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Kriti Advani
IBPS PO 2020, Clerk, RRB Clerk



Rahul Jha
All IBPS 2020 Exams



Kola Murali Krishna Sai
SBI PO & IBPS PO 2020



Nimish Mishra
IBPS RRB PO & IBPS Clerk 2020



Abhishek Raj
IBPS PO & RRB PO 2020



Subha Saha
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July
MockDrill130
PDF No. 8

(PDF in English)



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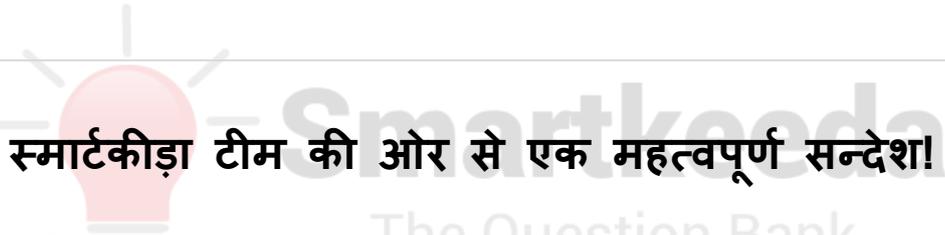
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of July 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

701. On July 21, Lohum Cleantech, a lithium ion battery maker and a battery recycling solutions company, has planned to expand its manufacturing capacity of lithium ion batteries from 300 MWh to 1000 MWh (1 GWh) and its recycling capacity 10 times, from 1,000 tonnes per annum to 10,000 tonnes per annum. The company plans to invest ₹300 Cr for expansion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lohum Cleantech – plans to expand its ‘manufacturing capacity’ of lithium ion batteries to 1000 MWh (1 GWh)
- To extend its ‘recycling capacity’ to 10,000 tonnes per annum | Investment for expansion – ₹300 Cr
- Lohum Cleantech – to set up India’s largest 3 GWh Li-ion manufacturing & recycling plant in Greater Noida, UP
- HQs of Lohum Cleantech – Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

702. The ministry of Science and Technology has decided to launch a first-of-its-kind Centre of Excellence in the Northeast under the Centre’s flagship Digital India programme. Department of Biotechnology sanctioned the project for establishing the tech backed “Centre for Bio-Resources and Sustainable Development” as a Centre of Excellence. The project envisages a cost of nearly Rs 50 Cr will come up at Kimin in Papum Pare district of Arunachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of S & T – to launch a first-of-its-kind Centre of Excellence in the Northeast
- “Centre for Bio-Resources & Sustainable Development” to be established – in Papum Pare, Arunachal Pradesh
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra

703. The Union Government has decided to set up a National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics for creating a world-class talent pool in India to cater to the Indian as well as global industry. It will be set up in collaboration with IIT Bombay. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government + IIT Bombay = to set up a National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming & Comics
- Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: Anurag Singh Thakur (Constituency – Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh)

704. On July 26, The Government has proposed to set up a National Research Foundation (NRF) to strengthen the research ecosystem in India. The total proposed outlay for NRF is Rs 50,000 Cr over a period of 5 years. The Government has taken a number of steps including “AICTE Translation Automation Artificial Intelligence Tool” to translate English language online courses into 11 different languages. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government proposed to set up an NRF with an outlay of Rs 50,000 Cr for 5 years
- “AICTE Translation Automation AI Tool” will translate English language online courses into 11 different languages



705. On July 26, Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of Tamulpur Medical College and Hospital in Assam and launched an Assam government scheme to provide ₹1 lakh each to the family members of the nearly 5,000 people who died due to Covid-19. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – laid the foundation stone of Tamulpur Medical College & Hospital in Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

706. On July 25, The Indore Police in Madhya Pradesh has set up a 40-member squad called “Special 40” to protect minor girls from sex offenders and curb crimes against women. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indore Police (MP) – set up a “Special 40” squad to protect minor girls from sex offenders
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

707. On July 27, Microsoft India has launched its second phase of an artificial intelligence model “Sunny Lives” for predicting heatwave risks in India in partnership with Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Microsoft + SEEDS = launched its 2nd phase of an AI model “Sunny Lives” for predicting heatwave risks in India
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | Chairman – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975

