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July
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PDF No.7

(PDF in English)



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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

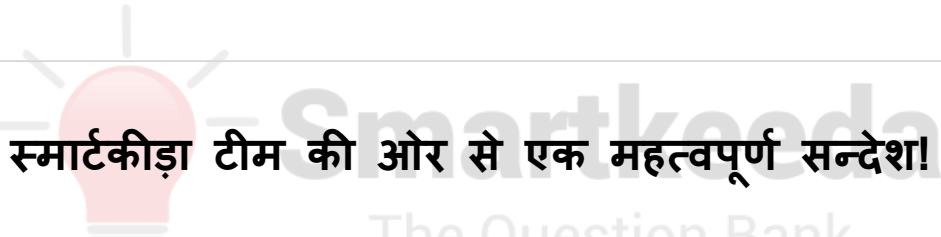
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of July 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial 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 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



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National & States Affairs

601. On July 20, The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of a Central University in Ladakh at a cost of Rs 750 Cr. The new institution will correct regional imbalances and improve the quality of higher education in the Union Territory. The Cabinet also approved an 'Integrated Multi-Purpose Corporation' in Ladakh to look after development of industries, tourism, and transport services in the UT. The corporation will be formed under the Companies Act with an authorised share capital of Rs 25 Cr.

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved the establishment of a Central University in Ladakh at a cost of Rs 750 Cr
- Cabinet also approved an 'Integrated Multi-Purpose Infrastructure Development Corporation' in Ladakh
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R. K. Mathur

602. On July 23, Max Bupa Health Insurance Company Ltd, which was rechristened as Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Limited, has rebranded itself as "Niva Bupa". This new brand identity of "Niva Bupa" comes in the wake of change in shareholding pattern, with the exit of Max India and entry of Private Equity firm True North in 2019. True North and Bupa backed Niva Bupa Health Insurance aims ₹5,000 Cr Gross Written Premium (GWP) by FY25. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Max Bupa Health Insurance (Niva Bupa Health Insurance) – rebranded itself as "Niva Bupa"
- "Niva Bupa" Health Insurance aims ₹5,000 Cr GWP by FY25 | GWP – Gross Written Premium
- HQs of Niva Bupa Health Insurance – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Krishnan Ramachandran

603. On July 20, A Supreme Court (SC) bench consisting of 3 Justices - R. F. Nariman, K. M. Joseph and B. R. Gavai has struck down part IX B of the Constitution inserted by 97th amendment on cooperative societies. The 97th constitutional amendment, which dealt with issues related to effective management of co-operative societies in India was passed by Parliament in December 2011 and had come into effect from February 15, 2012. The change in the Constitution has amended "Article 19(1)(c)" to give protection to the cooperatives and inserted "Article 43 B" and "Part IX B". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- An SC bench comprising 3 Justices – struck down 'Part IX B' of the Constitution inserted by 97th amendment
- 97th constitutional amendment – deals with issues related to effective management of co-operative societies in India
- The change has amended "Article 19(1)(c)" & inserted "Article 43 B" and "Part IX B"
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana (48th)



604. The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal to allow 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in Oil & Gas (RE) sector refineries under automatic route. The approval by the Cabinet will enable the sale of the government's 52.98% stake in BPCL to a foreign buyer. At present, only 49% FDI was allowed. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved a proposal to allow 100% FDI in Oil & Gas (RE) sector – under automatic route (from 49%)
- Cabinet will enable the sale of the government's 52.98% stake in BPCL to a foreign buyer
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, MH | Chairman & MD – Arun Kumar Singh

605. On July 24, Dr. Virendra Kumar has virtually inaugurated the “5th North-East India Traditional Fashion Week (NEIFW) 2021” organised by National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD), Dehradun, under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Virendra Kumar – inaugurated the “5th North-East India Traditional Fashion Week (NEIFW) 2021”
- The above event was organised by – NIEPVD, Dehradun (under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment)
- Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Virendra Kumar | Constituency – Sagar, Madhya Pradesh

606. Tripura has initiated steps to promote commercial cultivation of Agar trees by launching “Tripura Agar Wood Policy 2021” which proposed to double agar wood plantation by 2025. Agar is used in perfumeries and other industries. The state has over 50 lakh trees available in the state and has set a target to achieve Rs 2,000 Cr business from the sector in the next 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tripura – initiated steps to promote commercial cultivation of ‘Agar’ trees
- Tripura – launched “Tripura Agar Wood Policy 2021”
- Tripura – set a target to achieve Rs 2,000 Cr business from the sector in the next 3 years
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

607. “Hilsa” or “ilish”, a species of fish has been caught in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand for the first time in three decades. Hilsa, the pricey but notoriously bony fish is beloved by Bengalis. Hilsa is rich in Omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids, eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA), and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), which are considered good for the human brain and heart. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Hilsa” or “ilish” a species of fish – caught in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar & Jharkhand for the 1st time in 3 decades
- Hilsa is rich in – Omega-3, EPA & DHA



608. The Union government will set up over 42 Virology Research & Diagnostic Laboratories under a central scheme during the period of 15th Finance Commission (2021-22 to 2025-26) at a cost of Rs 324 Cr. The scheme is under the Department of Health Research (DHR), ICMR and was approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) in 2013 at an estimated cost of Rs 646.83 Cr for the 12th Plan period. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government will set up over 42 Virology Research & Diagnostic Laboratories during the 15th Finance Commission
- Cost of the project – Rs 324 Cr | Period of 15th Finance Commission – 2021-22 to 2025-26
- The scheme was approved by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) – in 2013

609. On July 22, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has decided to promote and brand organic items from Ladakh to boost exports of agricultural produce from the UT and enhance farmers' incomes. The focus of this collaboration is to ensure that Ladakh achieves the goal of becoming an organic region by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- APEDA decided to promote & brand organic items from “Ladakh” to boost exports of agricultural produce
- The collaboration aims to ensure Ladakh achieve the goal of becoming an organic region – by 2025
- [Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R. K. Mathur](#)

