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THE HINDU REVIEW JULY 2021



CURRENT AFFAIRS | MONTHLY CAPSULE

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The Most Important Current Affairs July 2021

Cabinet Reshuffle: 43 leaders take oath as ministers

The Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has expanded its council of ministers. The names in the cabinet reshuffle include several new entrants as well as existing ministers who will be reassigned. The swearing-in ceremony of **43 Ministers** was held at the **Rashtrapati Bhavan** on July 7, 2021. In total, 15 Ministers were inducted into the Union Cabinet and 28 Ministers were inducted as Ministers of State. This is the first cabinet reshuffle since the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) retained power in 2019.

The Union Cabinet can have 81 members, as per the rule. There were 53 ministers in PM Modi's cabinet but a series of them, including Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, resigned hours before the names were announced.

PM Modi will continue to head the following - Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; All important policy issues; and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.

New Cabinet Ministers 2021	
New Cabinet Ministers	Portfolios
Narayan Rane	Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Sarbananda Sonowal	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Minister of AYUSH
Virendra Kumar	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
Jyotiraditya Scindia	Minister of Civil Aviation
Ramchandra Prasad Singh	Minister of Steel
Ashwini Vaishnaw	Minister of Railways; Minister of Communications; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology
Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Minister of Food Processing Industries
Kiren Rijiju	Minister of Law and Justice
Raj Kumar Singh	Minister of Power; and Minister of New and Renewable Energy
Hardeep Singh Puri	Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs
Mansukh Mandaviya	Minister of Health and Family Welfare; and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Bhupendra Yadav	Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of Labour and Employment
Parshottam Rupala	Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
G Kishan Reddy	Minister of Culture; Minister of Tourism; and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region
Anurag Singh Thakur	Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

Sl. No	Ministers of State (Independent Charge)	Ministry
1	Rao Inderjit Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs
2	Dr Jitendra Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space

New Ministers of State	
Ministers of State	Minister of State In
Pankay Chaudhary	Ministry of finance
Anupriya Singh Patel	Ministry of commerce and industry
Satya Pal Singh Bhagel	Ministry of Law and Justice
Rajeev Chandrasekhar-	Ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship: and Ministry of electronics and information technology
Shobha Karandlaje	Ministry of agriculture and farmers welfare
Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Dardhana Vikram Jardosh	Ministry of textiles: and Ministry of Railways
Meenakshi Lekhi	Ministry of external affairs: and Ministry of culture
Annapurna Devi	Ministry of education
A Narayanaswamy	Ministry of Social Justice in power meant
Kaushal Kishore	Ministry of housing and urban affairs
Ajay Bhatt	Ministry of defence: and Ministry of tourism
BL Verma	Ministry of development of North Eastern region: and Minister of cooperation
Ajay Kumar	Ministry of home affairs
Chauhan Devusinh	Ministry of communications
Bhagwanth Khuba	Ministry of new and Renewable Energy: Ministry of chemicals and fertilisers
Kapil Moreshwas Patil	Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Pratima Bhoumik	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Subhas Sarkar	Ministry of Education
Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad	Ministry of Finance
Rajkumar Ranjan Singh	Ministry of external affairs: and Ministry of education
Bharati Pravin Pawar	Ministry of health and family welfare
Bishweswar Tudu	Ministry of tribal affairs: Ministry Ministry of Jal Shakti
Shantanu Thakur	Ministry of ports, shipping and waterways
Munjapara Mahendrabhai	Ministry of women and Child development: and Ministry of AYUSH
John Barla	Ministry of minority affairs
Dr L Murugan	Ministry of fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying; minister of information and broadcasting
Nisith Pramanik	Ministry of home affairs: and Ministry of youth affairs and sports

President Kovind appoints new Governors for eight states

President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind** has appointed new Governors for **eight states**. The new governors have been appointed for states including **Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Tripura, Jharkhand, Mizoram and Himachal Pradesh**. While some of the current governors have been transferred to new states, in some others new appointments have been made.

Complete list of new governors:

Sl.no	State	New Governor
1.	Karnataka	Thawarchand Gehlot
2.	Madhya Pradesh	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
3.	Mizoram	Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati
4.	Himachal Pradesh	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
5.	Goa	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
6.	Tripura	Satyadev Narayan Arya
7.	Jharkhand	Ramesh Bais
8.	Haryana	Bandaru Dattatraya

Wimbledon Championships 2021: Complete List Of Winners

In the men category, **Novak Djokovic** defeated **Matteo Berrettini** in the **Wimbledon final**, 6-7(4-7), 6-4, 6-4, 6-3, to win his sixth Wimbledon title and **20th Grand Slam trophy**. With this win, he has equalled his total major men's singles titles record with **Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal**, with each of them winning 20 titles.

In women's category, **Ashleigh Barty of Australia** beat Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic), 6-3, 6-7 (4/7), 6-3, to win her first **Wimbledon** women's singles title on July 10, 2021. The 25-year-old Barty is the first Australian woman to win the Wimbledon singles title in 41 years since Evonne Goolagong, who claimed her second All England Club title in 1980.

Here is the Complete List of Winners in Different Categories:

S. No.	Category	Winner	Runner Up
1.	Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Matteo Berrettini
2.	Women's Singles	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)	Karolína Plíšková (Czech Republic)
3.	Men's Doubles	Nikola Mektić and Mate Pavić	Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos
4.	Women's Doubles	Hsieh Su-wei and Elise Mertens	Veronika Kudermetova and Elena Vesnina
5.	Mixed Doubles	Neal Skupski and Desirae Krawczyk	Joe Salisbury and Harriet Dart

About the Wimbledon:

- Wimbledon is one of the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments, which also includes the Australian Open, the French Open and the US Open.
- The tournament is held at the All England Club in Wimbledon, London, since 1877.

Cannes Film Festival 2021 winners list announced

The **Cannes Film Festival 2021** concluded on 17 July 2021. The jury, presided by Spike Lee, presented the awards at the Closing Ceremony. **Julia Ducournau** won the **Cannes' top prize**, the **Palme d'Or**, for her film **Titane**, making her the second woman ever to win the award. The first was Jane Campion in 1993.

This year's Cannes had a wide range of films, from Wes Anderson The French Dispatch to Julia Ducournau's Titane, and Leos Carax' Annette. Jodie Foster and Marco Bellocchio won the Honorary Palme d'Or.

Here is the list of Cannes 2021 winners in key categories:

- **Palme d'Or:** Julia Ducournau for Titane (France)
- **Grand Prix (TIE):** Ashgar Farhadi for A Hero (Iran) and Juho Kuosmanen for Compartment No.6 (Finland)
- **Best Director:** Leos Carax Annette (France)
- **Best Actress:** Renate Reinsve for Worst Person in the World (Norway)
- **Best Actor:** Caleb Landry Jones for Nitram (US)
- **Best Screenplay:** Hamaguchi Ryusuke and Takamasa Oe for Drive My Car (Japan)
- **Jury Prize (TIE):** Shared by Nadav Lapid for Ahed's Knee (Israel) and Apichatpong Weerasethakul for Memoria (Thailand)
- **Best First Film:** Antoneta Kusijanovic for Murina (Croatia)
- **Best Short Film:** Hong Kong's All The Crows In The World Tang Yi
- **Short Film Palme d'Or:** Tian Xia Wu Ya by Tang Yi
- **Special Jury Mention for Short Film:** Ceu de Agosto by Jasmin Tenucci

BILINGUAL

Bank Prime Test Pack

IBPS | SBI | LIC | RBI | Others

1200+ Total Tests

12 Months Validity

This year's jury, with Spike Lee as president, consisted of director Mati Diop, director Maggie Gyllenhaal, writer-director Jessica Hausner, songwriter Mylène Farmer, director Mélanie Laurent, writer-director Kleber Mendonça Filho, actor Tahar Rahim, and actor Song Kang-ho.

Bangladesh Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus to get Olympic Laurel

Bangladeshi Nobel Peace Prize winner, **Muhammad Yunus** will receive the **Olympic Laurel** at the **Tokyo Games**, the second time the trophy will be awarded. Yunus, whose pioneering micro-lender has been hailed for cutting poverty across the globe, will be honoured for "his extensive work in sport for development. The 81-year-old economist-turned-globe-trotting celebrity speaker won the Nobel in 2006. He will be given the award at the Tokyo 2020 opening ceremony on July 23.

About the Olympic Laurel:

The Olympic Laurel was created five years ago 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.

About the Muhammad Yunus:

- Yunus founded the **Grameen Bank in the 1980s** and shared the Nobel Prize with the micro-lender. His initiatives include the Yunus Sports Hub, a network of social enterprises that promote development through sports.
- Yunus has faced legal troubles in recent years after he was sacked in 2011 as head of **Grameen Bank**. His supporters say he has been targeted by Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who accused him of "sucking blood" from the poor with high-interest rates.

RBI allows loans up to Rs 5 cr to other banks' directors

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has overhauled rules for extending loans to **directors of other banks and relatives of directors**. As per the amendments, the central bank has allowed banks to extend personal loans up to **₹5 crores** to directors of other banks and directors' relatives other than spouses without board approval. The earlier limit for such loans was **₹25 lakh**.

The regulations apply to directors, including the Chairman/Managing Director, of other banks, any firm in which they are interested as a partner or guarantor, or any company in which they hold substantial interest or is interested as a director or as a guarantor. Personal loans refer to loans given to individuals and consist of consumer credit, education loans, loans given for the creation or enhancement of immovable assets like houses, and loans given for investment in financial assets, such as shares, debentures, etc.

Sophie Ecclestone, Devon Conway win ICC Player of the Month Award

England Left-arm spinner **Sophie Ecclestone** has been named as **ICC Women Player of the Month for June**. She is the second English female to win the title after **Tammy Beaumont**, who was awarded the title in February 2021. In Men's category, New Zealand opener **Devon Conway** has bagged **ICC Player of the Month for June**. He became the first New Zealand player to win the award after an astounding first month in Test cricket.

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021 Report

The annual UN-FAO report titled "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021" states that between **720 and 811 million people** in the world faced hunger in **2020**, which is around **161 million more than in 2019**. The report was jointly produced by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Key facts and figures

- Number of hungry people in 2020 in the World: between 720 and 811 million
- Asia: **418 million** (More than half of world hunger population)
- Africa: 282 million (One-third)
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 60 million
- Nearly 2.37 billion people did not have access to adequate food in 2020, an increase of 320 million people over 2019.
- Children under 5 affected by stunting (low height-for-age): 22.0 percent (149.2 million)
- Children under 5 affected by wasting (low weight-for-height): 6.7 per cent (45.4 million)

- Children under 5 who are overweight (high weight-for-height): 5.7 per cent (38.9 million)
- Percentage of women of reproductive age affected by anaemia: 29.9%
- Percentage of infants aged below 6 months who were exclusively breastfed: 44%

AR Rahman launch Tokyo Olympics cheer song "Hindustani Way"

Singer **Ananya Birla** has teamed up with music maestro **AR Rahman** to launch a cheer song for Indian sports personalities as they gear up for **Tokyo Olympics**. Titled "**Hindustani Way**", the song has been sung by Ananya and composed by Rahman. Minister of Information and Broadcasting, **Anurag Thakur** also present in the launch of the song.

The video of the song follows a family from 1996 to the present day as they cheer for Indian sports personalities across different Olympic seasons. The video features archival footage from **Atlanta (1996), Athens (2004), Beijing (2008), London (2012), Rio (2016)** and some exclusive training footage of this year's contingent. The archival footage features winning moments of **Leander Peas, Vijender Singh, Abhinav Bindra, Mary Kom, Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, PV Sindhu and Sakshi Malik, among others**.

Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrated on 26th July

Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year on **July 26** since the year **1999**, to mark India's victory over **Pakistan in the Kargil conflict**. This year nation is celebrating the **22 years** of victory in the **Kargil war**. It was in 1999 that a high altitude mountain war broke out along the peaks of Kargil near the Line of Control, the de-facto border that divides Kashmir between the two nations.

History of Kargil War:

- The Kargil War was fought between **May-July of 1999** in the **Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir** along the Line of Control (LoC) in which India got the victory.
- The Kargil war was fought for more than **60 days, ended on 26 July**.
- On this date in 1999 Pakistan army taking advantage of the melting snow and betraying the bilateral understanding of both the nations (that the post would remain unattended during the winter season) took command of the high outposts of India.

- Pakistan army refused the claims that its soldiers were involved in the war and claimed that they were the rebels from Kashmir itself, but the ammunition, identity cards, rations stores and other evidence prove that the Pakistan army was behind this cowardly act.

Operation Vijay:

- The operation was launched by the Indian Army twice in Indian history. The first Operation Vijay was launched in **1961** that led to the capture of **Goa, Anjediva islands and Daman and Diu.**
- The second operation was launched in 1999. Both the operations were of huge success. However, the Kargil Vijay However, the Kargil Vijay Diwas is marked on the culmination of Kargil war.
- July 26 is celebrated as **“Kargil Vijay Diwas”** every year to mark the successful completion of **“Operation Vijay”** that ended the 3-month war along the Line of Control. Nearly 490 Indian army officers, soldiers and jawans were martyrs during the course of the battle.

Operation White Sea:

The operation White Sea was also launched during the **Kargil war, 1999.** During the operation, the Indian Air Force jointly acted with Indian Army to flush out regular and irregular troops of the **Pakistani army.**

Dholavira inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List

A Harappan-era metropolis, **Dholavira** in **Gujarat** has been inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List.** Now Gujarat has three world heritage sites, **Champaner near Pavagadh, Rani ki Vav in Patan and the historic city of Ahmedabad.** Dholavira is now the **40th** treasure in India to be given.

The ongoing **44th session** of the **World Heritage Committee** of UNESCO has already given India a new world heritage site in the form of the **Rudreswara/Ramappa Temple** in Telangana, which dates back to the **13th century.** This session of the World Heritage Committee is being chaired from **Fuzhou in China.**

14 Tiger Reserves of India get (CA | TS) Recognition

From India, **14 tiger reserves** have received the accreditation of the **Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA | TS),** on the occasion of **International Tiger Day** on July 29, 2021. The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** recognized the ‘BaghRakshaks’ for their efforts in protecting Tigers and forests. The NTCA’s quarterly newsletter STRIPES was also released during the event.

The 14 tiger reserves of India that have received prestigious global accreditation from CA | TS are:

- Mudumalai and Anamalai Tiger Reserves, Tamil Nadu
- Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka
- Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Kerala
- Sunderbans Tiger Reserve, West Bengal
- Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Uttar Pradesh
- Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar
- Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra
- Satpura, Kanha and Panna Tiger Reserves, Madhya Pradesh

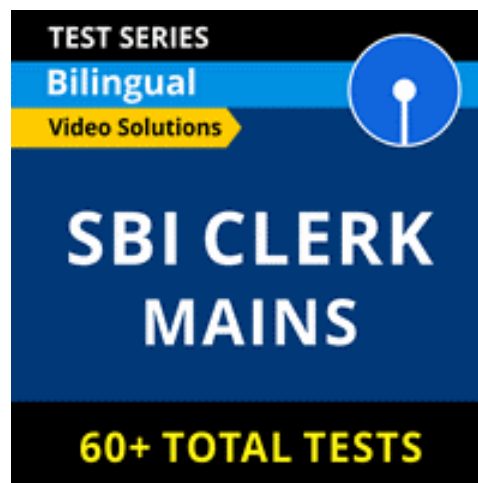
Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA | TS)

- CA | TS has been agreed upon as an accreditation tool by the global coalition of Tiger Range Countries (TRCs) and has been developed by tiger and protected area experts.
- Officially launched in 2013, it sets minimum standards for effective management of target species and encourages the assessment of these standards in relevant conservation areas.
- CA | TS is a set of criteria that allows tiger sites to check if their management will lead to successful tiger conservation.
- The Global Tiger Forum (GTF), an international NGO working on tiger conservation, and World Wildlife Fund India are the two implementing partners of the National Tiger Conservation Authority for CATS assessment in India.

