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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Maldives' Abdulla Shahid won the Presidency of the 76th UNGA, Maldives will hold the office of President at the UNGA

- FM 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. Abdulla Shahid's victory at the UNGA Presidential election is a "proud accomplishment" and "a step forward in elevating the country's stature on the global stage".
- Maldives' decision to join the UN in 1965, immediately after its independence, sparked a debate on how a "microstate", could possibly contribute to the organisation. Over the years, Maldives has cleared all the doubts by raising its voice on issues of concern and playing a prominent role in the UN as well as in the other multilateral organisations including the Commonwealth.

### Vaidehi Dongre crowned Miss India USA 2021

- 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.
- Former Miss World Diana Hayden was the chief guest and chief judge for the pageant. There were 61 contestants from 30 states participating in three different pageants – Miss India USA, Mrs India USA and Miss Teen India USA. The winners of all three categories get complimentary tickets to travel to Mumbai, India to take part in worldwide pageants.

### Brazil's site received UNESCO World Heritage status

- 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.
- The site has been named after Burle Marx, a Brazilian landscape architect whose designs of parks and gardens made him world-famous. The Sitio Burle Marx site was his home until 1985.

### Uzbekistan Will be host the 'Central-South Asia conference 2021

- 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. Delegates from over 40 countries and about 30 international organizations, and heads of think tanks participated in the conference.

- Ashraf Ghani underlined the historical proximity of two regions and the importance of strengthening it on the basis of mutual trust and interests.
- President Mirziyoyev said the world has entered an era of global geopolitical transformations and that the 'revival of mutual ties between Central and South Asia, where about two billion people live today, is becoming an ever more demanding and objective process'.

### UK reported new cases of 'Norovirus' infection

- 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. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), norovirus is very contagious that causes diarrhoea and vomiting. People suffering from norovirus disease can shed billions of virus particles. And to make people sick only a few of them is required.
- Person can contract this virus by coming in direct contact with an infected person. This virus can also be contracted by consuming contaminated water and food and also touching contaminated surfaces with one's hands and then putting them in the mouth unwashed.

### Sweden joined International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- 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. Sweden hopes to bring its expertise and its experience in renewable energy and clean energy technologies to discussions in the ISA to contribute to meeting the challenges related to climate change.
- In April 2018, Prime Minister Modi visited Stockholm during which both sides agreed to further deepen innovation partnership for a sustainable future. The ISA has been conceived as an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform to increase the availability of solar energy technologies to enhance energy security and sustainable development.

### World's first 3D-printed steel bridge opened in Netherlands

- 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. After four years of development, the bridge was unveiled by Her Majesty Queen Máxima of the Netherlands. It was installed over one of the oldest canals in Amsterdam's city centre – the Oudezijds Achterburgwal.
- 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 smart sensor network was designed and installed by a team from The Alan Turing Institute.
- The sensors attached to the structure will gather data on air quality, temperature, strain,



displacement and vibration.

### UN's cultural agency UNESCO removes Liverpool from world heritage list

- 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.
- Those against delisting Liverpool included Australia, whose own listing for the Great Barrier Reef is threatened in this year's UNESCO deliberations. Others opposing included Brazil, Hungary and Nigeria, arguing any step should be deferred a year to give the UK and Liverpool authorities more time.

### G20 Environment Ministers' Meeting 2021 hosted by Italy

- 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 C-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.

### Ariel Henry is the new Prime Minister of Haiti

- 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. Henry was installed as head of a new government in an attempt to stabilize a country on the brink of chaos since the murder of president Jovenel Moise at his residence in the early hours of July 7.
- The swearing-in of Henry, who was named to the post by Moise days before his death, was seen as a key step towards holding elections as demanded by many Haitians.

### Pedro Castillo declared is the New President of Peru

- 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. Electoral authorities released the final official results more than a month after the runoff election took place in the South American nation.
- The economy of Peru, the world's second-largest copper producer, has been crushed by the

coronavirus pandemic, increasing the poverty level to almost one-third of the population and eliminating the gains of a decade.

### Microsoft deal to acquire RiskIQ

- 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. While Microsoft hasn't valued the deal, Bloomberg reported that the company is said to be paying more than \$500 million for RiskIQ.
- RiskIQ uses machine learning applications to analyze threats. The cloud-based RiskIQ software detects security issues across networks and devices, and the company lists Box, the US Postal Service, BMW, Facebook, and American Express as customers. RiskIQ was originally founded in 2009 and has gradually become an important player in analyzing security threats.

### Syria's President Assad sworn in for fourth term with 95% of vote

- President Bashar al-Assad took the oath of office for a fourth term in war-ravaged Syria on Saturday, after officially winning 95% of the vote in an election dismissed abroad.
- It was the second presidential poll since the start of a decade-long civil war that has killed almost half a million people and battered the country's infrastructure.
- Shortly before the ceremony, rockets fired by pro-government forces killed six people including three children and a rescue worker in the country's last major rebel bastion of Idlib, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

### US, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan to form new quad grouping

- 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.
- Afghanistan's strategic location has for a long time been touted as a competitive advantage for the country. Afghanistan is bordered by Pakistan to the east and south, Iran to the west, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan to the north, and China to the northeast.
- The formation of the new quad group is important amid China's desire to extend its Belt Road Initiative (BRI) to Afghanistan. The BRI, a multi-billion-dollar initiative launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping when he came to power in 2013, aims to link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea routes. By virtue of its location, Afghanistan can provide China with a strategic base to spread its influence across the world.

### Singapore unveiled one of the world's biggest floating solar panel farms

- 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. Located on a reservoir in western Singapore, the 60 megawatt-peak solar photovoltaic farm has been built by a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sembcorp Industries. Spanning an area equivalent to 45 football fields and producing enough electricity to power the island's five water treatment plants.

- The electricity generated from the one lakh 22 thousand solar panels on the 45-hectare site should make Singapore one of the few countries in the world to have a water treatment system fully powered by sustainable energy. The solar farm could help to reduce carbon emissions by about 32 kilotonnes annually, comparable to taking 7,000 cars off the roads.

### China started construction of world's first commercial small modular reactor

- 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 multi-purpose, 125 MWe SMR is a pressurised water reactor designed for electricity generation, urban heating, urban cooling, industrial steam production, or seawater desalination.
- CNNC began the development of the Linglong One in 2010, and it was the first SMR project to pass an independent safety assessment by International Atomic Energy Agency experts in 2016.

### FM N. Sitharaman launched BHIM-UPI services in Bhutan

- 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. This will enhance the ease of living and travelling through cashless transactions.
- The services have started in Bhutan under India's "Neighbourhood First" policy. She described BHIM UPI as one of the brightest in facilitating digital transactions in India during the pandemic.

### Sher Bahadur becomes Nepal's Prime Minister for 5th time

- 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.
- Previously, Deuba served as Nepal's Prime Minister four times from June 2017 to February 2018, June 2004 to February 2005, July 2001 to October 2002 and September 1995 to March 1997.

### Abiy Ahmed wins Ethiopian election

- 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.
- The National Election Board of Ethiopia said the ruling party won 410 seats out of 436 contested in the federal parliament. Abiy Ahmed came to power in April 2018 after the former prime minister resigned.



### Jovenel Moise President of Haiti assassinated at his home

- 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. The president faced steep opposition from swathes of the population that deemed his mandate illegitimate, and he churned through a series of seven prime ministers in four years. Most recently, Joseph was supposed to be replaced this week after only three months in the post.
- Moise, a former entrepreneur who set up a string of businesses in the north of the country, where he hails from, burst onto the political stage in 2017 with a message of re-building the impoverished nation. He campaigned on populist pledges, as all candidates in Haiti do, but he kept up the rhetoric even after he was elected in February 2017.

### New Guinness World Record: tallest sandcastle constructed in Denmark

- 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 Blokhuis 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.
- The structure is built in the shape of a triangle to avoid collapsing like many others have. A wooden structure was built around it to allow the artist to carve the incredible figures in the sand. This highly decorated monument in the small seaside village of Blokhuis, which is reminiscent of a pyramid, is made up of 4,860 tonnes of sand. To ensure the sand sticks on, it was mixed with around 10% clay.

### Jim Whitehurst resigns as IBM president

- 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.
- The 53-year-old's exit led to shares of the technological giant falling 4.8 per cent to \$139.83, the most in five months. Whitehurst was appointed as IBM's president last year. This was the first time in decades that the corporation split up the designation of a chief executive officer (CEO) and president.

### Sirisha Bandla the Indian-American woman set to fly into space

- 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 Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams.
- Bandla, the vice-president of government affairs at Virgin Galactic in Washington DC, will travel alongside his boss and the group's founder, billionaire Richard Branson and four others in the company's spaceflight.
- Bandla will take care of the researcher experience of the Unity22 mission. The 34-year-old hails

from Guntur, Andhra Pradesh in India.

### ISRO gives nod to parliamentary panel to implement satellite TV classrooms

- 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 C-19-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.
- Vinay Sahastrabuddhe-led parliamentary panel had earlier sought help from ISRO scientists to provide technical assistants to start satellite TV classrooms for students who reported a learning gap in the school syllabus due to the C-19 pandemic. The Committee explored satellite TV classrooms that will broadcast school-based educational programs and students can take advantage of it in cluster classrooms and the issue of smartphone and data connectivity can be resolved, especially in the rural areas.

### Indian Army chief to inaugurate war memorial for Indian soldiers in Italy

- 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.
- Nearly 50,000 Indians were enlisted for Italy's liberation between September 1943 and April 1945. Both the UK and Italy are important partners for India in the fields of defence, healthcare, aerospace, education, clean technology, renewable energy and information and communication technology among others.

### World Bank announced additional funding of \$8 billion for C-19 vaccines, total \$20 billion

- The World Bank has announced additional funding of \$8 billion for C-19 vaccines, for developing countries. With this, the total financing available for the C-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.
- World Bank Group President David Malpass has also called on countries with surplus doses to release it for use by developing countries and requested vaccine manufacturers to prioritise the available doses for such developing countries that urgently need them. Further, the Bank also provided over \$4 billion for the purchase and deployment of C-19 vaccines for 51 developing countries, half of which are in Africa.

### China's Baihetan Dam is world's 2nd-biggest hydropower dam

- The Government of China officially turned on the first two generating units of the Baihetan Dam,



the world's second-biggest hydroelectric dam, to start generating energy. The Baihetan Dam is set up on the Jinsha River, in southwestern China.

- The dam is a 289-meter-tall (954-foot-tall) double-curvature arch dam, having 16 generating units.
- Each unit will have to generate a capacity of 1 million kilowatts, making it the second biggest in size after the "Three Gorges Dam" opened in 2003 on the Yangtze, with 22.5 million kilowatts of generating capacity.
- Through the Baihetan Dam, the Chinese government aims to curb surging fossil fuel demand by building more hydropower capacity.
- Both the dams have been built by the state-owned Three Gorges Group Corp., the world's biggest investor in hydro, solar and wind generation.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### 36th edition of CORPAT between India and Indonesia is being held on 30 and 31 July 2021

- 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).
- Besides this, Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both nations are also participating. The exercise is being conducted as a 'non-contact, at sea only' exercise in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. India and Indonesia have been conducting the Coordinated Patrols along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) since 2002 twice a year.
- The basic aim of CORPAT is to keep the Indian Ocean Region safe and secure for commercial shipping, international trade and conduct of legitimate maritime activities. CORPATs help build understanding and interoperability between navies and facilitate the institution of measures to prevent and suppress Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy.

### 14 Tiger Reserves of India get (CA|TS) Recognition on the occasion of International Tiger Day

- 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.

### Intel launched 'AI For All' initiative in collaboration with Central Board of Secondary Education

- 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.  
Based on Intel's AI For Citizens program, AI For All is a 4-hour, self-paced learning program that demystifies AI in an inclusive manner. It is as applicable to a student, a stay at home parent as it is to a professional in any field or even a senior citizen. The program aims to introduce AI to 1 million

citizens in its first year. Partnerships and Initiatives at Intel.

### Indian chillies, Bhoot Jolokia from Nagaland exported to London

- 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.

### Kerala police launched 'Pink Protection' project

- 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 Janamaithri Beat.
- They will collect information from panchayat members, neighbours and other locals and hand it over to the Station House Officers for further action.
- The Pink Beat system, in which specially trained women police officers have been deployed, will be present at Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and private buses and in front of schools, colleges and other public places including bus stops.
- Pink control rooms have been set up in all 14 districts to coordinate the activities.

### Test Kit "COVIHOME" developed by IIT Hyderabad

- India's first Rapid electronic C-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 C-19 trace at the comfort of home.
- This test kit can produce results within 30 minutes for both symptomatic and asymptomatic patients.
- The major benefit of this testing kit is that it does not require RT-PCR (Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction), an expert human resource, and a BSL 2 lab facility for the extraction of RNA, so it has the potential for one to take the test at home without expert supervision.

### Government announced 27% reservation for OBCs

- 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.

This will immensely help thousands of our youth every year get better opportunities and create a new paradigm of social justice in our country. A statement by the government said that the decision

would benefit nearly 1500 OBC students in MBBS and 2500 OBC students in PG while it will also impact around 550 EWS students in MBBS and around 1000 EWS students in PG medicine.

### Government will set up center for animation, visual effects, gaming

- 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. Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur said this in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha.
- In order to support skilled manpower in the animation and VFX sector, Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute and Film and Television Institute of India run courses on Animation and VFX. The Minister also informed that India has also audio-visual co-production treaties with 15 countries.

