

## Awards and Honours

Recipient Name	Award Name	Extra Information
Rajendra Kishore Panda	Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar	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.
Invest India	Most innovative Investment Promotion Agency 2021 award	OCO Global is a leading authority on foreign investment and offers a range of economic development services, products, and unique company assessment tools.
Kaushik Basu	Humboldt Research Award	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.
Syed Osman Azhar Maqsusi	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.
N N Pillai	BKS Literary Award	BKS president P V Radhakrishna Pillai, general secretary Varghese Karackal and literary wing secretary Firoz Thiruvathra announced the award.
Shibaji Banerjee	Mohun Bagan Ratna	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.
Vinay Badhwar	Alexander Dalrymple award	Chief Hydrographer of India Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar on July 23, 2021. Was conferred with the prestigious Alexander Dalrymple award by the British Government. The award recognizes Badhwar's

## CURRENT AFFAIRS DAILY DIGEST – JULY 2021

		work in the areas of hydrography and nautical cartography.
Anand Radhakrishnan	Eisner award	The Eisner Awards are given out annually and the award won by Radhakrishnan “Best Painter/Multimedia Artist (interior art)” recognises the creator of a graphic novel’s art and images.
Asha Bhosle	Maharashtra Bhushan award 2021	Asha Bhosle was officially acknowledged by the Guinness Book of World Records as the most recorded artist in music history. The Government of India honoured her with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2000 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2008.

## Appointments

Name	Designation	Extra Information
Vivek Ram Chaudhari	IAF Vice Chief	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.
Pushkar Singh Dhama	Chief minister of Uttarakhand	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.
KN Bhattacharjee	New Lokayukta in Tripura	The Lokayukta Act has been in force in Tripura since 2008 and in 2012, the first Lokayukta was appointed in Tripura.
Satish Agnihotri	Managing Director, National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd.	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.
Nitin Gadkari	Brand Ambassador- 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'.
Sudhanshu Mittal	President of Kho Kho Federation of India	Sudhanshu Mittal on July 5, 2021, was re-elected as the President of Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) that was held on July 5 to elect the office bearers of KKFI for 2021-2025.
N Venudhar Reddy	Director General of All India Radio	N Venudhar Reddy, an Indian Information Service, IIS Officer of 1988 batch took charge as Director General of All India Radio.
Sher Bahadur Deuba	Prime Minister – Nepal	The apex court also reinstated the dissolved House of Representatives for the second time in 5 months. The verdict was issued by a 5-member constitutional bench of the

		Supreme Court led by Chief Justice Cholendra Shumsher Rana.
Bashar al-Assad	Syria's President	Bashar al-Assad was sworn in as the President of Syria for the fourth term on Saturday after his landslide victory in May.
Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Deputy Leader of House in Rajya Sabha	The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced the appointment of the Union minister for minority affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi as the deputy leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha.
Ariel Henry	Prime Minister of Haiti	The assassination of President Jovenel Moise caused turmoil in the country of Haiti. Among this turmoil the country has appointed Ariel Henry as its new Prime Minister.
Rashmi R Das	UN Tax Committee	Rasmi Ranjan Das, a Joint secretary of the Finance Ministry has been appointed to the UN tax committee as a member for the term period 2021 to 2025.
Najib Mikati	Lebanon's new Prime Minister	Najib Mikati on July 26, 2021, became Lebanon's new Prime Minister with 72 votes in parliament while the former ambassador Nawaf Salam received only one vote.
Rakesh Asthana	Delhi Police Commissioner	Rakesh Asthana was due to retire on as Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF) on 31st.
Basavaraj Bommai	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.

### Banking & Finance

#### **HDFC Bank launches ‘Salaam Dil Sey’ initiative**

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.

#### **ICICI Bank launches ‘Salute Doctors’, banking solution for 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.

#### **Paytm launches ‘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.

#### **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.

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

#### **RBI imposes 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.

### **Axis Bank signs MOU with Indian Army to offer defence service salary package**

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.

### **ICICI Bank, HPCL launch 'ICICI Bank HPCL Super Saver' 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.

### **IFC lends \$250 million to HDFC Ltd to boost green housing finance**

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.

### **Mastercard banned from issuing new cards from July 22 by RBI**

The Reserve Bank of India on July 14, 2021 barred Mastercard Asia / Pacific Pte Ltd (Mastercard) from issuing new credit, debit and prepaid cards with effect from July 22 for its failure to comply with its data storage norms.

### **Bank of Maharashtra signs MoU with NABARD**

Bank of Maharashtra has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) to boost ongoing developmental initiatives linked to priority sector lending in Maharashtra. It is on a collaborative approach to enhance rural prosperity through the convergence of institutional lending & ongoing development initiative.

### **Kotak Mahindra Bank signs MoU with the Indian Navy for salary account**

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.

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

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has overhauled rules for extending loans to directors of other banks and relatives of directors.

As per the amendments, the central bank has allowed banks to extend personal loans up to ₹5 crores to directors of other banks and directors' relatives other than spouses without board approval. The earlier limit for such loans was ₹25 lakh.