610. On July 25, The Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple has become the 39th UNESCO World Heritage Site of India. The temple is located at Mulugu district of Telangana. The decision was taken at the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) of UNESCO. China is the Chair of the 44th session of the WHC which consists of 21 Members. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 44th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO – held on July 25 | Chaired by – China
- Kakatiya Rudreshwara Temple ([Mulugu, Telangana](#)) – became the 39th UNESCO World Heritage Site of India
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)
- [HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945](#)
- [Members of the World Heritage Committee \(WHC\) – 21](#)

611. On July 25, The Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM) has been accorded extension for 5 years, until 2026 and entered its second phase with added features. The “I-STEM” was initially launched in January 2020 by the PM Narendra Modi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “I-STEM” – entered its 2nd phase with an extension for 5 years until 2026 (initially launched in January 2020)



612. On July 26, During an online webinar organised by the Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal on the occasion of Vyaas Pooja Mahotsav, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has launched the “Nadi ko Jano” app with the aim of creating a database on Indian rivers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dharmendra Pradhan – launched the “Nadi ko Jano” app to create a database on Indian rivers
- Ministry of Education – Dharmendra Pradhan (Constituency – Deogarh, Madhya Pradesh)

613. On July 27, The Assam Cabinet has announced that “Gaon Buras” (village headman) - village-level functionaries of the district administration, will henceforth be called “Gaon Pradhans”. [{Read more}](#)

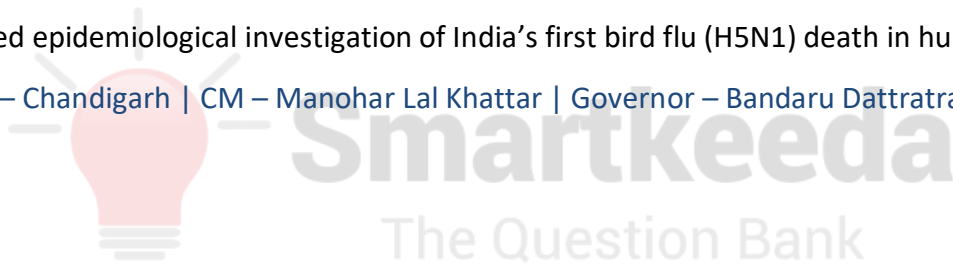
Key Points:

- Assam announced that “Gaon Buras” (village headman) – will be called “Gaon Pradhans”
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

614. On July 23, Haryana has initiated epidemiological investigation of India’s first bird flu (H5N1) death. An 11-year-old boy from Gurgaon had succumbed to the infection at AIIMS Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – initiated epidemiological investigation of India’s first bird flu (H5N1) death in human
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya



International Affairs

615. Sweden has ratified and deposited the framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance and its membership of the ISA entered into force on July 17. The ISA is an initiative of India aimed at promoting renewable energy and sustainable development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sweden – joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- HQs of ISA – Gurugram, Haryana | DG – Ajay Mathur | Member Countries – 125
- Sweden – Stockholm – Krona | PM – Kjell Stefan Lofven

616. The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission - NITI Aayog, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Rabo Foundation launched the “Agritech Challenge 2021”. This is aimed at helping address the issues faced by smallholder farmers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNCDF + AIM + Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation + Rabo Foundation = launched the “Agritech Challenge 2021”



- AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog (HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Chintan Vaishnav)
- HQs of UNCDF – New York, USA | Executive Secretary – Preeti Sinha
- Location of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation – US | Location of Rabo Foundation – Netherlands

617. On July 22, Singapore’s Sunseap Group plans to spend \$2 billion to build the world’s largest floating Solar Farm and Energy Storage System in neighbouring Indonesian city Batam, which will double its renewable power generation capacity. Sunseap Group and Batam Indonesia free zone authority signed an MoU for the same. The floating photovoltaic system is expected to have a capacity of 2.2 GigaWatt-peak (GWp). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sunseap Group – to build the world’s largest floating Solar Farm and Energy Storage System in Batam, Indonesia
- Capacity – 2.2 GigaWatt-peak (GWp)
- HQs of Sunseap Group – Singapore | CEO – Mr. Frank Phuan
- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo

618. On July 19, The United Kingdom has now reported an outbreak of Norovirus. It is a very contagious virus that causes vomiting and diarrhea. The Public Health England (PHE) calls it a “winter vomiting bug”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UK – reported an outbreak of ‘Norovirus’
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

619. On July 23, Philippines has become the world’s first country to approve the commercial production of genetically modified “Golden rice”. It is the first genetically modified rice approved for commercial propagation in South and Southeast Asia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Philippines – became world’s 1st country to approve commercial production of genetically modified “Golden rice”
- Philippines – Manila – Peso | President – Rodrigo Duterte

620. On July 22, World’s first 3D-printed steel bridge has been opened to the public in Amsterdam, Netherlands. It was developed by MX3D, a Dutch robotics company. The 12-metre-long steel structure will be a ‘living laboratory’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World’s first 3D-printed steel bridge – opened to the public in Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro | PM – Mark Rutte



621. On July 24, The Bangladesh government is working to develop a social media platform named “Jogajog” as an alternative to Facebook. The platform will help the local entrepreneurs to create their own marketplace for sharing information and data without depending on any foreign platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bangladesh – is working to develop a social media platform named “Jogajog” as an alternative to Facebook
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

622. On July 24, China has launched a 6-month campaign to clean up internet apps violating consumer rights, cyber security and disturbing market order. The order is part of a wider effort to crack down on tech industries and police use of personal information. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – launched a 6-month campaign to clean up internet apps violating consumer rights & cyber security
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

623. On July 26, Tunisia’s President Kais Saied has dismissed the Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi. President Kais Saied said he would assume executive authority with the assistance of a new Prime Minister. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kais Saied (President of Tunisia) – dismissed the Hichem Mechichi (PM of Tunisia)
- Tunisia – Tunis – Dinar | President – Kais Saied | PM – Hichem Mechichi