### Madhya Pradesh government made 'Devaranya' scheme

- 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 Devarnya Yojana. Self-help groups will also play an important role in this work.
- In this, Agriculture Producer Organization, AYUSH Department, Forest Department, Rural Development Department, Horticulture Department, Tourism Department, Agriculture Department, Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Department, Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion Department and Tribal Affairs Department will work together in mission mode. For this, medicinal plants should be cultivated in the beautiful plains of the villages. AYUSH and tourism will be brought together.

### Puri becomes India's first city to provide quality drinking tap water on 24 hour basis

- 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 project would benefit 2.5 lakh citizens of Puri and 2 crore tourists who visit the tourist place every year. They need not have to move around with water bottles. Puri would no more be burdened with 400 metric tonnes of plastic waste. Water fountains have been developed at 400 locations in Puri.

### Indore selected for International Clean Air Catalyst Programme

- 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. Under the project, USAID and partners will work with local communities to better understand local pollution sources and identify, test,



accelerate, and scale solutions for cleaner, healthier air.

Clean Air Catalyst is a new flagship programme launched by The US Agency for International Development (USAID) and a global consortium of organisations, led by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) to combat air pollution in low and middle-income countries by accelerating clean air solutions.

### **Chief minister of Assam H.B. Sarma lays the foundation stone of bamboo industrial park**

- 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 project, once completed, would usher in a new era in the economy of the region and create vast employment opportunities for the local youth.
- Bamboo produced in Dima Hasao were earlier mostly exported to paper mills, however, with the completion of the park new avenues would open to use bamboo for the production of tiles, incense stick, ceiling etc., which would bring more economic benefit to the people.

### **Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme**

- 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). He also planted tree saplings in Sohra as part of the Sohra Afforestation Project of the Assam Rifles.
- This is a first of its kind initiative of the Government of Meghalaya to bring together the Ministry of Home Affairs, Defence officials, and village communities for a novel and humanitarian purpose in the field of Natural Resource Management in a very important and ecologically fragile landscape.

### **Indian Naval Ship Talwar participated in Exercise Cutlass Express 2021**

- 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 exercise focuses on East Africa's coastal regions and is designed to assess and improve combined maritime law enforcement capacity, promote national and regional security and increase interoperability between the regional navies.
- As part of the exercise, the Indian Navy, together with other partners, shall undertake the training of contingents from various participating countries in various fields across the spectrum of maritime security operations.

### **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.

#### WTO: India Entered Top 10 Agricultural Produce Exporters in 2019

- 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%).

#### Home Minister Amit Shah launched Various schemes in Assam

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of Tamulpur Medical College and Hospital and distributed cheque of 1 lakh rupees each to the next of the kin of 100 selected C-19 victims under the State Government's 'Prarthana Achoni' at Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra.
- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, State Health Minister Keshab Mahanta and Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) Chief Promod Boro were present on this occasion.
- Speaking at the event of Assam Government's Healthcare and Welfare Schemes launch, Mr Shah said that Central Government is committed to fulfil all the promises made at Bodo Accord within a very short period.

#### Rudreswara Temple of Telangana inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage List

- 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.
- The Rudreswara temple was constructed in 1213 AD during the reign of the Kakatiya Empire.
- The iconic 13th-century temple is also known as Ramappa temple, named after its architect, Ramappa
- The Rudreswara temple was the only nomination for the UNESCO World Heritage site tag for the year 2019 by the Indian government.

#### IIT-Kanpur launched technology innovation hub

- 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. The presence of cutting-edge technology in cybersecurity is accompanied by an increasing need to protect digital assets and deploy solutions for the common public as well as government and industry.

- IIT Kanpur's C3i hub will focus on safeguarding cyberspace including critical infrastructure." The government is promoting Make-in India cybersecurity solutions to counter rising threats from neighbouring countries, particularly China.

### Two cities of Madhya Pradesh, Orchha and Gwalior selected by UNESCO

- 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. UNESCO's Historic Urban Landscape project for the cities of Orchha and Gwalior was launched through video conferencing by the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- Six cities of South Asia, including the Indian cities of Varanasi and Ajmer, are already involved in this project. Gwalior and Orchha have been included as the 7th and 8th cities of South Asia.

### Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged in the Indian Army's skiing expedition

- 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 ARMEX-21 was conducted in the mountain ranges of the Himalayan region to promote the adventure activity in the country and the Indian Army," it stated. During the expedition, the team travelled through several passes at a height of 5,000-6,500 meters and through glaciers, valleys and rivers.

### Delhi Cabinet Nod For Ex Gratia Of Rs 1 Cr

- The Delhi Cabinet on Friday approved a proposal to pay Rs 1 crore compensation each to the families of six IAF, Delhi Police and civil defence personnel who died in the line of duty.
- The Delhi government said it stands with the families of all paramilitary, army, police and civil defence personnel residing in the city.
- "The Kejriwal government will give a 'Samman Rashi' of Rs 1 crore each to the families of six bravehearts of Delhi who lost their lives in the line of duty. The decision was taken in the meeting of the Delhi Cabinet regarding the grant of the ex gratia to the families.

### India has scored 90.32 per cent in the 2021 UN Global Survey

- 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.
- Transparency: 100% in 2021 (93.33% in 2019),
- Formalities: 95.83% in 2021 (87.5% in 2019),
- The survey is conducted by the United Nation's Economic and Social Commission for the Asia Pacific (UNESCAP) every two years since 2015 to help countries benchmark and reduce the time and cost



of trading across borders, as well as helps businesses in their investment decisions.

### Para Shooter of Madhya Pradesh's Rubina Francis wind gold in 10-metre air pistol para-event

- 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.
- Over the years, she has earned more than 15 medals from national and international events. Presently, Rubina is training under the guidance of Jaspal Rana, former shooter and coach of the Junior Indian Pistol Shooting Team.

### K Chandrasekhar Chief Minister of Telangana will Launch 'Telangana Dalit Bandhu' from Huzurabad assembly

- 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.
- Poll-bound Huzurabad constituency has five mandals and the total number of Dalit families in this constituency stands at 20,929. All these families will be scrutinised before the final beneficiary list is made. All those found eligible will be extended the benefits of the scheme. Huzurabad constituency has only a total of around 2 lakh voters. Out of the total, CM KCR's scheme will benefit nearly 21,000 families, which accounts for around 60,000 to 80,000 people, if this scheme is implemented soon.

### Maldives Foreign Affairs Minister Abdulla Shahid arrives in India

- Maldives Foreign Affairs Minister and President-Elect of 76th General Assembly of United Nations, Abdulla Shahid has arrived in New Delhi today. During his visit, he will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and hold talks with the External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar on key international, multilateral, regional and bilateral issues of mutual interest.
- The two Ministers are also expected to review the entire gamut of bilateral cooperation between the two sides. The discussions are expected to give further momentum to the rapidly expanding ties between the two countries. During the visit, an Agreement for High Impact Community Development Projects to be implemented with Indian grant assistance in the Maldives will also be signed.

### Haryana government will introduce 'One Block, One Product' scheme

- 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.

- Arrangements for common services, lab testing, packaging, transportation, accountancy will be set up in the cluster itself. Haryana's 'One District, One Product' Scheme which is being implemented under MSME, has come up as a model across the country.

### West Bengal government to set up 15,000 telemedicine centres

- The West Bengal government is planning to set up at least 15,000 telemedicine centres in the next two years.
- The government has experience in running such units with around 120 doctors serving during the C-19 pandemic, state health secretary Narayan Swaroop Nigam said.
- Speaking at a virtual conference organised by Indian Chamber of Commerce, Nigam said the authorities are developing an integrated health management system to provide an end-to-end service to the government and private healthcare facilities.

### High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh renamed as 'High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh'

- 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.
- President Ram Nath Kovind has signed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2021 to effect the change, in the exercise of the powers conferred Section 103 (1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.
- The Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh as well as the then Chief Justice of the Common High Court for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have conveyed that they have no objection to the proposed change in the name of the High Court.

### Centre to set up cultural centre in Haryana

- The Haryana government has got in-principle approval to set up a cultural centre in Kurukshetra from the central government, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said on Saturday. Further, the Centre and the Haryana government will work together to expand and develop 'International Surajkund Craft Mela' into a grand affair.
- Khattar held talks with Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy in New Delhi during the day. In-principle approval to set up a 'North Zone Cultural Centre' in Kurukshetra has been given by the central government, the chief minister said. Currently, there is a 'North Zone Cultural Centre' in Patiala.
- A detailed project description of a museum to be established at Jyotisar in Kurukshetra has been submitted by the Haryana government.

### Chhattisgarh Terminates 158 MoUs, Citing No Progress In Execution

- The Chhattisgarh government has cancelled 158 memoranda of understanding (MoUs), signed between different departments and companies between 2001 and 2018, after no progress was made in their execution.
- The 158 MoUs, 103 were signed during the Global Investors' Meet in 2012 during the tenure of the Raman Singh-led BJP government in the state.
- The decision in this regard was taken during the 15th meeting of the State Investment Promotion Board chaired by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.

### India, Sri Lanka and Maldives hold virtual trilateral exercise TTX-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.
- TTX-2021 exemplifies the deep trilateral engagement between India-Maldives-Sri Lanka which has strengthened immensely in the maritime domain over the past years.
- Interaction between the three neighbouring countries in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) has also grown significantly in recent years, in consonance with India's policy of 'Neighbourhood First' and vision of 'Security and Growth for all in the Region (SAGAR)'.

### Andhra Pradesh government announced 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections

- 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 10% reservation in employment will benefit Kapus who are neither benefited under BC quota nor under EWS quota and other Open Competition (OC) sections who are deprived of the benefits of reservation thus far due to non-implementation of the EWS quota.
- Persons who are not covered under the existing scheme of reservations for SCs, STs and Socially and Educationally Backward Classes and whose gross annual family income is below Rs 8 lakh are to be identified as EWS for the benefit of reservation.
- The income includes income from all sources i.e. salary, agriculture, business, profession etc. for the financial year prior to the year of application.

### Digital Platform "Kisan Sarathi" launched by Narendra Singh Tomar,

- 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 ICAR Scientists to take-up research on new technological interventions in the area of transportation of farmer's crop from their farm gate to warehouses, markets and the places where



they want to sell with minimum damage. Union IT Minister assured that Ministry of Electronics and IT and Ministry of Communications will always be ready to provide all necessary support to Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying for Empowerment of Farmers. He also mentioned that the Ministry of Railways is making a plan to minimise the time taken for the transportation of crops.

### Kerala government's campaign 'Mathrukavacham' for pregnant women

- The Kerala government's campaign 'Mathrukavacham' to vaccinate all the pregnant women in the state against C-19 infection was inaugurated at the district level recently. Spot registrations for vaccination of pregnant women would be carried out at various government hospitals. Pregnant women can receive the C-19 vaccine at any time during their pregnancy. The special vaccination drive comes as a strong defence to protect pregnant women.
- Vaccination will be made available in all district hospitals as part of the model program. In the beginning, the C-19 vaccine will be given to 100 pregnant women through spot registration.
- The State Health Ministry assured that in the coming days, C-19 vaccination for more pregnant women will be made accessible in all hospitals, depending on the availability of the vaccine.

### Maharashtra government launched new Electric Vehicle Policy 2021

- 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. It is introduced with an aim to make Maharashtra the "topmost producer of battery-powered electric vehicles in India."
- The policy also aims for electric vehicles (EVs) to make up 10 per cent of all new vehicle registrations, by 2025. For this ambitious mission, the state government has rolled out an Rs. 930 crore policy, valid up to 31st March 2025. To make this successful, EVs will be exempted from road tax and registration charges.

### Harela, The Folk Festival Of Uttarakhand

- The Harela festival in the mountain state of Uttarakhand is all about thanksgiving for Nature's beauty, generosity and bounty. It is a time when Nature is allowed to do her job and people pause from their hectic lives to enjoy her biodiversity.
- A couple of decades ago, when 45-year-old J P Maithani was a young boy living in Pipalkoti village of Chamoli in Garhwal division of Uttarakhand, gorging on a delicious meal of puri, pakodi and halwa was how the morning of Harela festival started.

### India's first pod taxi to operate between Noida Airport and Film City

- 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). This is a 14 km stretch. This will be India's first pod taxi service.

- Pod taxis can accommodate four to six passengers per car. This important project will provide smooth connectivity to residential and industrial areas falling between film city and the Noida International Airport. As per the DPR, the corridor will pass through various sectors such as 21, 28, 29, 30 and 32, among others, falling under the Yeida region.

### Telangana's famous festival 'Bonalu' begins

- '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 Bonalu festival was declared a 'state festival' by the K Chandrasekhara Rao-led government after the state's formation back in 2014.
- The Bonalu festival involves scores of devotees offering the traditional 'bonam' (derived from Bhojanam, meaning meals) to the goddess Mahankali at 25 temples across the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

### Manduadih railway station renamed as Banaras railway station

- 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.
- The process to change the station's name started in 2019 when the former railway minister and the present governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Singh, put forth the request. In the same year, the Uttar Pradesh government accepted the proposal and forwarded it to the ministry of home affairs.

### Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched AI-based grievance analysis app "CPGRAMS"

- 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.
- This is the first AI-based system developed to improve grievance redressal in the Government.
- The AI tool developed as part of the initiative has the capability to understand the content of the complaint based on the contents therein.

### Adani Group takes over Mumbai airport management from the GVK group

- 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. Mumbai International Airport will be operated by Adani Airport Holdings which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Enterprises. With the takeover, Adani group's airports now account for a fourth of total footfalls at airports across India, and a third of

total air cargo handled.

- Thus, the company now operate six airports. Three airports in Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Mangaluru are being operated by the Adani group already while the takeover of three airports in Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram and Jaipur is to be complete.

