

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-JULY 7, 2023

NATIONAL

- On July 6, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya - said the 2019 MBBS batch will not be covered under the National Exit Test (NExT) and it will be applicable for the 2020 MBBS batch.



- ✓ According to the National Medical Commission (NMC) Act, the National Exit Test will serve as a common qualifying final-year MBBS exam
- ✓ It will serve as a licentiate exam to practise modern medicine and for merit-based admission to postgraduate courses and a screening exam for foreign medical graduates who want to practise in India.
- ✓ The NMC issued the NExT (National Exit Test) Regulation 2023 recently, stating that the exam would be conducted in two phases, in which NExT Phase 1 and NExT Phase 2 exams would be conducted twice a year.
- ✓ NExT is intended to replace NEET PG and FMGE (Foreign Medical Graduates Exam).

HIGH COURT VERDICT

- On July 6, the Madras High Court - set aside the 2019 election victory of expelled AIADMK MP, O P Ravindranath Kumar from the Theni Lok Sabha constituency.

- ✓ The son of former Tamil Nadu chief minister O Panneerselvam, Kumar was the only NDA candidate from the AIADMK-BJP alliance to win from the state in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections
- ✓ The DMK-Congress alliance won 38 out of the 39 seats at stake in the state.



- ✓ The court disqualified his election on grounds of failure to disclose assets and liabilities, false affidavit and improper acceptance of his nomination papers.
- ✓ However, the single bench of justice S S Sundar gave a month's time to Ravindranath to go on an appeal against the verdict in the Supreme Court
- ✓ The court also concluded that the Returning Officer did not conduct any enquiry during scrutiny of nomination strictly in terms of Section 36 of the Representation of People's Act, 1951.
- ✓ Ravindranath, who won by a wide margin of 76,672 votes, was pitted against E V K S Elangovan of the Congress and AMMK's Thanga Tamilselvan, who is now a district secretary with the ruling DMK.
- ✓ Congress candidate E V K S Elangovan, who lost to Ravindranath, is now an MLA representing the Erode East constituency.

INTERNATIONAL

- **US-based tech giant, Meta Platforms - has officially released its new social media platform 'Threads' for sharing text updates and joining public conversations.**



- ✓ In less than 24 hours since its debut, Threads has witnessed an amazing surge, surpassing 95 million posts and attracting over 50 million profiles
- ✓ Threads, developed by Meta's Instagram team, was introduced to iOS and Android users in 100 countries on July 5, instantly soaring to the top of the App Store's free app rankings
- ✓ 'Threads' allows users to follow and engage with friends and creators, including individuals they already follow on Instagram.
- ✓ Meta is the parent company of social media giants Facebook and Instagram

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India - will establish its first Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) campus outside the country in Zanzibar, Tanzania.**



- ✓ In this regard, an agreement for setting up the campus of IIT Madras was signed between the ministry of education (MoE), Government of India, IIT Madras and the ministry of education and vocational training (MoEVT) Zanzibar- Tanzania on July 5
 - ✓ The agreement was signed in the presence of HE Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar and external affairs minister of India S Jaishankar.
 - ✓ EAM, S Jaishankar is on an official visit to the United Republic of Tanzania during July 5-8.
- ✓ The IIT campus in Zanzibar will begin offering programs from October 2023
- ✓ The academic programmes, curricula, student selection aspects and pedagogical details will be framed by IIT Madras, whereas the capital and operating expenditure will be met by the government of Zanzibar-Tanzania.
- ✓ IIT Madras degrees will be awarded to the students enrolled in this campus.
- ✓ The move is in line with India's National Education Policy 2020 and aims to strengthen educational cooperation between the two countries.
- ✓ The initiative is seen as a step towards internationalizing Indian education and expanding India's reputation and diplomatic relationships.

