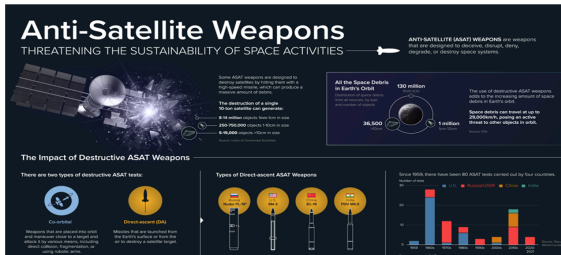




19 February 2024

National and International News

Anti satellite weapons



Context:

Russia is developing a new anti-satellite weapon, which the US finds concerning.

About:

- Anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons are designed to disable or destroy satellites already in orbit.
- This goes against the Outer Space Treaty, which prohibits damaging other parties' satellites and the harmful contamination of space.
- Most ASAT weapons are kinetic, meaning they destroy satellites by colliding with them or detonating explosives nearby, creating debris that can remain in orbit for a long time.

Effects:

- The principal threats from a space-based nuclear weapon are EMP(Electromagnetic pulse) and the release of charged particles, which can affect satellites around the point of detonation, including those of strategic allies and countries not involved in a conflict.
- This can lead to the destruction of satellites and the creation of debris, potentially causing a "collisional cascade" that increases the amount of debris in orbit.

Jnanpith Awards



Context:

- The Jnanpith Awards, considered India's highest literary honor, were recently conferred upon Gulzar and Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya.
- The Jnanpith Award is presented annually since 1965 by Bharatiya Jnanpith, established in 1944, to recognize outstanding contributions to Indian literature.

Gulzar

- Gulzar, also known as Sampooran Singh Kalra, is a renowned Urdu poet, Bollywood director, and writer, recognized for his contributions to Urdu literature and Hindi cinema.
- He has received numerous awards, including the Sahitya Akademi Award, Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Padma Bhushan, and National Film



	<p><b>Awards.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He won an <b>Oscar and Grammy for the song "Jai Ho"</b> from Slumdog Millionaire and has introduced a new genre in poetry called '<b>Triveni</b>'.</li> </ul> <p><b>Jagadguru Rambhadracharya</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He is a Sanskrit scholar, Hindu spiritual leader, educator, and writer, known for founding and leading <b>Tulsi Peeth in Madhya Pradesh</b>.</li> <li>• He has written over 240 books, including four epics, and is a polyglot speaking 22 languages.</li> <li>• He received the <b>Padma Vibhushan in 2015</b>.</li> <li>• <b>He was born in 1950 in Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Award Details:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The award carries a cash prize of ₹11 lakh, a statue of Vagdevi, and a citation.</li> <li>• This is the second time it has been awarded for Sanskrit and the fifth time for Urdu.</li> </ul>
GSLV-F14/INSAT-3DS	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) fully funded the <b>satellite INSAT-3DS</b>, which was successfully launched by the <b>Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh</b>, using the GSLV-F14 launch vehicle.</li> </ul> <p><b>Aim and objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• INSAT-3DS aims to enhance <b>India's meteorological services</b>, complementing the existing <b>INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR satellites</b>.</li> <li>• It will improve <b>monitoring of the Earth's surface, atmosphere, oceans, and environment</b>, enhancing data collection, dissemination, and satellite-aided search and rescue services.</li> <li>• This initiative will <b>advance weather, climate, and ocean-related observations</b> and services in India, contributing to disaster mitigation and preparedness.</li> </ul> <p><b>Specification:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on ISRO's I-2k bus platform, <b>INSAT-3DS has a lift-off mass of 2,275 kilograms</b>.</li> <li>• It is equipped with state-of-the-art payloads, including an imager payload with a <b>six-channel optical radiometer for Earth imaging</b>, a 19-channel sounder payload for atmospheric information, and communication payloads such as a data relay transponder and a <b>satellite-aided</b></li> </ul>



## YUVIKA



## search and rescue transponder.

- Indian industries have played a significant role in the development of INSAT-3DS.

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has initiated a special program named "Young Scientist Programme" or "YUva Vigyani KARYAKRAM" (YUVIKA) tailored for school children.
- The primary aim of this endeavor is to **provide fundamental knowledge in Space Science, Technology, and Applications** to young learners, exposing them to the latest advancements in these fields.
- ISRO has designed this program with the motto of "Catch them young," acknowledging that the youth are pivotal for the future of space exploration and technology in our nation.
- YUVIKA also endeavors to inspire more students to pursue careers in **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)**.
- Since its inception in 2019, YUVIKA has been successfully conducted in 2019, 2022, and 2023, attracting increasing participation each year.

## Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

## Context:

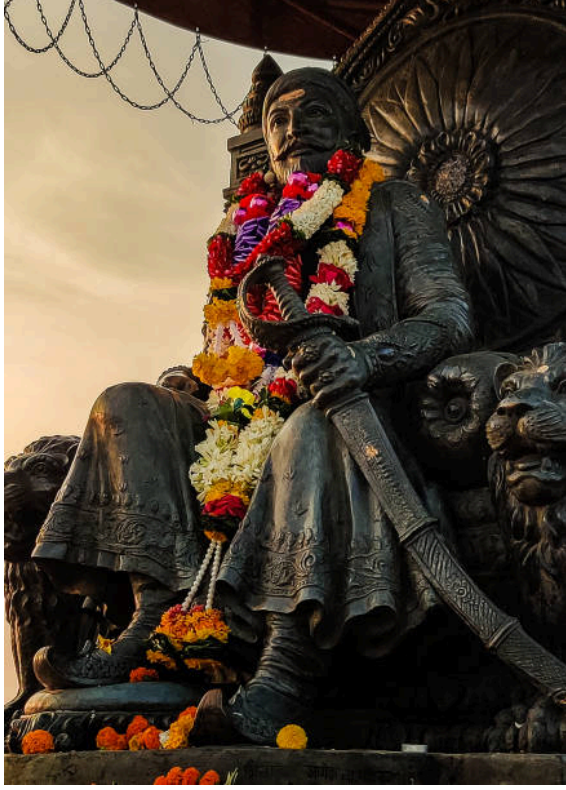
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid his tributes to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on his **394th birth anniversary who was born on 19th Feb in 1630**.

## About:

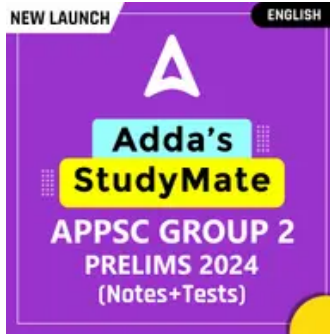
- Shivaji Bhonsale I, also known as Chhatrapati Shivaji, was an Indian ruler and a member of the **Bhonsle Maratha clan**.
- He established the Maratha Empire by carving out a region from the declining **Adilshahi sultanate of Bijapur**.
- In 1674, he was formally crowned as the Chhatrapati of his realm at **Raigad Fort**.
- He established the **Council of Eight Ministers, or Ashta Pradhan Mandal**, which included positions like the Peshwa (Prime Minister) for general administration, the Amatya for finance, and the Sumtant or Dabir for foreign affairs.

## Recent contributions by Gol:

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi unveiled the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Rajkot Fort, Sindhudurg, Maharashtra.



- The Maharashtra government has designated February 19 as a holiday to commemorate Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's birth, known as Shivaji Jayanti.



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