Banking and Financial Current Affairs

- **The oldest commercial bank in the country, State Bank of India, SBI, is celebrating its 66th year on 1st July.** SBI descends from the Bank of Calcutta founded in 1806 through the Imperial Bank of India.
- **ICICI Bank** has launched India's most comprehensive banking solutions for medical doctors. Titled as '**Salute Doctors**', the solution offers customized banking as well as value-added services for every doctor, beginning from a medical student to a senior medical consultant to an owner of a hospital or a clinic.
- **HDFC Bank** launched a **SalaamDilSey initiative** to show gratitude to doctors for their tireless service during the pandemic, to pay tribute to doctors across the country. SalaamDilSey encourages one and all to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution of doctors and provides a platform to show their gratitude to doctors, who are bravely fighting the pandemic, at the risk of their own lives.
- **Axis Bank** has inked a multi-year deal with **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** to power the digital transformation programme of the country's third-largest private sector bank. As part of the agreement, Axis Bank with help of AWS will build a portfolio of new digital financial services to bring advanced banking experiences to customers, including online accounts that can be opened in **6 min** & instant digital payment. This will help the bank increase customer satisfaction by **35 per cent** and lower costs by **24 per cent**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** imposed a penalty of **Rs 25 lakh** on **Punjab and Sind Bank** for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions on '**Cyber Security Framework in Banks**.'
- **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** has become the second most-valued listed public sector bank (PSB) with a market capitalisation of over **Rs 50,000 crore**. As Street discounts privatisation of the state-owned lender, its shares have appreciated nearly 80 per cent on the BSE in the past one month. IOB stood with an m-cap of **Rs 51,887 crore**, pushing **PNB (Rs 46,411 crore)** and **BOB (Rs 44,112 crore)** to third and fourth position, respectively, as per data available on BSE.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has announced a change in Government securities auction methodology for benchmark securities. They noted in the latest update that on a review of market conditions and market borrowing program of the government, it has been decided that benchmark securities of tenor **2-year, 3-year, 5-year, 10-year, 14-year tenor and Floating Rate Bonds (FRBs)** will be, henceforth, issued using the uniform price auction method. For other benchmark securities i.e. **30-year and 40-year**, the auction will continue to be multiple price-based auctions, as hitherto. The above arrangement will continue till further review, note the bank.
- The country's third-largest private lender **Axis Bank** has signed MOU with the **Indian Army** offering a defence service salary package under its "**Power Salute**" initiative. The Defence service salary package will offer different benefits to all ranks of army officers. The benefits of the MoU will cover both serving **Defence personnel as well Defence pensioners**.
- The **RBI** has imposed penalties on **SBI, Bank of Baroda, IndusInd Bank, Bandhan Bank and 10 other lenders** for contravention of various regulatory norms, including on lending to NBFCs. The penalty imposed on the **14 banks** totals **Rs 14.5 crore**, with a maximum **Rs 2 crore fine** on **Bank of Baroda**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has launched '**the RBI Retail Direct**' scheme for retail investors, through which they can directly buy and sell **government securities (G-Secs)**, both primary and secondary. The bond-buying window was opened to increase retail participation in G-Secs and democratize ownership of G-Secs beyond the managers of pooled resources such as banks and mutual funds. The date of commencement of the scheme will be announced later.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has imposed restrictions on **Mastercard Asia/Pacific Private Limited** for adding new domestic customers from **22nd July 2021**. MasterCard will not be allowed to add customers, be it for debit, credit or pre-paid cards onto its network as the entity has failed to comply with the directions on Storage of Payment System Data.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled the licence of **Dr Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Nilanga, Latur**, as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.

- The **Federal Bank** has launched **"FEDDY"**, an Artificial Intelligence-powered virtual assistant to help customers with banking-related queries anytime. The bank said while most of the similar AI-powered virtual assistants are available only on its website, FEDDY can be accessed via **Alexa, Google Assistant and WhatsApp**.
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has selected **"Paisalo Digital"** as the **National Corporate Business Correspondent of the Bank** for financial inclusion by providing banking services through kiosks. The signing of the Service Level Agreement and other formalities shall be done shortly. Paisalo is tapping into the **Rs 8 lakh crore market opportunity** of small-ticket loans for India's 365 million unbanked population.
- **ICICI Bank** has announced the launch of a co-branded credit card with **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)** to enable users to get benefits and reward points for using multiple credit cards in one. Named, **'ICICI Bank HPCL Super Saver Credit Card'**, the card offers best-in-class rewards and benefits to customers on their everyday spends on fuel as well as other categories including electricity and mobile, departmental stores like **Big Bazaar and D-Mart, and e-commerce portals**, among others.
- Banking and financial services major, **Goldman Sachs** has opened a new facility in **Hyderabad** as part of its commitment to expand its global centre for engineering and business innovation in India. Hyderabad is emerging as a key investment destination for banking & financial service.
- The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has introduced **Arogya Rakshak**, a non-linked, non-participating, regular premium, individual, health insurance plan. The plan provides fixed benefit health insurance cover against certain specified health risks.
- **HDFC Ltd** has got a loan of **\$250 million** from **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, the investment arm of the **World Bank Group**, to be used by India's largest housing finance company for green housing. **Green housing** is regarded as a luxury market in the country but has climate benefits. Its partnership with HDFC would help change perceptions about the market. At least **25 per cent** of the funding is for green affordable housing.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** is currently working on a phased implementation strategy for its own digital currency, **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)**, and will launch it in the wholesale and retail segments soon. India is already a leader in digital payments, but cash remains dominant for small-value transactions. RBI is currently examining the scope of CBDCs, the underlying technology, the validation mechanism, distribution architecture and degree of anonymity etc.
- **Paytm Payments Bank** has become the **first bank in the country** to achieve the milestone of issuing **1 crore FASTags**. According to the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, over **3.47 crore FASTags** were issued by all banks together till the end of June 2021. Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL) now has close to **28 per cent share** as FASTag issuer bank. In the last 6 months alone, PPBL has equipped over 40 lakh commercial & private vehicles with FASTags.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 5 crore** on private sector lender **Axis Bank**. The penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of section 47 A (1) (c) read with section 46 (4) (i) of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the Act)**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has accorded its approval to the **Government of the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh** to acquire **8.23 per cent** of the paid-up equity capital of **Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd** as on the date of enforcement of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 (October 31, 2019).
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has cancelled the licence of **Madgaum Urban Co-operative Bank Limited, Margao, Goa**, as the bank with its current financial position would be unable to pay its present depositors in full.



Economy Current Affairs

- According to the data released by the **Reserve Bank of India**, India reported a current account surplus of **0.9%** of GDP in **FY 21**. In **FY 20** there was a current account deficit of **0.9%**. The reason for the Current Account Surplus in **FY21** is a sharp contraction in the trade deficit to **US\$ 102.2 billion** from **US\$ 157.5 billion** in 2019-20. India has seen a Current account surplus for the first time in **17 years**.
- **GST** collection dipped below **Rs 1 lakh crore** in **June** after staying above that mark for eight consecutive months. Centre mopped up **Rs 92,849 crore GST** for the month of June of which **CGST is Rs 16,424 crore, SGST is Rs 20,397 crore, IGST is Rs 49,079 crore** (including Rs 25,762 crore collected on import of goods) and **Cess is Rs 6,949 crore** (including Rs 809 crore collected on import of goods).
- **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** has decided to include Retail and Wholesale trade as **MSMEs** but only for the limited purpose of **Priority Sector Lending**. This means that these segments of businesses can now take loans under the Priority Sector Lending arrangement under the MSME category. According to the Retailers Association of India (RAI), this will give retail micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) the support they need to survive, revive and thrive.
- **Fitch Ratings** has revised its GDP growth projection for **India in 2021-22 (FY22)** to **10%**. Earlier it has projected the same at **12.8%**. The reason for this cut is the slow recovery post-second wave of COVID-19.
- **NTPC Ltd.**, India's largest power generator is set to construct the country's single-largest solar photovoltaic project at **Rann of Kutch region in Khavada, Gujarat**. The solar power park will have a capacity of **4.75 Gigawatt (Gw)/4750 MW**. The project will be constructed through NTPC's renewable energy arm, **NTPC Renewable Energy (NTPC-REL)**.
- **Adani Group** led by **Gautam Adani** has completed the takeover of '**Mumbai International Airport**' from the GVK group. With this takeover, Adani group has become the top company in terms of airport infrastructure companies in India.
- The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved an increase in the **Dearness Allowance** to Central Government employees and **Dearness Relief** to pensioners to **28 per cent**. This hike represents an increase of **11 per cent** over the existing rate of **17 per cent** of the basic pay/pension.
- The **wholesale price-based inflation** eased marginally to **12.07 per cent in June** as crude oil and food items witnessed some softening in prices. Retail inflation remained above the RBI's comfort level of 6 per cent for the second straight month at **6.26 per cent in June**.
- The government notified a hike in the foreign direct investment limit in pension fund management to **74% from 49%** under the **national pension system (NPS)**. This step is opening doors for experienced foreign partners in this space and facilitating more competition in the fledgling segment. **Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA)** Act links the FDI ceiling in the insurance sector.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has downgraded India's economic growth forecast for the financial year **2021-22 (FY22)** to **10 per cent**, in its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) Supplement for July. Earlier this was estimated at **11%**. Further, ADB has projected the GDP growth rate for **FY2022 (2022-23)** to **7.5 per cent** from the earlier projection of **7 per cent**.
- The **Care Ratings** agency has estimated the **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** growth rate of India to be in the range of **8.8 to 9 per cent** in the current financial year, that is **2021-22 (FY22)**. The country's economy had contracted by **7.3 per cent** in fiscal 2020-21.
- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has sharply cut India's economic growth projection by 300 basis points, from **12.5 per cent to 9.5 per cent** for the financial year **2021-22 (FY22)**. The downward revision in the GDP growth rate is due to a lack of access to vaccines and the possibility of renewed waves of coronavirus. For **FY23 (2022-23)**, IMF has estimated the gross domestic product (GDP) of India at **8.5 per cent**, which is 160 basis points higher than its earlier projection of **6.9 per cent**.
- The central government's **fiscal deficit** stood at **Rs 2.74 lakh crore** or **18.2 per cent** of the full year's Budget estimate at the end of June, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA). The fiscal deficit at the end of June 2020 was **83.2 per cent** of the Budget Estimates (BE) of 2020-21.

Business Current Affairs

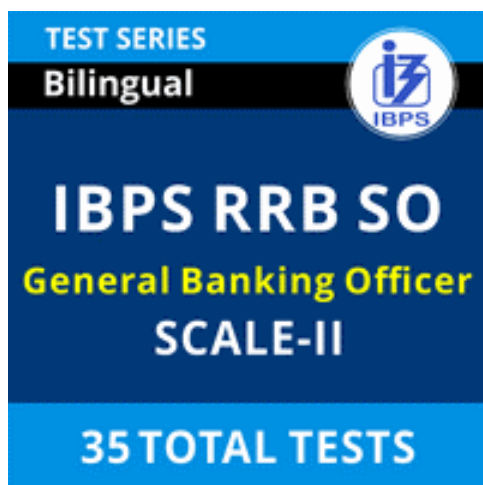
- **Flipkart** has launched **Shopsy**, an app that will enable Indians to start their online businesses without any investment. Flipkart aims to enable over **25 million** online entrepreneurs by **2023** with the help of Shopsy. Users of Shopsy will be able to share catalogues of a wide selection of 15 crore products offered by Flipkart sellers.
- **Paytm** has announced the launch of **Postpaid Mini**, small-ticket loans that will give users the flexibility to access loans ranging from **Rs 250 - Rs 1,000**, in partnership with Aditya Birla Finance Ltd. The product is an extension of its **Buy Now, Pay Later service**, driving affordability amongst those new to credit.
- **Amazon** has launched its **first Digital Kendra** in India in **Surat, Gujarat**. Amazon Digital Kendra was inaugurated by **Vijay Rupani**, Chief Minister of Gujarat. Digital Kendras of Amazon are centres that will provide **micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)** the opportunity to learn about the benefits of e-commerce.
- **Max Bupa Health Insurance**, a standalone health insurer, has entered into a **bancassurance** partnership with **Axis Bank**, the country's third-largest private sector bank. This partnership will help provide comprehensive health insurance solutions to **Axis Bank's employees and customers**.
- **Microsoft** has reached a deal to acquire **RiskIQ**, a San Francisco-based provider of cybersecurity services, including malware and spyware monitoring and mobile app security. RiskIQ's services and solutions will join Microsoft's suite of cloud-native security products, including **Microsoft 365 Defender, Microsoft Azure Defender, and Microsoft Azure Sentinel**.
- **Razorpay** has acquired artificial intelligence (AI)-based risk analysis platform **TERA Finlabs**, marking its third acquisition since inception. Bengaluru-based TERA Finlabs provides risk management software, along with customized credit offerings to make lending more affordable for consumers and profitable for lenders.
- The standalone health insurer **Max Bupa Health Insurance** has rebranded itself as '**Niva Bupa Health Insurance**'. This development comes after the company's promoter, Max India, which owned **51 per cent** of the insurer sold its stake to True North in February 2019 for Rs 510 crore.

- Three of India's biggest private lenders - **ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and Axis Bank** have taken stakes in the blockchain financial technology firm **IBBIC Pvt Ltd**. HDFC Bank and Axis Bank invested ₹5 lakh each for the shares. ICICI Bank also said it has subscribed to **49,000** fully paid-up equity shares of face value **₹10 each of IBBIC** constituting **5.44 per cent** of the issued and paid-up share capital. It paid **₹4.9 lakh for the shares**.

International Current Affairs

- The **World Bank** has announced additional funding of **\$8 billion for Covid-19 vaccines**, for developing countries. With this, the total financing available for the Covid-19 vaccine reaches **\$20 billion**. Earlier the World Bank had announced **\$12 billion** for the same. This funding will be used over the next **18 months till 2022 end**.
- Following a 70-year effort, **China** has been awarded a **malaria-free certification from WHO** - a notable feat for a country that reported 30 million cases of the disease annually in the 1940s. China is the first country in the **WHO Western Pacific Region** to be awarded a malaria-free certification in more than 3 decades. Other countries in the region that have achieved this status include Australia (1981), Singapore (1982) and Brunei Darussalam (1987).
- **Haiti** President, **Jovenel Moise** was assassinated and his wife wounded in an attack at their home, the interim prime minister announced an act that risks further destabilizing the Caribbean nation beset by **gang violence and political volatility**.
- A **sandcastle in Denmark** has entered into new **Guinness World Record** for being the tallest sandcastle in the world. The triangular-shaped sandcastle has been built in the town of **Blokhus in Denmark**. It stands at a height of **21.16 metres (69.4 feet)**. This new structure is **3.5m** taller than the previous record held by sandcastle measuring **17.66 m in Germany in 2019**. Dutch creator, **Wilfred Stijger**, was assisted by 30 of the world's best sand sculptors.
- **Ethiopia's ruling Prosperity Party** was declared the winner of last month's national election in a landslide, assuring a second five-year term for Prime Minister **Abiy Ahmed**.
- **Nepali** Congress President **Sher Bahadur Deuba** on 13th July became the country's Prime Minister for the **fifth time**. His appointment is in line with the ruling issued by the Supreme Court on 12th July to make way for his claim to the premiership, replacing incumbent **K P Sharma Oli**.

- **China** has officially begun the construction of the world's first commercial modular small reactor 'Linglong One' at the **Changjiang Nuclear Power Plant** in the country's **Hainan Province**. The project is based on China National Nuclear Corporation's (CNNC's Linglong One (ACP100) technology.
- The **United Arab Emirates** has become the first **Gulf nation** to open an embassy in **Israel**, nearly a year after both countries signed an agreement to normalise diplomatic ties. The new mission is located in **Tel Aviv Stock Exchange building**. The ceremony was attended by new Israeli President **Isaac Herzog**.
- **Singapore** has unveiled one of the **world's largest floating solar panel farms**. The project is part of efforts by the country to meet a goal of quadrupling its solar energy production by **2025** to help tackle climate change.
- The **US, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan** have agreed in principle to establish a new quadrilateral diplomatic platform focused on enhancing regional connectivity. The parties consider long-term peace and stability in Afghanistan critical to regional connectivity and agree that peace and regional connectivity are mutually reinforcing.
- According to the **Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, Saudi Arabia**, women can now register for the annual **Hajj pilgrimage** without a **male guardian (marham)**. In registration guidelines of Hajj for domestic pilgrims, the ministry highlights, women do not need to require a male guardian to register and could do registration along with other women. Women wishing to perform Hajj will have to register individually.
- **Russia** has successfully test-fired its new **S-500 air defence missile systems**, from a southern training range, **Kapustin Yar**, on July 20, 2021. It hit a high-speed ballistic target as planned. The S-500 missile system is under development by the **Almaz-Antey Air Defence Concern**. After tests are successfully completed the first S-500 systems which are also named the **Triumfator-M** and **Prometheus** will be placed at an air defence unit outside the city of **Moscow**.
- **China** unveiled a **maglev train** capable of a top speed of **600 kph**. The maximum speed would make the train, self-developed by China and manufactured in the coastal city of **Qingdao**, the fastest ground vehicle globally. Using **electromagnetic force**, the maglev train "levitates" above the track with no contact between body and rail. China has been using the technology for almost two decades on a very limited scale.
- Rural teacher-turned-political novice, **Pedro Castillo** became the winner of **Peru's** presidential election after the country's longest electoral count in 40 years. Castillo, whose supporters included Peru's poor and rural citizens, defeated right-wing politician **Keiko Fujimori** by just **44,000 votes**.
- **Ariel Henry** has formally assumed the post of **Prime Minister of Haiti**. He assumed the role of the leader of the **Western Hemisphere's poorest nation** in a ceremony in the capital **Port-Au-Prince**.
- **Sweden** has ratified the framework agreement for the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** and is now a member of the global platform, which is an initiative of India aimed at promoting renewable energy and sustainable development.
- **The United Kingdom** is now reporting an outbreak of norovirus. **Public Health England (PHE)** recently issued a warning regarding **Norovirus**. England has recorded **154 cases** of norovirus in the country. An increase in norovirus cases in educational settings has been reported.
- The **Philippines** has become the first country in the world to get approval for the commercial production of genetically modified "**golden rice**", a variety of rice enriched with nutrients to help reduce childhood malnutrition.
- The historic **Paseo del Prado boulevard** and **Retiro Park of Madrid**, in **Spain**, has been granted the status of **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**. The wide tree-lined Paseo del Prado, in the centre of the Spanish capital, is home to prominent buildings such as the Prado Museum.