### Indian Affairs

#### **India's oldest running newspaper, Mumbai Samachar, turns 200**

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.

#### **Mariyappan Thangavelu named 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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **Mary Kom, Manpreet Singh to 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.

#### **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.

### **Mumbai, Pune to 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.

### **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.

### **Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates India's first Liquefied Natural Gas plant in Nagpur**

The Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari on July 11, 2021, inaugurated India's first private Liquefied Natural Gas (LPG) plant in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

India's first LNG facility plant has been set up by Baidyanath Ayurvedic Group on Kamptee Road near Nagpur-Jabalpur Highway.

### **National Dolphin Research Centre to come up in Patna**

Much-awaited National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) will soon come up in Patna. Process to set up the research centre has started.

Opening up of the research centre will be a big step towards conservation of endangered Gangetic River dolphin.

To set up the research centre, NDRC is coming up on 4,400 square metre plots of land in premises of Patna University, near banks of River Ganga.

### **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.

### **India to 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.

### **India's first 5-star Hotel atop Railway Track in Gandhinagar**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to virtually inaugurate a newly-built five-star hotel on the top of redeveloped Gandhinagar railway station on July 16, 2021.

This project on redevelopment of Gandhinagar railway station and construction of five-star hotel started by Indian Railway Stations Redevelopment Corporation (IRSDC) in January 2017.

### **India to send 228 contingent to Tokyo Olympics**

India is all set to sending a 228-strong contingent to Tokyo Olympics, including 119 athletes. Of 119 athletes, 67 are male and 52 female participants.

119 athletes from 22 states will represent 130 crore Indians in 18 sport disciplines. India is fighting for 85 medal events.

### **Indian Institute of Heritage to come up in Noida**

The Indian Institute of Heritage will be set up in Noida by the government. This will be a first of kind institution in the country.

The Indian Institute of Heritage will be set up and it will focus on the country's rich heritage and will look to impart education on the cultural aspects of the nation.

### **India's first 'Grain ATM' open in Gurugram**

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'.

### **India's first monk fruit cultivation exercise begins in HP's Kullu**

The 'monk fruit' from China, which is known for its properties as a non-caloric natural sweetener, was introduced for field trials in Himachal Pradesh by the Palampur-based Council of Scientific Research and Industrial Technology Institute of Himalayan Bio-resource Technology (CSIR-IHBT) in Kullu.

### **Lithium Exploration Project in India**

The Geological Survey of India has initiated seven lithium exploration projects in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, and Rajasthan. Lithium (Li), chemical element of Periodic Group 1 (Ia) in the periodic table, the alkali metal group, and the lightest of the solid elements.

The metal itself soft, white, & shiny and its several alloys and compounds are manufactured on an industrial scale. The most common application for lithium is in rechargeable batteries for cell phones, laptop computers, digital cameras, and electric vehicles.

### Cabinet Affairs

#### Cabinet approves Rs 3 trn outlay for Power Reform scheme

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a Rs 3.03 trillion power distribution company (DISCOM) reform scheme on June 30, 2021. Under the scheme, Centre's share will be about Rs 97,631 crore.

#### Cabinet approves BharatNet PPP model

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved for revised implementation strategy of BharatNet under Public Private Partnership mode on June 30, 2021.

Project would be implemented across 16 States of India. Under the revised proposal, BharatNet will now extend up to all inhabited villages beyond Gram Panchayats (GPs).

#### Union Cabinet approves MoU between India, Gambia on governance reforms

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Modi gave its approval to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Government of India and the Public Service Commission, the Republic of The Gambia on Refurbishing the Personnel Administration and Governance Reforms.

#### Cabinet Reshuffle: 43 leaders take oath as ministers

The Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expanded its council of ministers. The names in the cabinet reshuffle include several new entrants as well as existing ministers who will be reassigned. The swearing-in ceremony of 43 Ministers was held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on July 7, 2021.

#### Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilization and Welfare) Bill, 2021

The Uttar Pradesh government on July 11, 2021, announced a new population bill known as the Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilization, and Welfare) Bill, 2021 on World Population Day.

Prepared by the Uttar Pradesh Law Commission (UPLC), the Draft of the Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilization, and Welfare) Bill, 2021 aims at curbing the population menace in the state. Uttar Pradesh, with a population of around 220 million, is India's most populous state.

#### Cryptocurrency Bill

The Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021, also known as the Crypto Bill, is now ready to be presented in the Monsoon session of the Indian Parliament that begins on July 19, 2021.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman earlier this week said the views and feedback of all stakeholders have been ascertained. Earlier, the Crypto bill was expected to be taken up

during the Budget session but could not be as the session was curtailed due to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Cabinet approves continuation of National AYUSH Mission scheme**

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.

### **Cabinet approves increase in DA and Dearness Relief from 17% to 28%**

The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved an increase in the Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief to pensioners to 28 per cent. This hike represents an increase of 11 per cent over the existing rate of 17 per cent of the basic pay/pension.

### **Lok Sabha passes National Institutes of Food Technology Bill**

National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2021 was passed in the Lok Sabha. This bill was moved by Pashupati Kumar Paras who is the Food Processing and Industries Minister.

