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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

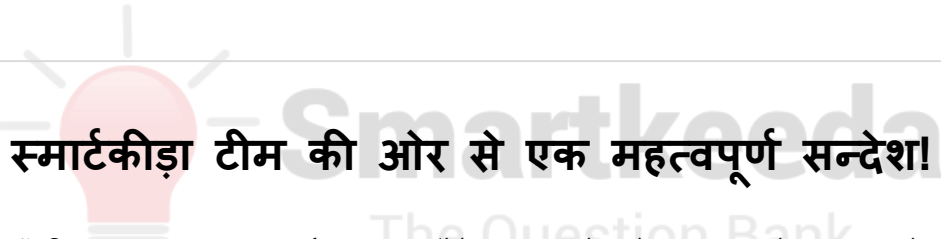
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of July 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

We hope you will make the best of use of this PDF and perform well in MockDrill Tests at Testzone.

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda



स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

मित्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF जुलाई 2021 माह में Testzone पर होने वाले MockDrill Test में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

हम आशा करते हैं की आप इस PDF का भरपूर लाभ उठाते हुए आने वाले MockDrill Test में बेहतर अंक प्राप्त करेंगे।

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



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National & States Affairs

201. On July 9, SBI General Insurance has launched a comprehensive health insurance plan “Arogya Supreme”. It is a specific plan that includes 20 basic covers and 8 optional covers. SBI Arogya Supreme promises a wide range of sum insured options up to Rs 5 Cr with a policy tenure ranging from 1 to 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI General Insurance – launched a comprehensive health insurance plan “Arogya Supreme”
- Sum insured up-to – Rs 5 Cr | Tenure ranging from – 1 to 3 years
- HQs of SBI Gen Ins. – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prakash Chandra Kandpal | Tagline – ‘Suraksha aur Bharosa Dono’

202. On July 7, Aditya Mishra, Chairman of LPAI (Land Ports Authority of India), during a seminar organized by Centre for Social & Economic Progress (CSEP), announced that India will have 24 Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) along its land borders by 2025. India had inaugurated its 1st ICP at Attari International Land Border (between India-Pakistan) in 2012. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India will have 24 Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) along its land borders by 2025
- India’s 1st ICP was inaugurated in 2012 – at Attari International Land Border (located between India-Pakistan)
- HQs of LPAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Aditya Mishra (LPAI functions under Ministry of Home Affairs)

203. On July 7, The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has set up a 25-member development council for Cement Industry under Dalmia Bharat Group CMD Puneet Dalmia. The council will suggest ways to eliminate waste, obtain maximum production, improve quality, reduce costs and promote standardization of products. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DPIIT – set up a 25-member development council for ‘Cement Industry’ – under Puneet Dalmia
- HQs of DPIIT – New Delhi
- DPIIT works under – Ministry of Commerce & Industry

204. On July 4, Indian Army has inaugurated a war memorial in Gulmarg near the Line of Control (LOC). The war memorial is dedicated to Captain Gurjinder Singh Suri, who died during the operation “Birsa Munda” which was conducted against a Pakistani post by a Bihar battalion of the Indian Army in 1999. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army inaugurated a war memorial dedicated to Capt. Gurjinder Singh Suri – in Gulmarg, J & K
- He died during the operation “Birsa Munda” – conducted against Pakistan by a Bihar battalion in 1999
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty



205. On July 9, In the small seaside town of Blokhuis in Denmark, the world's tallest sandcastle has been completed, weighing nearly 5,000 tonnes and towering 21.16 meters high. Its creator is Dutchman Wilfred Stijger. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World's tallest sandcastle has been built – in Blokhuis, Denmark
- Creator – Dutchman Wilfred Stijger | Weight – 5,000 tonnes | Height – 21.16 meters (69.4 feet)
- [Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen](#)

206. On July 8, The first shipment of Geographical Indication (GI) certified Bhalia variety of wheat was exported to Kenya and Sri Lanka from Gujarat. The crop is grown mostly across Bhal region of Gujarat. The Bhalia variety of wheat received GI certification in July, 2011. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 1st shipment of GI certified 'Bhalia' variety of wheat – exported to Kenya & Sri Lanka from Gujarat
- 'Bhalia' variety of wheat received GI certification – in July, 2011
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat](#)

207. On July 8, The SEBI has relaxed the 'Advance Intimation Timelines' for Stock Exchanges for carrying out modifications in the contract specifications of 'Commodity Derivatives Contracts' (CDCs). At present, the advance intimation timelines are 10 days for 'category A' and 30 days for 'category B' and 'category C' contract modifications. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI relaxed the 'Advance Intimation Timelines' for Stock Exchanges
- Timelines: 10 days - for 'category A' | 30 days - for 'category B' & 'category C'
- [HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992](#)

208. On July 7, The Digital Communications Commission (DCC), formerly the Telecom Commission, has cleared a provision of using satellite connectivity in telecom networks through "VSAT" (Very Small Aperture Terminal) to provide services in remote areas. DoT (Department of Telecom) will come out with the tender for the PPP mode rollout of BharatNet in 16 states in seven days. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DCC cleared a provision of using satellite connectivity in telecom networks through VSAT
- VSAT – **V**ery **S**mall **A**perture **T**erminal
- DoT – to come out with the tender for the PPP mode rollout of BharatNet in 16 states

209. On July 7, Epsilon Carbon has established India's first "Integrated Carbon Black Complex" with ₹550 Cr investment at Bellary, Karnataka. It has a capacity of 1,15,000 tonnes per annum (tpa). Started in 2010, Epsilon Carbon has manufacturing facilities in Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Odisha. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Epsilon Carbon – established India's 1st "Integrated Carbon Black Complex" – at Bellary, Karnataka
- Investment made of – ₹550 Cr | Capacity – 1,15,000 tpa
- HQs of Epsilon Carbon – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Saiprasad Jadhav
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

210. On July 7, Google India has published its first transparency report under the new "Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021" which includes details of complaints received from users in India and the action taken across Google's platforms. Google India has become the 1st company which is qualified as "Significant Social Media Intermediaries (SSMIs)" under the rules. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google India – published its 1st transparency report under the new "Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021"
- Google India – 1st company which is qualified as "Significant Social Media Intermediaries (SSMIs)" under new rules
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