- Singapore's Sunseap Group, plans to spend 2 billion dollars to build the world's largest floating solar farm and energy storage system in neighbouring Indonesian city Batam, which will double its renewable power generation capacity. The floating photovoltaic system is expected to have a capacity of 2.2 gigawatts (peak).
- The Sitio Burle Marx site, a landscape garden in Brazilian city Rio de Janeiro has been added to UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites. The garden features more than 3,500 species of plants native to Rio and is considered a laboratory for botanical and landscape experimentation.
- Billionaire businessman Najib Mikati was appointed as Lebanon's new prime minister-designate following binding parliamentary consultations with President Michel Aoun. He ran virtually unopposed, receiving 72 votes, with former ambassador Nawaf Salam receiving just one vote. Forty-two MPs voted blank, and three MPs did not vote at all.
- Foreign Minister of Maldives Abdulla Shahid won the Presidency of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). This is for the first time in the history of the United Nations (UN), Maldives will hold the office of President at the UNGA.
- The government has created a Ministry of Cooperation to boost the Indian cooperative movement and give a fillip to the indigenous enterprises. The new ministry of Cooperation will work to realise the vision of "Sahkar se Samridhi" and will provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework to boost the cooperative movement in the country.
- Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Giriraj Singh has launched the Online Course Mobile App "Matsya Setu". The app was developed by the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar, with the funding support of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad.
- KVIC (Khadi and Village Industries Commission) has launched Project BOLD (Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Draught), a first-of-its-kind exercise, to create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones. It is the first of its kind exercise in India which was launched from the tribal village Nichla Mandwa in Udaipur, Rajasthan.
- Union Minister for Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has launched NIPUN Bharat programme. The aim of the NIPUN programme is that every child in India gets foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27. NIPUN stands for National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy.

National Current Affairs

- Digital India initiative has completed its six years on 1 July 2021. Digital India is a government's flagship scheme to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1 July 2015. In the past 6 years, the government has launched many digital initiatives like Direct Benet Transfer, Common Services Centres, DigiLocker and mobile-based UMANG services.
- President Ram Nath Kovind laid the foundation stone for Ambedkar Memorial and Cultural Centre in Lucknow. The cultural centre will come up at 5493.52 sq meter nazool land in front of Aishbagh Eidgah in Lucknow and have a 25-ft high statue of Dr Ambedkar.
- The Government of India has decided to bring Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) under the finance ministry. DPE was earlier under the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
- The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, inaugurated India's first private Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility plant at Nagpur in Maharashtra.
- Delhi University will have a 'Bangabandhu Chair' to foster a better understanding of developments in Bangladesh. An MoU was signed between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Delhi University in Dhaka to set up this Chair at Delhi University.
- India and Nepal have signed a Letter of Exchange(LoE) to revise the 2004 India-Nepal Rail Services Agreement (RSA). The revised agreement allows all authorized cargo train operators to utilize the Indian railway network to carry Nepal's container and other freight - both bilateral between Indian and Nepal or third countries from Indian ports to Nepal.

- External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** has unveiled a statue of **Mahatma Gandhi** in **Georgia** at a prominent **Tbilisi park**.
- Home Minister **Amit Shah** has inaugurated a research-based **centre of excellence** at **National Forensic Science University** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**. The research-based centre of excellence at the National Forensic Science University in Gandhinagar will help our youths to become free from the addiction of drugs and narcotics.
- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has launched **BHIM-UPI QR-based payments** in **Bhutan** will further strengthen the cooperation between the two neighbouring nations. With the launch in Bhutan, the payment infrastructures of the two countries are seamlessly connected and will benefit tourists and businessmen from India who travel to Bhutan.
- Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** has been appointed as the **Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha**. His appointment is effective from July 06, 2021. He will succeed **Thawar Chand Gahlot**, who has taken charge as the Governor of Karnataka.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the International Cooperation and Convention Centre "**Rudraksh**", in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**. The centre will become an attractive destination for conferences and pull in tourists and businesspersons to the city.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has addressed the nation on **July 15, 2021**, on the occasion of **World Youth Skills Day 2021** and the **6th anniversary of the Skill India Mission**. In his address, Prime Minister highlighted "**Skill development of the youth of new generation is a national need and a huge foundation for self-reliant India**".
- In order to facilitate farmers to get '**right information at right time**' in their desired language, a digital platform namely '**KisanSarathi**' was launched jointly by **Narendra Singh Tomar**, Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. This initiative of KisanSarathi empowers farmers with technological interventions to reach farmers in remote areas.
- The government has decided to set up the **Indian Institute of Heritage at Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar**. This will impact higher education and research in the field of rich Indian heritage and its conservation, leading to Masters and PhD courses in History of Arts, Conservation, Museology, Archival Studies, Archaeology, Preventive Conservation, Epigraphy and Numismatics, Manuscriptology as well as conservation training facilities to in-service employees and students of the institute.
- The **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** in its **36th Executive Committee** has approved new projects for the rejuvenation of **six rivers in Uttarakhand**. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), there are a total of nine polluted stretches in Uttarakhand and six of them are in the Udham Singh Nagar district on various tributaries or small rivers such as **Bhela, Dhela, Kichha, Nandor, Pilankha and Kosi**.
- The **Government of India** has extended the duration of the '**Stand Up India Scheme**' up to the year **2025**. The scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on 05 April 2016 to facilitate loans to **Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and women borrowers**, to promote entrepreneurship among them.
- The government approved the Bio-Diversity Management Plan (BDMP) worth Rs 18 crore for Marwah Forest Division to be funded by Chenab Valley Power Project (CVPP) as a ' component of Environment Management Plan (EMPY) in respect of diversion of Forest Land for commissioning of Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Power Projects.
- Signifying the strong bonds between India and Bangladesh, Indian Air Force chief RKS Bhadauria reviewed the Passing Out Parade and Commissioning Ceremony at Bangladesh Air Force. This was the first instance when any foreign chief was invited to review the Parade as the Chief Guest.
- Union Home Minister, **Amit Shah** along with chief minister **Conrad K. Sangma** inaugurated the much-awaited **Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme** at **Sohra in East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya**. The Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme was conceptualised by the Meghalaya government and an amount of **Rs. 24.08 cr** was sanctioned by the DoNER ministry in 2019 under **North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS)**.
- The Union Government has decided to set up a **National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics** for creating a world-class talent pool in India to cater to the Indian as well as a **global industry**. It will be set up in collaboration with the **Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay**.
- The Centre is setting up the **Garima Grihas** for transgender persons are with the help of community-based organizations. Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment **A. Narayanaswamy** informed Lok Sabha, 12 pilot shelter homes have been initiated with the aim of providing safe and secure shelter to transgender persons.

- The centre has announced **27% reservation for OBCs** and a **10% quota** for students from the **economically weaker sections (EWS)** for undergraduate and postgraduate medical and dental courses under the All-India Quota (AIQ) scheme. Under the AIQ scheme, **15% of seats** at the UG level and **50% seats** at the PG level are kept domicile free in government medical and dental colleges against which students from other states to are offered admission while the rest of the seats are kept only for students from within the state.
- The Ministry of Science and Tech will set up a first-of-its-kind Centre of Excellence in the Northeast. The project for establishing the Centre for Bio-Resources and Sustainable Development was sanctioned by the Department of Biotechnology. It is the region's first own Technology Resource Centres and the proposed Centre aims to address technological growth as its objective.
- **PM Modi** has launched multiple educational initiatives including the **Academic Bank of Credit** that will provide multiple entries and exit options for students in Higher education. Academic Bank of Credit is envisaged as a digital bank that holds the credit earned by a student in any course.
- **Tirath Singh Rawat** has offered to resign from his post. Tirath Rawat is in Dehradun where he met Governor Baby Rani Maurya and submitted his resignation. Meanwhile, the BJP has named Union Agricultural Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** as the central observer for Uttarakhand. Tirath Rawat took oath as Uttarakhand's CM on 10 March, replacing Trivendra Singh Rawat.
- The **Gujarat Maritime University** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** in GIFT City to set up the **Gujarat International Maritime Arbitration Centre (GIMAC)**.
- **Kerala government** has proposed to have its own **over-the-top (OTT) platform**. The state government has planned to launch it by November 1. The State government's proposed foray into the online content streaming space with the launch of an over-the-top (OTT) platform is a cultural intervention, rather than something prompted by the market or revenues.
- The **Karnataka state government** has decided to develop **46 Kempegowda heritage sites** located in **Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Chikballapura, and Tumakuru districts**, in a bid to promote tourism. According to Chief Minister **B S Yediyurappa**, the sites identified to be in three circuits would be developed at a cost of **Rs 223 crore** for promoting tourism.

States Current Affairs

- Researchers have discovered **Black-bellied Coral snakes** in the forests of **Uttarakhand** for the first time in history. The snake is related to the **Elapidae family and Sinomicrurus genus**. Its scientific name is **S. nigriventer**. It was found in the **Bhadraj Block of Benog Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS)** in the **Mussoorie Forest Division**. There are currently 107 species of coral snakes in the world. In India, only seven coral snake species are found.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** has launched the '**YSR Bima**' scheme with new guidelines, where the government itself will directly pay the insurance amount to the family of the deceased to make the insurance claims easier. In order to support **1.32 lakh families** through the YSR Bima scheme, the State government allocated **Rs 750 crores** for the year 2021-22. In the last two years, the State government had spent **Rs 1307 crore** for YSR Bima.
- A passenger train **Rajdhani Express** from **Assam's Silchar railway station** has reached the **Vaingaichunpao railway station** in **Manipur** for a trial run, putting the state on the Indian Railways map. The train covered the distance of **11 km** between the two northeastern stations, with railway officials onboard.
- India's first **cryptogamic garden**, with around 50 different species grown, has been inaugurated in Deoban area of **Dehradun in Uttarakhand**. The garden is situated at a height of **9,000 feet** and is spread over an area of three acres. Located in the district's Chakrata town, the garden was inaugurated by social activist **Anoop Nautiyal**.
- The **Assam Cabinet** has announced the creation of an independent department to protect and preserve the "**faith, culture and traditions of tribes and indigenous communities**" of the state. The new department would ensure that the state's indigenous population gets to preserve their faith and traditions, while also providing requisite support to them.

- **Uttar Pradesh** chief minister **Yogi Adityanath** has launched a **population policy** that aims to incentivise couples who do not have more than **two babies**. Stating that population control is related to awareness among masses and poverty, Adityanath said every community has been taken care of in **Population Policy 2021-2030**.
- The country's first '**Grain ATM**' has been set up as a pilot project in **Gurugram, Haryana**. It is an automatic machine, which works just like a bank ATM. This machine has been installed under the '**World Food Programme**' of the United Nations (UN), and is called the '**Automated, Multi Commodity, Grain Dispensing Machine**'.
- Karnataka Chief Minister, **BS Yediyurappa** has unveiled the **Karnataka Electric Bike Taxi scheme-2021**. This will serve as a bridge between public transport and daily commuters. The scheme aims to reduce travel time and inconvenience in reaching bus, railway and metro stations. It will allow people, partnership firms and companies to participate.
- '**Bonalu**' is a traditional folk festival celebrated every year in the **Telugu month of Ashadham** (falling in June/July), in the twin cities of **Hyderabad and Secunderabad**, and some other parts of Telangana state.
- The **Andhra Pradesh government** announced a **10% reservation** for the **Kapu community and other Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)** for appointments in the initial posts and services in State government in accordance with the **Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act, 2019**.
- The **Kerala government's** campaign '**Mathrukavacham**' to vaccinate all the pregnant women in the state against COVID-19 infection was inaugurated at the district level recently. Spot registrations for vaccination of pregnant women would be carried out at various government hospitals.
- The **Maharashtra state government** has launched the new **Electric Vehicle Policy-2021**. The policy announced by the State Environment Minister, **Aaditya Thackeray** aims to accelerate the adoption of Battery Electric Vehicles in the country. The new EV policy introduced in Maharashtra is a revision of the **2018 policy**.
- The '**monk fruit**' from China, which is known for its properties as a non-caloric natural sweetener, was introduced for field trials in **Himachal Pradesh** by the Palampur-based Council of **Scientific Research and Industrial Technology Institute of Himalayan Bio-resource Technology (CSIR-IHBT)** in Kullu.
- The **Haryana government** will soon introduce the '**One Block, One Product**' scheme, to encourage and promote small industries in the rural areas. Under the scheme, the state government plans to connect every block of the state with some industrial vision and the government is working expeditiously on this scheme.
- The **Kunariya village of Kutch** district in **Gujarat** has come out with a unique idea of holding **Balika Panchayat**. Young females aged between 10 to 21 years contested elections for this unique Panchayat which will take up issues pertaining to adolescent girls and women in the village.
- **Maharashtra** will be the first state in the country to issue **educational documents using blockchain technology**. Forgery of documents is a serious concern for various educational and other institutions. Many steps are being taken to avoid forgery along with verification of documents.
- The **Assam State Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma** has assured jobs for all **National Games medalists of Assam** from now on. He also mentioned that all those who won medals in National Games so far for Assam would be given **Sports Pension by the State Government**. He hoped that this decision would help the sportspersons of the state.
- **Perumkulam**, in **Kollam District**, has been bestowed with the title **Kerala's first 'Book Village'**. This claim to fame results from years of concerted efforts aimed at encouraging the habit of reading. Perumkulam is a small village in **Kulakkada near Kottarakkara in Kollam district**.
- **Telangana Chief Minister, K Chandrasekhar Rao** will launch his government's new **Dalit empowerment scheme**, now christened **Dalita Bandhu**, on a pilot basis from the **Huzurabad assembly constituency**. The scheme, which was to be called Dalit Empowerment Scheme, has now been renamed as **Dalita Bandhu scheme**. As part of the scheme, eligible Dalit families would be given **Rs 10 lakh** in cash directly to their accounts. The sanctioned amounts will be deposited in the bank accounts of eligible beneficiaries.

- In the state of **Madhya Pradesh**, the cities of **Orchha and Gwalior** have been selected by UNESCO under its '**Historic Urban Landscape Project.**' This project was started in the year 2011.
- Karnataka Chief Minister, **BS Yediyurappa** has announced his resignation from the top post on **July 26, 2021**, when his government completed two years in the state, after being elected to power in 2019.
- The chief minister of **Assam**, **Himanta Biswa Sarma** has laid the foundation stone of a bamboo industrial park at **Manderdisa Village, Dima Hasao**. The project will be implemented with Rs 50 crore from the **DoNER ministry**.
- The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) legislature party has unanimously elected Lingayat MLA **Basavaraj S Bommai** as the new **Chief Minister of Karnataka**. The 61-year-old will succeed **BS Yediyurappa**, who resigned on July 26, 2021. He will be sworn in as the **23rd** Chief Minister of Karnataka on July 28, 2021.
- **Puri** has become the **first city in India** where people can avail high-quality drinking water directly from the tap on a **24-hour basis**. It has enabled the people of Puri to collect quality drinking water directly from the tap. Henceforth, people need not have to store or filter drinking water.
- The **Indore city of Madhya Pradesh**, or the cleanest city of India, has become the only city from the country to be selected for **International Clean Air Catalyst Programme**. The project will be operated for a period of five years to purify the air in the city with the cooperation of **Indore Municipal Corporation and Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board**.
- **Karnataka** has become the first state in the country to provide **one per cent reservation** for the '**transgender community** in all the government services. The government submitted a report to the High Court in this regard informing that a notification had already been issued after amending the **Karnataka Civil Service (General Recruitment) Rule, 1977**.
- The **Kerala Police** launched a new initiative called the **Pink Protection project** for the protection of women in public, private and digital spaces. The Pink Protection project aims to prevent dowry-related issues, cyber-bullying & humiliation in public places. It has 10 components, one of which is activating the existing Pink Police Patrol system, named **Pink Janamaitri Beat**.
- In order to promote AYUSH in Madhya Pradesh and to link it with employment, the government has made the '**Devaranya**' scheme. The scheme has been made to provide employment to the people living in the tribal areas of the state. A complete value chain for the production of AYUSH medicines will be developed in the state through **Devaranya Yojana**. Self-help groups will also play an important role in this work.
- The **Rajasthan government's industries department and the Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO)** have launched the '**Mission Niriyatak Bano**' campaign to promote aspiring exporters in the state.

