



**Smartkeeda**  
The Question Bank

# TESTZONE

बैंक परीक्षाओं के लिए  
निश्चित रूप से  
सर्वश्रेष्ठ टेस्ट सीरीज



**Kriti Advani**  
IBPS PO 2020, Clerk, RRB Clerk



**Kola Murali Krishna Sai**  
SBI PO & IBPS PO 2020



**Abhishek Raj**  
IBPS PO & RRB PO 2020



**Rahul Jha**  
All IBPS 2020 Exams



**Nimish Mishra**  
IBPS RRB PO & IBPS Clerk 2020



**Subha Saha**  
IBPS PO & IBPS CLERK 2020

**IT'S YOUR  
TURN NOW  
TAKE A FREE  
MOCK TEST**

**“ Friends!  
We used TESTZONE  
And Cracked Bank Exams ”**



**Testzone presents**  
**Full-Length Current Affairs Mock Test**  
**Series Month-wise**

**July**  
**Mock Drill 100**  
**PDF No.5**  
**(PDF in English)**



**Smartkeeda**

**Test Launch Date: 7<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

**[Attempt Test No 5 Now!](#)**



## 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 पढ़ना, 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

# **INDEX**

National & States Affairs.....	5
International Affairs.....	12
Banking & Economic Affairs.....	14
Defence Affairs.....	16
Schemes & Initiatives.....	17
Sports & Games.....	17
Important Days & Dates.....	18
Meetings, Conferences and Summits.....	19
Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes.....	20
Appointments & Resignations.....	21
Amount & Agreements.....	22
Ranks, Reports & Surveys.....	22
Acquisitions & Mergers.....	23
MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships.....	24
Books & Authors.....	26
Obituaries.....	26
Persons in News.....	27
Science & Technology.....	28



## **National & States Affairs**

**401.** On July 14, NASSCOM's Centre of Excellence (CoE) for "Internet of Things and Artificial Intelligence" (IoT & AI) has launched "Healthcare Innovation Challenge (HIC) 2.0". The one-of-its-kind initiative aims to address the challenges faced by healthcare providers in digital technology adoption. NASSCOM CoE was set up in July 2016 as part of the Digital India initiative of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- NASSCOM's Centre of Excellence (CoE) for 'IoT & AI' – launched "Healthcare Innovation Challenge (HIC) 2.0"
- 'NASSCOM CoE' was set up in July 2016 – as part of the Digital India initiative of MeitY
- [HQs of NASSCOM – New Delhi | President – Debjani Ghosh](#)

**402.** On July 15, India's first 'Grain ATM' has been set up in Farrukhnagar, Gurugram district of Haryana as a pilot project. It is an automatic machine which works like a bank ATM. Installed under the World Food Programme of the United Nations, it is called Automated, Multi Commodity, Grain Dispensing Machine. It can dispense up to 70 kg of grains within 5 to 7 minutes at a time. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- India's first 'Grain ATM' – set up in Farrukhnagar, Gurugram, Haryana – under the UN WFP
- It's also called – Automated, Multi Commodity, Grain Dispensing Machine | Capacity – 70 kg of grains in 5-7 mins
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya](#)

**403.** On July 15, The Union cabinet has increased the Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) for 11.4 million central government employees and pensioners to 28% of basic pay/Pension from 17% effective prospectively from 1 July. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Union cabinet increased the DA & DR of Central Government Employees – to 28% of Basic pay/Pension (from 17%)

**404.** On July 15, The Union Cabinet has approved an extension by 6 months of the term of the Commission constituted to examine the issue of sub-categorisation within OBCs in the central list. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> extension of the term of the Commission constituted under 'Article 340' of the Constitution. The Cabinet also approved the continuation of National Ayush Mission (NAM) as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for another 5 years till 2026. Besides this, the Cabinet announced that NAM would continue from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026, with a financial implication of ₹4,607.30 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved an extension of the term of the Commission constituted to examine the issue of sub-categorisation within OBCs in the central list – by 6 months (11<sup>th</sup> extension)
- Cabinet approved the continuation of "National Ayush Mission" as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme – till 2026

**405.** On July 16, PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated and dedicated to the nation several key projects of the Railways worth Rs 1,100 Cr in Gujarat through video conference. He also inaugurated the Aquatics & Robotics Gallery and Nature Park in Gujarat's Ahmedabad Science City. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi inaugurated & dedicated several Railway Projects worth Rs 1,100 Cr – in Gujarat
- Narendra Modi inaugurated the Aquatics & Robotics Gallery and Nature Park – in Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat](#)

**406.** On July 16, PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated an International Cooperation and Convention Centre, also known as “Rudraksha” in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. As many as 108 Rudraksha have been installed at this convention centre and its roof is shaped like a Shiva Linga. It will be an environment-friendly building, fit for level 3 of Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi inaugurated an International Cooperation & Convention Centre “Rudraksha” – in Varanasi, UP
- 108 Rudraksha - installed at this Convention Centre | The building is fit for level 3 of Green Rating for ‘GRIHA’
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

**407.** On July 12, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has visited the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in Gandhinagar to inaugurate the Centre of Excellence for Research and Analysis of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amit Shah visited the NFSU – to inaugurate the Centre of Excellence for Research & Analysis of NDPS
- [National Forensic Sciences University \(NFSU\) located in – Gandhinagar, Gujarat](#)
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat](#)

**408.** On July 15, Meghalaya has launched a mobile app on “Pensioner’s Life Certificate Verification” using Face Recognition. Life Certificate Verification is a process in which the Pensioners (Service/Family) of the State Government have to appear in front of the Treasury Officer or Pension Disbursing Authority to prove that they are still alive to receive the pension. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Meghalaya – launched a mobile app on “Pensioner’s Life Certificate Verification” using Face Recognition
- [Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik](#)

**409.** On July 16, Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) has celebrated its 93<sup>rd</sup> foundation day. Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar and Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology Shri Ashwini Vaishnav jointly launched “Kisan Sarathi”, a digital platform to facilitate farmers to get ‘right information at right time’ in their desired language. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- July 16 – 93<sup>rd</sup> foundation day of the ICAR
- Narendra Singh Tomar + Ashwini Vaishnav = jointly launched a digital platform “Kisan Sarathi”
- HQs of ICAR – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra | Established in – 1929
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) – Ashwini Vaishnav (Constituency – Odisha)