211. On July 9, The Union Cabinet has decided to modify Rs 1 lakh Cr Central Sector Scheme finance facility under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), which will increase capacity of Agriculture Produce Market Committees (APMCs). The Rs 1-lakh Cr Agriculture Infrastructure Fund was provisioned under the 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' package in the Budget. As per the modifications, Interest subvention for a loan up-to Rs 2 Cr in one location is eligible. The number of projects is increased to 25 for Private sector entities under the interest subvention scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet decided to modify Rs 1 lakh Cr Central Sector Scheme under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)
- The Rs 1-lakh Cr AIF was provisioned under the 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' package
- Interest subvention for a loan up-to Rs 2 Cr in one location is eligible
- Number of projects is increased to 25 for Private sector entities

212. On July 6, The construction of India's second longest "Ganga Expressway" is all set to begin by September, 2021 after the confirmation of over 80% land acquisition required for the expressway. The project, costing more than ₹36,000 Cr, is expected to be completed within the next 26 months. The proposed length of Ganga Expressway is 594 km, which will start at Bijauli village in Meerut district and end at Judapur Dandu village in Prayagraj. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The construction of India's second longest "Ganga Expressway" is set to begin by Sep, 2021 – in Uttar Pradesh
- Cost – ₹36,000 Cr | length – 594 km | Time duration to complete – 26 months
- "Ganga Expressway" will connect – Meerut & Prayagraj districts of Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



213. On July 9, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has virtually inaugurated the first Digital Kendra of e-commerce giant Amazon in Surat city that aims to be a physical resource centre for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) providing third party services in e-commerce. The move is part of Amazon India's commitment to digitise 10 million Indian MSMEs by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 1st Digital Kendra of Amazon – inaugurated in Surat, Gujarat
- Amazon India's aim to digitise 10 million Indian MSMEs – by 2025
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

214. E-commerce giant Flipkart has eliminated all single-use plastic packaging used across its fulfillment centres in India in line with its commitment made in 2019. The Walmart-owned Flipkart has also committed to a 100% transition to electric vehicles in its city logistics network by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Flipkart – eliminated all single-use plastic packaging used across its fulfillment centres in India
- Flipkart – committed to a 100% transition to Electric Vehicles in its City Logistics Network by 2030
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy

215. On July 9, The 14-year-old Zaila Avant-Garde from Harvey, Louisiana, has won the championship at “2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee”, becoming the first African American winner and only the second Black champion in the bee's 96-year history. Chaitra Thummala, a 12-year-old from Frisco, Texas, was runner-up. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Zaila Avant-Garde (Louisiana, US) – won the championship at “2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee”
- She is the 1st African American winner & 2nd Black champion | Her age – 14 years

216. On July 9, The Department of Financial Services (DFS), under Ministry of Finance, has abolished the position of Chairman at the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and replaced it with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) by making amendments in the LIC Act, 1956. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Finance – abolished the position of Chairman at the LIC and replaced it with CEO & MD
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Founded in – 1956

217. On July 5, The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has joined with leading public health experts, vaccine regulators and policymakers to form a “Regional Vaccine Advisory Group” to provide its developing member countries (DMCs) with expert technical and scientific advice on the quality, safety and effectiveness of Covid-19 vaccines. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – establishes a “Regional Vaccine Advisory Group” for Covid-19 vaccines
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68



218. On July 9, According to Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the India Industrial Land Bank will achieve pan-India integration by December 2021. The system has been integrated with industry-based GIS systems of 17 states. Currently, the India Industrial Land Bank has approximately 4,000 industrial parks mapped across an area of 5.5 lakh hectares of land. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India Industrial Land Bank – to achieve pan-India integration by December 2021
- The system has been integrated with industry-based GIS systems of – 17 states

219. On July 6, Union minister Jitendra Singh has announced that a Common Eligibility Test (CET) for job aspirants will be conducted across India from 2022. National Recruitment Agency (NRA) has been constituted for conducting Common Eligibility Test with the approval of the Union Cabinet. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Common Eligibility Test (CET) for job aspirants will be conducted across India from 2022
- National Recruitment Agency (NRA) is constituted for conducting ‘CET’

220. On July 7, A new Concentrated Solar Thermal (CST)-based ‘Test Rig Facility’ of the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI) has been established in Hyderabad. The ARCI received a project from Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL), R&D unit in Bengaluru. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A new CST-based ‘Test Rig Facility’ of the ARCI – established in Hyderabad, Telangana
- ARCI received a project from Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL)
- HQs of HPCL – Mumbai, MH | CEO & Chairperson – Mukesh Kumar Surana

221. On July 10, The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) along with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has launched M. Tech programmes in defence technology in 6 specialised streams. In another development, AICTE has launched the “Pragati Scheme” for Technical Education of Girl Students. The council provides ₹50,000 annually to eligible students. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AICTE + DRDO = launched M. Tech programmes in defence technology in 6 specialised streams
- AICTE launched the “Pragati Scheme” for Technical Education of Girl Students (₹50,000 annually)
- HQs of AICTE – New Delhi | Chairman – Anil D. Sahasrabudhe
- AICTE – functions under Ministry of Education
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

222. On July 10, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has recently secured trademark registrations in three countries - Bhutan, UAE and Mexico, a big stride towards protecting the identity of brand “Khadi” globally. KVIC’s trademark applications are pending in 40 countries across the world. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- KVIC secured trademark registrations for brand name “Khadi” in 3 countries - Bhutan, UAE & Mexico
- HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vinai Kumar Saxena

223. On July 11, India’s first Cryptogamic Garden housing nearly 50 species of lichens, ferns and fungi was inaugurated in Uttarakhand’s Dehradun district. The garden was inaugurated by social activist Anoop Nautiyal. [{Read more}](#)

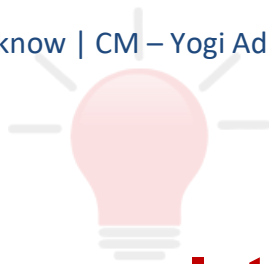
Key Points:

- India’s first Cryptogamic Garden – inaugurated in Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

224. On July 10, Uttar Pradesh government has proposed a “Population Control Bill” wherein those having more than two children will be debarred from contesting local bodies polls, applying for government jobs or receiving any kind of subsidy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – proposed a “Population Control Bill”
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