Schemes/Committees

- The central government has set up a **25-member development council** for the **cement industry** under **Dalmia Bharat Group CMD, Puneet Dalmia**. The council will suggest ways to eliminate waste, obtain maximum production, improve quality, reduce costs and promote standardization of products. **Dalmia** is the chairman of the council. Its members include **Shree Cement Ltd MD HM Bangur**, **The India Cements Ltd Executive President Rakesh Singh**; **Birla Corporation Limited CEO Pracheta Majumdar**; **J.K. Cement Ltd Deputy Managing Director Madhavkrishna Singhania**, and **JSW Cement Ltd CEO Nilesh Narwekar**.
- The **Central Government** has formed a nine-member panel for the development of an **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**, designed to curb digital monopolies. This ONDC project is initiated by the **Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and will be implemented by the Quality Council of India (QCI).
- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has formed a seven-member working group, to look into the compensation package for the domestic players and the other aspects of domestic cricket. The main focus of the group will be the remuneration of domestic players for the previous season wherein tournaments were cancelled, due to COVID-19.

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'National AYUSH Mission (NAM)' for another five years. The scheme will now be implemented from April 01, 2021, to March 31, 2026. The Centre has allocated Rs. 4607.30 crore (Rs 3,000 crore as Central Share and Rs. 1607.30 crore as State Share) for the scheme to be invested over five years.

Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- The **Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM)** and **Microsoft** announced a strategic partnership to build an AI and emerging technologies centre of excellence at AJNIFM. The collaboration seeks to explore the role of cloud, AI and emerging technologies in transforming and shaping the future of public finance management in India.
- Digital payments platform **PhonePe** has partnered with **Flipkart** to launch a contactless '**Scan and Pay**' feature for Flipkart's pay-on-delivery orders. Using **PhonePe's QR code solution**, the Flipkart customers who earlier opted for cash on delivery can pay digitally through any UPI app at the time of delivery.
- The **tourism ministry** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Yatra** to strengthen and enable the tourism and hospitality industry. The event was organised under an arrangement between the **Ministry of Tourism and the Quality Council of India (QCI)**, where the MoU for the Tourism Ministry Yatra tie-up was signed.
- **Razorpay** has partnered with **Mastercard** to launch '**MandateHQ**'. It is a payment interface that will help card-issuing banks to enable recurring payments for their customers. It must be noted that the Reserve Bank of India had issued a framework for processing e-mandates on recurring online transactions. The product by Razorpay is a step in this direction.
- **Nepal** has signed a **USD 1.3 billion** deal with India, to develop a **679-megawatt Lower Arun Hydropower project**, located between Sankhuwasabha and Bhojpur districts in eastern Nepal. As per the deal, India's state-owned **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN)**, will develop the 679-megawatt hydropower project in the neighbouring Himalayan nation.
- The union territory of **Ladakh organic**, the administration of **Ladakh**, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency (SOCCA)**. A tripartite MOU has been signed between Ladakh and SSOCA regarding the implementation of **Prampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana and Mission Organic Development Initiative (MODI)** in the Ladakh region with the aim to convert Ladakh into organic by **2025**.
- The **Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE)** under the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has inked an agreement with the **University of New South Wales, Australia** for setting up a **Centre for Advanced Transportation Technology and Systems (CATTs)** in **Noida, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Ambuja Cement Foundation** has joined hands with **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** for implementation of its employability through skill initiative project's second phase.
- **Qatar Airways** and the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)** announced that **Qatar Airways** will become the first airline in the Middle East to join the **IATA Turbulence Aware** platform.
- **Bank of Maharashtra** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD)** to boost ongoing developmental initiatives linked to priority sector lending in **Maharashtra**. It is on a collaborative approach to enhance rural prosperity through the convergence of institutional lending & ongoing development initiative.
- The **Indian Navy** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Kotak Mahindra for salary accounts** of all its personnel - both serving and retired. The bank will reportedly offer special salary account benefits to the Indian Navy like enhanced complimentary personal accident insurance cover, **special education benefit for children, and additional girl child benefit, and attractive rates and zero processing fees** on personal loans, home loans and car loans.
- **U GRO Capital**, a non-bank financier, and state-owned **Bank of Baroda** have partnered for co-lending to the **micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) sector**. Under the co-lending programme **Pratham**, Bank of Baroda and U GRO will together disburse loans worth **Rs 1,000 crore to MSMEs**.

Appointments/Resignations (National & International)

- **Dvara E-Dairy Solutions**, a portfolio company of Dvara Holdings has launched an artificial intelligence (AI) led digital tag 'Surabhi e-Tag' to identify cattle based on muzzle identity. This will be used for cattle insurance products offered in partnership with **IFFCO Tokio General Insurance**.
- The **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** has signed an MoU with the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing C-DAC** to train the manpower of the force in advanced technologies and undertake joint projects. The MoU aims at augmenting the technical capabilities of CRPF by training its manpower in advanced areas like the **Internet of Things (IoT), Cybersecurity, AI, etc.**
- **Maruti Suzuki India Limited** has announced a partnership with **Maharashtra's Savitribai Phule Pune University** to train youth in automobile retail. The aim is to offer a customised three years "Bachelor of Vocational Studies in Retail Management" course to students. The three-year curriculum will comprise one-year classroom training followed by two-year on-the-job training at Maruti Suzuki authorised dealerships.
- **Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL)**, has signed a ten-year partnership with the company IBM to set up the 'Airport in a Box' platform. The partnership is designed to help Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) improve its productivity, automate its information technology services, increase operational flexibility to handle future growth in passenger traffic and reduce costs.
- **Intel** in collaboration with the **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**, Ministry of Education, announced the launch of the AI For All initiative with the purpose of creating a basic understanding of **artificial intelligence (AI)** for everyone in India.

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has extended the tenure of **NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Amitabh Kant**, by one year till **June 30, 2022**. This is for the third time that Kant's tenure has been extended. Mr Kant was first appointed as the CEO of the federal policy think tank on February 17, 2016, for a fixed two-year term.
- Air Marshal **Vivek Ram Chaudhari** will be the new Vice Chief of Indian Air Force succeeding Air Marshal **Harjit Singh Arora**. Air Marshal Chaudhari is currently serving as commander-in-chief of the IAF's Western Air Command (WAC) that looks after the security of the country's air space in the sensitive Ladakh sector as well as various other parts of north India. Air Marshal Arora retired from service and Air Marshal Chaudhari is likely to take charge of the new assignment.
- **Satish Agnihotri** has taken over charge as Managing Director, **National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd**. He comes with more than 20 years of experience in the implementation of mega rail infrastructure projects. He has worked as Chairman & Managing Director, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), a schedule 'A' CPSE under the Ministry of Railways for close to 9 years.
- Veteran advocate **Kalyan Narayan Bhattacharjee** has been appointed as the new **Lokayukta** in **Tripura**. He has been appointed to the post for three years w.e.f. July 1. The Lokayukta Act has been in force in Tripura since 2008 and in 2012, the first Lokayukta was appointed in Tripura.
- The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways & MSME, **Nitin Gadkari**, virtually inaugurated India's first and only paint made from cow dung, under the brand name 'Khadi Prakritk Paint'.
- Indian-American, **Neha Parikh**, has been appointed as the **CEO of Waze**, a crowd-sourced GPS navigation app and a subsidiary of tech giant **Google**.
- **Jim Whitehurst** has announced he is stepping down as the **president of IBM**. Whitehurst's resignation is being seen as one of the several management moves IBM announced.

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- **N Venudhar Reddy**, an Indian Information Service, IIS Officer of 1988 batch took charge as **Director General of All India Radio**.
- The **Indian Army** has named one of its firing ranges in **Kashmir** after Bollywood actress **Vidya Balan**. The Vidya Balan firing range is situated at **Gulmarg** in the Baramulla district of Jammu & Kashmir.
- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has discontinued the services of **Manu Sawhney** as the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** with immediate effect. The decision was taken by the ICC Board during its meeting. **Geoff Allardice** will continue as Acting CEO supported by the Leadership Team working closely with the ICC Board.
- **Federal Bank** shareholders have approved the motion to re-appoint **Shyam Srinivasan** as the **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer** of the lender for a period of three years. His reappointment will come into effect from **September 23, 2021, to September 22, 2024**.
- **Twitter** has named **Vinay Prakash** as the **Resident Grievance Officer (RGO)** for India, as per the information updated on its website. Users can contact Vinay Prakash using an email ID listed on the page. Earlier the US-based company had announced the appointment of California-based **Jeremy Kessel** as the new Grievance Officer for India.
- Eric Garcetti will succeed Kenneth Juster who served as ambassador to India during the Trump administration. Mr Garcetti has been mayor of Los Angeles since 2013, is a former intelligence officer from the U.S. Navy and a Rhodes Scholar.
- As part of Vietnam's efforts to deepen cooperation with various states, Industrialist N.S. Srinivasa Murthy based in Bengaluru has been appointed as **Honorary Consul General of Vietnam for Karnataka**.
- **Indian Olympic Association** has appointed retired IPS officer **B K Sinha** will perform the dual role of Security as well as Press Attache of the country's contingent at the Tokyo Games, which begins on July 23. Sinha is a former Haryana DGP and also a recipient of the **President's Police Medal**.
- The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced the appointment of the Union minister for minority affairs, **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** as the **deputy leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha**. Naqvi takes over from **Piyush Goyal** who has been elevated as the leader of the house in the Upper House.
- **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) Secretary, Aramane Giridhar (IAS)** has been given additional charge of the **Chairman of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**. Present NHAI Chairman, **Sukhbir Singh Sandhu** has been appointed the new Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand. He took over as NHAI Chainman in October 2019.
- The joint secretary of the Finance Ministry, **Rasmi Ranjan Das** has been appointed to the **UN tax committee** as a member for the term period **2021 to 2025**. Das is among the tax experts from around the world who has been appointed as a member of the UN tax committee.
- **Shiv Nadar**, the founder of **HCL Technologies Ltd**, and its chief strategy officer has tendered his resignation as managing director, as well as a director, on completing **76 years of age**. Nadar will, however, continue to guide the company in the capacity of chairman emeritus and strategic adviser to the board for five years. **Vijayakumar**, president and chief executive officer, has been appointed as the managing director for five years.
- Senior IPS officer **Nasir Kamal** has been appointed the **Director-General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)**.
- Lulu Group chairman, **M A Yusuff Ali** has been appointed as the Vice-Chairman of **Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ADCCI)**. **Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, the crown prince of Abu Dhabi & Dy. Supreme Commander of UAE Armed Forces issued a resolution to form a new Board of Directors for Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ADCCI).
- Border Security Force (BSF) Director General (DG), **Rakesh Asthana** has been appointed as the **Delhi Police Commissioner**, with immediate effect. His appointment comes just three days before his superannuation on July 31, 2021.
- Property consultant **Colliers** has appointed **Ramesh Nair** as the **chief executive officer (CEO)** for India and managing director, market development, for Asia.
- **Bharat Bill Payment System** has appointed former **PayU** and **Airtel Payments Bank** executive **Noopur Chaturvedi** as its new **chief executive officer**. Chaturvedi, prior to this appointment, was the country head for small and medium businesses at PayU.

Ranks and Reports

- **India** has been ranked as the **10th best country** in the world in the **Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2020**, released by **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**. The GCI 2020 is the fourth edition of the annual index and ranked 194 countries. The GCI measures the commitment of countries to cybersecurity at a global level.
- **India** stands at the **20th** spot among the top 100 countries that have been ranked in the **Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021** by **Startup Blink**. Like last year, **the US, the UK, Israel, Canada and Germany** are in the top five spots this year too and continue their lead.
- **NewsOnAir Radio Live-stream Global Rankings** was released recently ranking countries where All India Radio (AIR) live-streams on the NewsOnAir app are most popular. In the latest Rankings of top countries in the world (**excluding India**) where All India Radio Live-streams on NewsOnAir App are most popular, Fiji has jumped from 5th position to 2nd, while Saudi Arabia has made a comeback in the top 10. Kuwait and Germany are new entrants, while France and New Zealand are no more in the top 10. **The United States continues to be number 1**.
- Rajasthan schools rank last in the Gender Parity Index (GPI) at the higher secondary level when compared with the rest of the country, reveals the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) report 2019-20, which analyses trends in school education in the country.
- India has the highest number of under-vaccinated or unvaccinated children worldwide at 3.5 million, an increase of 1.4 million from 2019, amid the pandemic outbreak. It also noted that over 3 mn zero-dose children in 2020 lived in India. At nearly 4.4 million, South Asia recorded highest number of children having failed to receive routine vaccination in the past 10 years.
- Thirty-five per cent of India's tiger ranges are outside protected areas and human-animal conflict affects over 75 per cent of the world's wild cat species, according to a WWF-UNEP report. The report "A Future for All - A necessity for Human-Wildlife Coexistence", examined rising human-wildlife battle, and has discovered that marine and terrestrial protected areas solely cover 9.67 per cent globally.

- The Jawaharlal Nehru Centre For Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru, has been placed in the top 50 institutions worldwide for advances in materials science by the prestigious Nature Index. The list which includes 18 institutes from China, 12 from the United States and two from the United Kingdom places the JNCASR in the 23rd position globally among universities and institutions as part of its '50 Rising Institutions' list. The centre is also the only Indian institute on the list and shares the privilege with others such as **Shanghai Jiao Tong University** which is in the first place.
- **India** has scored **90.32 per cent** in the **2021 UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation**. India's score was **78.49 per cent** in 2019. The overall score of India is found to be greater than many OECD countries including France, UK, Canada, Norway, Finland. India is the best-performing country when compared to the South and South-West **Asia region (63.12%)** and the **Asia Pacific region (65.85%)**. The overall score of India is even greater than the average score of the EU.
- **India** has entered the top ten list of **agricultural produce exporters** in **2019** with a significant share within the export of rice, soya beans, cotton and meat, according to a **World Trade Organisation (WTO) report** on trends in world agricultural trade in recent 25 years. In 2019, India ranked **ninth** with a share of 3.1% in global agricultural exports. Earlier this place was New Zealand. While the **US**, which topped the list in 1995 (22.2%), was overtaken by the **European Union** in 2019 (16.1%). **Brazil** maintained its ranking as the third-largest exporter, increasing its share from 4.8% in 1995 to 7.8% in 2019. **China** climbed from the sixth spot in 1995 (4%) to fourth in 2019 (5.4%).

Sports Current Affairs

- Indian-origin American **Abhimanyu Mishra** has become the youngest-ever chess Grandmaster in the world. At **12 years, four months and 25 days**, he obliterated the long-standing record held by **Sergey Karjakin**, who was **12 years and seven months** old when he attained the title. Three years ago, India's **R Praggnanandhaa** had almost surpassed him but missed the opportunity by a whisker.

- Indian wrestler **Sumit Malik** was banned for two years by the sport's world governing body UWW after his B sample also returned positive for a prohibited stimulant.
- Top para high-jumper **Mariyappan Thangavelu** was named the **flag-bearer of the Indian contingent** in the **Tokyo Paralympics**, which begins on **August 24**.
- **Karsten Warholm**, a 25-year-old athlete from **Norway**, broke the long-standing world record in the **400m hurdles** during the **Bislett Games**. Earlier the record was held by American hurdler **Kevin Young for 29 years**. His mark of **46.78 seconds** was set at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, which was finally broken with an official time of **46.70 seconds** by Warholm.
- India captain **Mithali Raj** became the **highest run-getter** in women's cricket across formats, overtaking former **England skipper Charlotte Edwards**. Mithali became the world's most prolific batter in women's internationals, overtaking Edwards' **10,273 runs**. **Suzie Bates** of New Zealand is third with 7849 runs. **Stafanie Taylor** (7832) and **Meg Lanning** (7024) round up the top five.
- Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** won the **Austrian Grand Prix** at the **Red Bull Ring**, the ninth race of the **2021 Formula 1 World Championship season**. Verstappen won the race ahead of Mercedes-AMG's **Valtteri Bottas** and McLaren's **Lando Norris**. **Lewis Hamilton** – Bottas' teammate and Verstappen's challenger for the 2021 Drivers' championship – came home in fourth place.
- **MC Mary Kom**, the six-time world boxing champion, and **Manpreet Singh**, the men's hockey team skipper, will be **India's flag-bearers** at the opening ceremony of the **Tokyo Olympics**, announced **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**. **Bajrang Punia**, a silver medallist at the 2018 World Wrestling Championships, will be the flag-bearer at the closing ceremony on August 8.
- Veteran England fast bowler **James Anderson** has added another feather to his cap as he completed **1000 wickets** in first-class cricket. Anderson achieved the rare feat during **Lancashire's County Championship** clash against Kent in Manchester. Anderson is the leading wicket-taker among pacers in Test cricket. In 162 Tests, the England great has claimed **617 wickets** at an average of 26.67 with 30 five-fors and three 10-wicket match hauls.
- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** released a financial grant of **Rs 100 crore** to the **Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA)**, which will be used to build **India's second-largest cricket stadium**. The facility, which will be second to the recently inaugurated Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, is set to be built in Jaipur. The construction of the new stadium is likely to be completed within **24-30 months from commencement**.
- **Women's Asian Cup in India** will be held in **Mumbai and Pune** after the Asian Football Confederation dropped **Bhubaneswar and Ahmedabad** as venues to minimise the travelling time for participants and ensure an "optimum environment" for a bio-secure bubble. The Mumbai Football Arena at the **Andheri Sports Complex** and the **Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Balewadi, Pune** have been chosen as the new venues.
- The **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** has decided to grant recognition to **WAKO India Kickboxing Federation** as **National Sports Federation (NSF)** for promotion and development of the Kickboxing sport in India. To be fully included and accepted in the Olympic movement is important for the recognition and development of the sport of kickboxing.
- **Lionel Messi-led Argentina** beat Neymar's **Brazil 1-0** to win the **Copa America final match**, held at the **Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro**. With this win, Lionel Messi has secured his first major international trophy. The 2021 Copa America was the **47th edition** of the annual international men's football championship organised by **South America's football ruling body CONMEBOL**.
- Bangladesh cricketer **Mahmudullah Riyad** has announced his retirement from Test cricket in the middle of Bangladesh's one-off Test match against Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club. Mahmudullah made his Test debut in 2009 during Bangladesh's tour of the West Indies.
- Indian-American **Samir Banerjee** has won the **Wimbledon Junior Men's title** at Number 1 Court. He defeated **Victor Lilov** of America by 7-5, 6-3 in the Junior Men's finals to lift the trophy at **All England Club**.

