

UDYAM PORTAL

According to Government data, retail and wholesale traders are topping the table of top 10 segments or sub-sectors in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector based on the number of registrations on the Udyam portal.



About Udyam Portal:

- It is the **only Government Portal** for the registration of MSMEs.
 - It was **launched by Union MSME Ministry in 2020**.
 - It provides **free-of-cost and paperless MSME registration**.
- **Who is eligible for MSME registration?**
 - All entities classified as **Micro, Small, and Medium enterprises** as per the MSME classification are eligible to apply for MSME registration.
 - **An individual cannot apply for MSME registration.**
 - A **proprietorship, partnership firm, company, trust, or society with an investment below Rs.50 crore and annual turnover below Rs.250 crore** is eligible for MSME registration.
 - The portal **provides instructions for the registration process. No enterprise shall have more than one Udyam Registration.**
 - This portal is **also integrated with the Central Board of Direct Tax (CBDT) and Goods and Services Tax (GST) networks.**

What is the new definition of MSMEs?

- The Indian Government has **modified the definition of MSMEs** under the Atmanirbhar Package announced **in the year 2020** to increase the number of enterprises eligible for being classified as micro, small and medium enterprises. **As per the new definition,**
 - An enterprise is classified as a **“micro” enterprise** when its **investments do not exceed Rs. 1 crore** while its **annual turnovers remain below Rs. 5 crore.**
 - An enterprise is considered **“small”** when its **investments range between Rs.1 crore to Rs.10 crore** while its **annual turnover ranges between 5 crore to Rs 50 crore.**

- An enterprise is considered a “medium” when its investments range between Rs.10 crore to Rs.50 crore, while its annual turnover ranges between Rs. 50 crores to Rs 250 crores
-

THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE DISQUALIFICATION OF A POLITICIAN

Context

- Recently Kerala High Court suspended the conviction and sentence of a Lakshadweep MP (P.P. Mohammed Faizal) in a case of attempt to murder.
- The article analyses whether the disqualification of politicians after conviction in the court of law is final or it can be revoked.

The Background of the Case

- P.P. Mohammed Faizal was convicted by the **Kavaratti sessions court** in January 2023 on attempt-to-murder charge and sentenced to **10 years rigorous imprisonment**.
- Few days after, the Lower House announced that he was **disqualified** as an MP **with effect from the date of conviction**.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) then issued a formal notification for by-election to that constituency.
- Faizal appealed to the **Kerala HC** for a stay on his conviction and sentence.
- The HC suspended his conviction until disposal of the appeal citing following exceptional and irreversible consequences owing to his disqualification:
 - The HC highlighted drastic consequence of not suspending the conviction as the **huge cost of a parliamentary election** would have to be borne by the nation.
 - Also, the **developmental activities** in Lakshadweep will also stop for a few weeks and the elected candidate will **have just 15 months** to function till the end of the term of the current Lok Sabha.
- Faizal then challenged the ECI’s announcement declaring Lakshadweep seat as vacant in the **Supreme Court** of India following which ECI deferred byelection to Lakshadweep Lok Sabha seat.

Union Government Stand on the Issue

- The Union government contended that disqualification takes effect immediately on conviction of the candidate and that the Parliament membership cannot be revived even if the court issues a stay.
- The Kerala HC however did not agree to this remark while citing a 2018 decision of the SC (**Lok Prahari vs Election Commission of India and Others**), which noted that while an appellate court stays the conviction, disqualification will cease to operate.

Specific Provisions Related to MPs disqualification in Lok Sabha

- **Article 102 of the Constitution:** It specifies that a person shall be disqualified for contesting elections and being a Member of Parliament under certain conditions.
 - These include holding an **office of profit**, being of **unsound mind** or **insolvent**, or **not** being a **citizen of India**.
 - It also authorises **Parliament** to make **law determining conditions of disqualifications**.
- **Representation of the Peoples Act 1951:** Section 8(4) of the Act provides that a person will be disqualified if **convicted and sentenced** to imprisonment for **two years or more**.
 - The person is disqualified for the period of imprisonment and a further six years.
 - However, there is an exception for sitting members, i.e., they have been provided a period of **three months** from the date of conviction to **appeal** and the disqualification will not be applicable until the appeal is decided.

RAJGAD FORT

The results of a 14-month-long faunal survey indicated the presence of 496-odd unique species in Velhe Forest, located in the foothills of the Rajgad Fort.



About Rajgad Fort:

- Rajgad Fort, also known as the **Ruling Fort**, was the **capital of the Maratha Empire** under the rule of **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** for **almost 26 years**, after which the **capital was moved to the Raigad Fort**.
- **Location:**
 - It is a **hill fort** situated in the **Pune district of Maharashtra**.

- It is located in the **Sahyadri mountain ranges** at an elevation of **1,395 meters** above sea level.
 - **Features:**
 - It comprises **three terraces (machis)** and a **citadel (Balekilla)**.
 - There are **four gates** called Gunjavane, Pali, Alu, and Kaleshwari or Dindi gate.
 - The **diameter of the base of the fort** was about **40 km (25 mi)** which made it difficult to **lay siege on it**, which added to its **strategic value**.
 - The **fort's ruins consist of palaces, water cisterns, and caves**.
 - **Rajgad boasts the highest number of days stayed by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** on any fort.
 - The **Rajgad Fort** was also **one of the 17 forts Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj kept** when he **signed the Treaty of Purandar in 1665** with the **Mughal general Jai Singh I**, leader of the **Mughal forces**.
 - Apart from the **Maratha empire**, **Rajgad Fort** has **been a part of the Adilshahi dynasty, Nizamshahi dynasty, Mughal empire, and others**. After everyone else, the **British empire** owned the fort.
-

WHAT IS THE KENDU LEAF?