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International Affairs

225. On July 10, The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has launched the first of its kind “Global Mobility Aids Action Group” to examine and improve the transport journey of mobility aids. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IATA – launched the first of its kind “Global Mobility Aids Action Group”
- HQs of IATA – Montreal, Canada | DG & CEO – Alexandre de Juniac
- HQs of IATA India – Mumbai, Maharashtra

226. On July 10, Belgium has become the latest European country to recognise the Covishield vaccine, which was developed by Oxford-AstraZeneca and is being produced by the Serum Institute of India (SII). With this, a total of 15 countries in the EU have confirmed that they will allow travellers from India who have taken the Covishield shots to enter their territory. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Belgium – the latest European country to recognise the ‘Covishield’ vaccine
- Now, total 15 countries in the EU have officially recognised the ‘Covishield’ vaccine
- Belgium – Brussels – Euro | PM – Alexander De Croo



Banking & Economic Affairs

227. On July 8, Airtel Payments Bank has launched a new feature called “Pay to Contacts” that will allow its customers to initiate a UPI payment to their phone contacts. APB has become the first payments bank to implement a day-end savings limit of Rs 2 lakh, as per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Airtel Payments Bank – launched “Pay to Contacts” feature for UPI payments
- HQs of APB – New Delhi | CEO – **Anubrata Biswas** | **Founded in – 2017**

228. On July 3, The RBI has modified its bond auction methodology and announced that bonds maturing between 2 to 14 years will be auctioned under ‘uniform’ price method and not ‘multiple’ price method. It has also been decided that benchmark securities of tenor 2-year, 3-year, 5-year, 10-year, 14-year tenor and Floating Rate Bonds (FRBs) will be issued using ‘uniform’ price auction method. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI modified its bond auction methodology
- Bonds maturing between 2 to 14 years will be auctioned under ‘uniform’ price method
- Benchmark securities of tenor 2-year, 3-year, 5-year, 10-year, 14-year tenor & **Floating Rate Bonds (FRBs)** will be issued using ‘uniform’ price auction method
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | **Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)** | **Established in – 1st April 1935**

229. On July 7, Easiloan has launched India’s 1st Home Loan selection and recommendation application called “Easiloan Instant Match” for home buyers using AI based technology. Easiloan has tied up with leading lenders like HDFC, ICICI Bank, SBI, Bajaj Housing Finance, PNB, IIFL Home Finance and others. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Easiloan – launched India’s 1st Home Loan selection & recommendation app called “Easiloan Instant Match”
- HQs of Easiloan – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – **Pramod Kathuria**

230. On July 7, Max Bupa Health Insurance has entered into a bancassurance partnership with Axis Bank to provide comprehensive health insurance solutions to Axis Bank’s employees and customers. A bancassurance is a relationship between a bank and an insurance company that is aimed at offering insurance products to the bank’s customers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Max Bupa Health Insurance + Axis Bank = bancassurance partnership
- HQs of Max Bupa Health Insurance – New Delhi | CEO – **Krishnan Ramachandran**
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – **Amitabh Chaudhry** | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”



231. On July 7, Axis Bank has signed an MoU with the Indian Army to offer Defence Services Salary Package with benefits and features under its “Power Salute” initiative. The bank will offer personal accidental cover of up to ₹56 lakh to all Army personnel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Axis Bank + Indian Army = an MoU to offer Defence Services Salary Package under its “Power Salute” initiative
- Personal accidental cover to all Army personnel – up-to ₹56 lakh
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

232. On July 3, The RBI has imposed a monetary penalty aggregating ₹14.5 Cr on 14 banks for non-compliance with certain provisions of its directions after a scrutiny in the accounts of the companies of a Group. The RBI imposed ₹2 Cr penalty on Bank of Baroda, ₹1 Cr each on 12 other banks and ₹50 lakh on State Bank of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI imposed a monetary penalty aggregating ₹14.5 Cr on 14 banks
- RBI imposed ₹2 Cr penalty on Bank of Baroda, ₹50 lakh on SBI & ₹1 Cr each on 12 other banks
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

233. On July 8, All debit and credit cards issued by banks have a complimentary Personal Accident Insurance cover with a maximum limit of Rs 10 lakh. Under the Rupay insurance programme, claim intimation should be done within 90 days from the date of accident. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- All debit and credit cards issued by banks have a complimentary Personal Accident Insurance cover
- Maximum Coverage – up-to Rs 10 lakh

234. On July 8, NIIT Institute of Finance Banking and Insurance (NIIT IFBI) and Axis Bank have launched a FinTech Professional Programme under the “Axis Bank - NIIT Digital Banking Academy”. The course is designed to build future ready FinTech Professionals for Axis Bank. Besides, Axis Direct also launched a brokerage plan for traders named “Super Options”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NIIT IFBI + Axis Bank = launched a FinTech Professional Programme under “Axis Bank - NIIT Digital Banking Academy”
- Axis Direct – launched a brokerage plan for traders named “Super Options”
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”
- Location of NIIT IFBI – Mumbai, MH



235. On July 8, Mastercard, Mumbai Metro and Axis Bank have launched “One Mumbai Metro Card” to ensure contactless and cashless travel for people living in Mumbai. It is a prepaid, open loop contactless card which can be used as a part of the daily transit journey with just a tap. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mastercard + Mumbai Metro + Axis Bank = launched “One Mumbai Metro Card”
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, US | CEO – Michael Miebach | Founded in – 1966
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

236. On July 9, With the end near for the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR), the RBI has issued an advisory to banks and other financial institutions to stop using the benchmark as soon as possible and mandatorily by December 31 and move to any Alternative Reference Rates (ARR). Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) and Sterling Overnight Interbank Average Rate (SONIA) are the two popular alternatives. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI issued an advisory to banks & other financial institutions to stop using “LIBOR” benchmark
- “LIBOR” benchmark will be phased out – by December 31, 2021 | Other alternatives – “SOFR” & “SONIA”
- SOFR – Secured Overnight Financing Rate | SONIA – Sterling Overnight Interbank Average rate
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