708. On July 28, Dholavira, a Harappan-era city in Gujarat, has been conferred the tag of UNESCO World Heritage Site. It became the 40th UNESCO World Heritage Site of India located in Gujarat. Gujarat now has 4 world heritage sites - Dholavira, Champaner near Pavagadh, Rani ki Vav in Patan and the historic city of Ahmedabad. Dholavira was included in the list during the 44th session of the UNESCO's World Heritage Committee (WHC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 44th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO – chaired by China
- Dholavira (Gujarat) – became the 40th UNESCO World Heritage Site of India
- Dholavira + Champaner + Rani ki Vav + Ahmedabad = 4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Gujarat
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945
- Members of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) – 21

709. On July 25, Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched the web based portal “pmcaresforchildren.in” to facilitate submission of applications, identification of children eligible to receive support under the ‘PM CARES for Children’ scheme. The scheme aims to ensure comprehensive care and protection of children who have lost their parents to COVID pandemic. It enables their wellbeing through health insurance, empower them through education and equip them for self-sufficient existence with financial support of Rs 10 lakh, on reaching 23 years of age. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Ministry of Women & Child Development – launched the web based portal “pmcaresforchildren.in”
- Financial support of Rs 10 lakh to Covid Orphan Children
- Ministry of Women and Child Development: Smriti Irani | Constituency – Amethi, Uttar Pradesh

710. On July 27, NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Limited is developing the world’s first Cab-hailing platform, which is enabled by Open-Source Specifications. NSDL e-Gov will be using Beckn protocols. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSDL e-Governance – is developing the world’s first Cab-hailing platform – enabled by Open-Source Specifications
- HQs of NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Suresh Sethi

711. On July 27, Puri has become the first city in India where people can avail high quality drinking water directly from the tap on 24-hour basis. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the ‘Drink from Tap project’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Puri (Odisha) – became the first city in India to provide quality drinking tap water on 24-hour basis
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

712. On July 26, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has laid the foundation stone of a “Bamboo Industrial Park” at Manderdisa in Dima Hasao district of Assam. The project will be implemented with Rs 50 Cr from Ministry of DoNER. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himanta Biswa Sarma laid the foundation stone of a “Bamboo Industrial Park” – in Dima Hasao, Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

713. The Central government has launched the “Secured Logistics Document Exchange” and “Calculator for Green House Gas Emissions” with an aim to further improve ease of doing business. The SLDE platform has been developed and executed with banks (ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, State Bank of India (SBI) and HDFC Bank). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central government launched “Secured Logistics Document Exchange” & “Calculator for Green House Gas Emissions”
- The SLDE platform developed & executed with – ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, SBI & HDFC Bank



714. The Civil Aviation Ministry has formed 3 Advisory Groups for airlines, airports and MRO (Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul), each headed by Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. The 'Civil Aviation Advisory Group of Airlines' will act as a platform for discussion on the issues concerning airlines and to find a solution to the issues. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Civil Aviation Ministry formed 3 Advisory Groups for airlines, airports & MRO (Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul)
- Each group is headed by – Jyotiraditya Scindia
- Ministry of Civil Aviation: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia | Constituency – Guna, Madhya Pradesh

715. Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and the Minister of State for Jal Shakti & Food Processing Industries, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel released the "ODF Plus Manuals" under 'Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II' at an event organized by Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gajendra Singh Shekhawat + Prahlad Singh Patel = released the "ODF Plus Manuals" (**O**pen **D**efecation **F**ree)
- Ministry of Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- MoS for Jal Shakti & Food Processing Industries – Prahlad Singh Patel | Constituency – Damoh, Madhya Pradesh

716. Indore has also become the only city to be selected from India for "International Clean Air Catalyst Programme", a new flagship programme launched by The US Agency for International Development (USAID). The project will be operated for 5 years for clean and pure air in the city. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indore (MP) – became the only city from India selected for "International Clean Air Catalyst Programme" – by USAID
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
- HQs of USAID – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Samantha Power | Founded in – 1961

717. Karnataka has become the first state in India to provide 1% reservation for the 'transgender' community in all the government services. A notification had already been issued after amending the Karnataka Civil Service (General Recruitment) Rule, 1977. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka – the 1st state in India to provide 1% reservation for 'transgender' community in all government services
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot



718. The Union Home Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated and laid foundation stones of several projects in Shillong. Amit Shah has inaugurated a Cryogenic Oxygen Plant and Paediatric Ward at Umsavali. He also inaugurated the Inter-State Bus Terminal at Maviyang. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – inaugurated a Cryogenic Oxygen Plant and Paediatric Ward at Umsavali, near Shillong, Meghalaya
- Amit Shah – also inaugurated the Inter-State Bus Terminal at Maviyang, near Shillong, Meghalaya
- [Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik](#)

719. On July 26, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched the “MyGov-Meri Sarkar” portal. This portal would help the people of the state to communicate their views, suggestions and feedback. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – launched the “MyGov-Meri Sarkar” portal
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

720. Union Minister of State for Culture and Parliamentary Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal has inaugurated the exhibition “Azad Ki Shaurya Gatha” focused on the life of immortal martyr ‘Chandrasekhar Azad’ as part of “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” at Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arjun Ram Meghwal – inaugurated an exhibition “Azad Ki Shaurya Gatha” focused on the life of ‘Chandrasekhar Azad’
- It was inaugurated at IGNCA (New Delhi)

721. On July 27, Tata Communications has announced to launch “IZO™ Financial Cloud”, a purpose-built community cloud platform, enabling next-generation digital transformation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Communications – to launch “IZO™ Financial Cloud” platform
- [HQs of TCL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Amur Swaminathan Lakshminarayanan](#)

722. On July 28, A consignment of GI tagged ‘Raja Mircha’ also referred as ‘King Chilli’ from Nagaland was exported to London. The chilli from Nagaland is also referred as ‘Bhoot Jolokia’ and ‘Ghost pepper’. It got GI certification in 2008. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GI tagged ‘Raja Mircha’ or ‘King Chilli’ from Nagaland – exported to London, UK
- Chilli from Nagaland is also referred as ‘Bhoot Jolokia’ and ‘Ghost pepper’ (GI certification in 2008)
- [Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Ravindra Narayana Ravi](#)



723. Parliament has passed the “National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2021”. Under this bill, National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) Kundali (Haryana) and Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (IIFPT) Thanjabur (Tamil Nadu) under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries became Institutions of National Importance (INI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Parliament passed the “National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2021”
- NIFTEM (Kundali, Haryana) + IIFPT (Thanjabur, Tamil Nadu) = became Institutions of National Importance

724. The Goa government has signed an MoU with edu-tech platform Jio Embibe for adaptive learning based on Artificial Intelligence for students. The MoU covers students of classes 6 to 12 with an exclusive portal for learning subjects like mathematics and science. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Goa + Jio Embibe = an MoU for adaptive learning based on Artificial Intelligence for students
- Jio Embibe – owned by Reliance Industries
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

725. The US-based First Solar Inc has decided to invest \$684 million in a new, fully vertically integrated photovoltaic (PV) thin film solar module manufacturing facility in Tamil Nadu. It will set-up a 3.3 GW manufacturing facility, generating 1,000 highly skilled jobs in the region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- First Solar Inc(US) – to invest \$684 mn to develop 3.3 GW PV thin film solar module manufacturing facility – in TN
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

726. On the occasion of ‘International Tiger Day’ on July 29, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav has announced that 14 Tiger Reserves in India have received accreditation of the Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS). The 14 tiger reserves are Manas, Kaziranga and Orang in Assam; Satpura, Kanha and Panna in Madhya Pradesh; Pench in Maharashtra; Valmiki in Bihar; Dudhwa in Uttar Pradesh; Sunderbans in West Bengal; Parambikulam in Kerala; Bandipur in Karnataka; and Mudumalai and Anamalai in Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 14 Tiger Reserves in India – received accreditation of the Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS)
- Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change: Bhupender Yadav | Constituency – Rajasthan

727. On July 27, The government is aiming to create a federated National Farmers Database called “Agristack” using digitized land records that will help to offer proactive and personalised services to farmers. The Agriculture Ministry has already commenced the work of creating “Agristack” - a digital ecosystem of agriculture in India. The Agriculture Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is in the process of bringing out a Data Policy for the Agriculture Sector. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Government is aiming to create a federated National Farmers Database called “Agristack”
- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Narendra Singh Tomar | Constituency – Morena, Madhya Pradesh