### Cabinet approved continuation of NAM scheme implemented from April 01, 2021

- 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.
- The NAM Mission was first launched on 15 September 2014. The National AYUSH Mission is being implemented by the Ministry of AYUSH.
- The objective of the mission is to provide cost-effective AYUSH Services by focusing on core competency areas of AYUSH like Ayurveda, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa, Unani and also Homeopathy (ASU&H) which are a treasure house of knowledge for preventive, promotive and curative healthcare.

### PM Modi inaugurated 'Rudraksh' convention centre in Uttar Pradesh

- 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. The international cooperation and convention centre has been named "Rudraksh" and has as many as 108 Rudraksha at the centre. Its roof is shaped like a 'Shiva Linga'.
- The objective is to provide opportunities for social and cultural interactions between people at the international convention centre. The convention centre has been built with the assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency. An environment-friendly building, the centre is equipped with adequate security and safety systems. It features a regular entrance, a service entrance and a separate VIP entrance, making it an ideal destination for holding all types of international events.

### Karnataka CM BS Yediyurappa unveiled bike taxi scheme for state

- 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.
- The authority concerned will issue licences under this scheme. Vehicles registered under this scheme will be in the transport category for which the government has given several exemptions like permits, tax and financial benefits for electric vehicles manufacturers.
- The Karnataka Electric Bike Taxi Scheme-2021 will boost self-employment, promote an eco-friendly environment, fuel conservation, strengthen public transport and encourage establishing related industries.



### India's first 'Grain ATM' open in Haryana

- 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'.
- This automatic machine is equipped with the biometric system with a touch screen, where the beneficiary will have to enter the Aadhaar or ration card unique number.
- On biometric authentication, the foodgrain prescribed by the government to the beneficiaries will be automatically filled in the bags installed under the machine.
- Three types of grains — wheat, rice and millet — can be distributed through this machine. At present, the distribution of wheat has been started from the 'Grain ATM' machine installed at Farrukhnagar.

### External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar unveiled statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Georgia

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has unveiled a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Georgia at a prominent Tbilisi park. During his two-day visit to Georgia, a strategically important country situated at the intersection of Eastern Europe and Western Asia, Jaishankar held talks with the country's top leadership & also handed over the relics of 17th century St. Queen Keteva.
- St. Queen Ketevan was a 17th century Georgian Queen who attained martyrdom. Her relics were found in 2005 at the St. Augustine Convent in Old Goa, India, on the basis of medieval Portuguese records.

### Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated centre of excellence at National Forensic Science University Gandhinagar

- 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.
- This centre will help in research and analysis of drugs and narcotics seized in the different parts of the country and its routes. Home Minister Amit Shah also inaugurated the virtual training model on Investigation of Crime against women for Indian Police.

### India's first national dolphin research centre will come upon in Patna University

- 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. The Gangetic dolphin is India's national aquatic animal but frequently falls prey to illegal poaching. The presence of dolphins in the Ganga gives a sign of a healthy ecosystem because dolphins live at least in 5 ft to 8 ft deep water.
- The Gangetic dolphin has been declared an endangered aquatic animal and is one of the four

freshwater dolphins species in the world as another three species are said to be found in the Yangtze River, the Indus River in Pakistan and the Amazon River globally.

### 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).
- Number of hungry people in 2020 in the World: between 720 and 811 million
- Asia: 418 million (More than half of world hunger population)

### Indian Navy received 10<sup>th</sup> Anti-Submarine Warfare Aircraft ‘P-8I’

- 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.
- P-8I is a long-range maritime reconnaissance and Anti-Submarine Warfare Aircraft, and a variant of the P-8A Poseidon used by the US Navy.
- India was the first international customer of Boeing for this aircraft.
- The Indian Navy inducted the first P-8I aircraft in 2013, while the ninth P-8I aircraft was received in November 2020.

### Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attends 3rd G20 finance ministers meeting

- 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 C-19 pandemic, international taxation, sustainable finance and financial sector issues.
- The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors reaffirmed their resolve to use all available policy tools for as long as required to address the adverse consequences of C-19. Smt. Sitharaman appreciated the Italian G20 Presidency for identifying three catalysts of resilient economic recovery from the pandemic as being Digitalization, Climate Action and Sustainable Infrastructure and shared the Indian experience of integrating technology with inclusive service delivery during the pandemic.

### Board of Control for Cricket in India forms 7-member working group for domestic cricket

- 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 C-19.

### **Uttar Pradesh government released new population policy:**

- On World Population Day, Uttar Pradesh government announced a new population policy for 2021-2030 on Sunday. The new policy has provisions to give incentives to those who help in population control.
- The population policy was unveiled ahead of the elections in the state next year. The issue has emerged as one of the main focus areas in the state ahead of assembly polls.
- The opposition has slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in the state, saying it wants to "murder the democracy" in Uttar Pradesh.
- A draft bill on population control has already been uploaded on UP government's website, and suggestions invited till July 19. If enacted, the provisions of the proposed legislation titled The Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilization and Welfare) Bill, 2021 will come into force after one year from the date of publication in the gazette.

### **Nitin Gadkari inaugurated India's first private LNG Facility plant at Nagpur**

- 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. The plant has been set up on Kamptee Road near Nagpur Jabalpur Highway, by Baidyanath Ayurvedic Group, the makers of Ayurvedic medicines.
- Once operational, this LNG filling station in Nagpur will be the first such facility to operate on a commercial basis. LNG is a clean, pollution-free and cost-effective liquid fuel, which is also easy to store and reduces logistics costs.

### **India's first Cryptogamic Garden Inaugurated in Uttarakhand**

- 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.
- Cryptogamae means "hidden reproduction" referring to the fact that no seed, no flowers are produced. Thus, cryptogams represent the non-seed bearing plants. Algae, bryophytes (moss, liverworts), lichens, ferns and fungi are the best-known groups of cryptogams that require moist conditions to survive.

### **Manipur enters India's railway map as first passenger train reaches the state**

- 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.
- The train halted briefly at Manipur's Jiribam railway station, where railway officials were greeted by local citizens before the national flag was hoisted accompanied by the national anthem. Notably, the Vaingaichunpao-Imphal (capital of Manipur) railway line is also under construction. Once completed, it will be the longest railway tunnel near Imphal.



### Karnataka will be develop 46 Kempegowda heritage sites in Bengaluru

- 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.
- According to the Authority, these sites are developed to help people acknowledge the contribution of Kempegowda or Nada Prabhu Kempegowda, the founding father of Bengaluru.

### National Film Archive of India adds Aamir Khan's 'PK' to its collection

- 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.

### BDL signs Rs 499-crore deal with the Ministry of Defence

- 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. CMD, BDL Commodore Siddharth Mishra (Retd) stated that BDL is supplying Akash Missiles to the Indian Army and Indian Air Force. With the announcement from the Union Cabinet regarding clearance of Akash Weapon System for Export, the Company is exploring offering Akash for export to foreign countries.
- BDL has already received export leads from some countries expressing interest in procuring the Missile. The Company has a well-established infrastructure and expertise to execute these orders and meet the customer delivery schedule.

### Kerala government planned to have its own OTT platform

- 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.
- OTT players like Netflix and Amazon have been showing more interest in Malayalam cinema. But they are mostly limited to films from which they can get revenue.
- In the last one year, less than 15 Malayalam films, featuring big stars, have been taken up these platforms.

### INS Tabar conducts military exercise with Italian Navy

- 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.

- This exercise covered several naval operations such as air defence procedures, communication drills, replenishment at sea, and cross deck helo operations by day and night. The exercise was mutually beneficial for enhancing interoperability and consolidating combined operations against maritime threats.

### Government of India sets up 25-member development council for cement industry

- 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.

### Ministry of Defence implemented SPARSH System

- 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. A Pensioner Portal is available for pensioners to view their pension-related information, access services and register complaints for redressal of grievances, if any, relating to their pension matters.
- SPARSH envisages the establishment of Service Centres to provide last-mile connectivity to pensioners who may be unable to directly access the SPARSH portal for any reason. In addition to several offices of the Defence Accounts Department, which are already functioning as Service Centres for pensioners, the two largest banks dealing with defence pensioners – State Bank of India (SBI) and Punjab National Bank (PNB) – have been co-opted as Service Centres.

### India's first movable freshwater tunnel aquarium installed at Bengaluru Station

- 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 Aquatic Kingdom aquarium is based on the concept of the Amazon River and is 12-feet long. The entrance of the station now gives a glimpse into marine life, with a beautiful dolphin humbly greeting visitors with a slight bow and a smile. A 3D selfie area, 20 feet of glass periphery are also some attractive features of the new facility.

### Dept of Public Enterprises brought under Finance Ministry

- 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. It has been brought under the finance minister in a bid to ease coordination regarding future disinvestment plans. The Finance ministry now comprises six departments, after the inclusion of DPE.

### Amazon launches its first Digital Kendra in Gujarat

- 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.
- MSMEs can visit the Amazon Digital Kendra and avail of third party services including training on the benefits of eCommerce, GST and taxation support, shipping and logistics support, cataloguing assistance and digital marketing services.
- The company has focused on enabling sellers to reach customers across India and globally, and has made significant investments in technology, logistics, delivery infrastructure and digitising payments that collectively helped more customers and businesses to come online.

### Tourism Ministry signs MoU with Yatra to strengthen hospitality, tourism industry

- 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.
- While the MoU is meant to mainly strengthen tourism, it also takes into consideration and provides support for accommodation units.
- The MoU outlines that both parties signing the document would participate in encourage the accommodation units to self-certify themselves on the System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for the Hospitality Industry (SAATHI) on the Online Travel Agency Platform (OTA).
- Earlier this year, the Ministry of Tourism had also signed an MoU with ClearTrip and Ease My Trip. There has been an ongoing effort by the ministry to strengthen the tourism sector in India while extending support to accommodation units.

### Government of India launched Mobile app 'Matsya Setu' for Indian aqua farmers

- 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. The online course app aims to disseminate the latest freshwater aquaculture technologies to the aqua farmers of the country.
- Matsya Setu app has species-wise/ subject-wise self-learning online course modules, where renowned aquaculture experts explain the basic concepts and practical demonstrations on



breeding, seed production and grow-out culture of commercially important fishes like carp, catfish, scampi, murrel, ornamental fish, pearl farming etc.

- Better Management Practices to be followed in maintaining the soil & water quality, feeding and health management in aquaculture operations were also provided in the course platform.

#### Government created ministry of cooperation to boost cooperative movement

- The government has created a Ministry of Cooperation to boost the Indian cooperative movement and give a fillip to the indigenous enterprises. India's first minister of cooperation will also be sworn in once the Union Cabinet reshuffle takes place and the new ministers take the oath of office at the Durbar Hall in President House. The new ministry of Cooperation will work to realise the vision of "Sahkar se Samridhhi" and will provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework to boost the cooperative movement in the country.
- The development will aid the deepening of the cooperatives as true people-based movements with benefits going down to the grassroots. The ministry will be mandated to streamline the processes for the ease of doing business for cooperatives and ultimately aim to broaden and strengthen the multi-state cooperatives.

#### Prime Minister Narendra Modi expanded its council of 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

Sl. No	Minister	Ministry
1	Rajnath Singh	Minister of Defence
2	Amit Shah	Minister of Home Affairs; and Minister of Cooperation
3	Mansukh Mandaviya	Minister of Health and Family Welfare; and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers
4	Nitin Gadkari	Minister of Road Transport and Highways
5	Nirmala Sitharaman	Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Affairs

6	Narendra Singh Tomar	Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
7	Dr S. Jaishankar	Minister of External Affairs
8	Arjun Munda	Minister of Tribal Affairs
9	Smriti Irani	Minister of Women and Child Development
10	Piyush Goyal	Minister of Commerce and Industry; Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of Textiles
11	Dharmendra Pradhan	Minister of Education; and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
12	Pralhad Joshi	Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Coal; and Minister of Mines
13	Narayan Rane	Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
14	Sarbananda Sonowal	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Minister of AYUSH
15	Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Minister of Minority Affairs
16	Dr. Virendra Kumar	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
17	Giriraj Singh	Minister of Rural Development; and Minister of Panchayati Raj
18	Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Minister of Civil Aviation
19	Ashwini Vaishnaw	Minister of Railways; Minister of Communications; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology
20	Ramchandra Prasad Singh	Minister of Steel
21	Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Pashu Pati Kumar Paras
22	Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Minister of Jal Shakti
23	Kiren Rijiju	Minister of Law and Justice
24	Ra Kumar Singh	Minister of Power; and Minister of New and Renewable Energy
25	Hardeep Singh Puri	Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs

26	Bhupender Yadav	Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of Labour and Employment
27	Mahendra Nath Pandey	Minister of Heavy Industries
28	Parshottam Rupala	Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
29	G. Kishan Reddy	Minister of Culture; Minister of Tourism; and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region
30	Anurag Singh Thakur	Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

#### Government includes Retail and Wholesale Trade in MSME sector

- 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.
- These Retail and Wholesale traders can now register on Udyam Registration Portal. It is a portal by the Government of India for the registration of MSMEs.

#### Union Minister for Road Transport Nitin Gadkari becomes “Brand Ambassador” of Khadi Prakritk Paint

- 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’. In addition to this, the minister also declared himself as the “Brand Ambassador” of paint, to promote it across the country and encourage young entrepreneurs to take up the manufacturing of cow dung paint.
- The Khadi Prakritk Paint automated manufacturing plant has been set up on the campus of Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute (KNHPI), Jaipur, which is a unit of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

#### Central Government formed a nine-member panel for the development of ONDC

- 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 nine-member committee of ONDC will advise the Government of India on measures needed to digitise the entire value chain, standardise operations, promote inclusion of suppliers, derive efficiencies in logistics and enhance value for consumers, among other things.