**410.** On July 15, Coal India Ltd (CIL) has appointed Accenture Solutions as consultant for digitalisation of mine process in 7 of its select Coalfields for accelerated performance enhancement. 7 coalfields includes 3 mines of South Eastern Coalfields Ltd (SECL) and and 4 mines of Northern Coalfields Ltd (NCL). SECL and NCL are subsidiaries of Coal India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CIL – appointed “Accenture Solutions” as consultant for digitalisation of mine process in 7 of its select Coalfields
- HQs of CIL – Kolkata, WB | Director – Anil Kumar Jha | CMD – Pramod Agrawal

**411.** On July 16, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda have jointly launched the “School Innovation Ambassador Training Program (SIATP)”. The program will cater to about 50,000 school teachers. This program has been designed by Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education in collaboration with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Tribal Affairs Ministry and the CBSE. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dharmendra Pradhan + Arjun Munda = launched the “School Innovation Ambassador Training Program (SIATP)”
- This program is designed by = Education Ministry + Tribal Affairs Ministry + AICTE + CBSE
- The program will cater to 50,000 school teachers
- HQs of AICTE – New Delhi | Chairman – Anil D. Sahasrabudhe (AICTE functions under Ministry of Education)
- Ministry of Education – Dharmendra Pradhan (Constituency – Deogarh, Madhya Pradesh)

**412.** On July 15, PM Narendra Modi has visited his Lok Sabha constituency of Varanasi to inaugurate development works worth over ₹1,500 Cr. The projects include a 100-bed Model Maternal and Child Health (MCH) wing at the Institute of Medical Sciences of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU). PM Modi has also inaugurated a Tourist Facilitation Centre under the Project “Development of Varanasi under PRASHAD Scheme - Phase II”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PM Modi – visited his Lok Sabha constituency “Varanasi” to inaugurate development works worth over ₹1,500Cr
- PM Modi – inaugurated a 100-bed Model Maternal & Child Health (MCH) wing at BHU
- PM Modi – inaugurated a Tourist Facilitation Centre under “PRASHAD Scheme - Phase II”
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



**413.** On July 16, The Assam government has presented a Rs 566 Cr deficit budget for 2021-22 in the assembly, without proposing any new tax on the public. Assam cabinet has also announced the creation of “Department of Indigenous Faith & Culture” with a budget of Rs 100 Cr to look into the faith and culture of tribal communities. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Assam – presented a Rs 566 Cr deficit budget for 2021-22
- Assam – announced the creation of “Department of Indigenous Faith & Culture” with a budget of Rs 100 Cr
- [Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi](#)

**414.** On July 14, The European Commission, the executive branch of European Union (EU), has proposed plans for the world’s first “Carbon Border Tax” on imports of carbon-intensive goods from 2026. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- European Commission – proposed plans for the world’s 1<sup>st</sup> “Carbon Border Tax” on some imports – from 2026
- [HQs of European Commission – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ursula von der Leyen](#)

**415.** On July 15, In a first, scientists of CSIR’s Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT), Palampur, have introduced the cultivation of ‘monk fruit’ in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh. Monkfruit (*Siraitia grosvenorii*) was originally grown only in China and known as ‘Luohan Guo’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CSIR-IHBT ([Palampur, HP](#)) – introduced the cultivation of ‘monk fruit’ in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh
- Monkfruit (*Siraitia grosvenorii*) was originally grown only in – China
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping](#)
- [Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar](#)

**416.** On July 17, The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has made amendments over the PFRDA Regulations, 2015 and notified a hike in the foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in pension fund management to 74% from 49% under the National Pension System (NPS). The NPS has 7 Pension Fund Managers (PFMs) to manage the funds of individuals. Of the 7 PFMs, only 4 PMFs can make Foreign Investments. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PFRDA – made amendments over the “PFRDA Regulations, 2015”
- PFRDA – notified a hike in the FDI limit in pension fund management to 74% under the NPS (from 49%)
- The NPS has 7 Pension Fund Managers (PFMs) to manage the funds
- [HQs of PFRDA – New Delhi | Chairperson – Supratim Bandyopadhyay](#)



**417.** On July 16, Shri R. K. Singh, Union Minister for Power and MNRE has inaugurated “Aiming for Sustainable Habitat: New Initiatives in Building Energy Efficiency 2021”. It is a new initiative developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE). The initiatives launched included some other announcements also. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- R. K. Singh – inaugurated “Aiming for Sustainable Habitat: New Initiatives in Building Energy Efficiency 2021”
- This initiative is developed by – Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)
- The initiatives included:
  - The web-based platform “The Handbook of Replicable Designs for Energy Efficient Residential Buildings”
  - Creating an Online Directory of Building Materials
  - Announcement of “NEERMAN” Awards (National Energy Efficiency Roadmap for Movement towards Affordable & Natural Habitat)
  - Training of over 15,000 Architects, Engineers and Government officials on Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) 2017 and Eco Niwas Samhita (ENS) 2021
- [HQs of BEE – New Delhi | Director General – Abhay Bakre](#)

**418.** On July 16, The Andhra Pradesh government will launch a flagship startup promotion scheme “Accelerate Startups in AP (ASAP)” for early stage startups to offer plug-and-play office space and access to a network of investors and mentors. It will also set up a Rs 100 Cr “Fund of Funds”, in partnership with a consortium of Venture Capitals and Private Equity firms and universities, for funding startups in the state. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Andhra Pradesh – to launch a flagship startup promotion scheme “Accelerate Startups in AP (ASAP)”
- Andhra Pradesh – will set up a Rs 100 Cr “Fund of Funds”
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati \(LC\), Visakhapatnam \(EC\) & Kurnool \(JC\)](#)
- [CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan](#)

**419.** On July 15, Minister for MSME Shri Narayan Rane has launched Khadi’s 2 new exclusive product range - “Cotton Babywear” and unique Khadi “Handmade Paper Slippers” of ‘Use & Throw’ kind in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narayan Rane – launched Khadi’s 2 new exclusive product range - “Cotton Babywear” & “Handmade Paper Slippers”
- [Ministry of MSME – Narayan Rane \(Constituency – Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Maharashtra\)](#)