Banking & Economic Affairs

624. On July 23, Indian Bank has signed an agreement with IIT Guwahati Technology Incubation Centre (TIC) for financing start-ups under Bank’s loan product “IND Spring Board”. The start-ups are to be extended credit up to ₹50 Cr. The bank has already tied up with IIT-Madras, IISc-Bengaluru and Chennai Angels for identifying the eligible start-ups for finance under this scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Bank + IITG-TIC = to finance start-ups under Bank’s loan product “IND Spring Board”
- The start-ups are to be extended credit up to ₹50 Cr
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Padmaja Chundurur | Tagline – “Your Own Bank”

625. On July 22, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has clarified that IDFC Ltd can exit IDFC First Bank as a promoter after the completion of lock-in period of 5 years. IDFC Bank received the licence from the RBI in 2014, and was floated in 2015. So, the 5-year period came to an end on September 30, 2020. The bank merged with Capital FIRST in 2018 to become IDFC FIRST Bank. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- RBI clarified: IDFC Ltd can exit IDFC First Bank as a promoter after the completion of lock-in period of 5 years
- IDFC Bank received the licence from the RBI – in 2014 | 5-year lock-in period completed – on September 30, 2020
- HQs of IDFC Ltd – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Vikram Limaye
- HQs of IDFC First Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – V. Vaidyanathan | Established in – 2018
- IDFC Bank + Capital First = IDFC First Bank (merged in 2018)

626. On July 21, The RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 lakh on Melur Co-operative Urban Bank, Melur, Madurai for contravention of certain provisions concerning board of directors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – imposed a penalty of Rs 1 lakh on Melur Co-operative Urban Bank (Madurai, Tamil Nadu)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

627. State Bank of India (SBI) has selected Paisalo Digital as National Corporate Business Correspondent of the Bank for financial inclusion by providing banking services through kiosks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI – selected 'Paisalo Digital' as National Corporate Business Correspondent of the Bank
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

628. On July 22, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will introduce its own version of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) in a phased manner and after carefully weighing its impact on various issues, including how it could hamper the deposit mobilisation abilities of banks. CBDC is exchangeable with the existing paper currency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – to introduce its own version of **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** in a phased manner
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

629. On July 24, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the threshold up to which a bank can grant personal loans to any director of other banks and their families without board approval by 20 times to Rs 5 Cr from Rs 25 lakh which was fixed way back in 1996. For business loans, the limit of Rs 25 lakh will continue. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI raised the limit of Personal loans to other banks' Directors – up to Rs 5 Cr (from Rs 25 lakh)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935



630. On July 23, Magma Fincorp Ltd, an RBI-registered non-banking finance company (NBFC) has been rechristened as Poonawalla Fincorp Ltd. Along with this, it's fully owned housing finance subsidiary Magma Housing Finance Ltd is also renamed as Poonawalla Housing Finance Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Magma Fincorp Ltd – rechristened as Poonawalla Fincorp Ltd
- Magma Housing Finance Ltd – rechristened as Poonawalla Housing Finance Ltd
- HQs of Poonawalla Fincorp Ltd – Kolkata, West Bengal | MD – Abhay Bhutad

631. On July 26, HDFC Ltd has received a loan of \$250 million from International Finance Corporation (IFC) to boost Green Housing Finance in India. At least 25% of the funding is for Green Affordable Housing. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Ltd – received a loan of \$250 million from IFC to boost Green Housing Finance in India
- At least 25% of the funding is for Green Affordable Housing
- HQs of HDFC Ltd – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Deepak Parekh | CEO – Keki Mistry

Defence Affairs

632. On July 19, Indian warship INS Tabar participated in a 2-day exercise with French frigate FNS Aquitaine and 4 Rafale fighter aircrafts of the French Navy in the Bay of Biscay. India and France have been exploring ways to strengthen cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Tabar – participated in a 2-day exercise with French Navy in the Bay of Biscay
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

633. On July 23, Navies of India and the U. K. participated in a 2-day bilateral Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the Royal Navy Carrier Strike Group (CSG-21) led by HMS Queen Elizabeth in the Bay of Bengal from July 21 to 22. The Indian Navy was represented by 5 ships, a submarine and a P-8I long range patrol aircraft. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy + Royal Navy (UK) = conducted a 2-day bilateral Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the Bay of Bengal
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar



634. The last blast of the escape tube of under-construction “Sela Tunnel” in Arunachal Pradesh was conducted by Director General Border Roads (DGBR) Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry through video conferencing from New Delhi on July 22, 2021. Sela Tunnel will be world’s longest bi-lane road tunnel at an altitude above 13,000 feet. The tunnel is being constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajeev Chaudhry – conducted the last blast of escape tube of “Sela Tunnel” in Arunachal Pradesh
- The tunnel is being constructed by – the BRO
- HQs of BRO – New Delhi | Director General – Major Gen Rajeev Chaudhary | Founded in – 1960
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra

635. On July 23, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has flagged-in Indian Army Skiing Expedition called “ARMEX-21” in New Delhi. The expedition was flagged off at Karakoram Pass in Ladakh on March 10, 2021 and culminated at Malari in Uttarakhand on July 6, 2021, covering 1,660 kms in 119 days. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh – flagged-in Indian Army Skiing Expedition called “ARMEX-21” in New Delhi
- The expedition was flagged off at Karakoram Pass in Ladakh & culminated at Malari in Uttarakhand
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R. K. Mathur
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

636. On July 25, Indian Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh has visited Russia to participate in the 325th Russian Navy Day celebrations in St Petersburg. INS Tabar participated in the Navy Day Celebrations of Russia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karambir Singh – visited Russia to participate in the 325th Russian Navy Day
- INS Tabar – participated in the Navy Day Celebrations of Russia
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

637. 12th Edition of Indo-Russia joint military Exercise “INDRA 2021” will be held at Volgograd, Russia from 1 to 13 August 2021. The exercise will entail conduct of counter terror operations under the United Nations mandate by a joint force against international terror groups. INS Tabar has participated & represented the Indian Navy in this maritime Exercise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 12th Edition of Indo-Russia joint military Exercise “INDRA 2021” – to be held at Volgograd, Russia
- INS Tabar – participated in this maritime Exercise
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin



Schemes & Initiatives

638. On July 23, The Union Cabinet has approved Rs 6,322 Cr production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for 'Specialty Steel' in a move that is expected to attract an additional investment of about Rs 40,000 Cr and capacity addition of 25 million tonnes in the segment. The five categories of specialty steel which have been chosen in the PLI Scheme are: coated/plated steel products, high strength/wear resistant steel, specialty rails, alloy steel products and steel wires, electrical steel. Specialty steel is value-added steel wherein normal finished steel is worked upon by way of coating, plating and heat treatment to convert it into high value-added steel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved Rs 6,322 Cr PLI scheme for 'Specialty Steel' – to attract an investment of about Rs 40,000 Cr
- 5 categories of specialty steel:
 - Coated/plated steel
 - High strength/wear resistant steel
 - Specialty rails
 - Alloy steel products & steel wires
 - Electrical steel

639. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated a scheme "SMILE - Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise" covering comprehensive measures for welfare of beggars. The scheme includes sub-scheme "Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment – formulated a scheme "SMILE" for welfare of beggars
- SMILE – Support for **M**arginalized **I**ndividuals for **L**ivelihood and **E**nterprise
- Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Virendra Kumar | Constituency – Sagar, Madhya Pradesh

640. On July 25, The Union Home Minister Amit Shah has launched the "Green Sohra Afforestation Campaign" at Sohra in Meghalaya. He also inaugurated the "Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme". Amit Shah gave the slogan "Evergreen Northeast", underlining the importance of afforestation and tree plantation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – launched the "Green Sohra Afforestation Campaign" – at Sohra in Meghalaya
- Amit Shah – also inaugurated the "Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme" – in Meghalaya
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik



641. On July 23, Government of India has been implementing dedicated scheme of “Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)” since 2015-16 to promote chemical free organic farming in the country in cluster mode. Under the programme, financial assistance of Rs 50,000/hectare for 3 years is provided for cluster formation, capacity building, incentive for inputs, value addition and marketing. The government is also implementing “Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP)” as a sub-scheme of PKVY to promote Organic farming. Under BPKP, a financial assistance of Rs 12,200/hectare for 3 years is provided. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)” – is being implemented since 2015-16 to promote Organic Farming
- Under PKVY: Financial assistance of Rs 50,000/hectare for 3 years is provided
- Under BPKP: Financial assistance of Rs 12,200/hectare for 3 years is provided

642. On July 27, Madhya Pradesh State Government has prepared the Ayush-based economic upgradation scheme - “Devaranya Yojana” with the twin objectives of improving people’s health and livelihood of tribals. Wellness tourism will be promoted in state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – prepared the Ayush-based economic upgradation scheme - “Devaranya Yojana”
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel



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The Question Bank

Sports & Games

643. On July 23, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) secretary general Rajiv Mehta, who is in Tokyo, has announced that the IOA has roped in the Adani Group as a Sponsor for the Indian contingent at the ongoing Tokyo Games. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IOA roped in Adani Group as a Sponsor for the Indian contingent at the ongoing Tokyo Games
- HQs of IOA – New Delhi | President – Narinder Dhruv Batra | Secretary General – Rajeev Mehta

644. On July 25, Mirabai Chanu won the Silver medal and became the first Indian to win an Olympic medal at the “2020 Tokyo Olympics Games” in the Women’s 49kg category. Hou Zhuhui (China) won the Gold while Cantik Windy Aisah (Indonesia) grabbed the Bronze. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mirabai Chanu ([Manipur - Weightlifting](#)) – won Silver medal in women’s 49kg category at “2020 Tokyo Olympics”
- Gold medal – Hou Zhuhui ([China](#)) | Bronze medal – Cantik Windy Aisah ([Indonesia](#))



645. On July 23, PM Narendra Modi has congratulated the Indian wrestling contingent for winning 13 medals (5 Gold, 1 Silver, 7 Bronze) at the World Cadet Wrestling Championships 2021 in Budapest, Hungary. Tannu (43 kg), Priya Malik (73 kg) & Komal Panchal (46 kg) won Gold in their respective categories. In men, Aman Gulia (48 kg) and Sagar Jaglan (80 kg) won Gold medal. Jaskaran Singh won silver medal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian – won 13 medals (5 Gold, 1 Silver, 7 Bronze) at the “2021 World Cadet Wrestling Championship” in Hungary
- Gold in women: Tannu (43 kg), Priya Malik (73 kg) & Komal Panchal (46 kg)
- Gold in men: Aman Gulia (48 kg) & Sagar Jaglan (80 kg) | Silver medal – Jaskaran Singh
- Hungary – Budapest – Forint | President – Janos Ader

Important Days & Dates

646. National Broadcasting Day is observed annually in India on July 23 to commemorate the first-ever radio broadcast in India that went on air from the Bombay Station under the Indian Broadcasting Company in 1927. Radio broadcasting began in India under British rule in 1922 with programs by the Bombay Presidency Radio Club. Later in 1927, the Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) was made a private entity. All India Radio (AIR) has been officially known since 1956 as “Akashvani”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 23 – National Broadcasting Day
- Radio broadcasting began in India under British rule in 1922 – by Bombay Presidency Radio Club
- AIR is officially known as “Akashvani” – since 1956

647. On July 23, the 165th birth anniversary of Keshav Gangadhar Tilak, popularly known as Bal Gangadhar Tilak was observed. He was the first leader of the Indian independence movement. He was called “The father of the Indian unrest”. Tilak was born on 23 July 1856 in Ratnagiri district in Bombay (Maharashtra). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 23 – 165th birth anniversary of Keshav Gangadhar Tilak or Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- He was called “The father of the Indian unrest” | Born on 23 July 1856 in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra

648. “World Fragile X Awareness Day” or “Fragile X Day” was recently observed on July 22. The day is observed to create awareness on Fragile X syndrome (FXS) - a genetic disease. This disease causes mild to severe Intellectual Disability. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 22 – “World Fragile X Awareness Day” or “Fragile X Day”
- Fragile X syndrome (FXS) causes mild to severe ‘Intellectual Disability’



649. Income Tax department, under the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has marked July 24 as the 161st Income Tax Day or Aaykar Diwas. On July 24, 1860, income tax was introduced in India by Sir James Wilson to compensate the British government for the losses incurred during the First War of Independence in 1857.