This bill lays down various provisions for institutes of food technology, management and entrepreneurship.

### **Lok Sabha passes Factoring Amendment Bill**

Lok Sabha passed the Factoring Amendment Bill to amend the Factoring Regulation Act 2011. This bill will broaden the scope of the entities which can participate in the factoring business and also will ensure that strong oversight and regulatory mechanisms are put in place.

Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister of India, stated that the changes are being made to help the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) sector.

### **Cabinet approves MoU with Russia on coking Coal**

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Russia on cooperation in coking Coal. Coking coal is used for Steel making. MoU was signed between Ministry of Steel (India) and Ministry of Energy (Russia).

### **Cabinet approves MoU with Denmark on Health**

Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (India) and Ministry of Health (Denmark) on Cooperation in areas of Health and Medicine.

### **Marine Aids to Navigation Bill introduced in Rajya Sabha**

The government on 19th July, 2021 had introduced a Bill in the Rajya Sabha that seeks to repeal the decades old Lighthouse Act of 1927 to make way for shifting to modern aids from lighthouses for marine navigation.

Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports Shipping and Waterways, introduced the Marine Aids to Navigation Bill, which he had termed to be very important for developing the entire navigation system of India.

### **Cabinet approves Rs 6322 crore PLI scheme for specialty steel**

An Rs 6,322-crore production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for specialty steel has been approved by the Union Cabinet. This move is aimed at boosting the domestic exports and manufacturing from this sector.

### **Inland Vessels Bill 2021, introduced in the Lok Sabha**

Inland Vessels Bill, 2021 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha amid the hullabaloo in the house due to the Pegasus snooping scandal.

This bill will bring uniformity in the application of the law which are related to navigation and inland waterways within India.

### State related Affairs

#### Andhra CM launches '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.

#### Kerala govt. 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.

#### Chhattisgarh to launch scheme to provide Rs. 6,000 per year to landless families

The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel announced on July 28, 2021, that the state government will launch Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhoomihin Krishi Majdoor Nyay Yojana under which the landless families will be provided financial assistance of Rs. 6,000 every year.

#### Karnataka becomes the 1st state to reserve jobs for transgender persons

Karnataka has become the first state in the country to provide one per cent reservation for the 'transgender community in all the government services.

The government submitted a report to the High Court in this regard informing that a notification had already been issued after amending the Karnataka Civil Service (General Recruitment) Rule, 1977.

#### Kerala to launch Mathru Kavacham campaign to vaccinate pregnant women

Kerala Health Minister Veena George on July 12, 2021, informed that the Kerala government is all set to launch a campaign called 'Mathru Kavacham' to provide COVID-19 vaccines to all the pregnant women in the state.

George stressed that getting the COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy is an important preventive measure. COVID-19 can adversely affect the health of pregnant women. The virus can have severe implications in people over 35 years of age, or people with high blood pressure or diabetes, or obese people. The infection can have adverse effects on the health of the baby.

#### BS Yediyurappa resigns as Karnataka chief minister

At a two-year celebration of his government, today Karnataka Chief Minister, BS Yediyurappa announced his resignation. This announcement ends the weeks of speculation floating around regarding calls for his removal by a BJP section in the state.

### **Uttar Pradesh CM launches ‘MyGov-Meri Sarkar’ portal**

Yogi Adityanath the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh launched the ‘MyGov-Meri Sarkar’ portal. Through this portal, the people of the state can give various feedbacks to the government and the UP government can also inform them about the various schemes of the state.

### **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.

### **Puri becomes first city in India to have Drink from Tap project**

Odisha’s Puri on July 26, 2021, became the first city in India to have a Drink from Tap project that will dispense safe hygienic drinking water directly from a tap 24×7. CM Naveen Patnaik on July 26 launched the ‘Sujal: Drink from Tap’ project.

### **Ladakh signs MoU with Sikkim to turn UT organic by 2025**

The union territory of Ladakh organic, the administration of Ladakh, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency (SOCCA).

A tripartite MOU has been signed between Ladakh and SSOCA regarding the implementation of Prampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana and Mission Organic Development Initiative (MODI) in the Ladakh region with the aim to convert Ladakh into organic by 2025. The main objective of this MOU is to get the organic certification after a tie-up with the Government of India.

### **‘Bonalu’ festivities to begin in Telangana**

‘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.

### **Karnataka CM unveils 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.

### **Perumkulam is Kerala’s first ‘Book Village’**

Perumkulam, in Kollam District, has been bestowed with the title Kerala’s first ‘Book Village’. This claim to fame results from years of concerted efforts aimed at encouraging the habit of reading.

Perumkulam is a small village in Kulakkada near Kottarakkara in Kollam district. Bapuji Smaraka Grandhasala', a library in the village is at the forefront in this effort of making it the first book village of the State.

### **Assam CM Himanta Biswa assures govt jobs for National Games Medalists**

The Assam State Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma has assured jobs for all National Games medalists of Assam from now on. He also mentioned that all those who won medals in National Games so far for Assam would be given Sports Pension by the State Government. He hoped that this decision would help the sportspersons of the state.

