

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 16, 2021

NATIONAL

- **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) - has released updated draft “Drone Rules, 2021” for seeking public comments by August 5, 2021**
- ✓ The proposed Rules will soon replace the UAS (unmanned aircraft system) Rules 2021, that was released on 12 March 2021
- ✓ According to the draft Rules, operating drones without unique identification number will not be allowed, unless specifically exempted.
- ✓ Drone operators will have to generate a unique identification number of a drone by providing the required details on the digital sky platform.
- ✓ The draft Rules also mandates safety features such real-time tracking beacon, and geo-fencing, which are expected to be notified later
- ✓ Further, an interactive airspace map with green, yellow, and red zones is also proposed to be displayed on the digital sky platform

INDUSTRY THUMBS UP

- Forms to be filled to operate drones **down to 5** from 25. No security clearance before registration or licence. **No curbs** on ops by **foreign cos** registered in India
- New rules aim to pave way for **drone taxis** and **dedicated corridors** for cargo deliveries

“Drones are bringing the next big tech revolution... It is upon us to ride the new wave
—Aviation minister
Jyotiraditya Scindia”

- ✓ Under the proposed Rules, Digital sky platform will be developed as a business-friendly single-window online system with minimal human interference and most permissions will be self-generated.
 - ✓ No pilot licence will be required for micro drones used for non-commercial use, nano drones and for research and development (R&D) organizations operating such drones.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, coverage of drones under Drone Rules 2021 has been increased from 300 kg to 500 kg and it will also cover drone taxis
 - ✓ The Ministry will also facilitate development of drone corridors for cargo deliveries and a drone promotion council will be set up to facilitate a business-friendly regulatory regime.
 - ✓ The fees for using drones will also be reduced sharply.
 - ✓ Also, now there will be no restriction on drone operations by foreign-owned companies registered in India.
 - ✓ The maximum penalty under new rules will be capped at Rs.1 lakh (not including penalties for violating other laws).
- **Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC) - has secured trademark registration for its brand name “Khadi” in three countries - Mexico, Bhutan and United Arab Emirates (UAE).**
- ✓ With this, KVIC has received trademark registration in a gulf country – UAE- successfully for the first time on June 28, 2021
 - ✓ Earlier, KVIC has secured trademark registration for “Khadi” in Mexico in December 2020.
 - ✓ Further, this month, KVIC obtained trademark registration in Bhutan on July 9.
 - ✓ KVIC already trademark registrations in certain classes of word “Khadi” in five countries – United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, Russia and China besides European Union.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **Nepal – has signed a \$1.3 billion deal with Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) of India to develop a 679-megawatt hydropower project in eastern Nepal.**
- ✓ This will be the second mega venture to be launched by India in Nepal and is the single largest foreign investment project.
 - ✓ This hydropower project will be developed under build, own, operate and transfer (BOOT) model.
 - ✓ Earlier, India has launched a \$1.04 billion 900-MW Arun-3 hydroelectric project in Nepal.
 - ✓ It will be developed on Arun River in Sankhuwasabha District of Province 1 in East Nepal
 - ✓ BOOT model is a form of project delivery method, which is usually used for large-scale infrastructure projects.

- ✓ Under such model, a private entity receives a concession from public sector to design, finance, construct, own, and operate a facility under contract.

PERSONALITIES

- **An 18-year old Dutch student, Oliver Daemen - to become the youngest person to fly in space with Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin on July 20**



- ✓ According to Blue Origin, Oliver will be the first paying customer, but did not disclose the price of his ticket
- ✓ Bezos' brother, Mark Bezos and female aviator Wally Funk will be the other members of the maiden crewed spaceflight of Blue Origin
- ✓ The four will blast off from West Texas onboard a New Shepard re-usable rocket for a 10-minute flight.
- ✓ New Shepard is named after the first American astronaut in space, Alan Shepard
- ✓ At 18 and 82, Daemen and Funk will be the youngest and oldest astronauts to travel to space.
- ✓ The Amazon founder, Jeff Bezos will become the second person to ride his own rocket into space, following Virgin Galactic's Richard Branson.
- ✓ British billionaire Richard Branson reached space for 50 miles above New Mexico desert on a Virgin Galactic spaceship on July 11
- ✓ Soviet cosmonaut Ghermon Titov holds the record for the youngest to fly in space.
- ✓ He was 25 when he blasted into orbit four months after Yuri Gagarin, the first person in space.
- ✓ The oldest, John Glenn was 77 when he launched aboard space shuttle Discovery in 1998, 37 years after becoming the first American to orbit the world.

SPORTS

- **Nobel Peace Prize awardee Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh - will become the second recipient of the Olympic Laurel**
- ✓ Yunus will receive the trophy during the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Games on July 23.

- ✓ Yunus receives the Olympic Laurel award for his extensive work in sport for development, including founding the Yunus Sports Hub



- ✓ Yunus Sport Hub is a global social business network that creates solutions through sport.
- ✓ The 81-year-old economist-turned- celebrity speaker won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006
- ✓ Yunus founded the Grameen Bank in the 1980s and shared the Nobel Prize with the micro-lender.
- ✓ The Olympic Laurel was created to recognise endeavours in culture, education, peace and development through sport
- ✓ It was given for the first time at the 2016 Rio Games to Kenyan former Olympian Kip Keino, who opened a children's home, a school and an athletes' training centre in his home country.