Key Points:

- July 24 – 161st “Income Tax Day” or “Aaykar Diwas”
- Income Tax was introduced in India by Sir James Wilson – on July 24, 1860

650. On July 23, People belonging to the Koya tribe observed the “Gondi Language Day” on July 21 and sought inclusion of their language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. This Day is observed on July 21 as per the “Delhi Convention - 2018” organised by the Adivasi Samkshema Parishad (ASP). Koya Tribe is majorly found in Andhra Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 21 – “Gondi Language Day” – observed by Koya tribe
- Koya tribe – majorly found in Andhra Pradesh
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

651. This year, India celebrated the 22nd Anniversary of “Kargil Vijay Diwas” on July 26 to mark the anniversary of the Indian Army’s victory against Pakistan on this day in 1999. The military campaign dubbed as “Operation Vijay” held in the month of July in 1999. It is estimated that as many as 527 Indian soldiers died in the war, while more than 1,300 were injured. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 26 – 22nd Anniversary of “Kargil Vijay Diwas”
- To mark the anniversary of “Operation Vijay” conducted in 1999 (Indian Army’s victory against Pakistan)

652. At least 2,36,000 people drown every year. Drowning is among the top 10 leading causes of death for children and youth aged between one and 24 years, as noted by the WHO on the first “World Drowning Prevention Day” which was marked on July 25, 2021. This year, the theme is “Anyone Can Drown, No One Should”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 25 – 1st “World Drowning Prevention Day”
- Theme – “Anyone Can Drown, No One Should”

653. 25th July is celebrated as the “World In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Day” every year to mark the greatest innovation in the field of reproductive medicine this day. Infertility affects an estimated 15% of couples globally. Louise Brown was the first baby to be born after successful IVF treatment in the world on July 25, 1978 in England after years of efforts from Dr Patrick Steptoe, Robert Edwards and their team. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- July 25 – “World In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Day”
- Louise Joy Brown – the World’s first IVF baby – born on 25th July, 1978 in England

654. The UNESCO has celebrated “World Mangrove Day” or “International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem” on July 26 with the aim of raising awareness about mangrove ecosystems and to promote their sustainable management and conservation. [{Read more}](#)

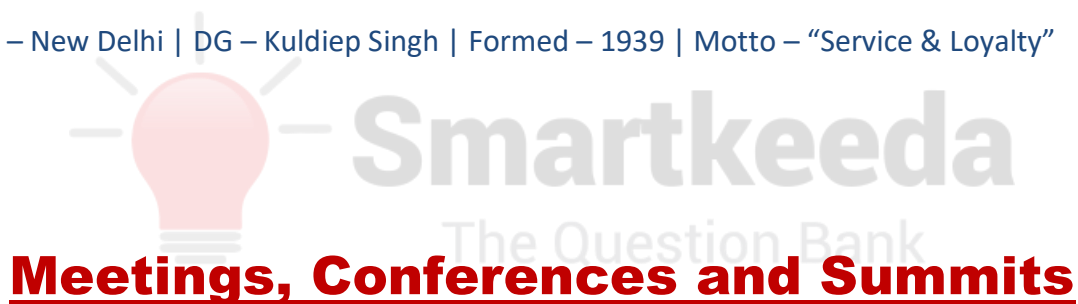
Key Points:

- July 26 – “World Mangrove Day” or “International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem”

655. On July 27, PM Narendra Modi has extended greetings to the soldiers of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on the 83rd Raising Day of the CRPF. The CRPF came into existence as Crown Representative's Police on July 27, 1939. It became the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on the enactment of the CRPF Act on December 28, 1949. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 27 – 83rd Raising Day of the CRPF
- HQs of CRPF – New Delhi | DG – Kuldip Singh | Formed – 1939 | Motto – “Service & Loyalty”



656. On July 22, the 16th “G20 Environment Ministers’ Meeting 2021” was held in hybrid format under Italian Presidency. The summit is slated to revolve around its primary theme of ‘People’, ‘Planet’ and ‘Prosperity’. India was represented by a delegation led by Hon’ble Union Environment Minister, Bhupender Yadav. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhupender Yadav – participated in the 16th “G20 Environment Ministers’ Meeting 2021” – hosted by Italy
- Presidency of G20 Summit: 2021 – Italy | 2022 – Indonesia | 2023 – India | 2024 – Brazil

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

657. On July 18, Kajal Chakraborty, Principal Scientist at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute has won the “Norman Borlaug National Award 2020” for Excellence in Agricultural Research instituted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The award, which is announced once in five years, carries a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Kajal Chakraborty – won “Norman Borlaug National Award 2020” for Excellence in Agricultural Research – by ICAR
- The award is announced once in 5 years | Cash prize – Rs 10 lakh
- HQs of ICAR – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra | Established in – 1929

658. On July 23, India’s chief hydrographer Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar has been conferred with the prestigious “Alexander Dalrymple” award by the British government in recognition of his works in areas of Hydrography and Nautical Cartography. The Alexander Dalrymple award has been named after the first hydrographer of the Admiralty and was instituted in 2006. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar – conferred with the prestigious “Alexander Dalrymple” award by the UK
- He was awarded for his works in areas of Hydrography & Nautical Cartography

Appointments & Resignations

659. On July 20, Shiv Nadar, Managing Director & Director of HCL Technologies, on completing 76 years of age, has resigned from his post. He will begin the role of Chairman Emeritus and Strategic Advisor to the company’s board. The company has appointed C. Vijayakumar - President and CEO of the company - as the Managing Director for 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shiv Nadar – resigned from his post as MD of HCL Technologies
- C. Vijayakumar – appointed as MD of HCL Technologies – for 5 years
- Shiv Nadar – will begin the role of Chairman Emeritus & Strategic Advisor to the company’s board
- HQs of HCL Technologies – Noida, UP | MD – C Vijayakumar | Chairperson – Roshni Nadar Malhotra