728. On July 27, The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has set up a committee to firm up a comprehensive plan to start Ferry Service between Karaikal Port, Puducherry, India and Kankesanthurai Port, Sri Lanka. 11 waterways have been declared as National Waterways under the National Waterways Act 2016, spread over 24 states in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A Ferry Service to start between Karaikal Port (Puducherry) & Kankesanthurai Port (Sri Lanka)
- Puducherry: CM – N. Rangasamy | Governor – Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge)

729. On July 30, The Union Health Ministry has announced 27% reservation for the OBCs (Other Backward Classes) and 10% quota for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in the All India Quota (AIQ) scheme for undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) medical/dental courses (MBBS / MD / MS / Diploma / BDS / MDS) from 2021-22 onwards. The AIQ was introduced in 1986 under the directions of the Supreme Court. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Health Ministry announced 27% reservation for OBCs & 10% for EWS in the All India Quota (AIQ) scheme for UG & PG medical/dental courses from 2021-22 onwards
- AIQ was introduced in 1986
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat

730. On July 28, The Uttar Pradesh government has set aside Rs 1,000 Cr to set up Gram Panchayat Secretariats, giving panchayats the power to purchase furniture, equipment, electronics, etc, that will help in smooth functioning of offices. Each panchayat will get Rs 1.75 lakh to spruce up its office. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – set aside Rs 1,000 Cr to set up Gram Panchayat Secretariats in the state
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

731. On July 28, Indian government is taking steps to undertake the production of “COVID BEEP” on a large scale. It is India’s first indigenous, cost effective, wireless physiological parameters monitoring system for Covid-19 patients. It has been developed by ESIC Medical College (Hyderabad), Electronics Corporation of India Ltd and Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “COVID BEEP” – India’s 1st cost effective, wireless physiological parameters monitoring system for Covid-19 patients
- Developed by = ESIC Medical College + Electronics Corporation of India Ltd + Electronics Corporation of India Ltd



Banking & Economic Affairs

732. On July 26, HDFC Bank has launched an overdraft facility called “Dukandar Overdraft Scheme” for small retailers in partnership with Common Services Centres (CSC) e-Governance India Ltd. HDFC Bank will approve an overdraft limit from a minimum of Rs 50,000 to a maximum of Rs 10 lakhs based on the statements. Small retailers who have been operating for a minimum of 3 years are eligible under the scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank + CSC = launched “Dukandar Overdraft Scheme” for small retailers
- Overdraft limit: minimum - Rs 50,000 | maximum - Rs 10 lakhs | Eligibility - minimum of 3 years of operating
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”
- HQs of CSCs – New Delhi | Chairman – Ajay Prakash Sawhney | CEO – Sanjay Kumar Rakesh (works under – MeitY)

733. On July 27, Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT) has launched “SWIFT Go” - a transformative new service that enables small businesses and consumers to send fast, predictable, highly secure, and competitively priced low-value cross-border payments anywhere in the world, direct from their bank accounts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SWIFT – launched “SWIFT Go” - a Fast, Cost-Effective Service for Low-Value Cross-Border Payments
- HQs of SWIFT – La Hulpe, Belgium | CEO – Javier Perez-Tasso

734. On July 27, Non-performing assets (NPAs) or bad loans of banks have declined by Rs 61,180 Cr to Rs 8.34 lakh Cr at the end of March 31, 2021. Ability of PSBs to further increase lending is evident through Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) which stood at 14.04% as of March 31, 2021. SBI has topped the list of PSBs in cleaning up their bad loans/NPAs followed by Union Bank of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NPAs/Bad loans of banks declined by Rs 61,180 Cr to Rs 8.34 lakh Cr at the end of March 31, 2021
- SBI – topped the list of PSBs in cleaning up their bad loans/NPAs | 2nd – UBI
- CRAR stood at 14.04% as of March 31, 2021 | CRAR – Capital to Risk weighted Assets Ratio
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

735. On July 29, FamPay has launched India’s first Visa Prepaid Card in partnership with VISA for teenagers with personalized doodles on it. The card will allow teens to make NFC-enabled contactless payments on the Visa network in India. The card will be available in two different designs - the ‘FamCard’ and ‘FamCard Me’. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- FamPay + VISA = launched India's first Visa Prepaid Card for teenagers with personalized doodles on it
- Two different designs of the card - the 'FamCard' & 'FamCard Me'
- HQs of FamPay – Bangalore, Karnataka
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly | Founded in – 1958