### **Rajasthan Government launches 'Mission Niryatak Bano'**

The Rajasthan government's industries department and the Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO) have launched the 'Mission Niryatak Bano' campaign to promote aspiring exporters in the state.

The campaign is aimed at registering and handholding the local traders willing to expand their business to foreign countries, in six steps. This shall cover assistance from training, securing necessary documentation, registration in Rajasthan Export Promotion Council and even support in exports and trade operations.

### **Amazon launches its first Digital Kendra in India 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.

### **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.

### **Karnataka to 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.

### **2022 Khelo India Youth Games to be held in Haryana**

The state government of Haryana will organise the Khelo India Youth Games 2021 in February 2022.

Earlier the sports show was scheduled to be held from November 21 to December 5, 2021, but has been shifted due to the possible third wave of Covid-19 pandemic and keeping in mind that Khelo India Youth Games 2021 are to be held in the Under-18 category.

### **Haryana to 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.

### **IOC to set up first ‘green hydrogen’ plant at UP**

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), India’s largest oil firm, will build the first ‘green hydrogen’ plant of the country at its Mathura refinery, to meet the growing demand for both oil and cleaner forms of energy.

This will be the nation’s first green hydrogen unit. Previously, projects have been announced to produce ‘grey hydrogen’ using fossil fuels such as natural gas.

### **Uttar Pradesh CM launches ‘MyGov-Meri Sarkar’ portal**

Yogi Adityanath the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh launched the ‘MyGov-Meri Sarkar’ portal. Through this portal, the people of the state can give various feedbacks to the government and the UP government can also inform them about the various schemes of the state.

### **MP government made ‘Devaranya’ scheme to promote Ayurveda**

In order to promote AYUSH in Madhya Pradesh and to link it with employment, the government has made the ‘Devaranya’ scheme. The scheme has been made to provide employment to the people living in the tribal areas of the state.

A complete value chain for the production of AYUSH medicines will be developed in the state through Devaranya Yojana. Self-help groups will also play an important role in this work.

### International Affairs

#### **Elon Musk's network Starlink to deliver internet nearly worldwide within weeks**

Elon Musk informed on June 29, 2021, that his satellite network Starlink is on track to beam the broadband internet everywhere in the world except the Polar regions by August 2021.

During a presentation at the Mobile World Congress Conference, Musk stated that Space Exploration Technologies Corp. has launched more than 1,500 satellites so far and Starlink operations in about a dozen countries.

#### **Bangladesh to launch 'Jogajog' as an alternative to Facebook**

Bangladesh is going to launch its own social media platform named 'Jogajog' which is an alternative to the globally popular Facebook and 'Alapon' which will be an alternative of WhatsApp.

#### **Global Education Summit in London**

Kenya and United Kingdom are co hosting a Global Education Summit in the city of London with the objective to raise 5 billion USD for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). GPE funds public education in up to 90 territories and countries.

#### **World's tallest sandcastle built in Denmark**

World's tallest sandcastle was built in Denmark. It has established new Guinness World Record of 21.16 metres. Denmark's new sandcastle is 3.5 meter taller than earlier record of 17.66-meter set by Germany in 2019.

#### **Qatar Airways joins IATA's Turbulence Aware Platform**

According to Qatar Airways and International Air Transport Association (IATA) Qatar Airways will be the first airline in Middle East to join IATA Turbulence Aware platform.

#### **Pakistan passes bill criminalizing torture, custodial deaths**

Pakistan's Parliament on July 12, 2021, passed a bill that criminalizes torture and prevents custodial killings by the police or other government officials.

The Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Bill, 2021 was adopted by the Senate, the Upper House of the bicameral parliament.

#### **Bhutan becomes second country to adopt India's BHIM-UPI**

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman along with Finance Minister of Bhutan Lyonpo Namgay Tshering launched BHIM-UPI in Bhutan on July 13, 2021, via a virtual ceremony.

With this launch, Bhutan became the first country to adopt India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) standards for its Quick Response (QR) code, the Ministry of External Affairs stated in a press release.

This launch also made Bhutan the second country after Singapore to have BHIM-UPI acceptance at merchant locations.

### **Africa: First continent to complete collection of digital land use data**

Africa has become the world's first continent to complete the collection of comprehensive, accurate, and harmonized digital use data and land-use change data under the Africa Open DEAL Initiative, under which DEAL stands for Data for the Environment, Agriculture, and Land Initiative.

The initiative of data collection and analysis was led by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations and the African Union Commission.

### **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.

### **China unveils 600 kmph maglev train, fastest ground vehicle globally**

Chinese State Media announced on July 20, 2021, that China has unveiled a maglev train which is capable of a top speed of 600 kmph.

The maximum speed will make the train which is self-developed by China and manufactured in the coastal city of Qingdao, the fastest ground vehicle globally.

### **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.

### **World's first 3D-printed steel bridge opens in Amsterdam**

The world's first 3D-printed steel pedestrian bridge was opened on the Oudezijds Achterburgwal canal in the city of Amsterdam on July 15, 2021. Máxima, the Queen of the Netherlands attended the opening ceremony of the bridge.