660. On July 25, Senior IPS officer Nasir Kamal has been appointed as the Director General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) for a tenure up to his superannuation on July 31, 2022. Kamal is a 1986-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nasir Kamal (UP) – appointed as the Director General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) – till July 31, 2022
- HQs of BCAS – New Delhi | DG – Nasir Kamal



661. Karnataka Chief Minister B. S. Yediyurappa has submitted his resignation to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot in Bengaluru on July 26. The veteran leader expressed his gratitude to the people of Karnataka for allowing him to be the Chief Minister of the State 4 times. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- B. S. Yediyurappa – resigned from the post of CM of Karnataka (served 4 times as CM of Karnataka)
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

662. On July 24, Well-known social worker and entrepreneur Sanjay Rai ‘Sherpuria’ was named National Brand Ambassador for SDG Choupal. A coffee table book on Sanjay Rai ‘Sherpuria’ also published in collaboration with many institutions like Ghazipur Nagrik Abhinandan Samiti, SDG Choupal and Rotary Club International. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjay Rai ‘Sherpuria’ – named National Brand Ambassador for SDG Choupal

Amount & Agreements

663. The Indian Government has signed a loan agreement with the World Bank to develop Green National Highway Corridor Project (GNHCP). The project includes Upgradation of about 781 km length of various National Highways passing through the states of Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. The schedule date of completion is December, 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + World Bank = a loan agreement to develop “Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP)”
- The length of the project – 781 km | Schedule date of completion – December, 2025
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

664. On July 22, Global agricultural firm Corteva Agriscience has signed a 3-year project agreement with the 2030 Water Resources Group (2030 WRG) hosted by the World Bank Group, to promote sustainable rice cultivation in 40,000 acres in Uttar Pradesh through traditional methods of transplanting rice to the Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) technique. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Corteva Agriscience + 2030 WRG = an agreement to promote sustainable rice cultivation in 40,000 acres – in UP
- 2030 WRG (Washington, D.C., US) – hosted by the World Bank Group
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



Ranks, Reports & Surveys

665. Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi Corp overtook Apple Inc in the second quarter to become the world's No. 2 smartphone maker, according to a market research firm Canalys. Xiaomi took the second spot for the first time with 17% share of worldwide smartphone shipments. Global smartphone shipments grew 12% in the second quarter, led by Samsung with a 19% share, and Apple at third place with a 14% share. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Xiaomi (17%) – became world's No. 2 smartphone maker (overtaking Apple)
- 1st – Samsung (19%) | 3rd – Apple (14%)

666. On July 22, As many as 1.19 lakh children in India lost their primary caregiver (parent or custodial grandparent) due to COVID-19, placing the country at the third spot after Mexico (1.4 lakh) and Brazil (1.3 lakh), according to estimates in a new study published in The Lancet. Globally, this figure stood at 11.34 lakh between March 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021. Children who lost either a mother or a father were 10.42 lakh, including 1.16 lakh in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lancet report: 1.19 lakh children in India lost their primary caregiver due to COVID-19 | Globally – 11.34 lakh
- 1st - Mexico (1.4 lakh) | 2nd - Brazil (1.3 lakh) | 3rd - India (1.19 lakh)

667. On July 23, The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched its first Regional Status Report on Drowning Prevention in the South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions. 61% of global drowning deaths occur in the Asia Pacific. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WHO – launched 1st Regional Status Report on Drowning Prevention in the South-East Asia & Western Pacific regions
- 61% of global drowning deaths occur in the Asia Pacific region
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

668. On July 24, The UN General Assembly has approved its first-ever resolution on vision named “Vision for Everyone”. The resolution, sponsored by Bangladesh, Antigua, and Ireland, and co-sponsored by over 100 countries, was adopted by consensus by the UNGA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNGA – approved its 1st ever resolution on vision named “Vision for Everyone”
- The resolution was sponsored by – Bangladesh, Antigua & Ireland
- HQs of UNGA – New York, USA | President – Abdulla Shahid | Member Countries – 193



669. On July 23, NITI Aayog and International Energy Agency (IEA) have jointly launched a report on “Renewables Integration in India 2021”. As per the report, India is the 3rd largest energy-consumer. Government of Karnataka is in the process of bringing in new ‘RE Policy’. Karnataka accounts for 29% of India’s Solar & Wind energy generation annually. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Renewables Integration in India 2021” report – launched by NITI Aayog + IEA
- India – the 3rd largest Energy-consumer | Target: 175 GW – by 2022 & 450 GW – by 2030
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol | Member countries – 30

670. On July 20, Indian women’s ODI team captain Mithali Raj is the World No. 1 player as per the latest “MRF Tyres ICC Women’s ODI Player Rankings”. In the MRF Tyres ICC Women’s T20I Player Rankings, Smriti Mandhana has attained 3rd position. This is the 9th time Mithali has reached the number one spot. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mithali Raj – World’s No. 1 player as per the latest “MRF Tyres ICC Women’s ODI Player Rankings” (9th time)
- Smriti Mandhana – 3rd position in the “MRF Tyres ICC Women’s T20I Player Rankings”



Acquisitions & Mergers

671. Byju’s has acquired the Singapore based professional training and higher education platform “Great Learning” for \$600 million (around 4,461 Cr). Byju’s also acquired school learning app “Toppr” for \$150 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Byju’s – acquired a higher education platform “Great Learning” for \$600 million (around 4,461 Cr)
- Byju’s – also acquired school learning app “Toppr” for \$150 million
- HQs of Byju’s – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Byju Raveendran | Founded in – 2011

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

672. On July 22, The operator of Kempegowda International Airport (KIAB/BLR Airport), Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL), has signed a 10-year partnership with IBM in a bid to create an “Airport in a Box” platform. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Kempegowda Int. Airport + IBM = 10-year partnership to create an “Airport in a Box” platform
- HQs of IBM – Armonk, New York, US | CEO – Arvind Krishna | Founded in – 1911