736. On July 28, Hughes Communications India Pvt Ltd (HCIPL) has been selected by the Bank of India (BoI) to connect 1,800 bank branches with satellite network connectivity across India. The network will be powered by the Hughes JUPITER System. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BoI – selected Hughes Communications to connect 1,800 bank branches with Satellite Network Connectivity
- HQs of BoI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Shri Atanu Kumar Das | Tagline – “Relationship Beyond Banking”

737. On July 28, Digital lender Prest Loans has signed up a strategic alliance agreement with Mumbai based U GRO Capital to provide Secured Business Loans to Micro SME business units. Under this arrangement Prest Loans shall offer U GRO Capital's “GRO Micro” product to its small businesses and MSME customers in tier 3 and tier 4 cities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prest Loans + U GRO Capital = to provide Secured Business Loans to Micro SME business
- Prest Loans will offer “GRO Micro” product to its customers
- HQs of Prest Loans – New Delhi | CEO – Ashok Mittal
- HQs of U GRO Capital – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Abhijit Ghosh

738. On July 29, According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), authorised Non-banks Payment System Providers including Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) issuers, Card Networks and White Label ATM operators will be eligible to participate in Central Payment Systems (CPS) like RTGS and NEFT in the first phase. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – authorised Non-banks Payment System Providers to participate in ‘CPS’ like RTGS & NEFT
- Non-banks PSP include: PPIs issuers, Card Networks & White Label ATM Operators
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

739. On July 28, The Reserve Bank of India-Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) for March 2021 stood at 270.59 points against 207.84 points for March 2020, a 30% increase in digital payment due to COVID-19. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Reserve Bank of India-Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI)” for March 2021 – stood at 270.59 points
- It recorded 30% increase against 207.84 points for March 2020
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935



740. On July 28, Yes Bank and Indiabulls Housing Finance have entered into a co-lending agreement for Home Loans. The partnership aims at synergising capabilities to provide an efficient and seamless experience to retail home loan customers. Home loans constitute about 10% of Yes Bank's retail banking assets as on June 30, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yes Bank + Indiabulls Housing Finance = a co-lending agreement for Home Loans
- Home loans constitute about 10% of Yes Bank's retail banking assets (on June 30, 2021)
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”
- HQs of IHFL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Subhash Sheoratan Mundra | Vice-Chairman & MD – Gagan Banga

741. On July 30, Singapore-based DBS Group Ltd and Temasek have set up \$500 million financing platform, “EvolutionX Debt Capital (EvolutionX)” for non-dilutive funding to technology-enabled firms with a focus on China, India, and Southeast Asia. It will be led by Amit Sinha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DBS Group + Temasek (both in Singapore) = set up \$500 mn “EvolutionX Debt Capital (EvolutionX)” platform
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob

742. On July 29, The RBI has cancelled the licence of The Madgaum Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Goa due to its inadequate capital. RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 5 Cr on Axis Bank for non-compliance with RBI's various regulatory provisions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – cancelled the licence of Madgaum Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd (Goa) due to its inadequate capital
- RBI – imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 5 Cr on “Axis Bank” for non-compliance with RBI's provisions
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

743. On July 29, LIC Cards Services Ltd (LIC-CSL) has partnered with IDBI Bank to launch ‘Lumine’ Platinum Credit Card and ‘Eclat’ Select Credit Card on the RuPay platform. Lumine and Eclat Cardholders will earn ‘Welcome Bonus Delight Points’ of 1,000 and 1,500, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LIC CSL + IDBI Bank = to launch ‘Lumine’ Platinum Credit Card & ‘Eclat’ Select Credit Card on RuPay platform
- HQs of LIC-CSL – New Delhi
- HQs of IDBI Bank – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Rakesh Sharma | Established in – 1964 | Tagline – “Bank Aisa Dost Jaisa”