The GST council meeting recently rejected Odisha's demand for tax exemption on kendu leaf.



About Kendu leaf:

- Kendu leaf is called the **green gold of Odisha**.
- It is a **nationalized product** like **Bamboo** and **Sal seed**.
- It is one of the most **important non-wood forest products of Odisha**.
- It is also referred to as **tendu leaf** in some parts of the country and is **used to roll tobacco into bidis (local cigarettes)**.
- **Production:**
 - The states producing kendu leaves in India comprise mainly **Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, and Maharashtra**.

- **Odisha is the third-largest producer** of kendu leaf after Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
-

EXERCISE DUSTLIK-2023

A military exercise DUSTLIK (2023) will be conducted from February 20th to 5th March 2023 in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.



About Exercise Dustlik 2023:

- It is a **military-to-military exchange program** between the **Indian Army** and **Uzbekistan**
 - It is the fourth edition of the **biennial training Exercise**.
 - The Indian contingent will be represented by the 14th Battalion, The GARHWAL RIFLES, part of Western Command in this bilateral exercise.
 - The Uzbekistan Army will be represented by troops of the North Western Military District of Uzbekistan Army.
 - This joint exercise is aimed at **enhancing military capability** to undertake multi-domain operations in a Sub Conventional scenario under United Nations Mandate.
-

DIGITAL COMPETITION PANEL

The first meeting of the digital competition law committee will be held on February 22.



About Digital Competition Panel:

- The Government of India has constituted a committee to study the requirement of the digital competition law and give suggestions regarding competition norms.
- The panel will be **headed by the secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**.
 - **Committee Members:** It is a 16-member committee of union secretaries, law experts, and industry stakeholders.
-

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) will provide secretarial and research assistance and logistic support to the panel.
- **Functions of the Panel:** Review whether the **Competition Act, 2002**, and the rules framed under it are sufficient to deal with challenges posed by the digital economy.

Key facts about the Competition Commission of India:

- The Competition Commission of India has been established to enforce the competition law under the Competition Act of 2002.
- The Commission consists of a Chairperson and not more than 6 Members **appointed by the Central Government**.
- It works as a quasi-judicial body.
- **Nodal Ministry:** The Ministry of Corporate Affairs

PARKER SOLAR PROBE

Recently, one of the instruments on NASA's Parker Solar Probe powered down unexpectedly and the mission team expects it to come back online soon.



About Parker Solar Probe:

- It was **launched in 2018** and will travel through the sun's atmosphere, closer to the surface than any spacecraft before it.
- In order to unlock the **mysteries of the sun's atmosphere** this will use Venus' gravity during seven flybys over nearly seven years to gradually bring its orbit closer to the sun.

Parker Solar Probe has three detailed science objectives:

- Trace the **flow of energy** that heats and accelerates the **solar corona and solar wind**.
- Determine the **structure and dynamics of the plasma and magnetic fields** at the sources of the solar wind.
- Explore mechanisms that accelerate and transport **energetic particles**.

CHANDRAYAAN-3: LANDER SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES CRUCIAL TEST

Why in News?

- According to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the **lander for the Chandrayaan-3 mission successfully completed the crucial EMI-EMC (Electro - Magnetic Interference/ Electro - Magnetic Compatibility) test** at the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre, Bengaluru.

What Exactly is the Chandrayaan-3 Mission?

- Following Chandrayaan-2**, where a last-minute glitch led to the failure of the lander's soft landing attempt after a successful orbital insertion, another lunar mission for demonstrating soft landing was proposed.
- Chandrayaan-3** is a planned **3rd lunar exploration mission by the ISRO** to demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface.
- Unlike Chandrayaan-2, it will **not have an orbiter** and its propulsion module will behave like a communications relay satellite.
- Chandrayaan-3 **interplanetary mission has three major modules:** the Propulsion module, Lander module, and Rover.
- The propulsion module:** It has Spectro-polarimetry of HAbitable Planet Earth (**SHAPE**) payload to study the spectral and polarimetric measurements of Earth from lunar orbit.
- Lander payloads:**
 - Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (**ChaSTE**) to measure the thermal conductivity and temperature;
 - Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (**ILSA**) for measuring the seismicity around the landing site;
 - Langmuir Probe (**LP**) to estimate the plasma density and its variations, etc.



- Rover payloads:** Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (**APXS**) and Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscope (**LIBS**) for deriving the elemental composition in the vicinity of the landing site.

News Summary Regarding Successful Testing of Chandrayaan-3 Lander:

- The Chandrayaan-3 mission is slated to be launched later this year by the GSLV MkIII (Launch Vehicle Mark 3 - LMV3) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota.
 - According to the space agency, the EMI-EMC test is conducted for satellite missions **to ensure the functionality of the satellite subsystems** in the space environment and their compatibility with the expected electromagnetic levels.
 - This test is a **major milestone** in the realisation of the satellites, as the mission's complexity calls for establishing **radio-frequency (RF) communication** links between the modules.
-

HARIKE WETLAND

According to the recent water bird census, the Harike wetland witnessed a decline in migratory birds' arrival this year.



About Harike wetland:

- Harike Wildlife Sanctuary also locally known as "**Hari-ke-Pattan**" is one of the largest wetlands in northern India.
 - It is situated at the confluence of two **major rivers of Punjab Sutlej and Beas**.
 - Harike wetland came into existence in 1953 due to the construction of a barrage on River Sutlej.
 - It has been designated as one of the **Ramsar sites** in India.
 - This is a man-made, riverine wetland spreads across three districts of **Punjab**, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur and Kapurthala.
-