237. On July 10, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has accepted bids at the auction of the new 10-year Government Security (G-Sec/GS) at a higher cut-off yield of 6.10%. The previous 10-year G-Sec (maturing in 2030) was issued at a cut-off yield of 5.85%. Overall, the government raised ₹26,000 Cr through the auction 3 G-Secs – 4.26% GS 2023 (₹3,000 Cr), New GS 2031 (₹14,000 Cr) and 6.76% GS 2061 (₹9,000 Cr). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – issued the new 10-year Government Security (G-Sec) – at a higher cut-off yield of 6.10%
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

Defence Affairs

238. On July 8, Ministry of Defence has implemented “SPARSH” [System for Pension Administration (Raksha)], an integrated system for automation of sanction and disbursement of defence pension. State Bank of India (SBI) and Punjab National Bank (PNB) have been co-opted as Service Centres. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Defence – implemented “SPARSH” [System for Pension Administration (Raksha)]
- SBI & PNB – co-opted as Service Centres
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh (Constituency – Lucknow, UP)



239. On July 9, Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has signed a contract worth about Rs 499 Cr with the Ministry of Defence for the manufacture and supply of Akash missiles to the Indian Air Force (IAF). Akash missile was developed by the DRDO. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BDL + Ministry of Defence = a contract worth about Rs 499 Cr to manufacture & supply 'Akash' missiles to IAF
- Akash missile was developed by the DRDO
- HQs of BDL – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Siddharth Mishra
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

240. INS Tabar has participated in 'Maritime Partnership Exercise' with ITS Antonio Marceglia, a frontline frigate of the Italian Navy on 4- 5 July in the Tyrrhenian Sea. Coincidentally, Indian Army chief Manoj Mukund Naravane is on a 4-day visit to the UK and Italy to deepen bilateral ties with the two European countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Tabar – participated in 'Maritime Partnership Exercise' with ITS Antonio Marceglia - a frigate of Italian Navy
- Manoj Mukund Naravane – is on a 4-day visit to the UK & Italy to deepen bilateral ties

241. On July 10, Indian Navy's Kochi-based Southern Command has banned the flying of Non-conventional aerial objects like drones and UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) within 3 km of Naval Base, Naval Units, and Naval assets. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy's Southern Command – banned the flying of drones & UAVs within 3 km of Naval Base
- HQs of Southern Naval Command – Kochi, Kerala | FOC-in-Charge – Vice Admiral Anil Kumar Chawl

Schemes & Initiatives

242. On July 7, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has launched "Tea Industries Special Incentive Scheme (ATISIS)" to incentives the production of Orthodox and specialty tea. Under the ATISIS, the State government will provide interest subvention of 3% per annum on working capital loan and subsidy of ₹7 per kg for production of orthodox and specialty varieties. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – launched "Tea Industries Special Incentive Scheme (ATISIS)"
- Interest subvention per annum on working capital loan – 3%
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi



243. On July 8, Union Cabinet has approved the new scheme “India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project: Phase-II” amounting to Rs 23,123 Cr for FY 2021-22. This will be implemented from 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022. Besides, the cabinet also approved an MoC between the Competition Commission of India (CCI) & Japan Fair Trade Commission (JFTC) in the field of Competition Law and Policy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved “India COVID-19 Emergency Response & Health Systems Preparedness Project: Phase-II” scheme
- Outlay of the scheme – Rs 23,123 Cr for FY 2021-22
- CCI (India) + JFTC (Japan) = an MoC in the field of Competition Law & Policy
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003

244. On July 7, The Ernakulam District Library Council in Kerala has launched an initiative called “Books at Doorstep” to revive reading habit among school children. The idea was to lend one lakh books a month by giving four books to a child and cover at least 50 households in every library limits. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ernakulam (Kerala) – launched “Books at Doorstep” initiative to revive reading habit among school children
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

245. On July 7, The West Bengal government has tabled a ₹3.08 lakh Cr budget in the State Assembly for the financial year 2021-2022. State Industry Minister Partha Chatterjee presented the Budget and mentioned the Student Credit Card scheme and the “Lakshmir Bhandar” scheme, under which a basic income of ₹1,000 will be given to women of SC/ST households and ₹500 to those belonging to the general category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- West Bengal tabled a ₹3.08 lakh Cr budget in the State Assembly for FY 2021-22
- Under West Bengal’s “Lakshmir Bhandar” scheme: ₹1,000 - to SC/ST women | ₹500 to general category women
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

Sports & Games

246. On July 7, Mountain biker Kanchan Ugursandi has finished in New Delhi the World’s first Solo Motorcycle Expedition covering 18 treacherous passes of northern Himalayan mountain ranges. Kanchan Ugursandi has become the first solo woman biker to scale the Umlingla Pass, the first woman to cover the 18 passes and also the first woman to traverse a distance of 3,187 km from New Delhi-Manali-Leh-Umlingla-Delhi in one go. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kanchan Ugursandi (Mountain Biker) – completed World’s 1st Solo Motorcycle Expedition covering 18 passes
- She covered a distance of 3,187 km from New Delhi-Manali-Leh-Umlingla-Delhi



247. On July 8, Grandmaster Nihal Sarin has won the “Serbia Open Chess Championship” in Belgrade, Serbia. He won this Championship with an unbeaten 7.5/9. Arjun Erigaisi and Aditya Mittal (7 each) shared the second spot with seven others. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nihal Sarin ([Chess](#)) – won the “Serbia Open Chess Championship” in Belgrade, Serbia
- [Serbia – Belgrade – Serbian Dinar | President – Aleksandar Vucic](#)

248. On July 11, Indian-American Samir Banerjee has claimed the Wimbledon Men’s Junior Title after defeating Victor Lilov in an all-American final on No. 1 Court. Banerjee, a New Jersey native, is the first American junior champion at Wimbledon since Reilly Opelka in 2015, and 12th overall. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Samir Banerjee ([Indian-American](#)) – won the Wimbledon Men’s Junior Title (defeating - Victor Lilov)

Important Days & Dates

249. The National Fisheries Development Board celebrated the “National Fish Farmers Day” virtually on July 10. The National Fish Farmers day is observed every year to demonstrate solidarity with all fisher folk, fish farmers and concerned stakeholders throughout India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 10 – “National Fish Farmers Day”

