

## Weekly Current Affairs PDF JULY 18 to JULY 24, 2021

### Current Affairs PDF- JULY 24, 2021

#### INTERNATIONAL

##### 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.

#### NATIONAL

##### 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.

## SPORTS

### 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."

## OBITUARY

### 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 Thiruvavarur Shri Subba Iyer and later trained under Mayuram Shri Govindarajan Pillai. He was an 'A' Grade Artist of AIR and has served for nearly 2 decades in Chennai radio Station from 1976 to 1994.
- 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.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### 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.

## SUMMITS AND MOU'S

### 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.

## BANKING AND ECONOMY

### 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.

## Current Affairs PDF- JULY 23, 2021

### INTERNATIONAL

### 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.

### NATIONAL

#### 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.

### SPORTS

#### 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.

## OBITUARY

### 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.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

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

- National Broadcasting Day is observed on 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

## SUMMITS AND MOU'S

### 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.

### BOOKS AND AUTHORS

#### 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.

### BANKING AND ECONOMY

#### 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.

## Current Affairs PDF- JULY 22, 2021

### INTERNATIONAL

#### 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.

## NATIONAL

### 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.

## SPORTS

### 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.

## APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

### 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.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### 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.

## 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 Katigorah 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.

## 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.

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

### '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.

## Current Affairs PDF- JULY 21, 2021

### INTERNATIONAL

#### 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.

### NATIONAL

#### 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.

### SPORTS

#### 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.

### OBITUARY

#### 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.

## SUMMITS AND MOU'S

### 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.

## BANKING AND ECONOMY

### SBI selected Paisalo as its National Corporate Business Correspondent of the Bank

- State Bank of India (SBI) has selected "Paisalo Digital" as the National Corporate Business Correspondent of the Bank for financial inclusion by providing banking services through kiosks. The signing of the Service Level Agreement and other formalities shall be done shortly. Paisalo is tapping into the Rs 8 lakh crore market opportunity of small-ticket loans for India's 365 million unbanked population.
- Ensuring superior financial inclusion and increasing the outreach, the financial solutions company shall extend its services and its reach to the general public including its existing customers and new customers. As a business correspondent for State Bank of India, they will focus and improve the synergy with the thrust of the already up and running fully digital small loan business under SBI-Paisalo Loan Co-origination.

### ICICI Bank announced the launch of a co-branded credit card

- ICICI Bank has announced the launch of a co-branded credit card with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) to enable users to get benefits and reward points for using multiple credit cards in one. Named, 'ICICI Bank HPCL Super Saver Credit Card', the card offers best-in-class rewards and benefits to customers on their everyday spends on fuel as well as other categories including electricity and mobile, departmental stores like Big Bazaar and D-Mart, and e-commerce portals, among others. Powered by VISA, the card is unique among its peers which

typically offer benefits on only one category of spends.

- Customers can apply for the 'ICICI Bank HPCL Super Saver Credit Card' through the Bank's internet banking platform or the mobile banking app, iMobile Pay. They get a digital card in a 100% contactless and paperless manner. The physical card is also sent to the customer by ICICI Bank within a few days. Further, customers can manage their transaction settings and credit limit conveniently on the iMobile Pay app.

## Current Affairs PDF- JULY 20, 2021

### INTERNATIONAL

#### 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.

### NATIONAL

#### 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.

### SPORTS

#### 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.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### 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.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

### 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 Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company Limited and Snehakunja Trust are among the 10 awardees of the prestigious Equator Prize 2021 for their work in the field of conservation and biodiversity. The UNDP gives a biennial award to recognize community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

- Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar 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.

### BOOKS AND AUTHORS

#### 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'.

### BANKING AND ECONOMY

#### 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.

## Current Affairs PDF- JULY 19, 2021

### INTERNATIONAL

#### 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.

## NATIONAL

### 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.

## SPORTS

### 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.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### 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.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

### 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.

## Current Affairs PDF- JULY 18, 2021

### NATIONAL

#### 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.