744. On July 28, Paytm Payments Bank has become the first bank in India to achieve the milestone of issuing 1 Cr FASTags. According to NPCI, over 3.47 Cr FASTags were issued by all banks together till the end of June 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paytm Payments Bank – became the 1st bank in India to achieve the milestone of issuing 1 Cr FASTags
- HQs of PPBL – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Satish Kumar Gupta

Defence Affairs

745. Indian Naval Ship Talwar has participated in the multi-national maritime exercise “Cutlass Express 2021” (CE21), being conducted from 26 Jul to 06 Aug 21 in Kenya. INS Talwar also visited Mombasa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Talwar – participated in the multi-national maritime exercise “Cutlass Express 2021” (CE21) – held in Kenya
- Kenya – Nairobi – Kenyan Shilling | President – Uhuru Kenyatta

746. Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) has launched 5 vessels at one go from its Building Dock at Kochi. The vessels launched include three Floating Border Outpost Vessels (FBOP) for the BSF and two 8000 DWT Mini General Cargo Ships for JSW Shipping & Logistics. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has formally inducted the Rafale aircraft into its 101 Squadron of the Eastern Air Command at the Hasimara Air Force Station in West Bengal. India has so far received 26 of the 36 Rafale aircraft from France. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cochin Shipyard Ltd launched 5 shipping vessels at one go from Kochi, Kerala
- 3 Floating Border Outpost Vessels for the BSF | two 8000 DWT Mini Gen. Cargo Ships for JSW Shipping & Logistics
- IAF inducted ‘Rafale aircraft’ into its 101 Squadron of the Eastern Air Command at Hasimara Air Force, West Bengal
- HQs of Cochin Shipyard – Kochi, Kerala | Chairman & MD – Shri Madhu S Nair

747. On July 30, A high-tech, low sound 7.62X39 mm carbine named “TriCa” (a mini version of Assault Rifle) was unveiled at the Ordnance Factory in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu. It has a range more effective than a typical sub-machine gun and it is small enough to be packed in the jacket of security personnel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ordnance factory Tiruchirappalli (OFT) – launched a high-tech 7.62X39 mm carbine “TriCa” in Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



748. INS Saryu is participating in the 36th edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) with Indonesian Naval Ship KRI Bung Tomo from 30 to 31 July, 2021. India and Indonesia have been carrying out Coordinated Patrols along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) twice a year since 2002. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 36th edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) – held between India & Indonesia (INS Saryu participated)
- [Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo](#)

Schemes & Initiatives

749. Himachal Pradesh chief minister Jai Ram Thakur has virtually launched the “Digital Saathi-Bacchon Ka Sahara, Phone Hamara” programme at Shimla. Himachal Pradesh also started “Hara Ghar Pathshala” programme to facilitate the students during the pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himachal Pradesh – launched the “Digital Saathi-Bacchon Ka Sahara, Phone Hamara” programme
- Himachal Pradesh – also started “Hara Ghar Pathshala” programme
- [Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya](#)

750. On July 28, The Rajasthan government’s industries department and the Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO) have launched the “Mission Niryatak Bano” campaign to promote aspiring exporters in the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – launched the “Mission Niryatak Bano” campaign
- [Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra](#)

751. On July 29, PM Narendra Modi has launched several new initiatives to mark the 1st anniversary of the “National Education Policy (NEP) 2020” which was launched on July 29, 2020. It replaced the 34 year old “National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986”. The initiatives are given below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi has launched several new initiatives to mark the 1st anniversary of the “NEP 2020” on July 29
- Initiatives:
 - National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR)
 - National Education Technology Forum (NETF)
 - Vidya Pravesh
 - SAFAL (Structured Assessment For Analyzing Learning Levels)
 - Academic Bank of Credit



752. Haryana government has decided to provide “Free Bus Travel Facility” of state roadways to various award-winning scholars of the Sanskrit language. Apart from establishing Government Sanskrit Colleges and Sanskrit Board, ‘Sanskrit University’ has also been set up in the State. So far, 29 Acharyas and Gurukul managers have been awarded with “Acharya Sammans” in Haryana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – to provide “Free Bus Travel Facility” to various award winning Sanskrit scholars
- 29 Acharyas and Gurukul managers – have been awarded with “Acharya Sammans” so far in Haryana
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya](#)