**420.** On July 15, The Andhra Pradesh government announced 10% reservation for the ‘Kapu’ community and other Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) for appointments in the initial posts and services in State government in accordance with the Constitution (103<sup>rd</sup> Amendment) Act, 2019. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Andhra Pradesh – announced 10% reservation for the ‘Kapu’ community & other EWS
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**421.** On July 15, Andhra Pradesh government has enhanced the income limit for issuances of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) certificate from Rs 6 lakh per annum to Rs 8 lakh per annum. As per the government order issued, 10% of reservations in admissions into educational institutions and appointments in the posts and services for EWS have been made. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Andhra Pradesh – enhanced the income limit for issuances of OBC certificate to Rs 8 lakh per annum
- 10% of reservations in admissions into Educational Institutions & appointments in the services for EWS
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**422.** On July 15, The Manduadih railway station has been renamed as Banaras by the North eastern railways (NER). The formal renaming of Manduadih railway station as Banaras Railway Station was done on September 16, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Manduadih railway station” – renamed as “Banaras railway station” – in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**423.** On July 15, The Ministry of Civil Aviation has issued draft rules to ensure ease of using drones in India on the basis of trust, self-certification and non-intrusive monitoring. The number of forms to be filled to operate drones in India have been reduced to 6 in the draft “Drone Rules, 2021” in comparison to 25 forms mentioned in the Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules, 2021. The “Drone Rules, 2021” will supersede the “UAS Rules, 2021”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Drone Rules, 2021” will replace the “UAS Rules, 2021”
- The number of forms to be filled to operate drones in India is reduced to – 6 forms (from 25)

**424.** On July 14, The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has asked the States and Union Territories to immediately withdraw the cases registered under the ‘Section 66A’ of the Information Technology (IT) Act that was scrapped in 2015. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MHA asked the States & UTs to immediately withdraw the cases registered under the ‘Section 66A’ of the IT Act
- ‘Section 66A’ of the IT Act was scrapped – in 2015

**425.** On July 20, Kerala's Health Department launched COVID-19 vaccination for pregnant women under a special campaign called "Mathrukavacham". They can opt for Covishield or Covaxin. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kerala – launched COVID-19 vaccination for pregnant women under a special campaign called "Mathrukavacham"
- **Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan**

**426.** On July 14, India's 1<sup>st</sup> Pod Taxi will operate between Jewar Airport (Noida Airport) and the proposed Film City. This project will cost about ₹862 Cr. The length of corridor for the ambitious project will be 14.5 km. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India's 1<sup>st</sup> Pod Taxi will operate between Jewar Airport (Noida Int. Airport) & the proposed Film City
- Expected cost of the project – ₹862 Cr | Length of corridor – 14.5 km

**427.** On July 15, According to Power Ministry, India will exceed its target of reducing Carbon Emission to 33% by 2030 under the Paris agreement. As per the Paris agreement, India has to produce 40% electricity of its total capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – to exceed its target of reducing Carbon Emission to 33% by 2030 under the Paris agreement
- India – to produce 40% electricity of its total capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030
- **Ministry of Power and New & Renewable Energy – R. K. Singh (Raj Kumar Singh)**

**428.** On July 18, Rajasthan government has launched "Raj Kisan Organic" mobile app for coordination and negotiation between farmers and the buyers of organic products. The mobile app allows farmers of organic food in Rajasthan to directly bargain and negotiate a price with a pool of buyers on the application. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajasthan – launched "Raj Kisan Organic" mobile app for purchase & sale of Organic Products
- **Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra**

**429.** On July 17, The Supreme Court has initiated the process of setting up a mechanism namely "FASTER" (Fast and Secure Transmission of Electronic Records). The bench led by Chief Justice of India N. V. Ramana asked the court registry to draw up within 2 weeks, a scheme which would ensure secure and faster transmission of court orders to the jail authorities. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SC initiated a process of setting up a mechanism - "FASTER" (**F**ast **A**nd **S**ecure **T**ransmission of **E**lectronic **R**ecords)
- The bench led by N. V. Ramana asked the court registry to draw up within 2 weeks
- **Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana (48<sup>th</sup>)**

**430.** On July 18, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has launched a new campaign called “Kala Vishwa”, from its Mumbai Centre. Kala Vishwas is a special campaign under the Horizon Series that will be held for the duration of 6 months to reach out to traditional folk artists, local artistes/artisans and those coming from rural areas and give them an opportunity and a platform to perform under this campaign. It took off from Mumbai with a focus on traditional art forms of Maharashtra and Goa. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ICCR – launched a campaign called “Kala Vishwa” from its Mumbai Centre to reach out to traditional folk artists
- [HQs of ICCR – New Delhi](#) | [DG – Dineshk Patnaik](#) | [Founded in – 1950](#)

**431.** On July 17, The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced a new standardised Expected Loss (EL) based Rating that is divided into a scale of 7 levels. Instruments rated ‘EL 1’ will be considered to have the lowest expected loss over the life of the instruments while those rated ‘EL 7’ will indicate highest expected loss. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SEBI – introduced a new standardised Expected Loss (EL) based Rating that is divided into a scale of 7 levels
- [HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [Chairman – Ajay Tyagi](#) | [Established in – 1992](#)



## International Affairs

**432.** On July 17, The US, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan have agreed in principle to establish a new Quadrilateral Diplomatic Platform focused on enhancing Afghan peace process, stability and trade in the region. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- US, Afghanistan, Pakistan & Uzbekistan – to establish a new Quadrilateral Diplomatic Platform
- [US – Washington, D.C.](#) – [US Dollar](#) | [46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden](#) | [49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris](#)
- [Afghanistan – Kabul](#) – [Afghani](#) | [President – Ashraf Ghani](#)
- [Pakistan – Islamabad](#) – [Pakistani Rupee](#) | [PM – Imran Khan](#) | [President – Arif Alvi](#)
- [Uzbekistan – Tashkent](#) – [So’m](#) | [President – Shavkat Mirziyoyev](#)

**433.** On July 16, Africa has become the 1<sup>st</sup> continent in the world to complete the collection of accurate, comprehensive and harmonised Digital Land Use Data under the “Africa Open DEAL” initiative. This initiative is led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the African Union Commission (AUC). “Collect Earth”, a free and open source software developed by FAO, was used to collect data through Google Earth. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Africa has become the 1<sup>st</sup> continent in the world to complete the collection of Digital Land Use Data under the “Africa Open DEAL” initiative – led by FAO & AUC

- “Collect Earth” software – was used to collect Digital Land Use Data (software developed by FAO)
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1945

**434.** On July 15, The United Arab Emirates has become the first Gulf nation to open an embassy in Israel. Israel and the UAE announced in August 2020 that they would normalise diplomatic relations. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UAE – became the first Gulf nation to open an embassy in Israel
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Naftali Bennett