- The state government of Haryana will organise the **Khelo India Youth Games 2021** in **February 2022**. Earlier the sports show was scheduled to be held from November 21 to December 5, 2021, but has been shifted due to the possible third wave of **Covid-19 pandemic** and keeping in mind that Khelo India Youth Games 2021 are to be held in the **Under-18 category**.
- The **European Championship final** pits **England and Italy** against each other. **Italy won 3-2 on penalties**. Italy, one of the most decorated teams in the world, have ended a few years of trophy drought. England, on the other hand, we're in uncharted territory.
- **Portugal** captain and modern-day great **Cristiano Ronaldo** won the **Euro 2020 Golden Boot** after finishing as the top-scorer in the tournament. Despite playing just four games, Ronaldo clinched the top honours as he scored **five goals**.
- The Badminton World Federation has allotted the BWF World Championships to India for 2026. This will be the second time that India will host the premier tournament, which is held every year except for the Olympic year. India had hosted the BWF World Championships in Hyderabad in 2009.
- **Deepak Kabra** has become the **first Indian** to be selected for judging the gymnastics competition of the **Olympic Games**, a life goal achieved for the man who knew he wouldn't have made it there as an active gymnast because of his not-so-strong fundamentals.
- Pakistan captain **Babar Azam** has altered the record books with the century he scored against England during the **third ODI at Edgbaston**. The Pakistan captain reached his 14th ton in his 81st ODI innings. Former South Africa opening batsman Amla had previously held the record who took 84 innings to reach this feat. Warner had taken 98 innings to get his 14th ODI ton while Kohli took 103 innings.
- The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has nominated Gokulam Kerala FC to represent India in the AFC Club Championship 2020-21. The winners of the Women League compete in the tournament but since it will not be held, the national federation nominated the champions of the fourth edition.
- **Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes-Great Britain), won the **British Grand Prix 2021**, for a record-extending eighth time. The event was held on July 18, 2021, at the Silverstone Circuit in the United Kingdom.
- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** inducted **Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Switzerland** as members at its **78th Annual General Meeting**. Mongolia and Tajikistan as the **22nd and 23rd** members of the Asia region. Switzerland is Europe's **35th** member. With the ICC now comprising **106 members** in total, including **94 associates**.
- Viswanathan Anand defeated Vladimir Kramnik to win the Sparkassen Trophy at Dortmund. Anand needed only a draw in the final game of the No-Castling Chess event, and he got it in 40 moves.
- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** has voted the **Australian city of Brisbane** as the host city for the **2032 Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games**. Brisbane is the third Australian city to host the Olympic Games after Melbourne in 1956 and Sydney in 2000.
- Young wrestlers **Aman Gulia** and **Sagar Jaglan** emerged as the **new world champions** in their respective categories as India dished out an impressive show on the second day of the **Cadet World Championship 2021 at Budapest, Hungary**.
- Madhya Pradesh shooter, Rubina Francis has set a world record at the ongoing Para Sport Cup in Peru. She has won gold in the 10-metre air pistol para-event for women. Scoring 238.1 points, she went past the world record of Aysegul Pehlivanlar of Turkey. This win also secured her the quota for India at the Tokyo Summer Paralympics 2020.
- The **Indian Olympic Association** has roped in **Adani Group** as a sponsor for the Indian contingent at the ongoing **Tokyo Games**. IOA secretary general **Rajiv Mehta**, who is in Tokyo, announced the development.
- Mirabai Chanu won the silver medal in weightlifting and became the first Indian to win an Olympic medal at the 2020 Tokyo Games in the Women's 49kg category. China's Hou Zhihui clinched the gold medal.
- **Yang Qian** of China took **gold** in the **women's 10m air rifle final** to secure the first gold medal of the **2020 Summer Games** at the **Asaka Shooting Range** on 24th July. **Anastasiia Galashina** of Russia won silver, while **Nina Christen** of Switzerland won the bronze medal.
- Indian Wrestler **Priya Malik** has won a **Gold Medal** at the **2021 World Cadet Wrestling Championship** in **Budapest, Hungary**.

- Japan's **Yuto Horigome** has won the first-ever **skateboarding competition** at the Olympic Games, taking **gold in men's street event** at the **Ariake Urban Sport in Tokyo**. Yuto overcame a shaky start to pocket the gold with 37.18 points. **Kelvin Hoefler** of Brazil won silver in the men's street skating competition, while **Jagger Eaton** of the United States clinched the bronze.
- Japan's **Momiji Nishiya** became one of the **youngest individual Olympic champions** in history when she won the inaugural women's skateboarding gold at the age of **13 years and 330 days**. **Rayssa Leal** (13 years and 203 days) of Brazil won silver and **Funa Nakayama** (16 years) of Japan clinched the bronze. The youngest gold medalist was Team USA's **Marjorie Gestring** at the **1936 games in Berlin**. Gestring, only **13 years and 268 days** old at the time, won gold in the women's diving competition.
- **Vantika Agarwal** has won the **National Women Online Chess title**. She scored **9.5 points** from 11 rounds. **Arpita Mukherjee** of West Bengal took the second spot and Tamil Nadu's **Sreeja Seshadri** secured the third spot in the competition.
- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, **Nirmala Sitharaman** participated virtually in the **Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting** under the Italian Presidency. The two-day meeting saw discussions on a wide range of issues including global economic risks and health challenges, policies for recovery from the **CoVID-19 pandemic, international taxation, sustainable finance and financial sector issues**.
- All BRICS countries have agreed to the STI-led BRICS Innovation Cooperation Action Plan (2021-24) proposed by India during the 12th meeting of the BRICS S & T Steering Committee. Indians have proposed plans to share the experience of each other's innovation ecosystem and promote networking between innovators and entrepreneurs.
- The Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated and addressed the World Universities Summit as Chief Guest. The Union Education and Skill Development Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan also addressed the summit. The Summit was organized by O.P. Jindal Global University, located at Sonapat, Haryana. The theme of the summit was **"Universities of the Future: Building Institutional Resilience, Social Responsibility and Community Impact"**.
- The **G20 Environment Ministers' Meeting 2021** is one of the ministerial meetings organized as part of the **G20 Leaders Summit 2021**, which will be hosted by **Italy in October 2021**. The 2021 G20, under the Italian Presidency, will focus on three broad, interconnected pillars of action: **People, Planet, Prosperity**. Within these pillars, the G20 aims to take the lead in ensuring a swift international response to the COVID-19 pandemic - able to provide equitable, worldwide access to diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines - while building up resilience to future health-related shocks. India was represented by a delegation led by Hon'ble Union Environment Minister, **Bhupender Yadav** and include Minister of State, Ashwini Kumar Choubey and senior officers of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- Raksha Mantri **Rajnath Singh** is on a three-day visit to **Dushanbe, Tajikistan** from July 27-29, 2021 to attend the annual meeting of the **Defence Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states**. During the annual meeting, defence cooperation issues among SCO member states will be discussed and a communique is expected to be issued after the deliberations. Raksha Mantri will also meet his Tajikistan counterpart Col Gen **Sherali Mirzo** to discuss bilateral issues and other issues of mutual interest.

Summits And Conferences

- The **7th edition** of the **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)**, concluded in France on July 01, 2021. The biennial event was hosted by the **French Navy at La Réunion** from 28 June to 01 July 2021. From India, **Admiral Karambir Singh**, Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy, participated in the inaugural session of the event virtually. **France** is the current chair of the Symposium, which assumed the Chairmanship on 29 June 2021 for a two-year tenure.
- **Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswa Bhushan Harichandan** inaugurated the **two-day International Education e-Conference**. The Conference held on the theme of Holistic Education for Excellence in Life.
- The Prime Minister of India **Narendra Modi** inaugurated and addressed the **CoWin Global Conclave**, virtually. The global meet was participated by representatives from 142 countries. The Conclave was jointly organized by the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW)**, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and National Health Authority (NHA) with an objective to extend the Co-WIN platform as a digital public good to the world.

- **Uzbekistan** has hosted a high-level International Conference titled “**Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity. Challenges and Opportunities**” at **Tashkent**. The conference was an initiative of the **President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev**. It was attended by President of Afghanistan **Ashraf Ghani**, Ministers from Central Asian, West Asian and South Asian countries, including Minister of External Affairs of India **Dr. S. Jaishankar**.

Awards & Recognition

- Freelance filmmaker **Deepti Pillay Sivan’s** most touted documentary, “**Decoding Shankar**” about the life and career of the celebrated musician **Shankar Mahadevan**, recently won the Best Film Award in the Documentary section (Best Biographical) at the **Toronto International Women Film Festival, 2021**.
- The **Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar**, the national award instituted in memory of late poet laureate Kuvempu, has been awarded to renowned Odia poet **Dr. Rajendra Kishore Panda** for the year 2020. The prestigious award carries a cash award of **Rs 5 lakh**, a silver medal, and a citation.
- **Invest India** has been awarded the world’s most innovative **Investment Promotion Agency 2021** by OCO Global. OCO Global is a leading authority on foreign investment and offers a range of economic development services, products, and unique company assessment tools.
- **Korean Air** has been announced the winner of one of the most prestigious honours in the aviation industry: **Air Transport World’s (ATW) 2021 Airline of the Year**. This year’s award is even more meaningful to Korean Air, as the global industry has been suffering from the unprecedented crisis caused by COVID-19.



- Indian economist **Kaushik Basu** has been awarded the **Humboldt Research Award** for Economics. The award was conferred on him by **Professor Dr Hans-Bernd Schäfer** of Bucerius Law School in Hamburg, Germany. A former chief economist of the World Bank, Basu is currently a professor of Economics at Cornell University. He also served as the Government of India’s chief economic advisor from **2009 to 2012**. Basu is also a recipient of the Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award in India.
- The **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** has signed a contract with the **Ministry of Defence for the manufacture and supply of Akash missiles** to the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**. The total worth of the deal is around **Rs 499 crore**.
- Hyderabad’s hunger activist **Syed Osman Azhar Maqsusi**, who has been feeding thousands of people every day as part of his food drive ‘**Hunger Has No Religion**’ was awarded a top UK award recently.
- Journalist and playwright **Omchery N N Pillai** has been selected for the **Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS)’s Literary Award for 2021**. BKS president **P V Radhakrishna Pillai**, general secretary Varghese Karackal and literary wing secretary Firoz Thiruvathra announced the award.
- The **Telangana State Cooperative Apex Bank (TSCAB)** has been adjudged the best State Cooperative Bank in the country while **Karimnagar District Cooperative Credit Bank (DCCB)** was adjudged the best DCCB in South India by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
- **Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company Limited** and **Snehakunja Trust** are among the 10 awardees of the prestigious **Equator Prize 2021** for their work in the field of conservation and biodiversity. The **UNDP** gives a biennial award to recognize community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- Director **Payal Kapadia’s**, “**A Night of Knowing Nothing**” won the **Oeil d’or (Golden Eye)** award for best documentary at the **74th Cannes Film Festival**. The Mumbai-based filmmaker’s first feature bagged the prestigious prize in a formidable field made up of 28 documentaries presented across various sections of the festival.

- Former **India** and **Mohun Bagan** shot-stopper **Shibaji Banerjee**, who famously denied Brazil's legendary football player Pele from scoring a goal in an exhibition match in 1977, will be conferred with **Mohun Bagan Ratna** posthumously.
- Cachar Deputy Commissioner, Keerthi Jalli received the National Silver SKOCH Award a few days ago for 'Pushti Nirbhor' (nutrition-dependent), a convergence project on transformation and development entailing setting up Nutri-gardens at houses in Dinnathpur Bagicha village. The village is near the India-Bangladesh border in the Katigorah circle of the Cachar district.
- Senior India defender, **Sandesh Jhingan** was named the **AIFF men's Footballer of the Year 2020-21** season. It is the first time that the towering central defender has received the AIFF Player of the Year award, having won the Emerging Player of the Year Award in 2014.
- While midfielder **Suresh Singh Wangjam** was picked as the Emerging Player for the year award for 2020-21. The 20-year-old Suresh, who made his Blue Tigers debut earlier this year against Oman, was part of the Indian side that competed at the FIFA U-17 World Cup in 2017.
- **Indian Women's National Team** Forward, **Ngangom Bala Devi** has been named as the **All India Football Federation (AIFF) Women's Footballer of the Year 2020-21**.
- World No. 1 para shuttler **Pramod Bhagat** was named **Differently Abled Sportsman of the Year at Indian Sports Honour for 2019**.
- Indian-origin British author, **Sunjeev Sahota** is among the 13 authors longlisted for the prestigious 2021 Booker Prize for fiction for his novel '**China Room**', alongside Nobel laureate **Kazuo Ishiguro** and Pulitzer Prize winner **Richard Powers**.
- **Vaidehi Dongre**, a 25-year-old girl from **Michigan**, has been crowned **Miss India USA 2021** at the beauty pageant. **Arshi Lalani** from Georgia was declared the first runner up and North Carolina's **Mira Kasari** was declared the second runner up. Dongre, who has majored in international studies, won the '**Miss Talented**' title in the pageant for giving a flawless performance of Indian classical dance from **Kathak**.
- The **Maharashtra Bhushan Selection Committee** chaired by Chief Minister **Uddhav Thackeray** has unanimously selected legendary playback singer **Asha Bhosle** for the prestigious award.

- Graphic artist **Anand Radhakrishnan** has won the prestigious **Will Eisner Comic Industry Award**, considered the Oscars equivalent of the comics world. The Eisner Awards are given out annually and the award won by Radhakrishnan "**Best Painter/Multimedia Artist (interior art)**" recognises the creator of a graphic novel's art and images.

Important Days

- The **National Postal Worker Day** is marked every year on **July 1** globally in recognition of the contribution made by postal workers in our society. The day is a unique opportunity to say 'thank you not only to postmen but also to all delivery personnel, as online shopping has become a lifeline for many of us.
- **National Chartered Accountants Day or CA Day** is celebrated on **July 1** every year. This day is celebrated to commemorate the finding of the **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** by the parliament of India in **1949**. Every year on the day of the establishment of the ICAI, CA Day is celebrated to honour the Chartered Accountant.
- The **National Doctors' Day** is organized on **01 July** annually in India by the **Indian Medical Association (IMA)**. The day is celebrated to honour the great physicians and help us understand the importance of doctors in our lives and value them, to offer them our respects by commemorating one of their greatest representatives.
- **World Sports Journalists Day** is observed globally on **2nd July** every year. The day aims to acknowledge the work of sports journalists & to encourage them to do better at their work. Sports journalists help millions of people in the world to receive information on various sports.
- The **World UFO Day (WUD)** is held on **July 2** every year globally. It is a day dedicated to the existence of **Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO)** by the **World UFO Day Organization (WUFODO)**.
- The **United Nations** celebrates the **International Day of Cooperatives** every year on the **first Saturday of July** to increase awareness of cooperatives. In the year **2021**, the International Day of Cooperatives will be celebrated on **3rd July** with a focus on the contribution of cooperatives to combating climate change. This July 3rd, the International Day of Cooperatives (**#CoopsDay**) will be celebrated as "**Rebuild better together**".