“A 3D-printed metal structure large and strong enough to handle pedestrian traffic has never been constructed before,” said Professor Leroy Gardner, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Imperial College London. 3D printing presents tremendous opportunities to the construction industry, he further added.

### **US authorizes Emergency Fund of \$100 million for Afghan migrants**

President of USA, Joe Biden, has authorized 100 million USD from an emergency fund to meet the refugee needs which is stemming from the geo-political situation in Afghanistan, which also includes the special immigration Afghan visa applicants.

### **Philippines approves genetically modified ‘Golden Rice’**

“Golden Rice” which is genetically modified has been given approval for commercial production by Philippines. Health experts believe that this decision will save lives and combat childhood blindness in the developing regions of the world.

The government issued a bio safety permit which paves way for this rice which is enriched with beta-carotene the vitamin A-precursor and makes this rice more nutritional.

### **Sunseap set to build world’s biggest floating solar in Indonesia**

Singapore’s Sunseap Group, plans to spend 2 billion dollars to build the world’s largest floating solar farm and energy storage system in neighbouring Indonesian city Batam, which will double its renewable power generation capacity. The floating photovoltaic system is expected to have a capacity of 2.2 gigawatts (peak).

### Foreign Relation

#### India – EU Cooperation in Agriculture sector

Virtual meeting between Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar and Member of European Commission-Agriculture, Janusz Wojciechowski, was held on 7th July, 2021.

During the meeting, strong momentum of India-EU relations was acknowledged. They discussed EU Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), recent India market reforms, UN Food System Summit, EU Farm to Fork Strategy and bilateral cooperation.

#### India, US extend their agreement on Triangular Cooperation for global development

India and the United States signed the Second Amendment to the Statement of Guiding Principles (SGP) on Triangular Cooperation for Global Development.

The Ministry of External Affairs released a statement saying that the second amendment was signed by Abhilasha Joshi, Joint Secretary, Development Partnership Administration-II Division in the External Affairs Ministry and Karen Klimowsky, Acting Mission Director for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in India.

#### 36th edition of CORPAT between India and Indonesia begins

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).

#### India & Russia to hold 2+2 dialogue

External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar recently held productive talks with the Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov. Both sides reviewed the progress on broad-ranging cooperation between both the nations on nuclear, space, energy and defence sectors.

#### India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation

21st Session of India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC) was held recently.

This session was co-chaired by Piyush Goyal, Commerce & Industry Minister and Mr. Luigi Di Maio, Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation of Italy.

Both the countries held discussions on bilateral trade & Investment and economic cooperation across the areas of Textile, Food Processing, Railways, Leather, Start-ups and promotion of SMEs. All these sectors play significant role in growth of economy and employment generation.

#### Goldman Sachs open its global centre in Hyderabad

Banking and financial services major, Goldman Sachs has opened a new facility in Hyderabad as part of its commitment to expand its global centre for engineering and business innovation in India. Hyderabad is emerging as a key investment destination for banking & financial service.

### **Nepal Inks USD 1.3 billion mega-deal with India to develop Hydropower project**

Nepal has signed a USD 1.3 billion deal with India, to develop a 679-megawatt Lower Arun Hydropower project, located between Sankhuwasabha and Bhojpur districts in eastern Nepal. As per the deal, India's state-owned Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN), will develop the 679-megawatt hydropower project in the neighbouring Himalayan nation.

### **Nepal, India sign deal for Lower Arun Hydropower project**

Nepal has inked a USD 1.3 billion deal with Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) of India to develop a 679-megawatt hydropower project in eastern Nepal.

This will be the second mega venture in Nepal, undertaken by India. It is the single largest foreign investment project. It is based on 2017 cost estimates.

### Ranks & Indices

#### **India ranked 20th in Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021**

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.

#### **Indian Overseas Bank 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.

#### **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.

#### **India: 5th largest Forex reserve holder in the world**

India has surpassed Japan, China, Russia and Switzerland to become the world's fifth-largest foreign exchange reserve holder with \$608.99 billion. This was mentioned in the Lok Sabha on 20th July, 2021 by Pankaj Choudhary, MoS Finance.

#### **Xiaomi overtakes Apple to become the world's second-biggest smartphone maker**

Xiaomi surpassed Apple to become the world's second-largest smartphone maker for the first-time ever, as per a report published by market research firm Canalys on July 15, 2021.

The Chinese smartphone maker accounted for 17 percent of the worldwide smartphone shipments during the second quarter of 2021, only behind Samsung which accounted for 19 percent of the shipments. Apple ranked third with 14 percent of the global shipments.

#### **JNCASR 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.

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.

### **India Enters WTO's 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%).

### Business Affairs

#### **AJNIFM, Microsoft partner to build AI, emerging technologies**

The Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM) and Microsoft announced a strategic partnership to build an AI and emerging technologies centre of excellence at AJNIFM. The collaboration seeks to explore the role of cloud, AI and emerging technologies in transforming and shaping the future of public finance management in India.