### KVIC has launched project 'BOLD'

- 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. Under the project, 5000 saplings of special bamboo species i.e. Bambusa Tulda and Bambusa Polymorpha have been planted over 16 acres approx. of vacant arid Gram Panchayat land.
- Bamboo grows very fast and can be harvested within 3 years.
- These are a group of woody perennial evergreen plants. Although it appears like a tree, taxonomically, it is grass. In India, North-eastern states grow around 70% of the country's total bamboo production.

### PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the CoWin Global Conclave

- 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.
- India has offered its indigenously developed cloud-based CoWIN platform to be made open-source so that it is available to any and all countries.
- The CoWin Global Conclave served as a platform to share India's learnings and experiences with regards to planning, strategizing and executing the world's largest vaccination drive through Co-WIN.

### 52nd International Film Festival of India to be held in November 2021 in Goa

- 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.

### Government of India extended superannuation age of LIC chairman to up to 62 years

- 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. It is to be noted that the retirement age for the top executives of the majority of PSUs is 60 years, barring a few exceptions, including the State Bank of India (SBI).

### Pushkar Singh Dhami will be the next chief minister of Uttarakhand

- Pushkar Singh Dhami will be the next chief minister of Uttarakhand. He will be the youngest CM of Uttarakhand. 45-year-old Pushkar Singh Dhami, an MLA from the Khatima constituency in Udham Singh Nagar district. He will replace Tirath Singh Rawat, who resigned from the post. He was elected by the state leaders during the legislature party meeting in Dehradun.
- Born on September 16, 1975, in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh, Pushkar Singh Dhami is a two-time MLA from the Khatima constituency. He holds a Postgraduate degree in Human Resource Management and Industrial Relations and LLB in Social Life.
- Pushkar Singh Dhami was also associated with Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and also served as the state president of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha in Uttarakhand.
- Pushkar Singh Dhami served as the officer on special duty for former Uttarakhand chief minister Bhagat Singh Koshiyari in 2002.

### Jammu & Kashmir ends 149-year-old darbar move tradition

- 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.
- Around 8000-9000 employees working in Civil Secretariats, with headquarters in Jammu and Srinagar, would move along with files twice every year. While Srinagar served as the summer capital, Jammu was the winter capital.
- Dogra monarch Maharaja Gulab Singh is believed to have started the tradition of shifting the capital in 1872. The tradition was continued after 1947 by J&K's political class, as it acted as a major bridge and a space for interaction between two diverse linguistic and cultural groups of Kashmir and Jammu regions.

### Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched 'YSR Bima' scheme

- 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.

### 7th IONS Concluded in France

- 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.

- The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) is a series of biennial meetings, held between the littoral states of the Indian Ocean region, to enhance maritime cooperation among Navies of the member states, by providing an open and inclusive forum for discussion of regionally relevant maritime issues such as maritime security cooperation, discuss regional maritime issues, and promote friendly relationships.

### President Kovind Laid Foundation Stone For Ambedkar Memorial And Cultural Centre in Lucknow

- 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 centre, to come up at a cost of ₹45.04 crores, will also have an auditorium having a capacity of 750 people, library, research centre, picture gallery, museum and a multi-purpose convention centre.

### Digital India completed 6 years of journey from 1 July 2015

- Digital India has completed its 6 years of journey on July 1, 2021. Digital India is a government's flagship scheme to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. This unique flagship programme of the Government of India was launched on 1 July 2015 with a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.
- It started as an attempt to improve access to critical Government services by making the country digitally empowered through improved infrastructure and connectivity. The programme has been enabled for several important Government schemes, such as BharatNet, Make in India, Startup India and Standup India, industrial corridors, etc.
- With the help of Aadhaar, Government has provided digital identity to 129 crore people of India. Jandhan bank Accounts, mobile phones, and Aadhaar (JAM) helped the government in providing benefits of the different schemes through digital platforms.

### J&K's, Lt Governor , Manoj Sinha launched "HAUSLA- Inspiring her growth"

- 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.
- The intent of the innovative initiative is to empower Women as vital drivers of the overall development process in the UT by identifying & empowering Women Entrepreneurs as role models, providing them with markets, networks, training & continuous support and subsequently building an ecosystem to inspire other local women entrepreneurs.

### A. K. Mehta Chief Secretary of J&K, inaugurated SDRF first Battalion's 24x7 mental health helpline 'SUKOON'

- 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.

- 'SUKOON' is a mental health helpline initiative (toll-free number 1800-1807159) to offer guidance to persons (or their well-wishers) who are experiencing anxiety, depression, stress, panic attack, PTSD, adjustment disorder, suicidal thoughts, substance abuse, mental health emergency and pandemic induced psychological stress.
- First, 200 SDRF and 40 NDRF personnel were trained for C-19 care duties and then deployed at Seven hospitals in J&K while the launch of the Sukoon helpline is the second step to support persons facing health issues.

### India's oldest running newspaper, "Mumbai Samachar", will enter its 200th year

- 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.
- Formerly called Bombay Samachar, in Gujarati, the paper has always run as Mumbai na Samachar. It started as a weekly edition, primarily covering the movement of goods across the sea and other business news, such as the sale of property, and passed through several hands until bankruptcy turned it over to the Cama family in 1933.

### PM Modi virtually inaugurated Japanese-style Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy at Ahmedabad

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated a Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy at Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA) premises in Ahmedabad. These two new initiatives are part of PM's vision of creating a 'Mini-Japan' in Gujarat. The newly launched Zen Garden in Ahmedabad will showcase several elements of Japanese art, culture, landscape and architecture.
- The Zen garden features a statue of Lord Buddha. The garden is built in partnership with the Japan Information and Study Centre at AMA and Indo-Japan Friendship Association (IJFA), Gujarat, supported by the Hyogo International Association (HIA), Japan.

### Central minister Prakash Javadekar has inaugurated Asia's longest and world's fifth-longest High Speed Track

- Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Prakash Javadekar has inaugurated NATRAX-the High-Speed Track(HST) in Indore which is the longest such track in Asia. NATRAX, developed in an area of 1000 acres of land, is a one-stop solution for all sorts of high-speed performance tests for the widest categories of vehicles from 2 wheelers to heavy tractor-trailers. Launching the world-class 11.3 km High-Speed Track, Javadekar stated that India is destined to become a hub of automobiles, manufacturing, and spare parts.
- The NATRAX centre has multiple test capabilities like measurements of maximum speed, acceleration, constant speed fuel consumption, emission tests through real road driving simulation, high-speed handling and stability evaluation during manoeuvred such as lane change, high-speed

durability testing, etc. and is a Centre of excellence for Vehicle Dynamics.

- According to the ministry, HST is used for measuring the maximum speed capability of high-end cars like BMW, Mercedes, Audi, Ferrari, Lamborghini, Tesla and so forth which cannot be measured on any of the Indian test tracks. Being centrally located in Madhya Pradesh, it is accessible to most of the major OEMs. Foreign OEMs will be looking at NATRAX HST for the development of prototype cars for Indian conditions. At present, foreign OEMs go to their respective high-speed track abroad for high-speed test requirements.

## SPORTS

### Vantika Agarwal Won the national women online chess title with the score of 9.5 points

- 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.
- In the absence of over-the-board events due to the ongoing pandemic, the All India Chess Federation has decided to consider the performance of this online event for the selection of players for the Asian individual championship and other events.

### Momiji Nishiya youngest gold medal winners in Olympic

- 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.

### Japan's Yuto Horigome has won the first-ever skateboarding

- 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.
- Skateboarding's inclusion into the Olympics marks a turning point for the sport, which has its roots in youth street culture and has influenced everything from art to fashion.

### Priya Malik wins Gold at World Cadet Wrestling Championship 2021

- Indian Wrestler Priya Malik has won a Gold Medal at the 2021 World Cadet Wrestling Championship in Budapest, Hungary.
- She defeated Kseniya Patapovich 5-0 in the summit clash of women's 73kg weight category to win the yellow medal. The Indian team bagged as many as 13 medals, including 5 Golds at the Championship, to make the country proud.

### Para shuttler Pramod Bhagat named Differently abled Sportsman of the Year 2019

- World No. 1 para shuttler Pramod Bhagat was named Differently Abled Sportsman of the Year at Indian Sports Honour for 2019. The delay in the announcement was due to the C-19 pandemic. Indian Sports Honours are awards given annually by the RPSG Group in association with the Virat Kohli Foundation to outstanding sports personalities of India. The awards were founded in 2017.
- Bhagat, who won two gold medals and a bronze at the Dubai Para-Badminton Tournament this year, will be participating in singles and mixed doubles events at the Paralympics which opens in Tokyo from August 24.

### Mirabai Chanu wins Silver in weightlifting Women's 49kg category

- Mirabai Chanu won the silver medal and became the first Indian to win an Olympic medal at the 2020 Tokyo Games in the Women's 49kg category. China's Zhihui Hou won the gold medal in the women's 49-kg weightlifting at the Tokyo Olympics, lifting a total of 210 kg, while Indonesia's Windy Cantika Aisah won the bronze medal.
- Chanu managed to lift a total of 202 kg in the women's 49kg category to become the second Indian weightlifter after Karnam Malleswari to win an Olympic medal. A new Olympic record was registered by Mirabai Chanu with a successful lift of 115kg in clean and jerk.

### Indian Olympic Association roped in Adani Group as sponsor for Tokyo Olympics

- Indian Olympic Association has roped in Adani Group as a sponsor for the Indian contingent at the ongoing Tokyo Games. Indian Olympic Association secretary general Rajiv Mehta, who is in Tokyo, announced the development.
- The IOA had earlier entered into sponsorship deals with various private entities, including dairy giant Amul, mobile gaming platform MPL Sports Foundation, JSW Sports among others. IOA had inked the deals after dropping Chinese sportswear brand Li Ning as the Indian team's official kit sponsor for the Tokyo Olympics and stating that the country's athletes will wear unbranded apparel during the Games.

### B. Devi named AIFF 'Women's Footballer of the Year' 2020-21

- 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. Bala currently plays for Rangers Women's FC in Scotland. She made her debut for the team in February 2020 and created history as she scored her first competitive goal for the side in December last year. She is the first Indian woman footballer to sign a professional contract with an overseas club in Europe.
- Bala was a part of the Manipur U19 team that took part in the Under-19 Women's Championship in Assam in 2002, where she was declared the best player. She has also represented the Manipur Senior Women's Football Team in the India women's football championship.

### Olympics-Weightlifting-Papua New Guinea's Toua becomes first 5-time woman Olympian lifter

- When women's weightlifting was introduced as an Olympic sport in 2000, Papua New Guinea's then



16-year-old Loa Dika Toua became the first-ever female Olympian lifter. On Saturday in Tokyo, the now 37-year-old athlete did it for the fifth time.

- “This would have been my sixth, but in 2016 Rio Olympics I pulled out from the team to give my spot to my sister. Unfortunately due to financial constraints of the country, we couldn’t send our team there.”

### Senior India’s defender Sandesh Jhingan named AIFF men’s Footballer of the Year 2020-21

- 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.
- Jhingan made his senior national team debut in 2015 in Guwahati and has since gone on to make 40 appearances for the Blue Tigers, scoring four goals.
- He was part of the Indian sides that lifted the Intercontinental Cup in 2018 and played out a memorable draw at the home of the Asian champions Qatar in 2019.
- Jhingan has captained the senior team on five occasions, the most recent being the international friendly against Oman in Dubai in March. He was conferred with the prestigious Arjuna Award last year.

### Aman Gulia and Sagar Jaglan emerged as the new world champions 2021

- 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.
- Gulia emerged the winner with a convincing 5-2 win over American Luke Joseph Lilledahl in a 48kg final while Jaglan blanked James Mockler Rowley 4-0 in the 80kg summit clash.

### Australia will Host Olympic and Paralympic games 2032

- 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. With this, Australia will also become the only second country in the world, after the United States, to stage the summer Olympic Games in three different cities.

### Former Indian Shibaji Banerjee to be conferred with Mohun Bagan Ratna posthumously

- 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.
- The friendly match against New York Cosmos at the iconic Eden Gardens ended in a thrilling 2-2 draw. Banerjee played for Bagan for 11 years and died at the age of 68 four years ago.

### Shikhar Dhawan Second Fastest Indian After Virat Kohli to Reach 6,000 Runs in ODIs

- Shikhar Dhawan has become the second fastest India batter after Virat Kohli to reach the milestone of 6,000 ODI runs on Sunday during the series opener against Sri Lanka in Colombo. It took the India opener 140 innings to reach the figure while Kohli did it in just 136 innings which is also the second fastest in ODI history.
- Overall, Dhawan is the fourth fastest with former South Africa opener Hashim Amla fastest to 6,000 ODI runs, taking a mere 123 innings.
- The 35-year-old Dhawan is leading India on the Sri Lanka tour in the absence of regular skipper Kohli who is in England for the Test series starting in the first week of August.

### Mercedes-Great Britain, Lewis Hamilton wins British Grand Prix 2021

- 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.
- This is the 99th career win of seven times world champion Hamilton and the fourth win of the current season after 10 races. Monaco based Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) stood second. Hamilton's teammate Valtteri Bottas from Finland, finished third.

### AIFF nominated Gokulam Kerala FC to represent India in the AFC Club Championship 2020-21

- 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.
- Gokulam Kerala FC became the first team from Kerala to win a national title when they defeated Kryptos FC in the 2019-20 Indian Women's League (IWL) finals in Bengaluru.