- **World Zoonoses Day** is held every year on **July 6** to raise awareness of the risk of zoonotic diseases. Zoonoses are infectious diseases (**virus, bacteria and parasites**) that can spread from animals to humans, and vice versa, either with direct contact with animals or indirectly, vector-borne or food-borne. It was on **July 6, 1885**, when **Louis Pasteur** successfully administered the first vaccine against Rabies virus, which is a zoonotic disease.
- **World Chocolate Day or International Chocolate Day** is observed on **7th July** every year. The day celebrates the existence of chocolate in our lives. It is marked by eating chocolates and sharing with dear ones.
- **National Fish Farmers' Day** is celebrated every year on **10 July**, by the **Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying in association** with the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB).
- World Population Day is observed globally on **11th July** every year. This day is observed to raise awareness among people about the impact of a growing population and issues including gender equality, the importance of family planning, poverty, maternal health, human rights, etc. This year theme of World Population Day 2021: "the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on fertility".
- The United Nations has declared **12th July** as **World Malala Day** to honour the young activist, Malala Yousafzai. Malala Day is commemorated, the birthday of Malala Yousafzai to honour women and children's rights around the world.
- United Nations celebrates **World Youth Skills Day** globally on **15 July** every year. The theme of World Youth Skills Day 2021 is "**Reimagining Youth Skills Post-Pandemic**".
- The **World Day for International Justice**, (also known as Day of International Criminal Justice or International Justice Day), is celebrated globally on **July 17** to support and recognize the work of the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**.
- The United Nations observes **18 July** every year as **Nelson Mandela International Day**. The day acknowledges Nelson Mandela's contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world. Nelson Mandela Day is an occasion for all to take action and inspire change.
- **Science Exploration Day (also called Moon Day)** is marked every year on **20 July**. It was on this day in **1969** that **Neil Armstrong and Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin** became the first humans to land on the **Moon's surface**. The origins of Space Exploration Day date back to man first walking on the moon, with the day itself first observed to commemorate this historic event during events held in the early 1970s.
- The **International Chess Day** is celebrated annually on **July 20**, since 1966, to celebrate one of the most ancient and most popular games in history that promote fairness, equality, mutual respect and understanding among nations. It was on this day that the **International Chess Federation (FIDE)** was founded, in 1924.
- **National Broadcasting Day** is observed on **23rd July** every year, to celebrate the radio, which has been an important part of people's life in India, both as an easy medium of entertainment along with the news. On this day in 1927, the first-ever radio broadcast in the country went on the air from the **Bombay Station under the Indian Broadcasting Company**.
- The **World Federation of Neurology (WFN)** celebrates **World Brain Day** on every **July 22**, focusing on a different theme each year. The theme for this World Brain Day is "**Stop Multiple Sclerosis**". World Brain Day advocates early diagnosis of this condition that can help improve the quality of life of the patient.
- The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** observed the **161st Income Tax Day** (also known as Aaykar Diwas) on **24 July 2021**. In India, the Income Tax Day is celebrated every year on July 24, as it was on **24 July 1980** that Income Tax was introduced for the first time in India by **Sir James Wilson**.
- The **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**, observed its **83rd Raising Day** on **27 July 2021**. CRPF is India's largest Central Armed Police Force, under the authority of the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- The International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem (or World Mangrove Day) is celebrated annually on **26 July**. The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as "a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem" and to promote solutions for their sustainable management, conservation and uses.

- World Health Organization is observed on 28th July every year as “World Hepatitis Day”. This day is celebrated to enhance awareness of viral hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver that causes a range of health problems, including liver cancer. This year theme of World Hepatitis Day 2021 is ‘Hepatitis Can’t Wait’.
- World Nature Conservation Day is observed on 28th July every year. The main objective of celebrating this day is to raise awareness about protecting nature and adopting best practices for conserving our natural resources. The Earth is supplied a limited amount of properties that we all rely upon each day like water, air, soil and trees.
- Global Tiger Day or International Tiger Day is observed on 29th July every year to raise awareness about the declining population of wild cats and making efforts to conserve them. This year marks the 11th International Tiger Day. The theme/Slogan for the 2021 International Tiger Day celebration is “Their Survival is in our hands”.
- United Nations observes **30 July** every year as **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons**. The 2021 theme for World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is **Victims’ Voices Lead the Way**.
- International Day of Friendship is observed globally on 30th July. This day is celebrated to mark the importance of friends and friendship in life. The day also advocates the role that friendship plays in promoting peace in several cultures across the world.
- **World Ranger Day** is observed every year on **31 July** to commemorate the Rangers killed or injured while on duty and to celebrate the work that Rangers do to protect the world’s natural and cultural heritage.
- India’s 1st indigenous drone defence dome ‘**Indrajaal**’ has been developed by **Hyderabad-based Grene Robotics**. As per the company, the drone defence dome - ‘Indrajaal’ is capable of autonomously protecting an area of **1000-2000 sq km** against aerial threats. It protects the area by assessing and acting on aerial threats such as **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)**, and **Low-Radar Cross Section (RCS) targets**.
- Indian Army chief General **MM Naravane** will embark on an official visit to the **United Kingdom (UK) and Italy**, during which he will be meeting his counterparts and the senior military leadership of these countries. The highlight of the visit will be Gen Naravane’s inauguration of the **Indian Army Memorial** in the famous town of **Cassino, Italy**. In the **Battle of Monte Cassino during World War II**, over 5,000 Indian soldiers laid down their lives while fighting to save Italy from fascist forces.
- The Army inducted the first production lot of **12 Short Span Bridging System (SSBS)-10m**, designed and developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** in association with **Larsen & Toubro Limited**, the production agency.
- On the occasion of the birthday of Captain **Gurjinder Singh Suri**, who died during the operation “**Birsa Munda**” in 1999, the Indian Army inaugurated a war memorial in memory of Captain in **Gulmarg** near the **Line of Control (LOC)**. Lieutenant Colonel (Col), **Tej Prakash Singh Suri (Retd)**, father of Captain Gurjinder Singh Suri, MVC (Posthumous) was also present on the occasion. Gurjinder Singh Suri was later awarded **Maha Vir Chakra (Posthumous)**.
- **Ministry of Defence** has implemented **SPARSH (System for Pension Administration Raksha)**, an integrated system for automation of **sanction and disbursement of defence pension**. This web-based system processes pension claims and credits pension directly into the bank accounts of defence pensioners without relying on any external intermediary.
- **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tabar** recently participated in military exercises with the frontline frigate of the **Italian Navy**. INS Tabar joined Italian Navy and entered Port of Naples on July 3 as part of the ongoing deployment in the **Mediterranean**. Commanding officer **Captain Mahesh Mangipudi** called on senior officers of Prefect of Naples Authority, regional Italian navy headquarters and coast guard headquarters during the stay.

Defence Current Affairs

- **Israeli** defence electronics company **Rafael Advanced Defense Systems** has unveiled **Sea Breaker**, a 5th generation long-range, autonomous, precision-guided missile system, which can precisely target sea and land targets up to a range of **300 kilometres**.
- **Indian Navy warship** conducted military drill with **South Korean vessel** in the **East China Sea**. The Navy partnership exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability and facilitating the exchange of best practices with partner navies in the maritime domain. Indian Navy’s indigenous **ASW Corvette INS Kiltan** undertook the exercise with Republic of Korea’s Ship **ROKS Gyeongnam**, a Daegu-class frigate, on June 28.

- **Indian Navy** received the **10th anti-submarine warfare aircraft P-8I** from the US-based aerospace company **Boeing**. The Defence Ministry had signed a contract for eight P-8I aircraft in 2009. However, later in 2016, it signed a contract for four additional P-8I aircraft. The remaining two aircrafts are expected to be delivered in the last quarter of 2021.
- Top defence officials from **India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives** participated in a virtual trilateral tabletop exercise "**TTX-2021**". The exercise focused on maritime crimes like curbing narcotics and assistance in maritime search and rescue in the region. The two-day exercise, TTX-2021 aimed at enhancing mutual understanding and exchange of best practices procedures for countering common transnational crime was coordinated by the **Maritime Warfare Centre, Mumbai**.
- **Ordnance Factory Tiruchirappalli** hands over **Fifteen 12.7 mm M2 NATO Stabilized Remote Control Gun** to **Indian Navy & 10 to Indian Coast Guard**. It is manufactured with the transfer of technology agreement from **Elbit Systems, Israel**.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully flight-tested indigenously developed third-generation **Man-Portable Antitank Guided Missile (MPATGM)** for its minimum range. The missile was launched from a man-portable launcher integrated with a thermal site, and all the mission objectives were met.
- The **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully flight-tested the New Generation **Akash Missile (Akash-NG)**, from Integrated Test Range (ITR) off the coast of **Odisha**. The Akash missile system has been developed by the DRDO's laboratory in **Hyderabad** in collaboration with other wings of the premier defence research organisation. The Akash-NG weapon system is a **surface-to-air missile** that can strike targets at a distance of around **60 km** and fly at a speed of up to **Mach 2.5**.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has flagged in the **Indian Army's skiing expedition** that was conducted in the Himalayan mountain ranges between **March 10 and July 6**. The expedition, called **ARMEX-21**, was flagged off at Karakoram Pass in Ladakh on March 10 and culminated at **Malari in Uttarakhand** on July 6 covering **1,660 km in 119 days**.
- The United States Navy has handed over the first two Sikorsky MH-60R multi-role helicopters to the Indian Navy at Naval Air Station in North Island, San Diego. The Indian Navy is procuring 24 MH-60R Multi Role Helicopters (MRH) manufactured by Lockheed Martin under foreign military sales from the US government at an estimated cost of \$2.4 billion.
- **Indian Naval Ship Talwar** is participating in **Exercise Cutlass Express 2021**, being conducted from **26 July 2021 to 06 August 2021** along the East Coast of Africa. The exercise is an annual maritime exercise conducted to promote national and regional maritime security in **East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean**.
- The **12th Edition** of the Indo-Russia joint military exercise called '**Exercise INDRA 2021**' will be held at **Volgograd, Russia** from 01 to 13 August 2021. The exercise will entail the conduct of counter-terror operations under the United Nations mandate by a joint force against international terror groups.
- The **36th edition** of **CORPAT** between **India and Indonesia** is being held on 30 and 31 July 2021, in the **Indian Ocean region**. The Indian Naval Ship (INS) **Saryu**, an indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel and Indonesian Naval Ship **KRI Bung Tomo** is undertaking coordinated patrol (CORPAT).

Science and Technology

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has given its nod to the **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education** to provide technical assistance for **satellite TV classrooms** in the country to bridge the learning gap due to COVID-induced lockdown. ISRO scientists have appeared before the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Education and made a detailed presentation about the proposed satellite TV classroom for students.
- India-origin woman **Sirisha Bandla** will travel to the edge of the space aboard '**VSS Unity**' of **Virgin Galactic**, which is scheduled to fly off on July 11 from New Mexico. This is significant as she will be the third woman of Indian origin to go to space after **Kalpna Chawla and Sunita Williams**.
- Hyderabad-based pharma player **Laurus Labs** has received a licence from the **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** for manufacturing and marketing **Covid-19 drug 2-Deoxy-D-Glucose (2-DG)** in India. The licence to Laurus Labs has been granted by DRDO as part of efforts to make the drug affordable and accessible to patients.

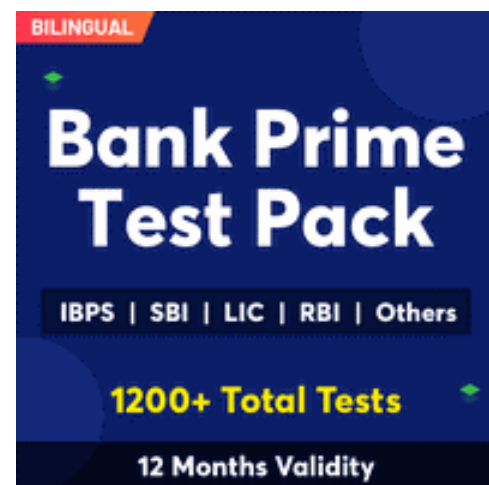
- **Facebook** has announced a set of publishing and subscription tools named **Bulletin**, aimed to promote independent **writers in the US**. The bulletin will include support focused on the creation of content, monetisation and audience growth. It also aims to integrate its existing tools to support writing and audio content – from podcasts to Live Audio Rooms in one place.
- IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation (IITM-PTF) and Sony India Software Centre Pvt Ltd have joined hands to organise a national-level hackathon named ‘SAMVEDAN 2021 - Sensing Solutions for Bharat’. With this hackathon, the foundation aims to inspire citizens to use IoT Sensor Board in order to solve India-specific problems of societal interest.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is getting back into launch activity fully at Sriharikota spaceport with the planned orbiting of geo imaging satellite GISAT-1 onboard GSLV-F10 rocket on August 12. GISAT-1 will be placed in a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit by GSLV-F10 and, subsequently, it will be positioned in the final geostationary orbit, about 36,000 km above earth’s equator, using its onboard propulsion system.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted the third long-duration hot test of the liquid propellant Vikas Engine for the core L110 liquid stage of the human-rated GSLV Mk III vehicle, as part of the engine qualification requirements for the Gaganyaan Programme.
- Google Cloud has announced the launch of its new Cloud Region in Delhi NCR, for customers and the public sector in India and across the Asia Pacific. With the new region, the customers operating in the country will benefit from lower latency and higher performance of their cloud-based workloads and data.
- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras** Researchers has developed an Artificial Intelligence-based Mathematical Model called ‘**NBDriver**’ to identify cancer-causing alterations in cells.
- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar has developed a first-of-its-kind Oxygen Rationing Device called AMLEX, to save the oxygen which otherwise gets wasted unnecessarily, and in turn, increase the life of medical oxygen cylinders three folds. The device will supply a required volume of oxygen to the patient during inhalation and will trip when the patient exhales carbon dioxide.
- Billionaire Jeff Bezos has made a short journey to space, in the first crewed flight of his rocket ship, New Shepard. He was accompanied by Mark Bezos, his brother, Wally Funk, an 82-year-old pioneer of the space race, and an 18-year-old student. They travelled in a capsule with the biggest windows flown in space, offering stunning views of the Earth. On this flight was the oldest person who has been to space, Wally Funk and the youngest, student Oliver Daemen.
- **Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K)** has launched the first technology innovation hub to find cybersecurity solutions for **anti-drones technologies**, intrusion detection systems, block-chain and cyber-physical systems. As many as 13 start-ups and 25 research and development principal investigators were selected after a rigorous application process.
- Xiaomi Corp. has become the world’s second biggest smartphone maker over the past quarter following an 83 per cent jump in shipments, according to preliminary estimates by Canalys. This marks the first occasion that Xiaomi, the Chinese maker of everything from rice cookers to gaming monitors, has broken into the top two, historically dominated by Samsung and Apple.
- The US space agency NASA has selected California-based SpaceX to provide launch services for Earth’s first mission to conduct detailed investigations of Jupiter’s moon Europa. The mission called ‘Europa Clipper’ mission is scheduled to be launched in October 2024 on a Falcon Heavy rocket from Launch Complex 39A at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- Google-parent Alphabet will launch a new robotics company, Intrinsic which will focus on building software for industrial robots. The segment comes out of X, Alphabet’s Moonshot factory that houses futuristic firms such as Waymo, Wing and Verily.
- For the first time, astronomers have uncovered evidence of water vapour in the atmosphere of Jupiter’s moon Ganymede. This water vapour forms when ice from the moon’s surface sublimates that turns from solid to gas. Scientists used new and archival datasets from NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope to make the discovery, published in the journal Nature Astronomy.

- India's first Rapid electronic Covid-19 RNA Test kit that allows self-testing at home called 'COVIHOME' has been developed by a research group at the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad. The kit has been validated by the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology and can be used to check for Covid-19 trace at the comfort of home.

Books & Authors

- The book titled "Nathuram Godse: The True Story of Gandhi's Assassin" by Mumbai-based journalist **Dhaval Kulkarni** will be published by **Pan Macmillan India** in 2022. A biography of **Nathuram Godse**, Mahatma Gandhi's infamous assassin, situates the man and his most defining act in the larger context of modern Indian history and contemporary society and politics.
- A book titled "Lady Doctors: The Untold Stories of India's First Women in Medicine" has authored by **Kavitha Rao**. This book recovers the stories of India's first women doctors, often ignored by history. In this excerpt from Kavitha Rao's 'Lady Doctors: The Untold Stories of India's First Women in Medicine, the story of **Rukhmabai Raut**.
- A book titled 'The Fourth Lion: Essays for **Gopalkrishna Gandhi**' authored by **Venu Madhav Govindu and Srinath Raghavan**. The book consists of twenty-six essays contributed by individuals drawn from various walks of life and from across the globe.
- A new book titled "The Light of Asia" authored by **Jairam Ramesh** is a biography of an epic bio-poem on the Buddha. Ramesh, the author, Member of Parliament, former Union Minister, and Congress leader, digs deep in his new book to bring out the fascinating story behind the **epic 1879 poem**, "The Light of Asia" by **Sir Edwin Arnold**, that took the world by storm and in some ways, brought the Buddha's story to the world at the turn of the last century.
- Kareena Kapoor Khan** has announced her new book titled **Kareena Kapoor Khan's Pregnancy Bible**. The actor has also called it her 'third child'. She shared her experience while writing the book. She was seen wearing a red slip dress as she kept her hair loose parting it in the middle. She was seen bare feet standing near the kitchen countertop.