#### **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.

#### **Jeff Bezos steps down as Amazon CEO, Andy Jassy takes over**

Jeff Bezos stepped down as Amazon's CEO on July 5, 2021 exactly 27 years since he founded the e-commerce company in a garage in West Bellevue, Wash. Amazon Web Services CEO Andy Jassy has succeeded him as the new Amazon CEO.

Andy Jassy will now serve as President and CEO of Amazon.com and also serve on the Board of Directors. While Bezos will hand over his day-to-day duties to his longtime deputy Andy Jassy, he will continue to be the company's executive chairman.

#### **Facebook Launches 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.

#### **Bharat Dynamics Ltd signs Rs 499-crore deal with Indian Air Force**

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.

#### **Coal India appoints Accenture for Digitalisation of mines**

Coal India Ltd (CIL) has appointed Accenture Solutions Private Ltd as consultant, for digitalisation of mine process across seven select opencast mines of CIL. This move aims to accelerate performance and enhance output.

Consultant would lead and support implementation of digitalisation and process excellence. It would also assure an increased coal output of 100 million tonnes (mt) from identified mines. It would also help in addressing roadblocks and take corrective measures.

### **NTPC to construct India's largest solar power park in Kutch**

NTPC Ltd., India's largest power generator is set to construct the country's single-largest solar photovoltaic project at Rann of Kutch region in Khavada, Gujarat. The solar power park will have a capacity of 4.75 Gigawatt (Gw)/4750 MW. The project will be constructed through NTPC's renewable energy arm, NTPC Renewable Energy (NTPC-REL).

### **Delhi govt-Google to provide Real-Time Bus Tracking Service**

Delhi government has partnered with tech giant Google to launch a system to enable commuters to access real-time information about buses. Google will be providing real time information including arrival time, departure time and their routes.

### **Adani Group takes over Mumbai airport management**

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.

### **Google Cloud launches second 'Cloud Region' in India**

Google Cloud has announced the launch of its new Cloud Region in Delhi NCR, for customers and the public sector in India and across the Asia Pacific. With the new region, the customers operating in the country will benefit from lower latency and higher performance of their cloud-based workloads and data.

### **Microsoft acquires cybersecurity firm RiskIQ for \$500M**

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.

### **Financial services startup Razorpay acquires TERA Finlabs**

Razorpay has acquired artificial intelligence (AI)-based risk analysis platform TERA Finlabs, marking its third acquisition since inception. Bengaluru-based TERA Finlabs provides risk management software, along with customized credit offerings to make lending more affordable for consumers and profitable for lenders.

### **Dvara E-Dairy partners with IFFCO Tokio General Insurance for AI-led tag**

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.

### **IOA ropes in Adani Group as sponsor for Tokyo Olympics**

The Indian Olympic Association has roped in Adani Group as a sponsor for the Indian contingent at the ongoing Tokyo Games. IOA secretary general Rajiv Mehta, who is in Tokyo, announced the development.

### **Alphabet to launch a new Robotics Company called Intrinsic**

Google-parent Alphabet will launch a new robotics company, Intrinsic which will focus on building software for industrial robots. The segment comes out of X, Alphabet’s Moonshot factory that houses futuristic firms such as Waymo, Wing and Verily.

### Defence News

#### **Indian Navy warship conducted military drill with South Korean vessel**

Indian Navy warship conducted military drill with South Korean vessel in the East China Sea. The Navy partnership exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability and facilitating the exchange of best practices with partner navies in the maritime domain.

Indian Navy's indigenous ASW Corvette INS Kiltan undertook the exercise with Republic of Korea's Ship ROKS Gyeongnam, a Daegu-class frigate, on June 28.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **Indian Navy receives MH-60 Romeo helicopters from the US**

Indian Navy on July 17, 2021, received two MH-60 'Romeo' multi-role helicopters from the US Navy.

India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu attended the ceremony held at the Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island, San Diego on July 16, 2021, wherein the US Navy handed over the first two MH-60R helicopters to the Indian Navy.

#### **DRDO successfully test-flights surface-to-air missile 'Akash-NG'**

The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested the New Generation Akash Missile (Akash-NG), from Integrated Test Range (ITR) off the coast of Odisha. The Akash missile system has been developed by the DRDO's laboratory in Hyderabad in collaboration with other wings of the premier defence research organisation.

#### **DRDO successfully flight-tests indigenously developed MPATGM**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested indigenously developed third-generation Man-Portable Antitank Guided Missile (MPATGM) for its minimum range. The missile was launched from a man-portable launcher integrated with a thermal site, and all the mission objectives were met.

### **INDRA: India-Russia to hold 12th edition of joint military exercise in Volgograd in August**

India and Russia will carry out the 12th edition of the Indo-Russia Joint Military Exercise (INDRA) at Volgograd city in Russia in August. The 13-day exercise will start on August 1, 2021.

As per the Indian Army, 250 personnel from the armies of India and Russia will form part of the military exercise.

