grade in PGI-D is called Akanksha-3, which stands for a score of up to 10 percent of the total marks.

**Source: PIB**

## New Appointments

Justice Shri Alok Aradhe



- A notification has been issued by the Central Government for the appointment of Justice Alok Aradhe as Acting Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court with effect from 3rd July 2022.
- In exercise of the power conferred by Article 223 of the Constitution of India, the President has appointed Justice Shri Alok Aradhe, the senior-most Judge of the High Court of Karnataka, to perform the duties of the office of Chief Justice of this Court.
- This appointment has been made in the light of the retirement of Justice Shri Ritu Raj Awasthi, Chief Justice, High Court of Karnataka with effect from 03.07.2022.
- Justice Aradhe was born in 1964 in Raipur and Justice Aradhe was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court in the year 2009 and was designated as a permanent Judge of the Court in the year 2011.

**Source: PIB**

Ek Nath Shinde



- Eknath Shinde took oath as the new Chief Minister of Maharashtra while BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis took oath as the deputy Chief minister.
- Eknath Shinde has become the 20th Chief Minister of Maharashtra state.
- Eknath Shinde was born on 9 February 1964 in a Hindu Maratha family.
- Eknath Shinde was elected MLA for the first time in the year 2004 from the Kopri-Panchpakhadi seat of Thane, after Eknath Shinde was elected as a member of the Legislative Assembly in the year 2009, 2014 and 2019.

**Source: PIB**

## Important Personality

### Martyrdom Day of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur

#### Why in News:

- The martyrdom day of the great warrior Baba Banda Singh Bahadur was celebrated by the National Memorial Authority at the Red Fort in New Delhi.



#### key points:

- During the program at the Red Fort in New Delhi, a Dhadi Jatha has performed as well as an exhibition depicting the story of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur.
- Baba Banda Singh Bahadur was a great Sikh warrior, and he was also a commander of the Khalsa Army who defeated the Mughals and liberated a large part of North India from the oppressive Mughal rule, and established Khalsa rule in Punjab.



- The Zamindari system was abolished by Banda Singh Bahadur and the right to property was given to the cultivators of the land.
- Banda Singh Bahadur was a great ruler who introduced Nanak Shahi coins.
- Banda Singh Bahadur was captured by the Mughal ruler Farrukhsiyar and was martyred at Mehrauli, where a memorial was built in his memory.

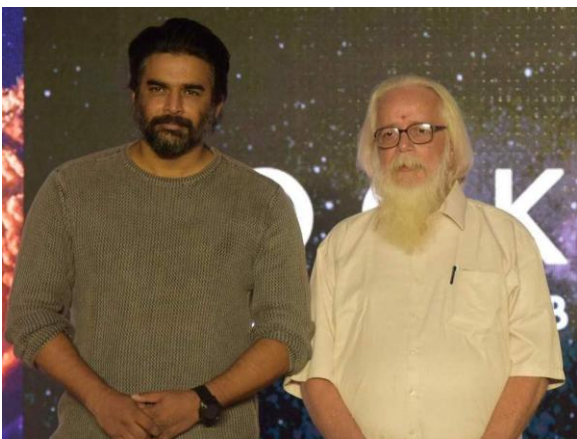
**Source: Indian Express**

## Miscellaneous

### Rocketry: The Nambi Effect

#### Why in News:

- A special screening of the film 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect' was organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting at Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi.



#### key points:

- Rocketry: The Nambi Effect is a drama film based on the life of former Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) scientist and aerospace engineer Nambi Narayanan, who was accused of espionage in 1994.
- The film Rocketry: The Nambi Effect' had its world premiere during the 75th Cannes Film Festival.
- The film has been shot in many countries of the world, including India, Georgia, Russia, Serbia, and France. The film has been simultaneously made in Tamil, Hindi, and English, as well as dubbed and released in Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada languages.

**Source: Indian Express**

# Weekly Current Affairs 1st Week July 2022