**435.** On July 16, The U.S. government has unveiled an Online Hub for the victims of ransomware attacks. It will make it easier for companies and municipalities to find resources and get assistance if they are targeted by cyber hackers. About \$350 million in ransom was paid to cyber criminals in 2020, a more than 300% increase from the previous year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- US – unveiled an Online Hub for the victims of ransomware attacks
- About \$350 million in ransom was paid to cyber criminals in 2020
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**436.** On July 17, The 74<sup>th</sup> Cannes Film Festival 2021 was held from July 6-17, 2021 in Cannes, France. Spike Lee served as Jury President of this film festival. The “Palme d’or” was awarded to Titane directed by Julia Ducournau. “Night of Knowing Nothing” directed by Payal Kapadia won the “Oeil d’or (Golden Eye) award” for best documentary at the Film Festival. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 74<sup>th</sup> “Cannes Film Festival 2021” held from July 6-17 – in Cannes, France
- Jury President – Spike Lee
- Julia Ducournau – won the “Palme d’or” for ‘Titane’
- “Night of Knowing Nothing” – won the “Oeil d’or (Golden Eye) award” (directed by - Payal Kapadia)

**437.** On July 14, Singapore has unveiled one of the world’s largest floating solar panel farms. It spans an area equivalent to 45 football fields (45 hectares or 111.2 acres) and producing enough electricity to power the island’s 5 water treatment plants. The project is part of efforts by Singapore to meet a goal of quadrupling its solar energy production by 2025 to help tackle climate change. The 60 MW peak solar photovoltaic (PV) farm has been built by a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sembcorp Industries. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Singapore – unveiled one of the world’s largest floating Solar Panel Farms
- 60 MW peak solar photovoltaic (PV) farm | area – 45 hectares or 111.2 acres | built by – Sembcorp Industries
- Singapore’s goal of quadrupling its solar energy production – by 2025
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob

## **Banking & Economic Affairs**

**438.** On July 15, The RBI has cancelled the license of Dr. Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Nilanga, Maharashtra as the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. As such, it does not comply with the provisions of section 11(1) and section 22 (3) (d) read with section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Meanwhile, the central bank also barred Mastercard from adding new clients in India for non-compliance with local data storage norms from 22 July. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- RBI – cancelled the license of Dr. Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd ([Nilanga, Maharashtra](#))
- RBI – restricted Mastercard from adding new clients in India for non-compliance with local data storage norms
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**439.** On July 14, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the timeline for implementation of lockable cassettes swap system in all ATMs till March 31, 2022. Earlier in April 2018, the RBI had advised for this based on the recommendations of the Committee on Currency Movement (CCM) under the chairmanship of D. K. Mohanty. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- RBI – extended the timeline for implementation of lockable cassettes swap system in all ATMs till March 31, 2022
- It is done based on the recommendations of Committee on Currency Movement (CCM) – headed by D. K. Mohanty
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**440.** On July 15, BUSY, one of India’s leading business accounting software, has partnered with ICICI Bank for banking solutions. The integration will help BUSY users gain better accessibility in managing their Banking, improving their business efficiencies from BUSY itself. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- BUSY + ICICI Bank = partnership for Banking Solutions
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – [Sandeep Bakhshi](#) | Taglines – “Hum Hain Na!” & “Khayal Apka”

**441.** On July 14, International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) has set up an Expert Committee to recommend approach towards development of Longevity Finance Hub in the Gift-City in Gujarat and provide a road map for the same. The expert committee is being co-chaired by Kaku Nakhate and Gopalan Srinivasan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IFSCA – set up an Expert Committee for development of “Longevity Finance Hub” – in the Gift-City, Gujarat
- Expert committee is co-chaired by = Kaku Nakhate + Gopalan Srinivasan
- HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairman – Injeti Srinivas

**442.** On July 16, The Federal Bank has launched “FEDDY”, an Artificial Intelligence-powered virtual assistant to help customers with banking-related queries anytime. FEDDY can be accessed via Alexa, Google Assistant and WhatsApp. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Federal Bank – launched an AI-powered virtual assistant “FEDDY”
- HQs of Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – “Your Perfect Banking Partner”

**443.** On July 15, RBL Bank has entered into an agreement with Visa to issue Credit Cards enabled on the Visa payment network. This agreement was signed after the RBI restricted Mastercard from adding new clients in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBL Bank + Visa = an agreement to issue Credit Cards enabled on the Visa payment network
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Vishwvir Ahuja
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly | Founded in – 1958

**444.** On July 16, Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has signed an MoU with National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) to boost ongoing developmental initiatives linked to Priority Sector Lending in Maharashtra. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BoM + NABARD = an MoU to boost Priority Sector Lending in Maharashtra
- HQs of BoM – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – A S Rajeev | Tagline – “One Family One Bank”
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Chintala Govinda Rajulu | Founded in – 1982



## **Defence Affairs**

**445.** On July 15, Top defence officials from India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives participated in a virtual trilateral table top 2-day exercise “TTX-2021” from July 14 to July 15. The exercise focused on maritime crimes like curbing narcotics and assistance in maritime search and rescue in the region. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- India + Sri Lanka + Maldives = participated in a virtual Trilateral Table Top 2-day Exercise “TTX-2021”
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

**446.** On July 15, The Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE), under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MORTH), has signed an Agreement with University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia for setting up a Centre for Advanced Transportation Technology and Systems (CATTS) at IAHE, Noida. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- IAHE + UNSW = an Agreement to set up a Centre for Advanced Transportation Technology & Systems – in Noida, UP
- HQs of IAHE – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | University of New South Wales located in – Australia

**447.** On July 17, The Indian Navy has received two “MH-60R” multi-role Helicopters from the U.S., in a boost to its combat capabilities. “MH-60R” Helicopters are manufactured by Lockheed Martin Corporation. India is procuring 24 of these helicopters from the U.S. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Indian Navy – received two “MH-60R” multi-role Helicopters from the U.S. (out of total 24 Helicopters)
- “MH-60R” Helicopters are manufactured by – Lockheed Martin
- HQs of Lockheed Martin – Maryland, USA | CEO – Jim Taiclet
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

**448.** On July 18, The first batch of the indigenously produced 12.7 mm Stabilised Remote Control Gun (SRCG) system was handed over to the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard by the Ordnance Factory, Tiruchi (OFT). [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- OFT (Kolkata) – handed over indigenously produced 12.7 mm “SRCG” system – to Indian Navy & ICG
- SRCG – Stabilised Remote Control Gun