### Science & Technology

#### **NASA's ICESat-2 discovers Antarctic Meltwater Lakes**

American Space Agency, NASA's ICESat-2 discovered Antarctic Meltwater Lakes recently.

Glaciologist Helen Amanda Fricker had made an astonishing discovery in 2007 and found that, a whole hidden network of interconnected lake is found beneath thick Antarctic ice-shelves.

#### **SAMVEDAN 2021: IIT Madras and Sony India team up to host**

IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation (IITM-PTF) and Sony India Software Centre Pvt Ltd have joined hands to organise a national-level hackathon named 'SAMVEDAN 2021 – Sensing Solutions for Bharat'.

With this hackathon, the foundation aims to inspire citizens to use IoT Sensor Board in order to solve India-specific problems of societal interest.

#### **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.

#### **ISRO successfully test fires liquid fuel engine for Gaganyaan Mission**

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on July 14, 2021, 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 for the Gaganyaan Mission.

#### **Pegasus spyware used to pry on Indian journalists, ministers**

Pegasus spyware has been used to conduct surveillance on ministers, opposition leaders, journalists, government officials and scientists of India.

Phone numbers of around 40 Indian journalists were found in a leaked list of potential targets for surveillance. Forensic tests done on the list has confirmed that an unidentified agency has successfully snooped some of them using the Pegasus software.

#### **ESA to launch world's first reprogrammable commercial satellite**

The European Space Agency (ESA) is all set to launch the world's first commercial fully reprogrammable satellite, the Eutelsat Quantum on July 30, 2021.

The Quantum will be launched from the Guiana Space Centre in Latin America as a part of the payload for an Ariane 5 rocket between 9 to 10:30 PM GMT on July 30, 2021. The Ariane 5 rocket will also deploy a conventional satellite for Brazil's Embratel.

### **IIT-Madras develops AI algorithm called 'NBDriver'**

Indian Institute of Technology Madras Researchers has developed an Artificial Intelligence-based Mathematical Model called 'NBDriver' to identify cancer-causing alterations in cells.

The algorithm uses a relatively unexplored technique of leveraging DNA composition to pinpoint genetic alterations responsible for cancer progression, which is difficult using present methodologies.

### **Russia successfully tested S-500 missile system**

Russia has successfully test-fired its new S-500 air defence missile systems, from a southern training range, Kapustin Yar, on July 20, 2021. It hit a high-speed ballistic target as planned.

The S-500 missile system is under development by the Almaz-Antey Air Defence Concern. After tests are successfully completed the first S-500 systems which are also named the Triumfator-M and Prometheus will be placed at an air defence unit outside the city of Moscow.

### **NASA selects SpaceX for mission to Jupiter moon Europa**

The US space agency NASA has selected California-based SpaceX to provide launch services for Earth's first mission to conduct detailed investigations of Jupiter's moon Europa.

The mission called 'Europa Clipper mission is scheduled to be launched in October 2024 on a Falcon Heavy rocket from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

### **NISER: ISRO-NASA joint satellite project proposed to be launched early 2023**

The Earth Sciences Minister Jitendra Singh informed that the joint satellite mission NISER (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) of ISRO-NASA is proposed to be launched in early 2023. In a written response to a question in Lok Sabha, the Union Minister said that NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISER) has not been launched yet.

NISER is proposed to be launched in early 2023. Jitendra Singh is also a Union Minister for the Department of Space. India plan to launch NISER (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite, a joint ISRO-NASA mission, aiming to make global measurement of land surface changes using adv. radar imaging in early 2023.

### Books

#### **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.

#### **A book titled 'The Fourth Lion: Essays for Gopalkrishna Gandhi'**

A book titled 'The Fourth Lion: Essays for Gopalkrishna Gandhi' authored by Venu Madhav Govindu and Srinath Raghavan. The book consists of twenty-six essays contributed by individuals drawn from various walks of life and from across the globe.

#### **A new book titled "The Light of Asia" by Jairam Ramesh**

A new book titled "The Light of Asia" authored by Jairam Ramesh is a biography of an epic bio-poem on the Buddha.

Ramesh, the author, Member of Parliament, former Union Minister, and Congress leader, digs deep in his new book to bring out the fascinating story behind the epic 1879 poem, "The Light of Asia" by Sir Edwin Arnold, that took the world by storm and in some ways, brought the Buddha's story to the world at the turn of the last century.

#### **Kareena Kapoor introduces a book "The Pregnancy Bible"**

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.

#### **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.

#### **A book titled "The Art of Conjuring Alternate Realities"**

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.

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

Vice President M. Venkaih Naidu has received a book entitled ‘Urdu Poets and Writers – Gems of Deccan’ authored by senior journalist, J.S. Ifthekhar. Mr Naidu commended the author for the book which traces the rich literary and cultural traditions of the Deccan.

### **A new book titled ‘The India Story’ by Bimal Jalan**

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’.

### **A book titled “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.

### **A book title ‘Bank With A Soul: Equitas’ 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.

### **A book title ‘An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation’ by 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.