673. On July 23, The World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) have signed an agreement to work together to foster diversity and equity through global initiatives promoting health and sport for everybody, everywhere. The two partners will collaborate to improve global access to quality rehabilitation and assistive technology as part of universal health coverage. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WHO + IPC = an agreement to promote diversity & equity in Sports
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948
- HQs of IPC – Bonn, Germany | President – Philip Craven | Founded in – 1989

674. On July 23, General Electric (GE) and Intel have (separately) signed an agreement with the Science and Technology Research Board (SERB), to conduct fundamental research in the areas of the companies’ interest. This joint collaboration is under SERB’s latest initiative called “FIRE” (Fund for Industry Research Engagement). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GE + SERB = an agreement to conduct fundamental research in the areas of the companies’ interest
- The collaboration under SERB’s latest initiative – “FIRE” (Fund for Industry Research Engagement)
- HQs of GE – Massachusetts, US | CEO – H. Lawrence Culp Jr.
- HQs of SERB – New Delhi | Secretary – Prof Sandeep Verma

675. On July 23, Government of Arunachal Pradesh has signed an MoU with Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis - IIM Shillong for collaborating as a knowledge partner for capacity building of State Government officers and to set up a Satellite Centre of IIM-S in the State. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arunachal Pradesh + IIM Shillong = to collaborate as Knowledge Partners
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra

676. On July 23, Uttar Pradesh has signed an MoU with government advisory firm Sapio Analytics to provide licenses of automation software “Accloud” worth Rs 72 Cr, to 20,000 MSMEs of the state. Recently, Sapio Analytics announced its expansion to the United States, with a focus on transforming developing countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh + Sapio Analytics = to provide licenses of automation software “Accloud” to MSMEs of UP



- Software worth Rs 72 Cr
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- HQs of Sapio Analytics – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Ashwin Srivastava

677. Avigna Industrial & Logistics Park, part of Chennai-based Avigna Group has signed an MoU with the Tamil Nadu government for an investment of Rs 837 Cr in the state for developing Industrial parks. [{Read more}](#)

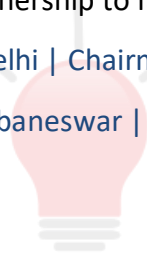
Key Points:

- Avigna Industrial & Logistics Park + Tamil Nadu = an MoU worth Rs 837 Cr to develop Industrial parks
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit
- HQs of Avigna Group – Chennai, Tamil Nadu

678. On July 27, Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Ltd (TPCODL) has partnered with Common Service Centres (CSCs) under the Digital India Programme to facilitate online payment of Electricity Bills in rural areas. Over 5,800 CSCs and VLEs are operating in areas where the power utility supplies electricity. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TPCODL + CSCs = partnership to facilitate online payment of Electricity Bills in rural areas
- HQs of CSCs – New Delhi | Chairman – Ajay Prakash Sawhney | CEO – Sanjay Kumar Rakesh
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal



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Books & Authors

679. Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has released a book titled “Kashmir Ki Kyari Mein Aag Ki Lapte Aakhir Kab Tak?”. The book is penned by Kashmiri writer and social worker Beena Budki. A magazine, “Kashmir Sandesh”, brought out by Kashmiri Hindi Sangam and edited by Budki was also released. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Kashmir Ki Kyari Mein Aag Ki Lapte Aakhir Kab Tak?” book – authored by Beena Budki
- The above given book + “Kashmir Sandesh” magazine = both released by Bhagat Singh Koshyari

680. “RENEGADES: Born in the USA” is a collection of candid, intimate, and entertaining conversations between Barack Obama and legendary musician Bruce Springsteen. The book, authored by Barack Obama & Bruce Springsteen, and published in partnership with Higher Ground, is scheduled for global publication on 26 October 2021. The book is the bound edition of “Renegades podcast”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “RENEGADES: Born in the USA” book – authored by Barack Obama + Bruce Springsteen



681. Former Election Commissioner of India Ashok Lavasa's new book "An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation" focuses on the little-highlighted stories of the lives of common people. The book is published by HarperCollins India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation" book – authored by Ashok Lavasa

682. The CEO of NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant has released the book "Shifting Orbits: Decoding the Trajectory of the Indian Start-up Ecosystem", co-edited by Joffi Thomas, professor at the IIM Kozhikode (IIM-K). The book chronicles the spectacular rise of the start-up landscape in India in 4 different sections - innovation, incubation, funding and industry perspectives. [{Read more}](#)

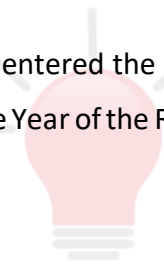
Key Points:

- Amitabh Kant released – "Shifting Orbits: Decoding the Trajectory of the Indian Start-up Ecosystem" book
- The book is co-edited by – Joffi Thomas (Professor at IIM Kozhikode)

683. On July 27, Indian-origin British author Sunjeev Sahota is among the 13 authors longlisted for the prestigious "2021 Booker Prize" for fiction for his novel "China Room", alongside Nobel laureate Kazuo Ishiguro and Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Powers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "China Room" novel entered the "2021 Booker Prize" longlist for fiction
- "China Room" & "The Year of the Runaways" novels – authored by Sunjeev Sahota (Indian-origin British author)



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Obituaries

684. On July 23, Kerala's oldest learner Bhageerathi Amma (Bhagheerathy Amma) passed away recently. She passed the literacy examination at the age of 105 two years ago and won the praise of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhageerathi Amma – Oldest learner from Kerala – passed away
- She passed the literacy examination at the age of 105 in 2019
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

685. On July 21, Noted Carnatic Classical Violinist 'Kalaimaamani' Sikkil Shri R. Bhaskaran passed away at Chennai. He was 85. He was a violinist in Carnatic music and Tamil Isai. He was introduced to Music by his maternal grandfather Sikkil Shri Ramaswami Pillai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sikkil Shri R. Bhaskaran (Tamil Nadu) – a Carnatic Classical Violinist – passed away
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