## Schemes & Initiatives

**449.** On July 14, The Union Cabinet has approved a scheme to provide Rs 1,624 Cr over 5 years as subsidy to Indian Shipping Companies in global tenders floated by ministries and CPSEs for import of government cargo. In addition to this, it is intended to provide 30 days to any in-flagging vessel to replace the crew on board with Indian crew. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved a scheme to provide Rs 1,624 Cr over 5 years as subsidy to Indian Shipping Companies

**450.** On July 20, As informed by the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, the “Stand Up India Scheme” was launched by the Prime Minister on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 and has been extended up to the year 2025. The objective of the Stand Up India Scheme is to facilitate loans from Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) of value between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 Crore to at least one Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) borrower and one woman borrower per bank branch. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- “Stand Up India Scheme” was extended – upto 2025 | Launched in 2016
- “Stand Up India Scheme” facilitates loans of Rs 10 lakh & Rs 1 Cr to – SC, ST & Woman Borrowers



Smartkeeda  
Sports & Games  
The Question Bank

**451.** In a first, a woman Cricketer Anshula Rao has been handed a 4-year ban by a panel of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for failing a dope test. She is an all-rounder and played for Madhya Pradesh in several tournaments. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Anshula Rao – 1<sup>st</sup> woman Cricketer – banned for 4 years by the NADA
- HQs of NADA – New Delhi | CEO – Navin Agarwal | Motto – Play Fair | Founded in – 2005

**452.** The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Khelo India University Games (KIUG) will be held at Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru from March 5, 2022 and PM Narendra Modi will be invited to inaugurate the 12-day event. Khelo India would have 18 sporting events. A total of 3,182 sportspersons from 158 universities across India would participate in the event. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of “Khelo India University Games” – at Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru (from March 5, 2022 )
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

**453.** On July 15, The All India Football Federation(AIFF) has nominated Gokulam Kerala FC to represent India in the AFC Club Championship 2020-21. The 5<sup>th</sup> edition was originally supposed to be held in Bhubaneswar by Odisha Sports in close coordination with AIFF. But it had to be postponed owing to the second wave of Covid19. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gokulam Kerala FC – to represent India in the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the “AFC Women’s Club Championship 2020-21”
- [HQs of AIFF – Dwarka, Delhi](#) | [President – Praful Patel](#) | [Gen. Secretary – Kushal Das](#)

**454.** On July 19, Lewis Hamilton has celebrated a record 8<sup>th</sup> “British Grand Prix” victory. The Mercedes driver is now only 8 points behind Red Bull’s Verstappen after 10 races. The win was the 99<sup>th</sup> of 7-times world champion Hamilton’s F1 career. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Lewis Hamilton ([UK - Mercedes](#)) – won the F1 “British Grand Prix 2021” (8<sup>th</sup> victory at British GP & 99<sup>th</sup> overall)

**455.** On July 19, The International Cricket Council (ICC) has inducted Mongolia, Tajikistan and Switzerland as members at its 78<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. The ICC now comprises 106 members in total, including 94 associates. Cricket was first played in Switzerland in 1817. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mongolia, Tajikistan & Switzerland inducted as members of the ICC – at its 78<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting
- ICC now comprises total 106 members
- [HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE](#) | [Chairman – Greg Barclay](#) | [Acting CEO – Geoff Allardice](#) | [Members – 106 countries](#)

**456.** On July 20, Viswanathan Anand defeated Vladimir Kramnik to win the “Sparkassen Trophy” at Dortmund, Germany. The Chennai maestro won the match 2.5-1.5. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Viswanathan Anand ([Tamil Nadu](#)) – won the “Sparkassen Trophy” at Dortmund, Germany

## **Important Days & Dates**

**457.** On July 17, “World Day for International Justice” or “International Criminal Justice day” is observed across the globe on July 17 every year to mark an emerging modern system of justice against international criminal acts. This year, the theme is “Social Justice in the Digital Economy”. The International Criminal Court (ICC) was formally established on July 17, 2002. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 17 – “World Day for International Justice” or “International Criminal Justice day”
- Theme – “Social Justice in the Digital Economy”
- HQs of ICC – Hague, Netherlands | President – Judge Piotr Hofmanski | Established in – 2002

**458.** The “National Day of France”, more commonly known as “Bastille Day” in English, is a national holiday in the country celebrated on July 14 every year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 14 – “National Day of France” or “Bastille Day”
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

**459.** “Nelson Mandela International Day”, also known as “Mandela Day”, is observed every year on July 18 to mark the birth anniversary of the former South African President Nelson Mandela. This day was first celebrated on July 18, 2010. This year, the theme is “One Hand Can Feed Another”. He is the “Father of the Nation” of South Africa. In 2014, the UNGA introduced the Nelson Mandela Prize. This day also celebrates a campaign known as ‘46664’, his Robben Island prison number. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- July 18 – “Nelson Mandela International Day” or “Mandela Day” (since 2010)
- Nelson Mandela – former President of South Africa (“Father of the Nation” in South Africa)

## **Meetings, Conferences and Summits**

**460.** On July 15, Union Minister for Labour & Employment Shri Bhupender Yadav has chaired the 7<sup>th</sup> BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers’ Meeting under India’s Presidency. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bhupender Yadav – chaired the 7<sup>th</sup> “BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers’ Meeting” – under India’s Presidency
- BRICS Member Countries: 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | Chairmanship in 2021 – India

**461.** The “2021 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)” was held with stark statements about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on sustainable development. The meeting was conducted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on the 2030 Agenda for attaining the 17 SDGs. In 2020, the Economic Downturn has pushed between 119 and 124 million more people into extreme poverty. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ECOSOC – hosted the “2021 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)”
- The forum was conducted on the 2030 Agenda for attaining the 17 SDGs

- Economic Downturn pushed between 119 & 124 million more people into extreme poverty in 2020
- HQs of ECOSOC – New York, US | President – Munir Akram | Established in – 1945 | Members – 54 countries

**462.** External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar has visited Tajikistan on July 13-14 to participate in the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting. He also visited Uzbekistan on July 15-16 to participate in regional forum meetings. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- S. Jaishankar – visited Tajikistan on July 13-14 to participate in the “SCO Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting”
- S. Jaishankar – visited Uzbekistan on July 15-16 to participate in Regional Forum Meetings
- Tajikistan – Dushanbe – Somoni | President – Emomali Rahmon
- Uzbekistan – Tashkent – So’m | President – Shavkat Mirziyoyev
- HQs of SCO – Beijing, China | 8 Countries: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pak