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has received the first copy of "The Ramayana of **Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji**" which is written by the late **Baljit Kaur Tulsi**—the mother of noted lawyer **KTS Tulsi**. The book is published by the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts**.
- A new book titled "The Art of Conjuring Alternate Realities: How Information Warfare Shapes Your World", authored by **Shivam Shankar Singh and Anand Venkatanarayanan**. The Book is Published by **HarperCollins**.
- A book titled "The Struggle Within: A Memoir of the Emergency" authored by **Ashok Chakravarti**. He is an economist who has been providing policy advice to countries, mainly in the African region, for the past forty years. He is currently **Senior Economic Advisor** to the Government of Zimbabwe, based in Harare.
- A book titled "The Great Big Lion" drawn and written by child prodigy **Chryseis Knight**. This book is a story about a **lion and two children**. It talks about friendship, inclusivity, wildlife conservation and the world of imagination. The book was published by Penguin Random House India's "Puffin" imprint.
- Vice President **M. Venkaih Naidu** has received a book entitled 'Urdu Poets and Writers - Gems of Deccan' authored by senior journalist, **J.S. Ifthekhar**. Mr Naidu commended the author for the book which traces the rich literary and cultural traditions of the Deccan.
- Former RBI governor **Bimal Jalan** writes a new book titled 'The India Story'. The book focuses on India's economic history and aims to provide lessons for the future of India's political economy.



- BJP leader **Sudhanshu Mittal**'s book on the **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)** has now been translated into the Chinese language. "**RSS: Building India Through SEWA**", which talks of RSS's history, ideology and policies, and their subsequent impact on the nation, was brought out by **Har-Anand Publications** in 2019. The Chinese translation is by **Jack Bo**.
- Filmmaker **Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra** has announced his autobiography, "**The Stranger In The Mirror**". He has co-written the book with noted author **Reeta Ramamurthy Gupta**.
- Vice President of India, **M Venkaiah Naidu** has released a book titled '**Palleku Pattabhishekam**' authored by former MP **Yalamanchili Sivaji**. This book is based on rural India and agriculture.
- Former RBI Governor, **Duvvuri Subbarao** has unveiled a book '**Bank With A Soul: Equitas**' authored by **Dr. C K Garyali**.
- Former election commissioner **Ashok Lavasa** has come out with a book titled "**An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation.**" In this book, Ashok Lavasa narrates about his father, Udai Singh, and his own experience on how his father's principles served as a moral compass in his life, and can in ours too. Ashok Lavasa resigned as election commissioner in 2020 to become vice-president of the Asian Development Bank.
- On July 1, India's oldest running newspaper, **Mumbai Samachar**, will enter its **200th year**. The Gujarati newspaper, with its office located in an iconic red building at Horniman Circle in Mumbai's Fort area, was first published in **1822**. It was founded by a **Parsi scholar Fardoonji Murazban**, who had experimented with various other publishing options before landing on this successful print run.
- A group of scientists who discovered two **new species of jumping spiders** from the Thane-Kalyan region named one of them after the brave police constable **Tukaram Omble** who lost his life in the **26/11 terror attacks**. The species is called '**Icius Tukarami**.'
- The **LG Manoj Sinha** formally put an end to a **149-year-old** biannual tradition of shifting offices between summer capital **Srinagar** and winter capital **Jammu**. The administration served notice to employees to vacate the '**Darbar Move**' related accommodations in three weeks in Jammu and Srinagar. Administration cancelled the residential accommodation of "darbar move" employees in Jammu and Srinagar, implying the employees will remain stationed in either Jammu or Kashmir.
- The government has extended the superannuation age of IPO-bound LIC Chairman, **M R Kumar**, to up to **62 years** by making amendments to the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (Staff) Regulations, 1960**. The changes made in the rules will be called the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (Staff) Amendment Rules, 2021**, according to a government notification dated June 30, 2021.
- The **52nd edition** of the **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** will be held in **Goa** from 20th -28th November 2021. The regulations and poster for the 52nd IFFI were released by Hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting **Shri Prakash Javadekar**. On the occasion of the birth centenary of the maestro of Indian cinema **Shri Satyajit Ray**, the "**Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema**" has been instituted from this year to be given at the IFFI every year starting from this year.
- **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)** has launched India's first **FASTag or Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**-based parking facility to reduce the time for entry and payment. The facility was launched at the **Kashmere Gate metro station**. As part of the Multi-Model Integration (MMI) initiative, dedicated Intermediate Public Transport (IPT) lanes for autos, taxis and r-Rickshaws were also inaugurated at the station.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- Lieutenant Governor J&K, **Manoj Sinha** has launched the "**HAUSLA- inspiring her growth**", a comprehensive programme for Catalysing Women Entrepreneurship in UT. The priority of the government is to reduce the gap between women and men entrepreneurs, in a systematic manner and to encourage women who are currently engaged in various professions so that they too can become a part of the '**Hausla**' program.
- **J&K** Chief Secretary, **Arun Kumar Mehta**, inaugurated SDRF first Battalion's 24x7 mental health helpline '**SUKOON**' at its headquarters. This initiative, launched by **SDRF First Battalion Kashmir** in collaboration with **Mission Youth J&K** and Tourism department, will guide the caller to avail services of clinical psychologists, therapists, counsellors and psychiatrists.

- **Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station** also known as **Bengaluru City Railway Station** has become the first railway station in India with a movable freshwater tunnel aquarium. The state-of-the-art aquarium has been jointly opened by the **Indian Railway Stations Development Cooperation Limited (IRSDC)** in collaboration with the HNi Aquatic Kingdom.
- The **United Nations' World Meteorological Organization**, recognised a new record high temperature for **Antarctica**. On February 6, 2020, the **Esperanza station** (the Argentine research station in Trinity Peninsula) experienced **18.3 degrees Celsius**.
- **National Film Archive of India (NFAI)** has announced a significant addition of the original camera negative of **Rajkumar Hirani's 2014 film 'PK'** in its collection. The filmmaker handed the negatives over to Director NFAI, Prakash Magdum, in Mumbai. The National Film Archive of India was established as a media unit of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in **1964**.
- **National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY)** in West Kameng district, **Arunachal Pradesh** has tied up with the **National Insurance Company Ltd.** for insuring **Himalayan Yak**. The insurance policy would shield the yak owners against the risks posed by **weather calamities, diseases, in-transit mishaps, surgical operations and strikes or riots**.
- **India's and Asia's first National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC)** will come upon the bank of the Ganges in the premises of **Patna University**. Around 1,455 dolphins have been sighted during a survey conducted in 2018-19 in the river Ganga by the teams of experts.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has launched a mobile application, called **CPGRAMS** to lodge grievances using **artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning tools**. The Raksha Mantri was briefed that this AI-powered application will automatically handle and analyse the complaints of the people and would reduce human intervention, save time and bring more transparency to their disposal.
- The **Manduadih railway station** has been finally renamed as **Banaras** by the **Northeastern railways (NER)**. The NER replaced the old signboard with the new one which read 'Banaras' after the Railway Board gave its nod for the new name. The newly painted signboards were put up with Banaras written in **Hindi, Sanskrit, English, and Urdu**.
- **Indian Port Rail and Ropeway Corporation Ltd (IPRCL)** has prepared a **Detailed Project Report or DPR** for the pod taxi service between **Noida Airport at Jewar and Film City**. There are plans to run a driverless taxi between the two destinations. This will cost about **Rs 862 crore**, according to the detailed project report (DPR) submitted to the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (Yeida).
- The 'Common High Court for the Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh**' has been officially renamed as the '**High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh**.' The order was notified by the **Union Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of Justice**.
- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), India's largest oil firm, will build the first 'green hydrogen' plant of the country at its Mathura refinery, to meet the growing demand for both oil and cleaner forms of energy. This will be the nation's first green hydrogen unit. Previously, projects have been announced to produce 'grey hydrogen' using fossil fuels such as natural gas.
- The UN's cultural agency UNESCO has voted narrowly to remove Liverpool's waterfront from its list of world heritage sites, citing concerns about overdevelopment, including plans for a new football stadium. At committee talks chaired by China, 13 delegates voted in favour of the proposal and five against, just one more than the two-thirds majority required to delete a site from the global list.
- The world's first **3D-printed steel bridge** was opened to the public in **Amsterdam, Netherlands**. It was developed by MX3D, a Dutch robotics company, in collaboration with a consortium of experts, and represents a major milestone for 3D-printing technology. The 12-metre-long steel structure will be a 'living laboratory' that will capture and transmit data on its health in real-time to show how it changes over its lifespan. The length of the bridge is nearly 40 feet. It is a 6-ton stainless steel structure.
- **The Kakatiya Rudreswara Temple**, (also known as the Ramappa Temple) at Palampet, Mulugu district, near **Warangal in Telangana** has been inscribed on **UNESCO's World Heritage list**, during the **44th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO**. With this latest induction, there are **39th World Heritage Sites located in India**.

- A consignment of 'Raja Mircha', also referred to as **King Chilli** or **Bhoot Jolokia**, from Nagaland, has been exported to **London for the first time**. Naga king chilli is constantly on the top five in the list of the world's hottest chillies based on the Scoville Heat Units. It got a GI tag in **2008**. It was declared the hottest chilli pepper in the world by **Guinness World Records** in **2007**.
- The Centre has accredited a total of **236 academies across the country** under **Khelo India Scheme** for the training of the Khelo India Athletes. Under this scheme, 360 Khelo India Centres and 24 Khelo India State Centres of Excellence have been notified. Under the State Level Khelo India Centre Scheme, the Ministry has decided to establish 1,000 Khelo India Centres across India.
- **Flora Duffy** triumphed at the **triathlon in Tokyo**, and that means Bermuda is officially the smallest country to ever celebrate a Summer Olympic gold medal. The 33-year-old triathlete blew away the 56-woman field with a time of **1:55:36 to earn gold in her fourth Olympic appearance**.
- **Kandla Sez** or **KASEZ** is the First Green SEZ to achieve the **IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating for Existing Cities**. The efforts of the KASEZ team were applauded, especially noting the fact that this was accomplished in the Bhuj region where water conservation and afforestation are critical interventions.
- Former Indian footballer **M Prasannan** has passed away. A gifted midfielder of the **1970s**, he shared the dressing room with stalwarts of Indian football like **Inder Singh** and **Doraiswamy Natraj**. He played for **Kerala, Maharashtra, and Goa in Santosh Trophy National Football Championship**.
- **Donald Rumsfeld**, the two-time defence secretary and the one-time presidential candidate whose reputation as a skilled bureaucrat and visionary of a modern US military was unravelled by the long and costly Iraq war, died recently. Rumsfeld is the only person to serve twice as Pentagon chief. The first time, in **1975-77, he was the youngest ever**.
- Legendary Bollywood actor **Mohammed Yusuf Khan**, known professionally as **Dilip Kumar** passed away at 98. He was popularly known as the **tragedy king of Bollywood**. He was last seen in the **1998 film Qila**. He was the first actor to win the **Filmfare Award for Best Actor in 1954** and won it a total of 8 times. He and Shah Rukh Khan jointly hold the record for most Filmfare trophies.
- Ace filmmaker **Richard Donner**, best known for helming the original '**Superman**' film, '**Lethal Weapon**' film series and '**The Goonies**', has passed away. The 91-year-old filmmaker was at the forefront of some of the most popular genres in the history of mainstream cinema: the superhero movie, the horror flick, the buddy cop romps.
- Two-time Olympic gold medallist in hockey, **Keshav Datt** passed away. He was part of India's historic feat at the **1948 Olympics** where they beat home team Britain 4-0 at the **Wembley Stadium** in London to win the first gold post **Independence**.
- Senior Congress leader and former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister, **Virbhadra Singh**, has passed away. The veteran politician was the 4th and longest-serving Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. He served as the Chief Minister of the state six times, from **April 8, 1983, to March 5, 1990, December 3, 1993, to March 23, 1998, March 6, 2003, to December 29, 2007, and then for the sixth time from December 25, 2012, to December 26, 2017**.
- Veteran Indian Ayurveda practitioner, **Dr P.K. Warriar**, who was the most respected name in Ayurveda across the world, has passed away. He was 100. He was the chief Physician and Managing trustee of **Arya Vaidya Sala**, a healthcare centre located in Kottakkal, Kerala, and known for its heritage and expertise in Ayurveda.

Obituaries

- Editor of '**Sudharma**' Sanskrit Daily, **K.V. Sampath Kumar** has passed away. He, along with his wife, was selected for the **Padma Shri honour** from the **Government of India in 2020** for his contribution to the field of **Literature & Education**. He has also received several awards like the **Siddarudha award, the Shivaratri Deshikendra Media award, the Abdul Kalam award** and others.
- Filmmaker **Raj Kaushal**, who directed movies like "**Shaadi Ka Laddoo**" and "**Pyaar Mein Kabhi Kabhi**", passed away. He was married to actor-TV presenter Mandira Bedi. Apart from direction, Kaushal had also produced filmmaker **Onir's 2005** acclaimed drama "**My Brother... Nikhil**", starring Sanjay Suri and Juhi Chawla. His last directorial was the 2006 thriller, "**Anthony Kaun Hai?**", starring Arshad Warsi and Sanjay Dutt.

- Former Indian cricketer, **Yashpal Sharma**, who was a member of the Indian team that won the **1983 Cricket World Cup**, has passed away. He represented India in 37 Tests and 42 ODIs. He was a middle-order batsman, who played during the 1970s and 80s.
- The renowned American professional wrestler, **Paul Orndorff**, who is best known with his nickname **Mr. Wonderful**, has passed away. He was one of professional wrestling's biggest stars of the 1980s and was famous for his appearances with the **World Wrestling Federation (WWF)** and **World Championship Wrestling (WCW)**.
- Three-time national award-winning actress **Surekha Sikri** has passed away. The three-time National Award winner is best known for her performances in '**Tamas**', '**Mammo**', '**Salim Langde Pe Mat Ro**', '**Zubeidaa**', '**Badhaai Ho**' and daily soap '**Balika Vadhu**'.
- Pulitzer Prize-winning Indian photojournalist, **Danish Siddiqui**, has passed away, after he was killed in a clash while reporting a fight between Afghan troops and the Taliban in Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province in Afghanistan on July 13, 2021.
- Former president of Pakistan **Mamnoon Hussain** passed away. Mamnoon Hussain, who was born in **Agra in 1940** and migrated with his parents to **Pakistan in 1947**, served as the **12th President of Pakistan** between September 2013 and September 2018.
- Renowned theatre personality and litterateur, **Urmil Kumar Thapliyal** has passed away. Thapliyal worked all through his life for the revival of nautanki and popularising theatre. The veteran was associated with Darpan, the 50-year-old popular theatre group of the state capital. He also had long innings with the All India Radio.
- **Gira Sarabhai** co-founder of the **National Institute of Design** has passed away. The pioneer of design education in the nation has played a vital part in establishing several other institutions and also made remarkable contributions in the field of art and architecture.
- Noted Carnatic Classical Violinist '**Kalaimamani Sikkil Shri R Bhaskaran** passed away. He started learning the Violin at the age of 11 from Thiruvavarur Shri Subba Iyer and later trained under Mayuram Shri Govindarajan Pillai. He was an 'A' Grade Artist of AIR and has served for nearly 2 decades in Chennai radio Station from 1976 to 1994.
- **Bhageerathi Amma**, the oldest woman in India to take the equivalency exams, has passed away due to age-related ailments. She was **107-years-old**. Amma, who hailed from the **Kollam district of Kerala**, decided to continue her education at the age of 105.
- Former England and Derbyshire bowler, **Mike Hendrick** has passed away. He played a major role in two of England's Ashes-series victories and took **87 wickets** in 30 Tests for his country between 1974 and 1981. Hendrick, who took 770 wickets in 267 first-class matches and 35 wickets in 22 ODIs, was also the first professional coach of Ireland.
- Bangladesh's legendary folk singer, **Fakir Alamgir** has passed away due to complications from COVID-19. He was born on February 21, 1950, in Faridpur, Alamgir began his music career in 1966.
- The well-known southern actor **Jayanthi**, has passed away due to age-related ailments. She started her acting career in **1963** and had starred in over **500 films** that span across five languages including Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi. She was fondly known as '**Abhinaya Sharadhe**' meaning the 'Goddess of acting', in the Kannada film industry.
- Legendary Indian badminton player **Nandu Natekar**, who became the first Indian to win the **international title in 1956**, has passed away. He won over 100 national and international titles for India in his career spanning 15 years. He was the recipient of the first **Arjuna Award, instituted in 1961**.