686. On July 24, Banker-turned-Marathi litterateur Satish Kalsekar passed away following a brief illness. He was 78. He was conferred with the Sahitya Akademi Award 2013 for literature. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Satish Kalsekar – Marathi Litterateur – passed away
- Awards: “Sahitya Akademi Award” for Literature (2013)

687. On July 23, Doyen of particle physics Steven Weinberg passed away. He was 88. He was awarded the ‘Nobel Prize for Physics’ in 1979 for his discovery of the Unified Theory of Weak and Electromagnetic Interactions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Steven Weinberg – American Theoretical Physicist – passed away (‘Nobel Prize for Physics’ in 1979)

688. Veteran multilingual Actor Jayanthi has passed away at her residence in Bengaluru. She was 76. She has acted in more than 500 films in five languages - Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jayanthi – a Veteran multilingual Actor – passed away
- Cinema – Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam & Hindi



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Person in News

689. On July 22, Kerala’s 49-year-old man Santhosh George Kulangara has become the first Indian Space Tourist selected by the Virgin Group. He had signed up from Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic back in 2005. The trip will cost ₹1.8 Cr approximately. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Santhosh George Kulangara (Kerala) – became the 1st Indian Space Tourist selected by the Virgin Group
- HQs of Virgin Galactic – Mojave, California, US | CEO – Michael Colglazier
- HQs of Virgin Group – London, UK | CEO – Josh Bayliss

690. On July 23, El Salvador has ordered the arrest of former president Salvador Sanchez Ceren and 9 top officials from a past administration as part of a money laundering and corruption probe. Sanchez Ceren and the other members of Funes’ government belong to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), the leftist party. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- El Salvador – ordered the arrest of former president “Salvador Sanchez Ceren” over a corruption probe
- El Salvador – San Salvador – US Dollar | President – Nayib Bukele



691. At the invitation of S. Jaishankar (External Affairs Minister of India), Abdulla Shahid (President of the 76th session of the UNGA and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives) has visited New Delhi from 22-24 July 2021. India is the first country that Abdulla Shahid has visited after his election as PGA-Elect. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Abdulla Shahid (Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives) – visited New Delhi (India) from 22-24 July, 2021
- [Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih](#)

Science & Technology

692. On July 23, Tata Boeing Aerospace Limited (TBAL) has delivered the 100th fuselage for the ‘AH-64 Apache’ combat helicopter to Boeing. Tata Boeing Aerospace, Boeing’s first equity joint venture in India, is the result of a 2015 partnership agreement with Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Boeing Aerospace – delivered the 100th fuselage for the ‘AH-64 Apache’ combat helicopter to Boeing
- [HQs of TBAL – Hyderabad, Telangana](#)
- [HQs of Boeing – Chicago, USA | CEO – Dave Calhoun](#)

693. On July 24, The NASA has selected Elon Musk’s SpaceX to launch its probe of Jupiter’s moon called “Europa Clipper Mission”. The mission, scheduled to launch in October 2024 on a ‘Falcon Heavy’ rocket from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, is worth \$178 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA – selected SpaceX to launch its probe of Jupiter’s moon called “Europa Clipper Mission” – in Oct 2024
- ‘Falcon Heavy’ rocket – belongs to SpaceX
- [HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958](#)
- [HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2012](#)

694. On July 22, A pair of “Chrysilla Volupe” spiders, a rare species, was recently spotted at Puttenahalli lake in Karnataka by photographer Satish Chandra Karanth. The Chrysilla volupe was believed to be extinct for 150 years, until it was discovered at the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS) in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Chrysilla Volupe” a rare species of Spider – spotted at Puttenahalli lake, in Karnataka
- Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary – located in Kerala
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – B. S. Yediyurappa | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot](#)



695. On July 20, According to an AFP report, Russia has unveiled its new Sukhoi stealth fighter jet, “The Checkmate”, designed to compete with the US F-35 and capable of striking 6 targets simultaneously. It is the prototype of a new 5th generation fighter jet. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – unveiled its new Sukhoi stealth fighter jet “The Checkmate”
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

696. On July 23, IIT Kanpur has launched the first technology innovation hub “C3i Hub” to find cyber security solutions for anti-drones technologies, intrusion detection system, block-chain and cyber physical system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Kanpur – launched the first technology innovation hub “C3i Hub” to find cyber security solutions for anti-drones technologies

697. On July 23, Chinese government scientists have unveiled a first-of-its-kind ‘Clean’ Commercial Nuclear Reactor that does not need water for cooling. The Molten-salt Nuclear reactor runs on liquid thorium rather than uranium. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – unveiled a first-of-its-kind ‘Clean’ commercial nuclear reactor named “Molten-salt Nuclear reactor”
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

698. Almost a year since its launch from Earth, NASA’s Mars 2020 “Perseverance” rover has begun its search for alien life on the red planet. Currently, the six-wheeled Mars probe is in the Cratered Floor Fractured Rough area of the Jezero Crater. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA’s “Perseverance” rover is probing the ‘Jezero Crater’ of Mars
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958

699. Researchers from the molecular biodiversity laboratory in the department of Zoology and Wildlife Biology in the Government Arts College in Ooty have discovered a new wingless insect named “Bionychiurus tamilensis” in the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu. A research paper on the new species has been published in international journal Biologia published by Springer Nature. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A new wingless insect named “Bionychiurus tamilensis” – discovered in the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



Ordinance, Bills and Acts

700. On July 29, The Lok Sabha has passed the “Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2021” to encourage the development of smaller airports in India. The Bill proposes an amendment to the “Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2008” to extend the definition of ‘major airports’. As per the amendment, a ‘major airport’ refers to one that has annual passenger traffic of more than 35 lakh. The Bill was tabled by new Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lok Sabha passed the “Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2021”
- ‘Major airport’ refers to one that has annual passenger traffic of more than 35 lakh
- Ministry of Civil Aviation: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia | Constituency – Guna, Madhya Pradesh





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