### Pakistan's captain Babar Azam becomes fastest batsman to score 14 ODI centuries

- Pakistan captain Babar Azam has altered the record books with the century he scored against England during the third ODI at Edgbaston. He became the fastest batsman to notch up 14 ODI centuries in terms of innings, surpassing the likes of Hashim Amla, Indian captain Virat Kohli and Australian batsman David Warner.
- 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.

### AR Rahman launched 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.

### **Cristiano Ronaldo wins Golden Boot in EURO 2020**

- 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. Czech Republic's Patrik Schick also ended the tournament with five goals but the award went to Ronaldo via the tie-breaker of assists.

### **India will host 2026 World Badminton Championships**

- 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.
- Since then, India has played host to various major badminton tournaments including the 2014 Thomas and Uber Cup Finals, the Asian Championships apart from the annual BWF Super 500 event, the Yonex-Sunrise India Open.

### **Deepak Kabra becomes first Indian gymnastics judge at Olympics**

- 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.
- He will be seen officiating the men's artistic gymnasts at the Tokyo Games, which gets underway on July 23.

### **England's Sophie Ecclestone, & New Zealand's Devon Conway win ICC Player of the Month Award for June 2021**

- 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.

### **Indian-American Samir Banerjee defeat Victor Lilov to wins Wimbledon Junior Men's title**

- 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.
- For the first time since 2014, and only the second time since 1977, there was an all-American conclusion to the boys' singles event. Notably, both 17-year-olds were unseeded for The Championships.



## Bangladesh all-rounder cricketer Mahmudullah announced retirement from Test cricket

- 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.
- The right-handed batsman in 50 matches and 94 innings has scored 2914 runs at an average of 33.49. The 150 not out in the ongoing Test against Zimbabwe is his career-best figure and has five centuries and 16 half-centuries under his belt.

## Argentina beat Brazil to win Copa America

- Lionel Messi's Argentina beat Brazil 1-0 in Saturday's Copa America final to secure the national team's first title in 28 years and the superstar's first major international trophy.
- Argentina's winning goal at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro came in the 22nd minute after Rodrigo de Paul made a long pass to Angel di Maria. The 33-year-old veteran striker counted on some sloppy defending from left-back Renan Lodi to take control and lob it past goalkeeper Ederson. It was only the third goal Brazil conceded in the tournament. Neymar tried hard with dribbles and passes, but the Selecao barely threatened Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez.

## Ladakh Marathon cancelled for second time due to C-19 pandemic

- One of the world's toughest and country's prestigious Ladakh Marathon in Leh is being cancelled for the second time in a row, due to C-19. Annually thousands of marathoners test their endurance in high altitude at above 11 thousand feet in Leh. Ladakh Marathon was created to encourage determination and resilience in youth.
- Though C-19 positive cases in Leh Ladakh have come down, Ladakh Marathon Race Director Chewang Motup said, in the event that a third wave would exhaust resources and further endanger lives, a mass gathering is inadvisable. He said, increasing anxiety regarding a third wave of C-19, helped the organisers to come to this resolution.

## Wimbledon Championships 2021:

- 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.

S. No.	Category	Winner
1.	Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
2.	Women's Singles	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)
3.	Men's Doubles	Nikola Mektić and Mate Pavić

4. Women's Doubles      Hsieh Su-wei and Elise Mertens
5. Mixed Doubles      Neal Skupski and Desirae Krawczyk

### International Cricket Council released Manu Sawhney as CEO

- 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.
- Sawhney was suspended in March following various allegations in an internal review conducted by an external agency. While Sawhney had referred to the review as a witch-hunt, the ICC Board on Thursday decided to sever ties with the sports management veteran.

### Mumbai, Pune will be host 2022 women's Asian Cup

- 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 decision was taken after considering the existing challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and as part of efforts to minimise the travelling time for teams and officials between the venues, whilst ensuring the optimum environment to implement the biomedical bubble for the benefit of all stakeholders.

### Jaipur to get India's second largest cricket stadium

- 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.
- Meanwhile, an amount of Rs 290 crores has been estimated to be spent on the construction of the second-largest cricket stadium in India. This amount will be sourced from; Rs 100 crore from the bank loan, Rs 100 crore from BCCI grant, Rs 90 crore from RCS funds, sale of boxes, seats & sponsorship. The proposed stadium will have a spectator capacity of 75,000.

### Mary Kom, Manpreet Singh will be India's flag-bearers at Tokyo Olympics

- 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.
- In a first, India is having two flag-bearers — one male and one female — at the upcoming Tokyo Games to ensure "gender parity". The IOA has communicated the decision in this regard to the Organising Committee of the Games.

### England's James Anderson claims 1000th first-class wicket

- 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.
- Anderson is only the 14th player to claim 1,000 first-class wickets this century and only the fifth among pacers. Andy Caddick, Martin Bicknell, Devon Malcolm and Wasim Akram were the other pace bowlers to cross the 1000-wicket landmark before Anderson.

### WAKO India Kickboxing Federation gets Government recognition

- 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.
- It is expected that with government recognition of WAKO India Kickboxing Federation as NSF, the sport of kickboxing will develop at a faster pace in the country. WAKO have been a provisionally recognized member of the IOC Since 30 November 2018. The full recognition of WAKO will be finally decided by the IOC Session in Tokyo in July 2021.

### Red Bull's M. Verstappen wins Formula 1's Austrian Grand Prix 2021

- 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.

### Norway's Karsten Warholm breaks men's 400 metres hurdles world record

- 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.

### Mithali Raj surpasses Edwards to become highest run-getter

- 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.
- Mithali achieved the feat during the third and final inconsequential ODI against hosts England



while chasing 220 for a consolation win. In 2020, Raj was named to the ICC's ODI team of the decade, a fitting honour for her consistency in the sport. She is also the most capped player in the history of the women's game, having featured in 11 Tests, 216 ODIs and 89 Twenty20 Internationals so far.

### **Mariyappan Thangavelu named as a flag-bearer for Tokyo Paralympics**

- Top para high-jumper Mariyappan Thangavelu was named the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent in the Tokyo Paralympics, which begins on August 24. Thangavelu, who is defending the T-42 gold he had won in the 2016 Rio Paralympics during the August 24 to September 5 showpiece in Tokyo, was picked for the honour by the executive committee of the national body.
- The 25-year-old Thangavelu, who was conferred with the Khel Ratna, the country's highest sporting award, last year is one of the 24 para-athletes picked by the selection committee for the Tokyo Paralympics. Thangavelu, who hails from Salem district in Tamil Nadu, suffered a permanent disability at the age of five when a bus crushed his right leg below the knee.

### **Indian Wrestler Sumit Malik gets two-year ban for doping**

- 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.
- The 28-year-old has one week to decide if he would accept the sanction or challenge it. He was handed a provisional suspension last month for failing a dope test during the World Olympic Qualifier event in Sofia, where he had qualified for the Tokyo Games in the 125 kg category.

### **Abhimanyu Mishra becomes youngest ever chess Grandmaster in the world**

- 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 woman cricketer Shafali Verma became youngest Indian to make debut in all formats**

- Opener Shafali Verma has become the youngest Indian cricketer to make a debut in all formats, when India took on England in the first ODI in Bristol. She took 17 years and 150 days to make her debut in all formats. She has become the fifth-youngest cricketer overall in the list of all format debuts.
- The list is topped by Afghanistan's Mujeeb Ur Rahman at 17 years and 78 days is the youngest player to play all formats, followed by former England wicket-keeper Sarah Taylor. Australia's Elysse Perry is third on the list, followed by Mohammad Amir.

### **ISSF shooting World Cup: India's Rani Sarnobat wins gold medal in the women's 25m pistol event**

- India's Rani Sarnobat clinched the gold medal in the women's 25m pistol event at the ISSF shooting World Cup. She is the first Indian to win one silver and two bronze medals in the ongoing

tournament. She scored 591 out of a maximum of 600 in the qualifying stage.

- France's Mathilde Lamolle won a silver medal in the final. Russian Vitalina Batsarashkina won the bronze medal. Indian shooter Manu Bhaker finished at 7 positions. This is the last competition before the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. ISSF World Cup 2021 is being held in Osijek, Croatia.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### ISRO successfully conducted third test on Vikas Engine for Gaganyaan Program

- 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.
- The engine was fired for a duration of 240 seconds at the engine test facility of ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu. The performance of the engine met the test objectives and the engine parameters were closely matching with the predictions during the entire duration of the test.

### ISRO plans to launch geo imaging satellite on August

- 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 2,268-kg GISAT-1 was originally slated to be launched from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh's Nellore district, about 100 kms north of Chennai, on March 5 last year but was postponed a day before the blast-off due to technical reasons.
- According to ISRO, GISAT-1 will facilitate near real-time observation of the Indian sub-continent, under cloud-free conditions, at frequent intervals.

## OBITUARY

### Former England Cricketer Mike Hendrick passed away

- 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.

### Veteran Actress Jayanthi passed away

- 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. She won several awards including the Karnataka State Film Awards seven times and the Filmfare Awards twice.

### Bangladesh's legendary folk singer Fakir Alamgir passed away due to C-19

- Bangladesh's legendary folk singer, Fakir Alamgir has passed away due to complications from C-19. He was born on February 21, 1950, in Faridpur, Alamgir began his music career in 1966. The singer was a key member of cultural organisations 'Kranti Shilpi Gosthi' and 'Gana Shilpi Gosthi' and played an important role during Bangladesh's 1969 uprising. During Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War, Alamgir joined the 'Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra' and performed frequently to inspire freedom fighters.
- Some of his popular songs include "O Sokhina Gesos Kina", "Shantahar", "Nelson Mandela", "Naam Tar Chhilo John Henry", "Banglar Comrade Bondhu", among others. He also founded the cultural organization 'Wrishiz Shilpi Gosthi' in 1976, and also served as the president of Gono Sangeet Shamanya Parishad (GSSP). Alamgir was conferred with the Ekushey Padak, the country's second-highest civilian award, in 1999.

### Renown Carnatic Classical Violinist S. R. Bhaskaran passed away

- Noted Carnatic Classical Violinist 'Kalaimaamani' Sikkil Shri R Bhaskaran passed away. He started learning the Violin at the age of 11 from Thiruvavur 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.
- Bhaskaran has served as an Executive Committee member of the Thiruvaiyaru Thyaga Brahma Festival for more than 2 decades. During his close to 5 decades of Musical Career, Bhaskaran has been bestowed with many laurels, Awards & Honours.

### India's oldest student Bhageerathi Amma passed away

- 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.
- Amma had quit formal education in class three, when she was 9 years old. The centenarian was felicitated with the prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar by the central government for her exceptional contribution towards women's empowerment.

### Co-founder of National Institute of Design, Gira Sarabhai passed away

- 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.
- Sarabhai was the daughter of industrialist Ambalal Sarabhai & sister of Dr Vikram Sarabhai. She also established the Calico Museum of Textiles. She was trained at the famous Taliesin West Studio in Arizona with noted architect and designer Frank Lloyd Wright.



### **Veteran litterateur Urmil Kumar Thapliyal passed away**

- 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.

### **Pulitzer Prize-winning Indian photojournalist D. Siddiqui passed away**

- 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.
- He was employed with the international news agency Reuters. He was a recipient of the prestigious Pulitzer Prize with six others working as a photographer with Reuters news agency in 2018.

### **Three time National Award-winning actress Surekha Sikri passed away**

- 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'.
- She was last seen in Netflix's anthology 'Ghost Stories' (2020), in the story directed by Zoya Akhtar.

### **Former president of Pakistan M. Hussain passed away**

- 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.
- He was governor of Sindh from June to October 1999 when Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government was overthrown by the then Pakistan Army chief, Gen Pervez Musharraf.

### **Former Indian cricketer Yashpal Sharma passed away**

- 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 Punjab-born cricketer had represented three teams in Ranji including Punjab, Haryana and Railways.

### **Former WWE Wrestler Paul Orndorff passed away**

- 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). He retired in 2000. He was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame in 2005.

### **Veteran Indian Ayurveda practitioner, Dr P K Warriar passed away**

- 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.

- The doyen of Ayurveda, Dr Warrier, was honoured with the Padma Shree in 1999 and Padma Bhushan in 2010. His autobiography titled Smrithiparvam won the Kerala Sahitya Academy Award in 2009.

### Legendary Bollywood actor Mohammed Yusuf Khan, known professionally as Dilip Kumar passes away

- 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.
- Dilip Kumar was born on 11 December 1922, the Qissa Khawani Bazaar area of Peshawar (present-day Pakistan) to Ayesha Begum and Lala Ghulam Sarwar Khan.
- He debuted in films with 1944's Jwar Bhata, but the film and his work did not garner much attention. It was with 1947's Jugnu, also starring Noor Jehan, that he clinched his first box office hit.
- He was honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1994 and Padma Vibhushan in 2015.

### Ace filmmaker Richard Donner, best known for helming the original 'Superman' passes away

- 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.
- The legend got his first big directing break with the 1976 cult classic horror film 'The Omen', which solidified his foothold in the industry and led to his next major studio film, 'Superman' (also the original) that paved the path for countless other flicks, including 'Goonies', and all of the 'Lethal Weapon' movie series, starring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover.

### Former Indian footballer M. Prasannan passed away

- 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.

### Padma Shri awardee, K.V. Sampath Kumar Passed Away

- 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 Siddharudha award, the Shivaratri Deshikendra Media award, the Abdul Kalam award and others.
- Sampath Kumar's father Pandit Varadaraja Iyengar had launched 'Sudharma' in 1970. Sudharma is

the only Sanskrit Daily in the world, printed and published from Mysuru.

## APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

### Colliers appointed Ramesh Nair as New CEO for India

- Property consultant Colliers has appointed Ramesh Nair as the chief executive officer (CEO) for India and managing director, market development, for Asia. Nair's experience and leadership skills will be particularly relevant to its clients in the region and around the world as they seek opportunities in the post-C-19 economy.
- Nair joined Colliers from JLL India, where he held the position of CEO & country head, leading over 12,000 people. Based in Mumbai, Ramesh will partner with Sankey Prasad, chairman & managing director of Colliers in India, to lead the business.

### (BSF)'s (DG) Rakesh Asthana appointed as Delhi Police Commissioner

- 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. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has extended Asthana's service initially for a period of one year beyond the date of his superannuation or until further order, whichever is earlier.
- Asthana, a 1984-batch IPS officer, had earlier served as the Special Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation. He was the Narcotics Control Bureau chief when actor Rhea Chakraborty was arrested in a drugs case in Mumbai. During his stint in the CBI in 2018, Asthana was engaged in an unsavoury spat with the then CBI Director Alok Verma. Both the officers were removed from the central probe agency and Asthana was subsequently cleared of the charges.

### Basavaraj Bommai will be the new Chief Minister of Karnataka

- 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. Prior to this, Basavaraj Bommai was the Home Minister in the BSF government. He is a two-time MLC and three-time MLA from Shiggaon in the Haveri district.

### Lulu Group's chairman Yusuffali will be vice-chairman of Abu Dhabi CCI's

- 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).
- HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan recently had honoured Yusuffali with the 'Abu Dhabi Award 2021', the highest civilian honour for his almost 5-decade long contributions in the fields of economic development & philanthropy.



## Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa Resigns

- 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 78-year-old Yediyurappa, often called by his initials BSY, served as the 19th Chief Minister of Karnataka. He had served as the chief minister of Karnataka for four terms and was the only chief minister to do so in Karnataka history.

## Shiv Nadar, founder of HCL resign as MD

- 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.
- The Noida-based IT services company posted a net profit of ₹3,214 crores for the June quarter, up nearly 10% annually. It is slightly below consensus Bloomberg estimates of ₹3,255.5 crores.

## Aramane Giridhar gets additional charge as Chairman of National Highways Authority of India

- 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 Chairman in October 2019.

## Union Minister Piyush Goyal appointed Leader of House in Rajya Sabha

- 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.
- Mr. Goyal, a two-time Rajya Sabha MP, is currently the deputy leader of the NDA as well as the Union Minister in the Cabinet. He is serving as the Union Minister of Textiles, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. The Leader of the House is responsible for organizing government meetings and business in the House.

## Twitter appointed Vinay Prakash as resident grievance officer for India

- 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.
- However, as per the new IT rules in India, social media platforms with over 50 lakh users are mandated to appoint three key personnel namely chief compliance officer, nodal officer and grievance officer, and all these three personnel have to be residents in India.

### Shyam Srinivasan reappointed as MD & CEO of Federal Bank

- 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. Srinivasan took over as Federal Bank MD & CEO in 2010 and has been at the helm since then.
- Srinivasan is among the few foreign bankers who chose to move to smaller Indian banks after fairly long, successful stints in foreign banks (the others include RBL Bank's Vishwavir Ahuja and DCB Bank's Murali Natrajan). Over the last decade, Srinivasan has been at the helm of Federal, the bank has transformed into a mid-sized private bank with a strong focus on retail business, including gold loans and funding small and medium entrepreneurs.

### Indian Army names firing range after Bollywood actress Vidya Balan

- 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 decision was taken in recognition of her contribution to Indian cinema. Earlier in the year, the actress and her husband Siddharth Roy Kapoor had attended the Gulmarg Winter Festival organised by the Indian Army.

### Indian-American Neha Parikh appointed as CEO of crowd-sourced navigation app 'Waze'

- 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. The 41-year-old Neha replaces Noam Bardin, who stepped down as the CEO in November 2020, after leading the Israeli company for 12 years.
- The Waze app can give out directions in 56 different languages. The app was founded in Israel in 2008. It was acquired by Google in 2013 for around USD 1.1 billion (110 crores).

### KN Bhattacharjee is the new Lokayukta of Tripura

- 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. Bhattacharjee is the third Lokayukta in the state and the first to hold the post as a lawyer. Former Gujarat & Guwahati HC judge Pradeep Kumar Sarkar was 1st Lokayukta in Tripura.

### Satish Agnihotri New MD of NHRCL

- 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.
- During his tenure as CMD/RVNL, RVNL completed 7000 km of project length including 3000 km doubling/3rd line, 880 km conversion of metre gauge track to broad gauge, 3000 km railway electrification, 85 km new line, 6 factories and many important bridges. A 7 km long tunnel was

also completed in a record time of 25 months in a new line project in Andhra Pradesh.

### Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari will be new Indian Air Force Vice Chief

- 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.
- An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Air Marshal Chaudhari was commissioned into the fighter stream of the IAF on December 29, 1982. In a distinguished career spanning nearly 38 years, the officer has flown a wide variety of fighter and trainer aircraft in the inventory of IAF. He has a flying experience of more than 3,800 hours, including operational flying on MiG-21, MiG-23 MF, MiG 29 and Su-30 MKI fighter jets.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Ranger Day 2021: 31<sup>st</sup> July

- 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. World Ranger Day offers a chance to support their vital work, which ranges from environmental campaigning to education. The day is also an opportunity to pay tribute to rangers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.
- A Ranger is a person tasked with preserving and protecting parklands and natural protected areas. A Ranger typically refers to a forest ranger or a park ranger. It was on this day in 1992 that International Ranger Federation (IRF) was founded. World Ranger Day was created by the International Ranger Federation and was first held in 2007.

### International Day of Friendship 2021: 30<sup>th</sup> July

- 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.

In 2011, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the International Friendship Day with an aim to forge a strong bond of friendship of people of various countries irrespective of race, colour, gender, religion, etc. The International Day of Friendship is an initiative that follows on the proposal made by UNESCO defining the Culture of Peace as a set of values, attitudes and behaviours that reject violence and endeavour to prevent conflicts by addressing their root causes with a view to solving problems. It was then adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1997.

### World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2021: 30<sup>th</sup> July

- United Nations observes 30 July every year as World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. In 2013, the



General Assembly designated July 30 as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons to raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights.

- The 2021 theme for World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is Victims' Voices Lead the Way. This year's theme puts victims of human trafficking at the centre of the campaign and will highlight the importance of listening to and learning from survivors of human trafficking.

### International Tiger Day 2021: 29<sup>th</sup> July

- 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. The goal of the day is to promote a global system for protecting the natural habitats of tigers and to raise public awareness and support for tiger conservation issues. 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".
- The Global Tiger Day came into being during the signing of the Saint Petersburg declaration by 13 tiger range countries in 2010 in Russia. The governments of these tiger range countries had resolved to encourage the conservation, protecting natural habitats and double the number of tigers by 2022. Poaching and the illegal trade of tiger body parts like bone, the skin has posed the biggest threat to wild tigers. The demand for tiger body parts has increased the poaching and trafficking of wild cats.

### World Nature Conservation Day 2021: 28th July

- 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.

### World Hepatitis Day celebrated 2021: 28th July

- 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'.
- The date of 28 July was chosen because it is the birthday of Nobel-prize winning scientist Dr Baruch Blumberg, who discovered the hepatitis B virus (HBV) and developed a diagnostic test and vaccine for the virus. There are five main strains of the hepatitis virus – A, B, C, D and E. Together, hepatitis B and C are the most common cause of death, with 1.3 million lives lost each year.

### CRPF observed 83rd Raising Day 2021 on 27th July

- 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).

- Its headquarter is located in New Delhi. It came into existence as the Crown Representative's Police on 27 July 1939. After Indian Independence, it became the Central Reserve Police Force on the enactment of the CRPF Act on 28 December 1949.

### Kargil Vijay Diwas 2021 :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.
- 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.
- 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 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.

### World Drowning Prevention Day 2021: 25th July

- World Drowning Prevention Day, declared through the April 2021 UN General Assembly Resolution "Global drowning prevention", is held annually on 25 July.
- This global advocacy event serves as an opportunity to highlight the tragic and profound impact of drowning on families and communities and to offer life-saving solutions to prevent it.

### Aaykar Diwas (Income Tax Day) 2021: 24<sup>th</sup> July

- 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 purpose of this tax was to compensate for the losses incurred by the British regime during the first war of independence against British Rule in 1857. July 24 was first celebrated as Income Tax day in 2010.

### National Broadcasting Day 2021 : 23<sup>rd</sup> July

- 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 first radio broadcast was made on July 23, 1927, from Bombay Station. The station was then

owned by a private company called the Indian Broadcasting Company.

- The Government took over the broadcasting on April 1, 1930, and renamed it as Indian State Broadcasting Service (ISBS).
- It was initially on an experimental basis. Later it permanently came under government control in 1932.
- On 8th of June, 1936, the Indian State Broadcasting Service became All India Radio. Currently, AIR is one of the largest public broadcasting organisations in the world.

### World Brain Day 2021: July 22

- The World Federation of Neurology (WFN) celebrates World Brain Day on every July 22, focusing on a different theme each year. Many public awareness programmes and educational & social media activities are promoting the movement to stop multiple sclerosis, commencing July 22, 2021, & continuing until October 2022.
- 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.

### Science Exploration Day 2021: 20<sup>th</sup> July

- 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.
- Neil Armstrong was the first man to set foot on the moon's surface. The Armstrong- Aldrin duo spent 21.5 hours on the surface of the moon out of which they spent 2.5 hours outside of their capsules. To commemorate their achievement, the day was declared a holiday in 1984 by the then President of the United States, Ronald Reagan.

### International Chess Day 2021: 20<sup>th</sup> July

- 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. The idea to celebrate the day as the international chess day was proposed by UNESCO. This day has been celebrated in as many as 178 countries, and a resolution officially recognizing it was signed by the United Nations in 2019.
- Invented in India in the fifth century, this board game was originally named "Chaturanga". Chess is likely one of the oldest games of this era. After the development of the game in India, it eventually spread to Persia.
- The first modern chess tournament was held in London in 1851 and won by German Adolf Anderssen. On July 20, 1924, at the eighth summer Olympic games in Paris, France, the FIDE (World Chess Federation) was founded.



## Nelson Mandela International Day 2021: 18<sup>th</sup> July

- 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.
- On 18 July 2009, the first Mandela Day was observed in New York. The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on 10 November 2009 declaring 18 July as "Nelson Mandela International Day". This day marks his contribution to peace through his active involvement in resolving conflicts, promoting human rights, international democracy and reconciliation and addressing racial issues.
- Nelson Mandela was born as Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela in Transkei, South Africa on 18 July, 1918. His mother was Nonqaphi Nosekeni and father Nkosi Mphakanyiswa Gadla Mandela.

## World Day for International Justice 2021: 17<sup>th</sup> July

- 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 day marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute on July 17, 1998, the treaty that created the International Criminal Court. It came about when 120 states adopted a statute in Rome. It was known as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, All the countries that agreed to adopt the statute were accepting the jurisdiction of the ICC.

## World Youth Skills Day 2021: 15<sup>th</sup> July

- United Nations celebrates World Youth Skills Day globally on 15 July every year. The day is celebrated as an opportunity for young people, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, and public and private sector stakeholders to acknowledge as well as celebrate the importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship.
- The theme of World Youth Skills Day 2020 is "Reimagining Youth Skills Post-Pandemic".
- In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly declared 15 July as World Youth Skills Day, to celebrate the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship.

## World Malala Day 2021: 12<sup>th</sup> July

- 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.
- On October 9, 2012, Malala was shot in the head by Taliban gunmen after she publicly advocated for the education of girls. Despite the attack, Malala soon returned to the public eye, fiercer in her views than earlier and continued her advocacy for gender rights. She founded the Malala Fund, a non-profit organisation to help young girls go to school and also co-authored a book titled "I Am

Malala”, an international bestseller.

### World Population Day 2021: 11<sup>th</sup> July

- 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 C-19-19 pandemic on fertility”.
- In 1989, World Population Day was established by the Governing Council of the United National Development Programme as an outgrowth of the interest generated by the Day of Five Billion, which was observed on 11 July 1987.
- The United Nations General Assembly by resolution 45/216 of December 1990, decided to continue observing World Population Day raises awareness of population issues like their relations to the environment and development. On 11 July 1990, the day was first marked in more than 90 countries.

### National Fish Farmers’ Day 2021: 10 July

- 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). The event aims to draw attention to changing the way the country manages fisheries resources to ensure sustainable stocks and healthy ecosystems. This day is made to honour the fish farmers, aquapreneurs, fisherfolks, stakeholders and whoever else is associated in the fishery for their contribution in the fishery.
- The day is commemorated annually in remembrance of scientists Dr K H Alikunhi and Dr H.L. Chaudhury who had invented induced breeding technology of Indian major carps on 10 July 1957. 2021 will mark 21st National Fish Farmers’ Day.

### World Chocolate Day celebrated 2021 : 7th July

- 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. The day is an annual global celebration of chocolate, which allows people to gorge and indulge, hopefully guilt-free, in it. On this day, chocolate lovers from all over relish eating different kinds of chocolate or create several dishes with it like cakes, pastries, sinful and gooey brownies, hot chocolate or chocolate mousse, without any guilt.
- World Chocolate Day was first celebrated in the year 2009. However, some even believe that people started marking July 7 as International Chocolate Day because it was the day when chocolate was first introduced to Europe in 1550.

### World Zoonoses Day 2021: 6 July

- 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 Zoonoses day observed after Louis Pasteur, a French biologist successfully administered the first vaccine against Rabies virus, which is a zoonotic disease. We remembered this day every day to raise awareness against Zoonotic disease.