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

250. “International Climate Summit 2021” (ICS 2021) will be organised in partnership with NITI Aayog, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, CSIR and the Department of Science & Technology on 3rd September, 2021 at New Delhi. The key focus of this summit will be “Green Hydrogen”. Norway has kindly consented to be the Partner Country for the Summit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Norway = to host “International Climate Summit 2021” – in New Delhi | Key Focus – “Green Hydrogen”
- It will be organised by = NITI Aayog + MoEFCC + Dept of S&I Research + CSIR + Dept of S&T

251. On July 6, the 1st edition of the “Indo Pacific Business Summit” was organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with Ministry of External Affairs. Secretary (East) in the External Affairs Ministry, Riva Ganguly Das addressed the event. The theme of the event was “Developing a Road Map for Shared Prosperity”. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- 1st edition of the “Indo Pacific Business Summit” = organised by CII + MEA
- Riva Ganguly Das – represented India in the Summit | Theme – “Developing a Road Map for Shared Prosperity”
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – T. V. Narendran | Director General – Chandrajit Banerjee

252. All BRICS countries have agreed to the Science, Technology & Innovation (STI)-led “BRICS Innovation Cooperation Action Plan (2021-24)” proposed by India during the 12th meeting of the BRICS S&T Steering Committee hosted by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) on July 8. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – proposed “BRICS Innovation Cooperation Action Plan (2021-24)”
- DST (India) – hosted the 12th meeting of the BRICS S&T Steering Committee
- BRICS Member Countries – 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | Chairmanship in 2021 – India

253. India and the UK held the 1st meeting of the India-UK Financial Markets Dialogue virtually on July 8. The Dialogue was established at the 10th Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) in October 2020 to deepen bilateral ties in the financial sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 1st meeting of the India-UK Financial Markets Dialogue – held virtually on July 8 (established in 2020)
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

254. The Road Transport and Highways Ministry Nitin Gadkari has participated in the 16th annual conference on “Road Development in India” and he stated that his aim is to construct 60,000 km of the world-class national highway by 2024. The government is investing 1.4 trillion dollars (Rs 111 lakh Cr) in infrastructure development through National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP). National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) also plans to construct 22 new expressways & economic corridors across by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari – participated in the 16th annual conference on “Road Development in India”
- His aim: To construct 60,000 km of the world-class national highway by 2024
- NHAI – plans to construct 22 new expressways & economic corridors across by 2025

255. On July 6, Prakash Javadekar has addressed the virtual inauguration of ‘India Pavilion’ during the 74th Cannes Film Festival, organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Shri Amit Khare Secretary also unveiled the regulations booklet and poster of the 52nd edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) at the virtual Indian Pavilion held in Cannes Film Market. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prakash Javadekar – addressed the virtual inauguration of ‘India Pavilion’ during the 74th “Cannes Film Festival”
- The festival was organized by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
- Amit Khare – unveiled the regulations booklet & poster of the 52nd edition of the IFFI



256. The 5th and the final session of the 3rd ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity focused on the theme “Towards 2050: Living in Harmony with Nature” was held on July 5. The meeting was organized by Malaysia in partnership with the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity. The annual biodiversity financing gap amounts to \$316 billion, according to Conservation Finance Alliance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3rd “ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity” organized by = Malaysia + ASEAN Center for Biodiversity
- Theme – “Towards 2050: Living in Harmony with Nature”
- Annual biodiversity financing gap – \$316 billion
- [Chairmanship of ASEAN 2021 – Brunei | Secretariat of ASEAN – Jakarta, Indonesia | Members – 10](#)

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

257. On July 3, Syed Osman Azhar Maqsusi, a social activist from Hyderabad, was conferred the “Commonwealth Points of Light Award” for ‘Hunger Has No Religion’, his initiative which feeds about 1,500 people every day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Syed Osman Azhar Maqsusi ([Hyderabad](#)) – conferred the “Commonwealth Points of Light Award” – by the UK
- He received this award for his initiative called “Hunger Has No Religion”

258. On July 6, National Film Archive of India (NFAI) has announced a significant addition of the original camera negative of Rajkumar Hirani’s 2014 film “PK” in its collection. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajkumar Hirani’s 2014 film “PK” – added to the collection of the National Film Archives of India (NFAI)
- [Location of NFAI – Pune, Maharashtra | Director – Prakash Magdum](#)

Appointments & Resignations

259. On July 7, Social Democrat leader Kjell Stefan Lofven has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of Sweden. The new government will be formally presented to King Carl XVI Gustaf. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Stefan Lofven – re-elected as the Prime Minister of Sweden (Party – Social Democratic Party)
- [Sweden – Stockholm – Krona | PM – Kjell Stefan Lofven](#)



260. The long anticipated reshuffle and expansion of the Union Cabinet got over as 43 Ministers took oath at Rashtrapati Bhawan on July 7. This is the first reshuffle in his Council of Ministers by Prime Minister Narendra Modi since he assumed charge for a second term in May 2019. PM Narendra Modi will directly monitor the Ministry of Science & Technology. The reshuffle is as given below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Below is the Full List of Cabinet Ministers after the reshuffle as on July 7, 2021:

Minister	Ministry
Rajnath Singh	Ministry of Defence
Amit Shah	Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Cooperation (newly formed)
Mansukh Mandaviya	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers
Nitin Gadkari	Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
Nirmala Sitharaman	Ministry of Finance Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Narendra Singh Tomar	Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
S. Jaishankar	Ministry of External Affairs
Arjun Munda	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Smriti Irani	Ministry of Women & Child Development
Piyush Goyal	Ministry of Commerce & Industry Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Ministry of Textiles
Dharmendra Pradhan	Ministry of Education Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
Pralhad Joshi	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Ministry of Coal Ministry of Mines
Narayan Rane	Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
Sarbananda Sonowal	Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Ministry of AYUSH
Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Ministry of Minority Affairs
Virendra Kumar	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Giriraj Singh	Ministry of Rural Development Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Ministry of Civil Aviation
Ashwini Vaishnaw	Ministry of Railways Ministry of Communications Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
Ramchandra Prasad Singh	Ministry of Steel
Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Ministry of Food Processing Industries



Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Ministry of Jal Shakti
Kiren Rijju	Ministry of Law & Justice
Raj Kumar Singh	Ministry of Power Ministry of New & Renewable Energy
Hardeep Singh Puri	Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
Bhupender Yadav	Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change Ministry of Labour & Employment
Mahendra Nath Pandey	Ministry of Heavy Industries
Parshottam Rupala	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
G. Kishan Reddy	Ministry of Culture Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
Anurag Singh Thakur	Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports

261. On July 10, West Indian cricket icon Daren Sammy has inked a multi-year brand ambassadorship with Asian betting operator Fun88. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Daren Sammy ([West Indies Team](#)) – appointed as the Brand Ambassador of Asian betting operator “Fun88”
- Daren Sammy ([Saint Lucia](#)) – a Cricket Player ([West Indies Team](#))

262. On July 9, The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced that Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Manu Sawhney has resigned from his post with immediate effect. Geoff Allardice will continue as Acting CEO supported by the Leadership Team working closely with the ICC Board. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Geoff Allardice – will continue as Acting CEO of the ICC (replacing - Manu Sawhney)
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | Acting CEO – Geoff Allardice

263. On July 10, Haiti’s Senate has issued a resolution declaring President of the Haitian Senate Joseph Lambert Interim President following the assassination of President Jovenel Moise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Joseph Lambert – appointed as the Interim President of Haiti
- Haiti – Port-au-Prince – Haitian Gourde | Interim President – Joseph Lambert | PM – Claude Joseph



264. On July 10, Federal Bank has received approval from the RBI to re-appoint Shyam Srinivasan as its MD and CEO for 3 years. He had taken charge as MD & CEO of the bank on September 23, 2010. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shyam Srinivasan – re-appointed as MD & CEO of Federal Bank for 3 years
- HQs of Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – “Your Perfect Banking Partner”

265. On July 9, Pawan Singh, the Joint Secretary General of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), has been selected as the first ever Indian juror for the upcoming Tokyo Olympic Games. He will act in the Jury for Shooting in the Tokyo Olympics. Singh is a resident of Pune and is founder-director of the ‘Gun For Glory’ Shooting Academy at Balewadi in Pune. A total of 26 jury members will officiate at the Olympics. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pawan Singh – selected as the 1st ever Indian juror for the upcoming Tokyo Olympic Games (Shooting)
- Total 26 jury members will officiate at the Olympics
- HQs of NRAI – New Delhi | President – Raninder Singh | Joint Secretary General – Pawan Singh

266. On July 10, Ethiopia’s ruling Prosperity Party was declared the winner of the National Election, assuring a second 5-year term for Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. He came to power in 2018 after the former Prime Minister resigned amid widespread protests. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Abiy Ahmed – re-appointed as the Prime Minister of Ethiopia (2nd term)
- Ethiopia – Addis Ababa – Ethiopian Birr | President – Sahle-Work Zewde | PM – Abiy Ahmed

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

267. On July 8, The online commerce industry is expected to reach \$188 billion in 2025 & \$200 billion by 2026 from \$64 billion in 2020, with growing consumer preference to buy on the digital marketplace, according to a report titled “A progressive shift from transactions to Trust” by FICCI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “A progressive shift from transactions to Trust” report – released by FICCI
- Online Commerce Industry is expected to reach \$188 billion in 2025 & \$200 billion by 2026
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sangita Reddy | Founded in – 1927

268. On July 7, Globally, employment among the youth fell 8.7% in 2020 compared with 3.7% for adults. But making agriculture-food systems more appealing to the youth can secure the future of global food security and nutrition, according to a report titled “Promoting youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems” released by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), a United Nations Committee based at FAO’s headquarters. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Promoting youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems” – by CFS-UNFAO
- Employment among the youth fell 8.7% in 2020 & 3.7% among adults
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16th October, 1945

269. On July 7, According to the “OECD Employment Outlook 2021”, about 114 million jobs were lost worldwide during the pandemic in 2020. While, 22 million jobs were lost by the end of 2020 in Developed Nations due to pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “OECD Employment Outlook 2021” – released by the OECD
- Due to pandemic: 114 million jobs were lost worldwide in 2020 | 22 million jobs were lost in Developed Nations
- HQs of OECD – Paris, France | Secretary-General – Angel Gurría | Member countries – 37

270. On July 7, Crime against women in the Capital increased by 63.3% in the first 6 months of 2021 as compared to 2020, as per the data shared by Delhi Police. The data states that rape cases saw an increase of 43% from 580 till June 15 last year to 833 this year. The data showed that fatal and non-fatal accidents rose from 392 and 1,260 cases in 2020 to 449 and 1,497 cases this year, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Crime against women in the Capital increased by 63.3% in the first 6 months of 2021
- Rape cases saw an increase of 43% to 833 this year
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Bajjal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

271. On July 7, Delhi has recorded an increase of 125% in NO₂ (nitrogen dioxide) pollution between April 2020 and April 2021, according to a Greenpeace India study which analysed NO₂ concentrations in India’s 8 most-populous state capitals. NO₂ pollution increased by 52% in Mumbai, 90% in Bengaluru, 69% in Hyderabad, 94% in Chennai, 11% in Kolkata, 47% in Jaipur and 32% in Lucknow in April 2021 compared to the same month last year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Greenpeace India analysed NO₂ concentrations in India’s 8 most-populous state capitals
- Delhi recorded an increase of 125% in NO₂ pollution between April 2020 & April 2021

272. On July 7, A Rare ‘Melanistic leopard’, popularly called ‘Black leopard’, was spotted in the Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR) in the Gondia district of Maharashtra. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rare ‘Melanistic leopard’, popularly called ‘Black leopard’ – spotted in the Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve
- Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve – located in Gondia, Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari



273. On July 9, The United States has become the 4th largest supplier of Crude Oil to India in 2020, according to BP's latest report "Statistical Review of World Energy 2021". The US supplied 10.7 million tonnes of crude oil to India in 2020, behind Iraq's 47 million tonnes, Saudi Arabia's 38 million tonnes, and UAE's 22 million tonnes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Statistical Review of World Energy 2021" – released by the BP (formerly British Petroleum Company)
- Largest Crude Oil supplier to India in 2020: 1st – Iraq, 2nd – Saudi Arabia, 3rd – UAE, 4th – US