## Sports

Name	Tournament Name	Extra Information
Abhimanyu Mishra	Becomes youngest ever chess Grandmaster	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.
Maana Patel	Becomes first Indian female swimmer to qualify for Tokyo Olympics	Maana Patel has become the first Indian female swimmer to qualify for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics. She has qualified for the prestigious event through universality quota, confirmed Sports Authority of India(SAI) on July 2, 2021.
Max Verstappen	Formula 1's Austrian Grand Prix 2021	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.
Mithali Raj	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.
Ashleigh Barty	Wimbledon Singles title	World no. 1 Ashleigh Barty clinched her maiden Wimbledon title after beating Karolina Pliskova in three sets (6-3 67(4) 63) on July 10, 2021. Barty has become the first Australian woman to win Wimbledon women's singles title since 1980.
Samir Banerjee	Wimbledon boys singles title	Indian-American Samir Banerjee won his first junior Grand Slam singles title by beating Victor Lillov in the Wimbledon boys' singles final on July 11, 2021.
Argentina	Copa America 2021	Lionel Messi-led Argentina beat Neymar's Brazil 1-0 to win the Copa America final match,

		held at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro. With this win, Lionel Messi has secured his first major international trophy.
Cristiano Ronaldo	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.
Italy	Euro 2020 Final	The European Championship final pits England and Italy against each other. Italy won 3-2 on penalties. Italy, one of the most decorated teams in the world, have ended a few years of trophy drought. England, on the other hand, we're in uncharted territory.
Sophie Ecclestone, Devon Conway	ICC Player of the Month Award	England Left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone has been named as ICC Women Player of the Month for June.
Lewis Hamilton	British Grand Prix 2021	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.
Viswanathan Anand	Sparkassen Trophy	Viswanathan Anand defeated Vladimir Kramnik to win the Sparkassen Trophy at Dortmund. Anand needed only a draw in the final game of the No-Castling Chess event, and he got it in 40 moves.
Sandesh Jhingan	AIFF men's Footballer of Year	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.
Rubina Francis	Gold -Para Sport Cup	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.
Ngangom Bala Devi	AIFF 'Women's Footballer of the Year'	Indian Women's National Team Forward, Ngangom Bala Devi has been named as the All India Football Federation

## CURRENT AFFAIRS DAILY DIGEST – JULY 2021

		(AIFF) Women's Footballer of the Year 2020-21.
Mirabai Chanu	Silver in weightlifting – Tokyo Olympics	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.
Pramod Bhagat	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 COVID-19 pandemic.
Priya Malik	Gold at World Cadet Wrestling Championship	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.
Momiji Nishiya	Becomes one of the youngest gold medal winners in Olympic	Rayssa Leal (13 years and 203 days) of Brazil won silver and Funa Nakayama (16 years) of Japan clinched the bronze.
Vantika Agarwal	National Women Online Chess Title	With 9 points Arpita Mukherjee of West Bengal took the second spot. Tamil Nadu's Sreeja Seshadri with 8.5 points took the third spot in this competition.

## Obituary News

<b>Name</b>	<b>Associated Field</b>
Raj Kaushal	Filmmaker
M Prasanna	Former India footballer
Dilip Kumar	Legendary Bollywood actor
Keshav Datt	Olympic gold-winning hockey legend
Virbhadra Singh	Former Himachal CM and Congress leader
Dr P K Warriar	Renowned Ayurvedic physician and managing trustee of Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala (AVS)
'Mr. Wonderful' Paul Orndorff	Former WWE Wrestler
Danish Siddiqui	Indian photojournalist
Surekha Sikri	National Award-winning actress
Urmil Kumar Thapliyal	Renowned theatre personality and litterateur
Sikkil R Bhaskaran	Noted Carnatic Classical Violinist
Jayanthi	Veteran multilingual actress
Nandu Natekar	Indian badminton legend
Man Kaur	Sprinter

## Important Days

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Theme</b>
National Doctors' Day	July 01	
National Chartered Accountants Day	July 01	
National Postal Worker Day	July 01	
World UFO Day	July 02	
World Sports Journalists Day	July 02	
International Day of Cooperatives	July 03	
World Chocolate Day	July 07	
National Fish Farmers' Day	July 10	
World Population Day	July 11	the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on fertility
World Malala Day	July 12	
World Youth Skills Day	July 15	Reimagining Youth Skills Post-Pandemic
World Day for International Justice	July 17	
Nelson Mandela International Day	July 18	
International Chess Day	July 20	
Science Exploration Day	July 20	
World Fragile X Day	July 22	
World Brain Day	July 22	
World Brain Day	July 22	'Stop Multiple Sclerosis'
National Broadcasting Day	July 23	
Aaykar Diwas (Income Tax Day)	July 24	
World Drowning Prevention Day	July 25	
Kargil Vijay Diwas	July 26	
International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem	July 26	
CRPF observes 83rd Raising Day	July 27	
World Nature Conservation Day	July 28	
World Hepatitis Day	July 28	Hepatitis Can't Wait'
International Tiger Day	July 29	Their Survival is in our hands
World Day Against Trafficking in Persons	July 30	Victims' Voices Lead the Way
World Ranger Day	July 31	