### International Day of Cooperatives 2021: 3 July

- 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”. Cooperatives around the world will showcase how they are meeting the COVID-19 pandemic crisis with solidarity and resilience and offering communities a people-centred and environmentally just recovery.
- United Nations is celebrating the International Day of Cooperatives every year on the first Saturday of July since 1923. Co-operatives have been acknowledged as associations and enterprises through which citizens can effectively make their lives better by contributing to the economic, social, cultural as well as political advancement of their community and nation. Cooperatives employ 280 million people across the globe which is 10% of the world’s employed population.

### World UFO Day 2021: 02 July

- 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).
- WUD aims to raise awareness about the existence of UFOs and encouraging people to think about the possibility of us not being alone in the Universe. Initially, the day was observed on June 24. Later, WUFODO established on July 2 to commemorate the day.

### World Sports Journalists Day 2021: 02 July

- 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. This professional has helped in the development of many kinds of games all over the world. These journalists have their associations to maintain their standards in their profession. It was found all over the world and united by the International Sports Press Association.
- World Sports Journalist Day was established by the International Sports Press Association (AIPS) in 1994 to mark the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the organization. AIPS was formed on July 2 of 1924, during the Summer Olympics in Paris.



## National Chartered Accountants Day 2021: 01 July

- 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.
- ICAI is India's national professional accounting body and also the second biggest accounting organization in the world. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) was established on this day in the year 1949 under an Act passed in Parliament. The ICAI is the sole licensing and regulatory body for the financial audit and accounting profession in India, and its recommendations are followed by everyone – from the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) to companies and accounting organizations.

## National Postal Worker Day 2021: 01 July

- 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.
- The day was initiated by a popular postal service provider from Seattle, the United States of America in 1997 to felicitate and honour the co-postal workers for their dedication.

## National Doctors' Day 2021: 01 July

- 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.
- The day commemorates the birth anniversary of the second Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy who was born on July 1, 1882, and died on the same date in 1962.

## SUMMITS AND MOU'S

### BIAL signs a deal with IBM for 'Airport in a Box'

- 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.
- The airport operator chose IBM Global Business Services, IBM hybrid cloud capabilities and Kyndryl, the new, independent company that will be created following the separation of IBM's Managed Infrastructure Services business, to design and implement a next-generation architecture with a dynamic delivery model. The new platform will enable it to improve employee productivity, upgrade utilisation of IT assets, reduce costs through streamlined inventory control and improve

incident management

### Central Reserve Police Force signs an MoU with C-DAC

- 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.
- The agreement will also provide the expertise of C-DAC in the form of a Technology Partner and Knowledge Partner in developing various ICT solutions of CRPF. The MoU will go a long way in providing CRPF personnel with customised advanced courses aligned to the needs of the field and practical applications.

### 11th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation meeting held

- While addressing the 11th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) meeting, S Jaishankar India's External Affairs Minister has called for a "collective and collaborative" response to effectively deal with the ongoing C-19 pandemic, saying that national boundaries are not respected by this virus.
- India considers the Mekong region of great importance and hence seeks a multi-dimensional engagement with Mekong countries.
- India wants to identify newer areas of cooperation and doing so will broaden the partnership of the countries.
- Addressing the meeting, S Jaishankar has said that India wants to promote better connectivity in this region through economic, digital and people-to-people connectivity.

### IPC and WHO sign an MoU

- The World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) on Thursday signed an agreement to work together to foster diversity and equity through global initiatives promoting health and sport for everybody, everywhere.
- The two partners will collaborate to improve global access to quality rehabilitation and assistive technology as part of universal health coverage; and mitigate existing inequalities in relation to access to these life-changing services - a prerequisite for equal opportunities and participation in sports for persons with disabilities, including for Paralympians and Para athletes.

### Dvara E-Dairy partners with IFFCO Tokio General Insurance

- 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.
- Muzzle images of the cattle are collected through the Surabhi mobile application and stored in hi-resolution images as a unique digital identity.
- The artificial intelligence-driven mobile application of Dvara E-Dairy captures muzzle images with the mobile phone, compares the cattle's unique digital identity stored in a secured cloud server and

retrieves the results in less than 60 seconds.

- Conventional methods like polyurethane ear tags (PU ear tags) can be easily tampered with and are prone to duplication and fraud.

#### **BIAL signs 10-year partnership with IBM**

- Bangalore International Airport to become Smart Airport in coming years! In a bid to create an "Airport in a Box" platform, which transforms technology, operations, as well as customer experience, the operator of Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru (KIAB/BLR Airport), Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), has signed a ten-year partnership with the company- IBM.
- A statement issued by IBM on Wednesday said the companies- IBM Hybrid Cloud capabilities, Red Hat Automation as well as Kyndryl managed infrastructure services will help the airport operator improve its productivity, automate IT and minimize or reduce costs.

#### **Kotak Mahindra Bank signs an MoU with the Indian Navy**

- 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.
- The Kotak salary account provides a range of privileges, and we have further personalized our offering, keeping in mind the requirements of Indian Navy personnel and their families. With a full suite of products, we will support the Indian Navy with all their banking requirements, backed by quality customer service and digital-first solutions.

#### **Razorpay partners with Mastercard to launch 'MandateHQ'**

- 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.
- The MandateHQ solution can be fully integrated with any bank within seven days. Razorpay's Mandate HQ is an API-based plug-n-play solution that reduces the go-live time for any card issuing bank that wishes to enable recurring payments for its customers. MandateHQ will also enable businesses, especially subscription-based businesses, to get access to a wider customer base, who use debit cards, as recurring payments were mostly supported via credit cards previously.

#### **Flipkart partners with PhonePe to digitise cash-on-delivery payment**

- 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.



- While on one hand, the new feature will help in reducing personal contact as well as ensure safety, on the other hand, it will drive contactless payments for customers who are traditionally more comfortable with cash on delivery.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

### Cachar district of Assam received National Silver SKOCH award

- 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 Katigora circle of the Cachar district.
- 30,000 seedlings of vegetables, fruits and herbal plants were distributed among 140 beneficiaries.
- Each household of the village was also given payment for 75 man-days to implement the project.
- Instituted in 2003, SKOCH Award salutes people, projects and institutions that go the extra mile to make India a better nation.

### India's Payal Kapadia wins best documentary award in 74th Cannes Film Festival 2021

- 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. A Night of Knowing Nothing screened as part of the Directors' Fortnight, a section that runs parallel to the festival.
- The award was instituted in 2015 by LaScam (the French-Speaking Writers' Society) and Bertuccelli in collaboration with the Cannes Film Festival and its general delegate Thierry Fremaux.

### Two Indian organisations wins UNDP Equator Prize 2021 for their work

- Aadhimalai Pazhangudiynar 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.
- Aadhimalai Pazhangudiynar Producer Company Limited is a 1,700-member cooperative, managed and run entirely by indigenous people from the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve in Tamil Nadu and its work in the past eight years has improved livelihood across 147 villages by processing and marketing a diverse range of forest produce and crops.

### Cannes Film Festival 2021

- 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.

- Palme d'Or: Julia Ducournau for Titane (France)
- Best Actress: Renate Reinsve for Worst Person in the World (Norway)
- Best Actor: Caleb Landry Jones for Nitram (US)

### 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.
- 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.

### Journalist N N Pillai honoured with the BKS Literary Award 2021

- 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 Jury was headed by the novelist M Mukundan. Literary critic Dr K S Ravikumar, writer and Kerala Chief Secretary Dr V P Joy, and Radhakrishna Pillai were part of the jury. The award constitutes a cash prize of `50,000 and a citation acknowledging the achievement. The award ceremony will be held later in Delhi. "His enormous contributions as a whole to Malayalam language and literature are remarkable, which ultimately led to this award.

### Hyderabad's Syed Osman Azhar Maqsusi won Commonwealth Points of Light award

- 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.
- In order to honour Maqsusi's efforts, he was conferred with the Commonwealth Points of Light award for his drive that helps to feed 1,500 people on a daily basis. The award is for those 'outstanding individuals who are making a change in their community.

### Zaila Avant-garde Wins 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee

- Zaila Avant-garde, an African-American, from New Orleans in Louisiana, has won the 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee. The 14-year-old Avant-garde, who is also an accomplished basketball player, is the first African-American contestant to win the prestigious competition in its 93 years history. The 8th-grader Avant-garde correctly spelt "Murraya", a genus of tropical Asiatic and Australian trees having pinnate leaves and flowers, to win a USD 50,000 prize.

- Zaila is also the first Black contestant to win since Jody-Anne Maxwell of Jamaica in 1998. 12-year-old Indian-origin Chaitra Thummala, from San Francisco and 13-year-old Indian-origin Bhavana Madini, from New York, won second and third place respectively.

#### **Kaushik Basu has been awarded the Humboldt Research Award for Economics**

- 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 prestigious award is sponsored by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and awarded to as many as 100 recipients each year.
- The Humboldt Research Award honours scientists and economists from across the world for their work. The award entails prize money of 60,000 euros and an offer to carry out research projects at a scientific institution in Germany for up to 12 months.

#### **Korean Air wins Air Transport World's Airline of the Year Award**

- 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.
- The company's excellent leadership, its ability to remain operationally profitable through the industry's worst-ever crisis, its strong commitment to health safety customer service excellence, and its remarkable relationship with employees." The judges also noted the airline's "transformational strategic deal to incorporate Asiana and create a larger, more global flagship carrier. Korean Air plans to continue to strengthen its position in the global aviation industry and aims to become one of the world's top 10 airlines after successfully acquiring and integrating Asiana Airlines.

#### **Invest India won the most innovative Investment Promotion Agency 2021 award**

- 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.
- Invest India, set up in 2009, is a non-profit venture under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
- It is the national investment promotion and facilitation agency.
- Invest India focuses on sector-specific investor targeting and the development of new partnerships to enable sustainable investments in India.



## Odia poet R. K. Panda bags Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar for the year 2020

- 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.
- Born on June 24, 1944, Dr. Panda writes in the Odia language. He has published 16 poetry collections and a novel. He is a major Indian poet who steered the path of modern Odia poetry to great heights. He was awarded the Gangadhar National Award in 2010, and the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1985. He was awarded a DLitt by Sambalpur University.
- Founded in 1992, Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Trust instituted this national annual literary award in 2013 in the name of Kuvempu to recognize litterateurs who had contributed in any language recognized by the Constitution of India.

## RANKING

### JNCASR Bengaluru hits Nature Index Top 50 for materials science

- 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, the University of Texas Austin (fourth), the University of Berkley (12th) and the University of Cambridge (27th). JNCASR president Professor Giridhar U Kulkarni, who is also a materials scientist, described the mood at the centre as being jubilant.

### NewsOnAir Radio Live-stream Global Rankings

- 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.

### News On Air Top 10 Countries -

#### Rank Country

- 1 United States
- 2 Fiji
- 3 Australia
- 4 United Kingdom
- 5 Canada

- 6 United Arab Emirates
- 7 Singapore
- 8 Kuwait
- 9 Saudi Arabia
- 10 Germany

### Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021 : India ranked 20<sup>th</sup>

- 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. The country was in the 17th spot in 2019, after which it slid six spots down and stood at 23 in 2020. According to the report, India needs to better its infrastructure and Internet speed in order to further strengthen its start-up ecosystem.
- India currently has 43 of its cities listed in the top 1000, globally, with Bengaluru(10th), New Delhi (14th) and Mumbai (16th) in the top 20.
- Like last year, the US, the UK, Israel, Canada and Germany are in the top five spots this year too and continue their lead.

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

### Book 'An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation' by Former election commissioner Ashok Lavasa

- 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.

### Book 'Palleku Pattabhishekam' is released by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu

- 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. The Vice President said that villages and agriculture are intrinsically connected and we must address their issues holistically to bring 'Gram Swarajya' to our villages.

### Book 'Bank With A Soul: Equitas' authored by Dr. C K Garyali

- Former RBI Governor, Duvvuri Subbarao has unveiled a book 'Bank With A Soul: Equitas' authored by Dr. C K Garyali.
- Dr. Garyali is a founder trustee of EDIT (Equitas Development Initiative Trust) and the book chronicles the journey of Equitas and EDIT in transforming the lives of women with frequent social reform initiatives helping them set up micro-enterprises.

### **'The Stranger In The Mirror' is the autobiography of Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra**

- 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. The autobiography has published by Rupa Publications, the book will hit the stands across the country on July 27. Ad maker-turned-director Mehra, known for helming movies like Rang De Basanti, Delhi-6, Bhaag Milkha Bhaag and the recently released Toofan.
- According to a press release, The Stranger In The Mirror features first-person accounts of noted personalities from the cinema and advertising world including Waheeda Rahman, A.R. Rahman, Bajpayee, Abhishek Bachchan, Akhtar, Kapoor Ahuja, Tandon, Ronnie Screwvala, Atul Kulkarni, R. Madhavan, Divya Dutta and Prahlad Kakar.

### **Book "RSS" by Sudhanshu Mittal now in Chinese**

- 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.
- According to Mittal, he wrote this book to "differentiate between fact and fiction that is at the heart of the debate on the RSS" and to attempt to clarify RSS's contribution to and position in Indian society. The book, in his words, attempts to describe the work of the RSS since its inception, its history, the core of Sewa Karya, the structural organisation, busting the myths of the RSS not having participated in the Independence movement of India, the Ram Janmabhoomi issue, and the organisation's dynamic nature through generational change.