274. On July 5, A report titled "Covid-19: the race to finishing Line" by the State Bank of India (SBI) has projected that India may see the 3rd wave of the coronavirus pandemic from August and it would reach its peak in September. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Covid-19: the race to finishing Line" report – released by the SBI
- Report projected that India may see the 3rd wave of the coronavirus pandemic from August
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

275. On July 9, In a report titled "The Hunger Virus Multiplies", the anti-poverty organisation Oxfam has stated that 11 people die of hunger each minute and that the number facing famine-like conditions around the globe has increased 6 times over the last year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "The Hunger Virus Multiplies" report – released by Oxfam (Nairobi, Kenya)
- 11 people die of hunger each minute in the world

276. Conflict between humans and animals is one of the main threats to the long-term survival of some of the world's most iconic species, a new report titled "A Future for all - the Need for human-wildlife Coexistence" by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), released July 8, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "A Future for all - the Need for human-wildlife Coexistence" report – by WWF + UNEP
- HQs of WWF India – New Delhi, India | President – Jamshyd N. Godrej | Founded in – 1961
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen | Founded in – 1972

277. On July 8, Nearly 7,40,000 deaths in India annually are linked to abnormal hot and cold temperatures related to climate change, according to a study published in "The Lancet Planetary Health" journal. The team looked at mortality and temperature data across the world from 2000 to 2019 and found that 9.43% of global deaths could be attributed to cold and hot temperatures. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “The Lancet Planetary Health” journal: Nearly 7,40,000 deaths in India annually are linked to abnormal hot & cold temperatures
- Global data from 2000 to 2019: 9.43% of global deaths could be attributed to cold & hot temperatures

Acquisitions & Mergers

278. On July 7, Housing finance major HDFC Ltd has divested 2.46% of its stake in Hindustan Oil Exploration Company (HOECL) for Rs 37 Cr. For fiscal ended March 31, 2021, HOECL standalone total revenue stood at Rs 111.26 Cr and the balance sheet of the company was of the size of Rs 1,035.27 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Ltd – divested 2.46% of its stake in Hindustan Oil Exploration Company for Rs 37 Cr
- HQs of HDFC Ltd – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Deepak Parekh | CEO – Keki Mistry
- HQs of HOECL – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD – P. Elango



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

279. On July 7, IndusInd Bank has partnered with TP Central Odisha Distribution (TPCODL) - a joint venture between TATA Power and the Government of Odisha, to introduce a fully digital network for facilitating electricity bill payments across 300 semi-urban and rural regions in the state. IndusInd Bank will utilise Bharat Money Store which is an extension of Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd and IndusInd Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IndusInd Bank + TP Central Odisha Distribution = partnership to introduce a fully digital network
- TPCODL – a joint venture between TATA Power & Odisha
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- HQs of IndusInd Bank – Pune, MH | MD & CEO – Sumant Kathpalia | Tagline – “We Make You Feel Richer”

280. On July 7, The first aircraft purchase agreement was signed between GIFT city-based Vman Aviation & Airbus Helicopters under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, GIFT IFSC has become very attractive for lessors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vman Aviation + Airbus Helicopters = signed the 1st aircraft purchase agreement
- HQs of Airbus Helicopters – Marignane, France | CEO – Bruno Even



281. On July 8, The Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an arm of the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), has signed 6 agreements with Bank of Baroda, Yes Bank, Mathworks, Yourstory, Freshworks and Pontaq to promote entrepreneurship and create a nurturing ecosystem for Centres of Excellence set up by the STPI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- STPI signed 6 agreements with – BoB, Yes Bank, Mathworks, Yourstory, Freshworks & Pontaq
- HQs of STPI – New Delhi | DG – Omkar Rai

282. On July 8, Coal India Ltd (CIL) has signed up a contract with a Russian company 'Iz-Kartex' named after PG Korbokov Ltd, for purchasing 11, 20-cubic metre Electric Rope Shovels at an estimated investment of ₹1,462 Cr. The delivery of all the electric rope shovels would be concluded by September 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Coal India Ltd+ Iz-Kartex(Russia) = a contract for purchasing 11, 20-cubic metre Electric Rope Shovels at ₹1,462Cr
- HQs of CIL – Kolkata, WB | Director – Anil Kumar Jha | CMD – Pramod Agrawal

283. India and Nepal have signed a Letter of Exchange (LoE), to revise the 2004 India-Nepal Rail Services Agreement (RSA) and which will facilitate the import and export of goods through the Indian railway freight services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Nepal = a Letter of Exchange (LoE) to revise the 2004 India-Nepal Rail Services Agreement (RSA)
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari

284. On July 8, The National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY) at Dirang in Arunachal Pradesh's West Kameng district has tied up with the National Insurance Company Ltd (NICL) for insuring their livestock. A 4-year-old report stated the number of yaks across India declined by almost 24.7% between 2012 and 2019. More than 500 yaks died in a single spell of heavy rainfall in northern Sikkim in 2019. The total Yak population in India is about 58,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NRCY (Dirang, AP) + NICL = a tie up for insuring the livestock of Himalayan Yaks
- Yak population in India is about 58,000
- HQs of NICL – Kolkata, West Bengal | Chairman & MD – Tajinder Mukherjee

285. On July 9, Pravartak Technologies Foundation of IIT Madras (IITM-PTF) is collaborating with Sony India Software Centre Pvt Ltd to conduct a National hackathon called "SAMVEDAN 2021 - Sensing Solutions for Bharat" to inspire citizens to solve India-specific problems of societal interest using IoT sensor board. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pravartak Technologies Foundation(IIT Madras)+Sony India = to conduct National hackathon "SAMVEDAN 2021"
- HQs of Sony India Software Centre – Bangalore, Karnataka | Director – Rajendra Jain



Books & Authors

286. On July 4, A book titled “The Fourth Lion: Essays for Gopalkrishna Gandhi” is authored by Venu Madhav Govindu and Srinath Raghavan. The Fourth Lion, a festschrift in honour of Gopalkrishna Gandhi, consists of 26 essays contributed by individuals drawn from various walks of life and from across the globe. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Fourth Lion: Essays for Gopalkrishna Gandhi” book – authored by Venu Madhav Govindu & Srinath Raghavan
- The book consists of 26 essays