**463.** The Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) along with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) organised the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of “Digital Conference and Exhibition on Self-Reliance for Renewable Energy Manufacturing” on 15 and 16 July 2021. Renewable energy is expected to generate business worth \$20 billion a year over the next decade in India. India will achieve the target of 20% ethanol blending with petrol by 2023-24. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CII + MNRE = organised 2<sup>nd</sup> “Digital Conference & Exhibition on Self-Reliance for Renewable Energy Manufacturing”
- India will achieve the target of 20% ethanol blending with Petrol – by 2023-24
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – T. V. Narendran | Director General – Chandrajit Banerjee

## **Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes**

**464.** On July 16, Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company Ltd and Snehakunja Trust are among the 10 awardees of the prestigious “UNDP Equator Prize 2021” for their work in the field of Conservation and Biodiversity. The winners received a prize of \$10,000. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company + Snehakunja Trust = won the “UNDP Equator Prize 2021”
- The prize is for their work in the field of ‘Conservation & Biodiversity’
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965
- Location of Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Co. – Tamil Nadu | Location of Snehakunja Trust – Karnataka

# Appointments & Resignations

**465.** Google India Vice President and MD Sanjay Gupta has been elected as the Chairman of Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) for the period 2021-23. IMAI has also named Facebook India Vice President and MD Ajit Mohan as Vice Chairman of the association. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Sanjay Gupta – elected as the Chairman of IMAI (replacing - Amit Agarwal)
- Ajit Mohan – elected as the Vice President of IMAI (replacing - Gaurav Chopra)
- HQs of IMAI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | President – Subho Ray | Chairman – Sanjay Gupta

**466.** On July 14, Commerce and Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal has been appointed as the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha. Former Union Minister Thawarchand Gehlot, who had held that position, has been appointed as the Karnataka Governor. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Piyush Goyal – appointed as the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha
- Ministry of C & I, Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution – Piyush Goyal (MH)

**467.** On July 15, Lebanon's Prime Minister-designate Saad Hariri stepped down. He is the second candidate to fail at forming a government in less than 12 months. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Saad Hariri – resigned from the post of Prime Minister of Lebanon
- Lebanon – Beirut – Lebanese Pound

**468.** On July 16, Eswatini's King Mswati III has appointed Cleops Dlamini as the southern African nation's new Prime Minister, replacing Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini, who died in December. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Cleops Dlamini – appointed as new Prime Minister of Eswatini
- Eswatini (Swaziland) – Mbabane/Lobamba – Swazi lilangeni | King – Mswati III | PM – Cleops Dlamini

## **Amount & Agreements**

**469.** On July 14, The Central government will spend ₹9,800 Cr on livestock development over the next 5 years in a bid to leverage almost ₹54,618 Cr of outside investment into the sector. All schemes of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying will be merged into 3 broad categories - Rashtriya Gokul Mission, Livestock Health and Disease Control scheme & Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund and the Dairy Infrastructure Development Fund. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Central government will spend ₹9,800 Cr on livestock development over the next 5 years
- All schemes of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying will be merged into 3 broad categories:
  - Rashtriya Gokul Mission
  - Livestock Health and Disease Control scheme
  - Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund & the Dairy Infrastructure Development Fund

## **Ranks, Reports & Surveys**

**470.** On July 14, A “Survey on National Education Responses to COVID-19 School Closures” released by UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank & OECD, was conducted in 142 countries. The survey found that 1 in 3 countries has not yet implemented remedial programmes to help students catch up on their learning, in the wake of school closures due to the covid-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- “Survey on National Education Responses to COVID-19 School Closures” = by UNESCO + UNICEF + World Bank + OECD
- 1 in 3 countries has not yet implemented remedial programmes to help students catch up on their learning

**471.** On July 15, According to the “Electricity Market Report 2021” released by the International Energy Agency (IEA), Electricity demand is growing faster than the production of Renewable Energies. Electricity demand is expected to grow by 5% in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- “Electricity Market Report 2021” – released by the IEA
- Electricity demand is expected to grow by 5% in 2021
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol | Member countries – 30



**472.** On July 13, According to the “Commonwealth Trade Review 2021” entitled “Energising Commonwealth Trade in a Digital World: Paths to Recovery Post-COVID”, Commonwealth countries are estimated to have lost up to \$345 billion worth of trade in 2020. Compared to pre-pandemic growth trends in 2020, Commonwealth economies contracted by approximately 10%. [{Read more}](#)

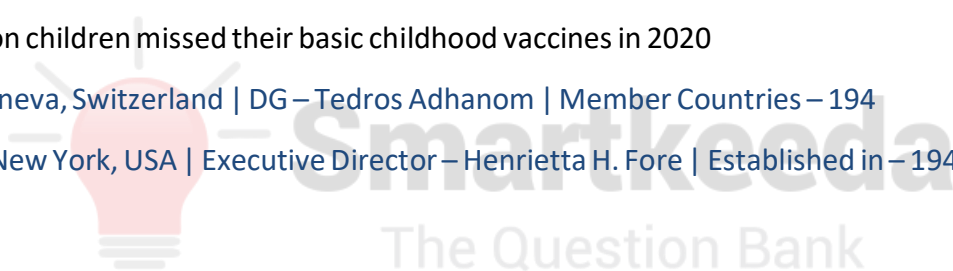
**Key Points:**

- “Energising Commonwealth Trade in a Digital World: Paths to Recovery Post-COVID”:
- Commonwealth countries are estimated to have lost up to \$345 billion worth of trade in 2020

**473.** On July 17, India has recorded the greatest increase in the world in the number of children not receiving the first dose of Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis combined vaccine (DTP-1) in 2020, as per the official data published by WHO & UNICEF. As compared with 2019, 3.5 million more children missed their first dose of “DTP-1” vaccine in India in 2020. 23 million children missed out on basic childhood vaccines through routine health services in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – recorded highest increase in the number of children not receiving the 1<sup>st</sup> dose of “DTP-1” combined vaccine
- In India: 3.5 million more children missed their first dose of “DTP-1” vaccine in 2020
- Globally: 23 million children missed their basic childhood vaccines in 2020
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, USA | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore | Established in – 1946