### **Book 'The India Story' by Bimal Jalan the former governor of RBI**

- 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.
- He traces India's economic policies from 1991 to 2019 to offer insights on learning from the past, before moving 'Beyond the Metrics of Economy' to talk about the role of governance in implementing these policies. He also authored the books 'India Then and Now', 'India Ahead'.

### **Vice President of India M.Naidu receives book entitled 'Urdu Poets and Writers – Gems of Deccan'**

- Vice President M. Venkai 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.
- The book is an anthology of prose and poetry that encapsulates the life and works of 51 outstanding poets and writers of the Deccan region. The book traces the rich literary and cultural traditions of Deccan, right from the time of Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, the founder of Hyderabad, to the present times.

### **Book "The Great Big Lion" written by child prodigy Knight**

- 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.

- Knight, who is currently residing in Canada, learnt how to read at the age of one, started writing the story of "The Great Big Lion" in her notebook when she was three years old. She then shared it with her family and became determined to do the artwork with the motivation of getting the book published.

### **Book "The Art of Conjuring Alternate Realities" by S. S. Singh and Anand Venkatanarayanan**

- 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.
- The Book deals with human history, societal control was determined by various hierarchies like military, colonialism, mega-corporations and now by information. This book widely talks about how information warfare is shaping your life and world. Parallely it deals with the operations of political parties, cybercriminals, godmen, national states in manipulating the thoughts.

### **Book The Struggle Within: A Memoir of the Emergency authored by Ashok Chakravarti**

- 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.
- The Book is Published By Harpercollins India. The Struggle Within: A Memoir of the Emergency book deals with one of independent India's darkest hours during the emergency period. The Emergency (1975-1977) was one of independent India's darkest hours. In that period, Over 150,000 people were imprisoned without trial; as many as eleven million forcibly sterilized, and countless killed in police firings or otherwise eliminated.

### **'The Ramayana of Shri Guru Gobind Singh' written by Baljit Kaur Tulsi**

- 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. Apart from this, the Prime Minister also shared the audio of the Gurbani Shabad recital by KTS Tulsi, the sitting Rajya Sabha MP of Congress from Chhattisgarh.

### **Book "The Pregnancy Bible" by Kareena Kapoor**

- 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.

### **Book titled “The Light of Asia” by Jairam Ramesh is a biography the Buddha**

- 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.

### **Book ‘The Fourth Lion: Essays for Gopalkrishna Gandhi’ authored by Venu Madhav Govindu and Srinath Raghavan**

- 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.
- Gopalkrishna Gandhi has been an administrator, diplomat, author, and public intellectual of distinction for over four decades. His writings have spanned diverse genres, showcasing both his deep scholarship as well as a profound engagement with issues of politics, history, literature, and culture.

### **Book “Lady Doctors: The Untold Stories of India’s First Women in Medicine” authored by Kavitha Rao**

- 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.
- Rukhmabai was an Indian physician and feminist. She is best known for being one of the first practising women doctors in colonial India as well as being involved in a landmark legal case involving her marriage as a child bride between 1884 and 1888.

### **Pan Macmillan to publish Nathuram Godse’s biography**

- 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.
- The book was acquired at auction by Teesta Guha Sarkar, editorial head at Pan Macmillan India, from Anish Chandy, founder of Labyrinth literary agency. “The book will be a deep-dive account and delve into the cataclysmic chain of events both before and after Gandhi’s murder.

### **Book “Anomalies in Law and Justice” released by CJI NV Ramana**

- Chief Justice of India Justice NV Ramana has released former Supreme Court judge RV Raveendran’s book “Anomalies in Law and Justice”.

- The book is an attempt to explain to the layman that the law and the legal system is still evolving and that it requires more critical thinking to resolve issues that have persisted in the system for a long time. The book covers procedural as well as substantive law relating to civil procedure, electoral reforms and the alternate dispute resolution mechanism.

## BANKING AND ECONOMY

### RBI cancelled licence of Madgaum Urban Co-operative Bank limited Margao

- 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. According to the RBI, as per the data submitted by the bank, about 99 per cent of the depositors will receive full amounts of their deposits from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC). The bank ceases to carry on banking business with effect from the close of business on July 29, 2021.
- The Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Goa, has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the bank. On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs five lakh from the DICGC subject to the provisions of the DICGC Act, 1961. With the cancellation of licence and commencement of liquidation proceedings, the process of paying the depositors of the bank as per the DICGC Act, 1961 will be set in motion.

### Reserve Bank of India is working plans digital currency pilots soon

- 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.
- The primary idea for the RBI is to protect consumers from the appalling level of volatility seen in some or many of the virtual currencies that have no sovereign backing. Though the phased rollout of digital currency augurs well for India, it will come with its own challenges.
- Digital currencies are gaining more and more traction by the day, and there are countries that have launched or are going to be launching digital currencies, including Ecuador, Tunisia, Senegal, Sweden, Estonia, China, Russia, Japan, Venezuela, and Israel.

### HDFC Ltd got a loan of \$250 million from International Finance Corporation (IFC)

- 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.
- IFC's \$250 million loans to HDFC Ltd will support its moves to grow its affordable housing and



emerging green affordable housing portfolio by improving access to such housing for people on lower incomes.

- Aligned with the government of India's goal to provide 'Housing for All,' the funding will also help generate jobs,". Green affordable housing can help India on its path to deliver on its commitments under the Paris Agreement, to reduce a third of its carbon emissions by 2030 from 2005 levels.

### Max Bupa Health Insurance rebrands itself as Niva Bupa Health Insurance

- 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.
- With the entry of private equity firm True North, it was decided that the use of the "Max" brand will be phased out over a period of two years and replaced with a suitable name, to create a new brand identity. Niva Bupa targets to become a Rs 2,500 crore company by FY 2021-22.

### U GRO Capital & BOB in tie-up

- 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. The aim is to dispense the entire amount by the end of this financial year. The loan amount ranges from ₹50 lakh to ₹2.5 crores to be offered at an interest rate starting from 8% with a maximum tenure of 120 months.
- The programme is accessible to MSMEs across U GRO's over 200 channel touchpoints around nine locations in Delhi, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Pune, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Kolkata.

### Federal Bank launched "FEDDY" AI-Powered virtual assistant for customers

- 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. It is integrated into Google Business Messaging, a first-of-its-kind by an Indian bank.
- The bank has recently come out with innovative and user-friendly facilities such as FedSelfie, under which individuals can open their accounts by merely taking a selfie, and Federal 24x7, which makes possible the opening of accounts through a video call to the bank.

### RBI canceled licence of Dr Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar Urban Co-operative Bank

- 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 Maharashtra-based bank with its current financial position would be unable to pay its depositors in full, the central bank said while announcing the cancellation of its licence. The bank ceases to carry

on banking business, with effect from the close of business.

- With the cancellation of its licence, the bank has been prohibited from conducting the business of "banking" that includes acceptance of deposits and repayment of deposits with immediate effect.

### **RBI imposed restrictions on Mastercard Asia from adding new customers from 22nd July 2021**

- 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.
- This order will not impact existing Mastercard customers, RBI asked the company to inform all card-issuing banks and non-banks to conform to these directions. It may be recalled that RBI had issued a circular in April 2018, directing all system providers to ensure that all information related to payments systems operated by them are stored in India. All the firms were given a period of six months to comply and report compliance to RBI.

### **Reserve Bank of India Launched 'Retail Direct Scheme'**

- 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 RBI Retail Direct scheme is a one-stop solution to facilitate investment in Government Securities (G-Secs) by individual investors.
- This dedicated bond-buying window is a part of RBI's effort to increase retail participation in government securities.
- The scheme also provides the facility to Retail investors (individuals) to open and maintain the 'Retail Direct Gilt Account' (RDG Account) with RBI.

### **RBI imposed monetary penalty on 14 banks for non-compliance**

- 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 central bank imposed Rs 2 crore penalty on the Bank of Baroda, Rs 1 crore each on 12 other banks and Rs 50 lakh on the State Bank of India. RBI imposed Rs 1 crore penalty each on Bandhan Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, Central Bank of India, Credit Suisse AG, Indian Bank, IndusInd Bank, Karnataka Bank, Karur Vysya Bank, Punjab and Sind Bank, South Indian Bank, The Jammu & Kashmir Bank and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank.

### **Axis Bank and Max Bupa Health Insurance enter into a partnership**

- 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. The tie-up will enable millions of Axis Bank customers across 4,500 plus branches to gain access to quality healthcare solutions through a range of health insurance products offered by Max Bupa.

- Max Bupa Health Insurance will offer indemnity as well as fixed benefit products, and their customisable variants to the diverse customers of the bank across the country. Axis Bank also has an existing health insurance tie-up with Aditya Birla Health Insurance. Bancassurance is a relationship between a bank and an insurance company that is aimed at offering insurance products to the bank's customers.

### Axis Bank signs MOU with Indian Army

- 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.
- According to the bank, it will offer—Personal accidental cover of up to ₹56 lakh to all army personnel; additional up to 8 lakh education grant; total Permanent Disability Cover benefit up to 46 lakh; permanent partial disability cover of up to ₹46 lakh; air accident cover of ₹1 crore, and free additional debit card for a family member.

### DMRC launched India's first UPI-based cashless parking

- 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.
- The facility can accommodate 55 four-wheelers and 174 two-wheelers. The entry and exit and payment of 4-wheelers can be done through the FASTag.
- The parking fee will be deducted through FASTag, which will reduce the time for entry and payment. Only the vehicles with FASTag will be allowed to park in this facility.

### Facebook Launched newsletter platform "Bulletin"

- 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.
- Facebook is pushing to compete in the fast-growing email newsletter trend, as high-profile journalists and writers have left media companies over the past year to strike out on their own.

### Paytm launched 'Postpaid Mini' to provide small-ticket instant loans

- 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. These small ticket instant loans will give flexibility to users and also help manage their household expenses to maintain liquidity during the ongoing Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

- Paytm Postpaid is offering a period of up to 30 days for repayment of loans at 0 per cent interest.
- There are no annual fees or activation charges, only a minimal convenience fee. With the launch of Postpaid Mini, the company will offer access to loans ranging from Rs 250 to Rs 1000, in addition to Paytm Postpaid's instant credit of up to Rs 60,000.
- This could help users pay for their monthly expenses, including mobile and direct to home (DTH) recharges, gas cylinder booking, electricity and water bills, shop on Paytm Mall and more.

### **GST collection dips below Rs 1 lakh crore in June 2021**

- 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).
- With eased relaxations following improvement in the overall Covid-19 situation in the country, the government expects GST revenues to rise from July 2021 onwards.

### **RBI announced change in Government securities auction methodology**

- 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.
- In a Uniform Price auction, all the successful bidders are required to pay for the allotted quantity of securities at the same rate, i.e., at the auction cut-off rate, irrespective of the rate quoted by them.
- In a Multiple Price auction, the successful bidders are required to pay for the allotted quantity of securities at the respective price/yield at which they have bid.

### **IOB becomes the second most-valued public lender**

- 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.
- In the past month, the market price of IOB has zoomed 57 per cent, as compared to a 4 per cent

decline in PNB and a 5 per cent gain in BOB share price. The bank plans to come out of the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework by focusing on recovery, low-cost deposits, and less capital consuming advances.

### **RBI imposes Rs 25 lakh penalty on Punjab & Sind Bank**

- 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. The state-owned bank had reported a few cyber incidents to the RBI on May 16 and 20, 2020, the central bank said while giving details. Accordingly, the central bank had issued a show-cause notice to the bank asking it why a penalty should not be imposed for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI.
- This penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of section 47 A (1) (c) read with sections 46 (4) (i) and 51 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

### **Axis Bank tie-up with AWS for powering digital banking services**

- 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.
- To date, Axis Bank has deployed over 25 mission-critical applications on AWS, including a Buy Now Pay Later product and a new loan management system to support it, Account Aggregator, Video-Know Your Customer (V-KYC), and WhatsApp Banking.

### **HDFC Bank launched 'Salaam Dil Sey' initiative for Doctors**

- 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.
- As part of this initiative, the bank has created a web platform [www.salaamdilsey.com](http://www.salaamdilsey.com) wherein the general public can logon on to the microsite and share the thank you message for doctors which can be immediately shared via e-mail, social media, and WhatsApp.

### **ICICI Bank launched 'Salute Doctors', banking solution for every doctors**

- 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.
- The solutions, are mostly digital and instant, designed to cater to the professional, business, lifestyle

and wealth banking requirements of doctors and their families. The initiative is powered by ICICI STACK, a digital banking platform with nearly 500 services that helps customers of the Bank to avail the services digitally and seamlessly.

### State Bank of India celebrated 66th Foundation Day on 1st July 2021

- 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.
- The Bank of Madras merged into the other two presidency banks, the bank of Calcutta and the bank of Bombay to form the Imperial Bank of India which in turn became the State Bank of India on this day in 1955.

### Government keeps interest rates on Small Savings Schemes unchanged for second quarter

- The government of India has announced that the rate of interest on Small Savings Schemes for the second quarter (July-Sept) of 2021-22 will remain unchanged as the last quarter (April-June) of 2021-2022. It must be noted that the Government notifies the Interest rates for small savings schemes on a quarterly basis.
- Various Interest Rates for Quarter-2 (July-Sept) of 2021-22 are-  
Post Office Savings Account- 4%  
Post Office Time Deposit (TD) Account – One, two & three (Year ) - 5.5%

### Flipkart launched Shopsy to enable over 25 mn online entrepreneurs

- 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.
- These users can share catalogues with potential customers via popular social media and messaging apps, place orders on their behalf and earn commissions on the transactions. These range across fashion, beauty, mobiles, electronics and home, with potential customers via popular social media and messaging apps. Shopsy's objective is to power e-commerce for communities and third-party channels where these users spend time/trust.