287. On July 8, A book titled “The Art of Conjuring Alternate Realities: How Information Warfare Shapes Your World” is co-authored by Shivam Shankar Singh and Anand Venkatanarayanan. In the book, the co-authors dive into the operations of political parties, cyber criminals, godmen, nation states and intelligence agencies from around the world to explain how the power to manipulate your thoughts is being harnessed, and how information warfare is shaping your life and world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Art of Conjuring Alternate Realities: How Information Warfare Shapes Your World” – co-authored by Shivam Shankar Singh & Anand Venkatanarayanan

288. On July 16, Kareena Kapoor Khan turned author and shared her pregnancy experience through her book, “Kareena Kapoor Khan’s Pregnancy Bible: The ultimate manual for moms-to-be”. The book is co-authored by Aditi Shah and published by Juggernaut Books. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Kareena Kapoor Khan’s Pregnancy Bible: The ultimate manual for moms-to-be” – authored by Kareena Kapoor
- Co-author – Aditi Shah | Publisher – Juggernaut Books

289. On July 11, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has received the first copy of the book, “The Ramayana of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji” penned by Late Mrs Baljit Kaur Tulsi Ji, who is the mother of noted lawyer KTS Tulsi. The book has been published by IGNCA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Ramayana of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji” – authored by Baljit Kaur Tulsi Ji



Obituaries

290. On July 9, A group of 28 foreign mercenaries, including retired Colombian soldiers, assassinated Haiti's President Jovenel Moise in July, 2021. It is still unclear who organised the attack and with what motive. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jovenel Moise – the President of Haiti – assassinated
- Haiti – Port-au-Prince – Haitian gourde | PM – Claude Joseph

291. On July 8, Former Himachal Pradesh chief minister and veteran Congress leader Virbhadra Singh passed away after prolonged illness in Shimla. He was 87 years old. He was six-time Chief Minister. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Virbhadra Singh – a Politician – passed away (Party – Congress | Former CM of Himachal Pradesh)
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

292. On July 10, Doyen of Ayurveda and managing trustee of Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala (KAS) Dr. P K Warriar has passed away recently. He was 100 years old. He received 'Padma Bhushan' in 2010 and 'Padma Shri' in 1999. Warriar was also a freedom fighter. He was known as a connoisseur of arts, an author and a teacher. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- P. K. Warriar – Doyen of Ayurveda & managing trustee of Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala – passed away
- Awards: 'Padma Bhushan' in 2010 & 'Padma Shri' in 1999
- Location of Arya Vaidya Sala – Kottakkal, Kerala | Founded in – 1902

Science & Technology

293. On July 7, DBT-National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG) has created world's first browsable online database called "dbGENVOC" (database of GENomic Variants of Oral Cancer). NIBMG has made this database publicly-accessible. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DBT-National Institute of Biomedical Genomics – created world's first browsable online database called "dbGENVOC"
- dbGENVOC – database of GENomic Variants of Oral Cancer
- HQs of NIBMG – Kalyani, West Bengal | Director – Prof. Saumitra Das



294. On July 7, Two species of spiders - Gravelia boro & Dexippus kleini was found recently in the Jharbari range of western Assam's Chirang Reserve Forest. The two spiders from Bodoland Territorial Region have been described in the latest issue of Acta Arachnologica published by the Arachnological Society of Japan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Gravelia boro' & 'Dexippus kleini' - species of spiders – found in Chirang Reserve Forest of Assam
- Published by – Arachnological Society of Japan
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

295. On July 9, The French military has conducted advanced testing of the “High-Energy Laser for Multiple Application - Power (HELMA-P)” capable of destroying a moving drone. It can neutralize in-flight targets up to one kilometer away in a matter of seconds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- French military – conducted advanced testing of “High-Energy Laser for Multiple Application - Power(HELMA-P)”
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

296. Facebook has launched its newsletter product 'Bulletin', a standalone platform for free and paid articles and podcasts that will aim to rival Substack. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Facebook – launched its newsletter product 'Bulletin'
- HQs of Facebook – California, United States | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg | Founded in – 2004

297. On July 10, Scientists at the DBT-Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar and SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Tamil Nadu have reported a reference-grade Whole Genome Sequence of “Avicennia marina”, a Mangrove species for the first time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Scientists reported a reference-grade Whole Genome Sequence of “Avicennia marina” for the first time
- “Avicennia marina” – a Mangrove species
- Location of DBT-Institute of Life Sciences – Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- Location of SRM Institute of Science & Technology – Chennai, Tamil Nadu

298. On July 10, An extremely bright, hydrogen deficient, fast-evolving and very rare “SuperLuminous Supernova” (SLSNe) has been spotted by Indian researchers. The team observed it using special arrangements at India's recently commissioned Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT-3.6m) along with two other Indian telescopes: Sampurnanand Telescope-1.04m and Himalayan Chandra Telescope-2.0m. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian researchers spotted – a very rare “SuperLuminous Supernova” (SLSNe)



- 3 Telescopes were used:
 - Devasthal Optical Telescope (Nainital, Uttarakhand)
 - Sampurnanand Telescope (Nainital, Uttarakhand)
 - Himalayan Chandra Telescope (Ladakh)

299. On July 9, The US's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has developed a tool called "Space Data Integrator" to better track rocket launches and space vehicles returning to Earth. The FAA stated that the new technology was first used on June 30 for the launch of SpaceX's 'Transporter 2'. [{Read more}](#)

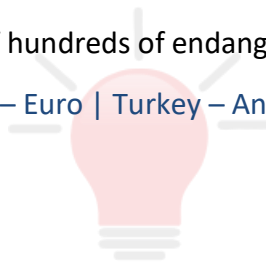
Key Points:

- FAA (US) – developed a tool called "Space Data Integrator" to better track rocket launches
- The new technology was first used for the launch of 'Transporter 2' of SpaceX

300. On July 7, A rare sighting of hundreds of endangered Seahorses was reported in a polluted lagoon in Greece. A protected species threatened by overfishing and pollution, seahorses need an environment full of organisms to feed on and plant life to hide. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A rare sighting of hundreds of endangered Seahorses – reported in a polluted lagoon in Greece
- Greece – Athens – Euro | Turkey – Ankara – Lira



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