Static Takeaways

- World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States.
- World Bank Formation: July 1944.
- Sweden Capital: Stockholm; Currency: Swedish krona.
- European Space Agency is an intergovernmental organization of 22 member states;
- European Space Agency was established in 1975 and headquartered in Paris.
- Philippines President: Rodrigo Duterte.
- Philippines Capital: Manila.
- Philippines Currency: Philippine peso.
- China Capital: Beijing.
- China Currency: Renminbi.
- China President: Xi Jinping.
- Paisabazaar Founded: 15 December 2011;
- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai.
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955.
- ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.
- The tagline of HDFC Bank: We understand your world.
- Amazon Founded: 5 July 1994.
- Flipkart headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Central Vigilance Commission Formed: February 1964;
- Central Vigilance Commission Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Central Bureau of Investigation Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Central Bureau of Investigation Founded: 1 April 1963.
- Twitter formed: 21 March 2006.
- Headquarters of Twitter: San Francisco, California, United States.
- WhatsApp Founded: 2009;
- (Mar 2019-);
- WhatsApp Headquarters: Menlo Park, California, United States;
- WhatsApp Acquisition date: 19 February 2014;
- WhatsApp Parent organization: Facebook.
- NITI Aayog Formed: 1 January 2015.
- NITI Aayog Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Indian Airforce founded: 8 October 1932.
- Indian Airforce Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Ukraine President: Volodymyr Zelensky;
- Ukraine Capital: Kyiv;
- Ukraine Currency: Ukrainian hryvnia;
- US Capital: Washington, D.C.;
- US President: Joe Biden;
- US Currency: United States Dollar.
- Turkey President: Recep Tayyip Erdogan;
- Turkey Capital: Ankara;
- Turkey Currency: Turkish lira;
- Azerbaijan Capital: Baku;
- Azerbaijan Prime minister: Ali Asadov;
- Azerbaijan President: Ilham Aliyev;
- Azerbaijan Currency: Azerbaijani manat.
- Israel Prime minister: Naftali Bennett;
- Israel Capital: Jerusalem; Currency: Israeli Shekel.
- Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950.
- International Telecommunication Union Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- International Telecommunication Union Founded: 17 May 1865;
- Headquarters of BCCI: Mumbai, Maharashtra; Founded: December 1928.
- Inter-Parliamentary Union Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Inter-Parliamentary Union Founded: 1889.
- Institute of Chartered Accountants of India Headquarters: New Delhi.
- International Sports Press Association of Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland.
- KVIC Founded: 1956;
- KVIC Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Haiti Capital: Port-au-Prince;
- Haiti Currency: Haitian gourde;
- Haiti Continent: North America.
- Denmark Capital: Copenhagen.
- Denmark Currency: Danish krone.
- Headquarters location of Phonepe: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Razorpay Founded: 2013;
- (May 2014-);
- Razorpay Headquarters location: Bengaluru;
- Mastercard Headquarters: New York, United States.
- Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Axis Bank Founded: 1993;
- Punjab and Sind Bank Founder: Vir Singh;
- Punjab and Sind Bank Founded: 24 June 1908;
- Indian Overseas Bank Headquarters: Chennai;
- Indian Overseas Bank CEO: Partha Pratim Sengupta;
- Indian Overseas Bank Founded: 10 February 1937, Chennai.

- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikant Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.
- Paytm HQ: Noida, Uttar Pradesh;
- Paytm Founded: 2009.
- IBM Headquarters: Armonk, New York, United States.
- All India Radio Founded: 1936;
- All India Radio Headquarters: Sansad Marg, New Delhi.
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- DRDO Established: 1958.
- AIR is the National Public Radio Broadcaster of India. Since 1956 is officially known as Akashvani.
- Founded in 1936, it is a division of Prasar Bharati.
- LIC Headquarters: Mumbai;
- LIC Founded: 1 September 1956.
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ISRO established: 15 August 1969.
- Facebook Founded: February 2004;
- Max Bupa Health Insurance Headquarters: New Delhi, India;
- Max Bupa Health Insurance Founded: 2008.
- ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates;
- ICC Founded: 15 June 1909;
- Federal Bank Headquarters: Aluva, Kerala;
- Federal Bank Founded: 23 April 1931.
- Prime Minister of Bangladesh: Sheikh Hasina; Capital: Dhaka; Currency: Taka.
- President of Bangladesh: Abdul Hamid.
- Prime Minister of Georgia: Irakli Garibashvili
- Georgia Capital: Tbilisi;
- Georgia Currency: Georgian lari.
- Bhutan Capital: Thimphu;
- Bhutan Prime minister: Lotay Tshering;
- Bhutan Currency: Bhutanese ngultrum.
- Ethiopia Capital: Addis Ababa;
- Ethiopia Currency: Ethiopian birr.
- Nepal Capital: Kathmandu;
- Nepal Currency: Nepalese rupee;
- Nepal President: Bidhya Devi Bhandari.
- China Capital: Beijing;
- China Currency: Renminbi;
- China President: Xi Jinping.
- UAE Capital: Abu Dhabi;
- UAE Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham;
- UAE President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- Israel Prime minister: Naftali Bennett;
- Singapore Currency: Singapore dollar;
- Capital of Singapore: Singapore;
- PM of Singapore: Lee Hsien Loong.
- NTPC Founded: 1975.
- NTPC Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- Headquarters of Boeing: Chicago, United States.
- Boeing Founded: 15 July 1916.
- Badminton World Federation Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;
- Badminton World Federation Founded: 5 July 1934.
- United Nations Population Fund Headquarters: New York, United States
- United Nations Population Fund Founded: 1969.
- Saudi Arabia Capital: Riyadh;
- Saudi Arabia Currency: Saudi riyal.
- Russia President: Vladimir Putin.
- Russia Capital: Moscow.
- Russia Currency: Russian Ruble.
- China Capital: Beijing;
- China Currency: Renminbi;
- China President: Xi Jinping.
- Peru Capital: Lima;
- Peru Currency: Sol.
- Haiti Capital: Port-au-Prince;
- Haiti Currency: Haitian gourde;
- Haiti Continent: North America.
- NABARD Founded: 12 July 1982;
- NABARD Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Establishment: 2003;
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;
- Bank Of Baroda Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat, India;
- IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Headquarters: Gurugram;
- IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Founded: 2000.
- Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States.
- (Oct 2018-);
- Goldman Sachs Headquarters: New York, New York, United States;
- Goldman Sachs Founded: 1869.
- LIC Headquarters: Mumbai;
- LIC Founded: 1 September 1956;
- Indian Olympic Association Founded: 1927.
- National Highways Authority of India Founded: 1988;
- National Highways Authority of India Headquarters: New Delhi.

- All India Football Federation Founded: 23 June 1937.
- All India Football Federation Headquarters: Dwarka, Delhi.
- World Wide Fund for Nature, Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland;
- UNEP HQ: Nairobi, Kenya.
- World Chess Federation Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland;
- World Chess Federation Founded: 20 July 1924, Paris, France;
- Indian Oil Corporation Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Indian Oil Corporation Founded: 30 June 1959.
- UNESCO headquarters: Paris, France.
- UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945.
- Central Board of Direct Taxes Established: 1924;
- Central Board of Direct Taxes Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Max Bupa Health Insurance Headquarters: New Delhi, India;
- Max Bupa Health Insurance Founded: 2008.
- Netherlands Capital: Amsterdam; Currency: Euro.
- ISA Headquarters: Gurugram;
- ISA Founded: 30 November 2015;
- ISA Founded: Paris, France;
- Stockholm is the capital of Sweden;
- The krona is the official currency of Sweden;
- The current PM of Sweden is Stefan Lofven.
- Prime minister of United Kingdom: Boris Johnson.
- Capital of the United Kingdom: London.
- Philippines President: Rodrigo Duterte.
- Philippines Capital: Manila.
- Philippines Currency: Philippine peso.
- Indonesia Capital: Jakarta;
- Indonesia Currency: Indonesian rupiah.
- President: Jair Bolsonaro;
- Capital: Brasilia;
- Currency: Brazilian real.
- Capital of Lebanon: Beirut.
- The currency of Lebanon: Lebanese pound.
- President of the Maldives: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih;
- Capital of Maldives: Male; Currency of the Maldives: Maldivian Rufiyaa.
- Central Reserve Police Force Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- Central Reserve Police Force Formed: 27 July 1939.
- Central Reserve Police Force Motto: Service and Loyalty.
- Maruti Suzuki Founded: 1982, Gurugram;
- Maruti Suzuki Headquarters: New Delhi.
- IBM Headquarters: Armonk, New York, United States.
- Intel Founded: 18 July 1968;
- Intel Headquarters: Santa Clara, California, United States;
- International Finance Corporation Founded: 20 July 1956;
- International Finance Corporation Headquarters: Washington, D.C., U.S.
- Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd Founded: 1 October 1938;
- Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd Headquarters: Srinagar.
- IMF Headquarters: Washington, D.C. U.S.
- HCL Technologies Founded: 11 August 1976.
- HCL Technologies Headquarters: Noida.
- Colliers Headquarters: Toronto, Canada;
- Colliers Founded: 1976, Australia.
- Tajikistan Capital: Dushanbe;
- Tajikistan Currency: Tajikistani somoni;
- Tajikistan President: Emomali Rahmon;
- Tajikistan Official language: Tajiki.
- Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States.
- NASA Founded: 1 October 1958.
- SpaceX Founded: 2002.
- SpaceX Headquarters: California, United States of America.
- Google Founded: 4 September 1998, California, United States.



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States and their Chief Ministers & Governors:

Sr. No.	State	Chief Minister	Governor
1	Andhra Pradesh	YS Jagan Mohan Reddy	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Pema Khandu	Brig. (Dr.) B. D. Mishra
3	Assam	Himanta Biswa Sarma	Prof. Jagdish Mukhi
4	Bihar	Nitish Kumar	Phagu Chauhan
5	Chhattisgarh	Bhupesh Baghel	Sushri Anusuiya Uikey
6	Goa	Pramod Sawant	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
7	Gujarat	Vijaybhai R. Rupani	Acharya Dev Vrat
8	Haryana	Manohar Lal Khattar	Bandaru Dattatraya
9	Himachal Pradesh	Jairam Thakur	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
10	Jharkhand	Hemant Soren	Ramesh Bais
11	Karnataka	Basavaraj S Bommai	Thaawarchand Gehlot
12	Kerala	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
13	Madhya Pradesh	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
14	Maharashtra	Uddhav Thackeray	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
15	Manipur	N. Biren Singh	Dr. Najma Heptulla
16	Meghalaya	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Satya Pal Malik
17	Mizoram	Pu Zoramthanga	Dr. Kambhampati Haribabu
18	Nagaland	Neiphiu Rio	R. N. Ravi
19	Odisha	Naveen Patnaik	Prof. Ganeshi Lal
20	Punjab	Capt. Amarinder Singh	V.P. Singh Badnore
21	Rajasthan	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
22	Sikkim	PS Golay	Ganga Prasad
23	Tamil Nadu	MK Stalin	Banwarilal Purohit
24	Telangana	K Chandrasekhar Rao	Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan
25	Tripura	Biplab Kumar Deb	Satyadeo Narain Arya
26	Uttar Pradesh	Yogi Aditya Nath	Smt. Anandiben Patel
27	Uttarakhand	Pushkar Singh Dhami	Baby Rani Maurya
28	West Bengal	Mamata Banerjee	Jagdeep Dhankhar

Union Territories and their Chief Ministers & Lt. Governors:

Sr. No.	Union Territory	Chief Minister	Lt. Governors & Administrators
1	Andaman and Nicobar Island		Admiral D K Joshi (Lieutenant Governor)
2	Chandigarh		Shri.V.P. Singh Badnore (Administrator)
3	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu		Shri Praful Patel (Administrator)
4	Delhi	Arvind Kejriwal	Shri Anil Bajjal (Lieutenant Governor)
5	Jammu and Kashmir		Shri Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor)
6	Lakshadweep		Shri Praful Patel (Administrator)
7	Puducherry	N. Rangaswamy	Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge) (Lieutenant Governor)
8	Ladakh		Shri Radha Krishna Mathur (Lieutenant Governor)

Union Ministers in News in month of July 2021

Sr No	Ministry	Union Minister
1	Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	Narayan Rane
2	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Minister of AYUSH	Sarbananda Sonowal
3	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment	Virendra Kumar
4	Minister of Civil Aviation	Jyotiraditya Scindia
5	Minister of Steel	Ramchandra Prasad Singh
6	Minister of Railways Minister of Communications and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology	Ashwini Vaishnaw
7	Minister of Food Processing Industries	Pashu Pati Kumar Paras
8	Minister of Law and Justice	Kiren Rijju
9	Minister of Power and Minister of New and Renewable Energy	Raj Kumar Singh
10	Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs	Hardeep Singh Puri
11	Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers	Mansukh Mandaviya
12	Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Minister of Labour and Employment	Bhupendra Yadav
13	Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying	Parshottam Rupala
14	Minister of Culture Minister of Tourism and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region	G Kishan Reddy
15	Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports	Anurag Singh Thakur

Heads of various organizations in News in month of July 2021


Sr No	Head of Organization	Name of Person
1	World Bank President	David Malpass
2	Paisabazaar Founders	Naveen Kukreja, Yashish Dahiya
3	SBI Chairperson	Dinesh Kumar Khara
4	ICICI Bank MD & CEO	Sandeep Bakhshi
5	MD and CEO of HDFC Bank	Sashidhar Jagdishan
6	Flipkart CEO	Kalyan Krishnamurthy
7	Chief Executive Officer of Twitter	Jack Dorsey
8	WhatsApp CEO	Will Cathcart
9	WhatsApp Founders	Jan Koum, Brian Acton
10	NITI Aayog Chairperson	Narendra Modi
11	Air Chief Marshal	Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria
12	Chief of Naval Staff	Admiral Karambir Singh
13	International Telecommunication Union Head Secretary-General	Houlin Zhao
14	Secretary of BCCI	Jay Shah
15	President of BCCI	Sourav Ganguly
16	Inter-Parliamentary Union President	Gabriela Cuevas Barron
17	Inter-Parliamentary Union Secretary-General	Martin Chungong
18	President of ICAI	CA Nihar N Jambusaria
19	International Sports Press Association of President	Gianni Merlo
20	KVIC Chairperson	Vinai Kumar Saxena
21	CEO of Phonepe	Sameer Nigam
22	Razorpay CEO	Harshil Mathur
23	Mastercard President	Michael Miebach
25	Axis Bank MD and CEO of Axis Bank	Amitabh Chaudhry
26	MD & CEO of Punjab and Sind Bank	S Krishnan
27	Indian Overseas Bank Founder	M Ct M Chidambaram Chettyar
28	Paytm Founder & CEO	Vijay Shekhar Sharma
29	Amazon CEO	Andrew R Jassy
30	IBM CEO	Arvind Krishna
31	Chairman DRDO	Dr G Satheesh Reddy
32	ISRO Chairman	K Sivan
33	Facebook CEO	Mark Zuckerberg
34	Max Bupa Health Insurance CEO	Krishnan Ramachandran

Sr No	Head of Organization	Name of Person
35	ICC Deputy Chairman	Imran Khwaja
36	ICC Chairman	Greg Barclay
37	Federal Bank Founder	K P Hormis
38	NTPC Chairman and Managing Director	Shri Gurdeep Singh
39	President and Chief Executive Officer of Boeing	David L Calhoun
40	Badminton World Federation President	Poul-Erik Høyer Larsen
41	United Nations Population Fund Executive Director	Natalia Kanem
42	Chairman of NABARD	G R Chintala
43	Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO	Uday Kotak
44	Bank Of Baroda Chairman	Hasmukh Adhia
45	Bank Of Baroda MD & CEO	Sanjiv Chadha
46	U GRO Capital's Managing Director	Shachindra Nath
47	IFFCO Tokio General Insurance CEO	Anamika Roy Rashtrawar
48	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited CEO	Mukesh Kumar Surana
49	Microsoft CEO and Chairman	Satya Nadella
50	Goldman Sachs CEO	David M Solomon
51	LIC Chairman	M R Kumar
52	Indian Olympic Association President	Narayana Ramachandran
53	All India Football Federation President	Praful Patel
54	World Chess Federation CEO	Geoffrey D Borg
55	Indian Oil Corporation Chairperson	Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
56	UNESCO Head	Audrey Azoulay
57	Google CEO	Sundar Pichai
58	Central Board of Direct Taxes chairman	Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra
59	Max Bupa Health Insurance CEO	Krishnan Ramachandran
60	ISA Director-General	Ajay Mathur
61	CRPF director general	Kuldiep Singh
62	Maruti Suzuki CEO	Kenichi Ayukawa
63	IBM CEO	Arvind Krishna
64	Intel Chief Executive Officer	Pat Gelsinger
65	Intel Founders	Gordon Moore and Robert Noyce
66	International Finance Corporation Executive Vice President & CEO	Makhtar Diop
67	Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd CEO	R K Chhibber

Sr No	Head of Organization	Name of Person
68	IMF Managing Director and Chairman	Kristalina Georgieva
69	IMF Chief Economist	Gita Gopinath
70	HCL Technologies CEO	C Vijayakumar
71	The Asia Pacific CEO of Colliers	John Kenny
72	Colliers CEO	Jay S Hennick
73	NASA administrator	Bill Nelson
74	SpaceX founder & CEO	Elon Musk
75	CEO of Intrinsic	Wendy Tan White
76	Google Founders	Larry Page, Sergey Brin
77	Alphabet CEO	Sundar Pichai



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