- ✓ Zanzibar is a semi-autonomous archipelago off the coast of east Africa that united with Tanganyika in 1964 to form the United Republic of Tanzania
- ✓ In February this year, a team of five professors from IIT Madras visited Tanzania to hold talks to set up an offshore campus in Africa.
- ✓ In 2021, the government formed a 16-member committee, headed by the chairman of the standing committee of IIT Council, K Radhakrishnan, to prepare a framework for setting up campuses abroad.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **On July 6, Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) - announced that the moon mission Chandrayaan-3 will be launched on July 14.**
- ✓ Isro's new heavylift launch vehicle Mark-III (LVM-3) carrying an integrated module will lift off at 2:35 pm from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ According to Isro chairman S Somnath, Chandrayaan-3 will lift off on July 14 and if everything goes well, it will land on August 23.
- ✓ Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2 to demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface.
 - ✓ Unlike Chandrayaan-2, which comprised the Vikram lander, Pragyan rover, and an orbiter, Chandrayaan-3 will be equipped with a lander and a rover only.
- ✓ The mission carries scientific instruments to study the thermophysical properties of the lunar regolith, lunar seismicity, lunar surface plasma environment and elemental composition in the vicinity of the landing site.
- ✓ A major addition to Chandrayaan-3 is the inclusion of Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth (SHAPE) payload
 - ✓ The SHAPE is meant to study the spectral and polarimetric measurements of Earth from the lunar orbit.
- ✓ If the landing is successful, India will become the fourth country to enter the elite club of nations (US, Russia and China) with Moon-landing capability.
- ✓ In March this year, the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft successfully completed the essential tests that validated its capability to withstand the harsh vibration and acoustic environment that the spacecraft would face during its launch.
- ✓ Built at a cost of around Rs.615 crore, India's third lunar mission is aimed at achieving a successful landing of the lander on the moon's surface, followed by the deployment of a rover to carry out a range of experiments.
- ✓ Chandrayaan-2, India's second mission to the moon, was launched on July 22, 2019, from Satish Dhawan Space Center, Sriharikota.
- ✓ But the mission failed after the Vikram lunar lander crashed on the Moon during the early hours of September 6.

SALES OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN INDIA - REPORT

Govt Schemes Sweeten Deal

It's not surprising then that automakers, right from the homegrown Tata Motors and Mahindra to foreign firms like Kia and MG, have been expanding their lineup of EVs. Some of these are now available in the affordable car segment. Meanwhile, in the electric two-wheeler market, buyers are spoiled for choice. Some of the credit for this goes to the incentives offered by the ministry of heavy industries to buyers and manufacturers through three schemes:

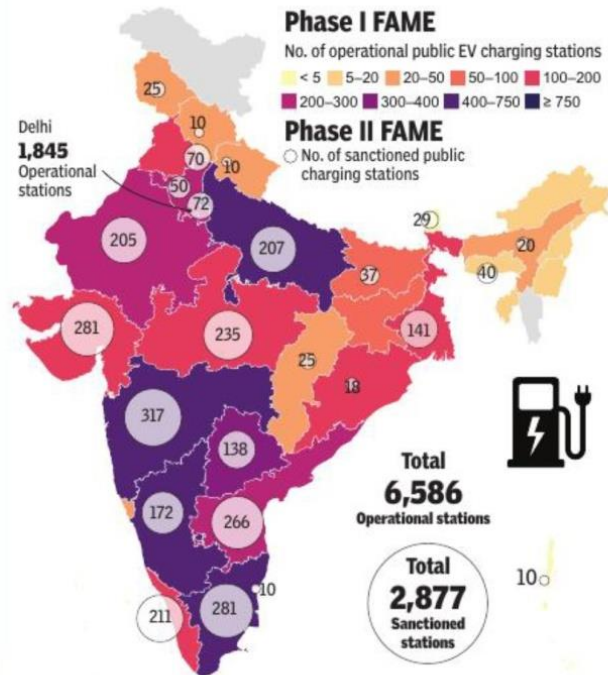
FAME: The second phase of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India) scheme has been on since April 2019, and offers EV buyers a subsidy on the purchase price. The incentive is linked to battery capacity and is capped at 20% of the cost of the vehicle for three-wheelers and four-wheelers, and 40% for two-wheelers. There is a subsidy of ₹15,000 per KWh of battery capacity for electric two-wheelers, and ₹10,000 per KWh for three-wheelers and four-wheelers

PLI Scheme: The Centre's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the automotive sector is aimed at supporting domestic manufacturing of vehicles, including EVs

ACC Scheme: Since the heart of a modern EV is its battery, the government's PLI scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) is aimed at establishing 50 GWh of ACC battery manufacturing capacity in the country

State Of The States

Despite these incentives and the growth in EV sales, charging infrastructure has grown slowly. The Covid-19 pandemic slowed it down further as businesses struggled to generate revenues. Overall, more public charging stations were set up in the first phase of the FAME scheme than have been sanctioned in the second



Source: Parliamentary release; Note: Data only considers govt funded charging stations. In the map, data is not available for Ladakh and Mizoram

Demand Remains Strong

A report by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways shows EV sales grew more than eight times in just two years, from 2020 to 2022. However, this growth is on a low base and sustaining it will require investment in supporting infrastructure