## **Acquisitions & Mergers**

**474.** On July 17, Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL) has made an agreement to acquire 40.95% stake in Just Dial for Rs 3,497 Cr, bolstering its digital play in the rapidly growing online commerce market in India. The investment is part of the telecom to petrochemicals conglomerate’s digital bet. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RRVL – to acquire 40.95% stake in Just Dial for Rs 3,497 Cr
- HQs of RRVL – Mumbai, MH | CEO – V. Subramaniam
- HQs of Just Dial – Mumbai, MH | CEO – V. S. S. Mani

# MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**475.** On July 14, Department of Biotechnology has signed an MoU with Ministry of Earth Sciences for promotion and facilitation of Marine Resources in the field of Polar Biology and to set up DBT MoES Polar Research Centre. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Dept. of Biotechnology + Ministry of Earth Sciences = an MoU to set up “Polar Research Centre”
- [MoS for Ministry of Earth Science – Dr. Jitendra Singh](#)

**476.** On July 16, The Gujarat has signed an MoU with the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA) that will pave the way to strengthen the Education System in all Ayurveda branches. The tie-up brings all institutions on the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda campus in Jamnagar under the ITRA. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Gujarat + ITRA = an MoU to strengthen the Education System in all Ayurveda branches
- The tie-up brings all institutions functioning in the “Ayurveda campus, Jamnagar (Gujarat)” under the ITRA
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat](#)
- [HQs of ITRA – Jamnagar, Gujarat](#)

**477.** On July 15, SAP Labs India and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India have collaborated with the Karnataka government to facilitate increased access to career guidance, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities as well as promote digital skills to empower women and youth. The initiative aims to reach over 20,000 youth and 5,000 women in Bangalore Rural, Raichur and Dakshin Kannada districts over the next 3 years. Karnataka also launched “Code Unnati” registration drive for women. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- SAP Labs + UNDP = collaborated with Karnataka to facilitate increased access to career guidance & employment
- “Code Unnati” registration drive for women – also launched in Karnataka
- [HQs of SAP Labs India – Bangalore, Karnataka | President – Kulmeet Bawa](#)
- [HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965](#)
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot](#)

**478.** On July 15, The Karnataka government has signed MoUs with 23 companies spread across various sectors such as Electric Vehicles, data centres, aerospace and Defence to attract investments worth over Rs 28,000 Cr and generate nearly 15,000 direct jobs. The Karnataka government has decided to host the Global Investors Meet (GIM) in Bengaluru from February 9 to 11, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Karnataka – signed MoUs with 23 companies spread across various sectors – to attract Rs 28,000 Cr investments
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot](#)

**479.** On July 15, The National Commission for Women (NCW) has signed an MoU with the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) for gender sensitisation of police personnel across India. The programme was launched by NCW Chairperson Rekha Sharma. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NCW + BPR&D = an MoU for gender sensitisation of police personnel across India
- HQs of NCW – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rekha Sharma
- HQs of BPR&D – New Delhi | DG – V. S. K. Kaumudi

**480.** On July 15, Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda has virtually launched the nationwide campaign “COVID Teeka Sang Surakshit Van, Dhan aur Uddyam” to accelerate the pace of COVID vaccination among tribals, in India. The campaign is being launched in partnership with UNICEF and WHO. The campaign will leverage 45,000 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras to promote COVID vaccines among 50 lakh tribals. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Arjun Munda – launched the nationwide campaign “COVID Teeka Sang Surakshit Van, Dhan aur Uddyam”
- The campaign is launched by = Minister of Tribal Affairs + UNICEF + WHO
- Minister of Tribal Affairs – Arjun Munda (Constituency – Khunti, Jharkhand)

**481.** On July 16, Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL) and the World Resources Institute India (WRI) have entered into a pact to work on strategising for India’s transition towards a Net-Zero Emission trajectory. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CESL + WRI = partnership to work on strategising for India’s transition towards a Net-Zero Emission trajectory
- HQs of CESL – Kolkata, West Bengal | Head – Mahua Acharya
- HQs of WRI – Washington, D.C., US | President & CEO – Andrew Steer

**482.** On July 16, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has enabled map services in “UMANG App” through an MoU with MapmyIndia. It will help citizens to find government facilities near to their location. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MeitY + MapmyIndia = enabled map services in “UMANG App”
- HQs of MapmyIndia – New Delhi | CEO – Rohan Verma | CMD – Rakesh Verma
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) – Ashwini Vaishnav (Constituency – Odisha)

## **Books & Authors**

**483.** On July 10, Kanti Bajpai's book "India Versus China: Why They Are Not Friends" is the second in a series from Juggernaut publishers after diplomat and scholar Husain Haqqani's "India Vs Pakistan: Why Can't We Just be Friends?". The book showcases the differences between India and China. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- "India Versus China: Why They Are Not Friends" book – authored by Kanti Bajpai
- "India Vs Pakistan: Why Can't We Just be Friends?" book – authored by Husain Haqqani

**484.** The book "A Kashmiri Century - Portrait of a Society in Flux" is written by former cabinet minister Khem Lata Wakhlu and published by Harper Collins India. The book offers a glimpse into the lives of Kashmiris, Hindus and Muslims alike, and how their existence revolved around the simple pleasures of life. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- "A Kashmiri Century - Portrait of a Society in Flux" book – written by Khem Lata Wakhlu
- Publisher – Harper Collins India

**485.** "The Great Big Lion", drawn and written by Canadian Mensa Prodigy, Chryseis Knight. It is a story about lion and two children. The book was released for the first time in India under Penguin Random House India's 'Puffin' imprint. Now seven-years-old, she hopes to inspire children all around the world to embrace the magic in books. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- "The Great Big Lion" book – written by Chryseis Knight (Canadian Mensa Prodigy)
- Publisher – Penguin Random House India
- Chryseis Knight also authored – "Capturing thunder" book

## **Obituaries**

**486.** On July 16, The 3-time National Award-winning Veteran Actress, Surekha Sikri has died at the age of 75 after suffering a cardiac arrest. She made her debut in 1978. She also received Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1989 for her contributions to Hindi theatre. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Surekha Sikri – an Actress – passed away (3-time National Award winner)
- Awards: "Sangeet Natak Akademi Award" (1989) for her contributions to 'Hindi' theatre

**487.** Danish Siddiqui, a Pulitzer Prize-winning Indian Photojournalist for news agency Reuters, was killed while covering clashes between Afghan security forces and the Taliban in the Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province, near Afghanistan's border with Pakistan. He won the "2018 Pulitzer Prize" for Feature Photography for documenting the Rohingya refugee crisis. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Danish Siddiqui – Indian Photojournalist – killed on assignment in Afghanistan (2018 Pulitzer Prize winner)

