

DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 1 JULY 2022

1. Ban on single-use plastic items comes into effect from today

Source: Hindustan Times ([Link](#))

The ban on single-use plastic items, including wrapping or packaging films, plastic cutlery, straws, and plastic sticks for balloons and earbuds, came into effect on Friday even as manufacturer associations have said they are not prepared to implement it immediately due to a lack of alternatives. Manufacturing, import, stocking, distribution, and sale of the items are now also prohibited while the thickness of plastic carry bags will have to be increased from 75 microns to 120 microns from December 31. Ahead of the ban implementation, the Union environment ministry officials on 30 June held a meeting with representatives of 82 cities over the elimination of single-use plastic items as well as air quality management.

2. Govt making necessary policy changes to encourage MSME sector: PM Modi

Source: Money Control ([Link](#))

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 30 June assured the MSME sector that the centre is ready to make necessary policy changes to encourage small entrepreneurs as they are playing a key role in the 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant) initiative of the government. Addressing the 'Udyami Bharat' programme, the Prime Minister exhorted small entrepreneurs to register themselves on the GEM portal for supplying goods to the government. "MSME is essential for AatmaNirbhar Bharat... The MSME sector has played a monumental role in shaping the AatmaNirbhar Bharat in the past 8 years," Modi said, adding he would like to see one crore new registrations on the GeM portal in the next week.

3. These 7 states are top achievers in 'ease of doing business' rankings

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 30 June released the assessment report of the states and union territories under 'Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP), 2020'. The report categorises states into top achievers, achievers, aspires, and emerging business ecosystems, as against the earlier practice of announcing ranks. In view of this, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Telangana, Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab and Tamil Nadu are the states categorised as 'top achievers' in the rankings as per the plan. Further, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh have been categorised as 'achievers'. The 'aspires' category too includes seven states – Assam, Kerala, Goa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Rajasthan and West Bengal.

4. India's urban population to stand at 675 mn in 2035, behind China: UN

Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))

India's urban population is estimated to stand at 675 million in 2035, the second highest behind China's one billion, the UN has said in a report, noting that after the COVID-19 pandemic, the global urban population is back on track to grow by another 2.2 billion by 2050. The United Nations-Habitat's World Cities Report 2022, released on 29 June, said that rapid urbanisation was only temporarily delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The global urban population is back on track to grow by another 2.2 billion people by 2050, it said. India's urban population is projected to be 675,456,000 in 2035, growing from 483,099,000 in 2020 to 542,743,000 in 2025 and 607,342,000 in 2030, the report said. By 2035, the percentage of population in India at mid-year residing in urban area will be 43.2 per cent, it said.

5. Industry body proposes plan to accelerate hydrogen commercialisation in India

Source: Hindustan Times ([Link](#))

The India Hydrogen Alliance (IH2A) on 30 June proposed a plan to develop first-generation green hydrogen projects and accelerate hydrogen commercialisation over the next three years, according to a statement released today. The 25/25 National Green Hydrogen Hub Development Plan proposes establishing 25 National Green Hydrogen Projects and five national H2 hubs with public financial support of \$360 million by 2025. "IH2A's 25/25 National Green Hydrogen Hub Development Plan focuses on creating scalable green hydrogen projects and hubs that can grow to gigawatt-scale projects in three years," the statement said.