**488.** On July 17, Gautam Benegal - a filmmaker, writer, cartoonist and artist, passed away after a cardiac arrest. He was 55. He was born in Kolkata in 1965. In 2010, he made a one-hour animation film titled "The Prince and the Crown of Stone" which won two Rajat Kamal National Awards. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gautam Benegal – a Filmmaker, Writer, Cartoonist & Artist – passed away ("Rajat Kamal National Awards")

## **Person in News**

**489.** On July 17, Singer Ananya Birla has teamed up with music maestro A. R. Rahman to launch a cheer song titled "Hindustani Way" for Indian sports personalities for the Tokyo Olympics. The song has been sung by Ananya and composed by Rahman. Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur has launched the song. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ananya Birla + A. R. Rahman = teamed up to launch a cheer song titled "Hindustani Way" for Tokyo Olympics
- The song is sung by Ananya Birla & composed by A. R. Rahman | Launched by – Anurag Thakur

**490.** On July 16, Bollywood actor Yami Gautam Dhar has partnered with the Himachal Pradesh government for their initiative, "Baccho Ka Sahara, Phone Humara". The initiative is a phone donation camp that has been launched by the Himachal Pradesh government to help needy children who cannot afford smartphones. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Yami Gautam + Himachal Pradesh = partnership for "Baccho Ka Sahara, Phone Humara" initiative
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

# Science & Technology

**491.** On July 9, The government boys high school located in Malleshwaram, Karnataka has become the first government high school in India to develop a satellite. The satellite was developed by taking the help of the Indian Technological Congress Association (ITCA) and ISRO. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Government boys High School in Malleshwaram, Karnataka – 1<sup>st</sup> government High School to develop a Satellite
- The satellite was developed by with the help of – ITCA & ISRO
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969
- HQs of ITCA – Bengaluru, Karnataka

**492.** On July 11, Cuba's State-run corporation, BioFarma has developed the world's first conjugate vaccine "Soberana 2" for COVID-19. The vaccine was 91.2% efficacious in phase-3 trials. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- BioFarma (Cuba) – developed the world's 1<sup>st</sup> conjugate vaccine "Soberana 2" for COVID-19 (91.2% efficacious)
- Cuba – Havana – Peso | President – Miguel Diaz-Canel

**493.** On July 9, Square Inc has decided to create a Hardware Wallet for bitcoin. Bitcoin wallets can be stored offline or online at cryptocurrency exchanges, venues where bitcoin can be bought and sold for traditional currencies or other virtual coins. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Square Inc – to create a Hardware Wallet for Bitcoin
- HQs of Square Inc – San Francisco, California, US | CEO – Jack Dorsey

**494.** On July 15, Raksha Mantri Shri has launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered grievance management application called "CPGRAMS (Centralized Rajnath Singh Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System) app" in New Delhi. The app is developed by Ministry of Defence (MoD) with the help of IIT-Kanpur. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Rajnath Singh – launched an AI-powered grievance management app called "CPGRAMS" app
- CPGRAMS – Centralized Rajnath Singh Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System
- The app is developed by = MoD + IIT Kanpur

**495.** On July 14, The extended range version of "BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile" failed during a test firing being carried out off the coast of Odisha and fell shortly after takeoff. The missile is capable of hitting targets up to 450 km. BrahMos supersonic cruise missile earlier was used for below 300 km targets. This missile derived its name from two rivers, the Brahmaputra in India and the Moskva in Russia. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The extended range version of “BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile” failed during a test – off the coast of Odisha
- Extended range – 450 km | Old range – 300 km | Missile’s name is derived from rivers = Brahmaputra + Moskva

**496.** On July 15, Twitter will discontinue its Fleets feature on August 3. Twitter introduced Fleets in November 2020 and it is Twitter's own version of stories that disappear after 24 hours. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Twitter will discontinue its ‘Fleets’ feature on August 3
- [HQs of Twitter – San Francisco, California, USA](#) | [CEO – Jack Dorsey](#) | [Founded in – 2006](#)

**497.** On July 16, An Artificial Intelligence-powered COVID-19 test kit “COVIHOME” that can be performed at an affordable cost at home has been developed by researchers at IIT Hyderabad led by Prof. Shiv Govind Singh. This test kit can produce results within 30 minutes. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT Hyderabad – developed an AI-powered COVID-19 test kit “COVIHOME”
- The researchers team was led by – Prof. Shiv Govind Singh

**498.** On July 15, Google has opened a new Cloud Data Centre Region in Delhi-NCR. The new Delhi-NCR region will be the company’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Google Cloud region in India and 10<sup>th</sup> in the Asia Pacific. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Google – opened a new Cloud Data Centre Region in Delhi-NCR (2<sup>nd</sup> in India & 10<sup>th</sup> in the Asia Pacific)
- Google’s 1<sup>st</sup> Cloud Region in India was established – in Mumbai (in 2017)
- [HQs of Google – California, US](#) | [CEO – Sundar Pichai](#) | [Founded in – 1998](#)

**499.** On July 19, Russia has successfully test fired the “Zircon” Hypersonic Cruise Missile, a new addition to an arsenal of weapons called “invincible” by President Vladimir Putin. It hits a target directly at a range of over 350 km (217 miles). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Russia – successfully test fired the “Zircon” Hypersonic Cruise Missile | Missile range – 350 km (217 miles)
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble](#) | [PM – Mikhail Mishustin](#) | [President – Vladimir Putin](#)

**500.** On July 20, Researchers at the IIT Ropar have developed “AMLEX” - a first-of-its-kind device that can regulate the flow of medical oxygen from cylinder during inhalation and exhalation by a patient, thereby reducing wastage. AMLEX is a system developed specifically for oxygen cylinders. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT Ropar developed “AMLEX” - a first-of-its-kind oxygen monitoring device





**Smartkeeda**  
The Question Bank

**Presents**

# TESTZONE

India's least priced Test Series Platform

**JOIN**

## All Bank Exams

2020-2021 Test Series

@ Just

# ₹ 599/-

**400+ Mock Tests**

- ✓ Brilliant Test Analysis
- ✓ Excellent Content
- ✓ Unmatched Explanations

**JOIN NOW**

[www.smartkeeda.com](http://www.smartkeeda.com) | [testzone.smartkeeda.com](http://testzone.smartkeeda.com)

SBI | RBI | IBPS | RRB | SSC | NIACL | EPFO | UGC NET | LIC | Railways | CLAT | RJS



Join us