753. A “Samajik Adhikarita Shivir” for distribution of aids and assistive devices to ‘Divyangjan’ under the “ADIP Scheme” of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment was organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) in Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Samajik Adhikarita Shivir” for distribution of aids & assistive devices to ‘Divyangjan’ – held in Chhindwara, MP
- It was organized under the “ADIP Scheme” of MoSJE by – DEPwD
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel](#)



754. On July 25, Japan’s Yuto Horigome has won the first ever “Skateboarding Competition” at 2020 Summer Olympics, taking gold in men’s street event at the Ariake Urban Sport in Tokyo. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yuto Horigome ([Japanese skateboarder](#)) – won the 1st Gold in “Skateboarding Competition” at 2020 Olympic Games
- [Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga](#)

755. On July 25, Sumit Nagal has become the only 3rd Indian after Zeeshan Ali and Leander Paes to win an Olympic singles match at Olympics. He became the first Indian since 1996 to win a singles match at the Olympics. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sumit Nagal ([Tennis](#)) – became the only 3rd Indian to win an Olympic singles match at Olympics
- 1st – Zeeshan Ali ([Tennis](#)) | 2nd – Leander Paes ([Tennis](#))

756. On July 27, Turkmenistan has secured its first-ever Olympics medal as its weightlifter Polina Guryeva won silver medal in the 59kg weightlifting category at “2020 Summer Olympics” held in Tokyo, Japan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Polina Guryeva ([Turkmenistan - Weightlifter](#)) – won silver in the 59kg weightlifting category at “2020 Tokyo Olympics”
- [Turkmenistan – Ashgabat – Manat | President – Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow](#)

757. On July 28, Russia is technically ‘banned’ and the Russian flag is also nowhere to be spotted in the ongoing “2020 Tokyo Olympics”. However, there are 335 athletes from Russia who are participating in the “Tokyo Olympics 2020” under the acronym “ROC”. ROC stands for Russian Olympic Committee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russian Athletes are participating in the “Tokyo Olympics 2020” under the acronym “ROC”
- ROC – **R**ussian **O**lympic **C**ommittee
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin](#)

Important Days & Dates

758. MyGov, the citizen engagement platform, has completed 7 years long journey. It was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 26th July 2014. An event was organised on the theme of “MyGov Positive” promoting positive use of Social media. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “MyGov” platform – celebrated the 7th Anniversary of its launch on July 26 | Launched in 2014
- An event was organised on the theme of “MyGov Positive”

759. World Hepatitis Day (WHD) is celebrated every year on July 28 in order to spread awareness about viral hepatitis. It is an inflammation of the liver that can cause severe liver disease and hepatocellular cancer. The day is marked on the birthday of Nobel Prize-winning scientist Dr. Baruch Blumberg. In 2021, the theme is “Hepatitis Can’t Wait”. The target to eliminate hepatitis as a public health threat is by 2030. Besides, Manipur launched the “Model Hepatitis B Treatment Centres” on World Hepatitis Day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 28 – World Hepatitis Day
- Theme – “Hepatitis Can’t Wait”
- Target to eliminate Hepatitis as a public health threat – by 2030
- Manipur – launched the “Model Hepatitis B Treatment Centres”



760. The “World Nature Conservation Day” is observed annually on July 28. The day aims to create awareness about the need to preserve the environment and natural resources in order to keep the world healthy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 28 – “World Nature Conservation Day”

761. On July 27, The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has celebrated its 15th Foundation Day at Prithvi Bhavan Headquarters in New Delhi. Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the “MoES-ESSDP” (Earth System Science Data Portal), an integrated digital web portal of MoES institutes. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has introduced a new mobile app named “Pune Weather Live”. Besides, Dr. Satish Shetye has received the “LifeTime Excellence Award” during the ‘MoES National Awards 2021’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 27 – 15th Foundation Day of Ministry of Earth Sciences
- Dr. Jitendra Singh – launched an integrated digital web portal “MoES-ESSDP” for MoES institutes
- IMD – introduced a new mobile app named “Pune Weather Live”
- Satish Shetye – received the “LifeTime Excellence Award” during the ‘MoES National Awards 2021’

762. “National Moth Week” (NMW) was observed from July 17 to 25 this year. As the NMW completes 10 years in 2021 and this year, the focus is on encouraging children and teenagers to explore the secret world of these nocturnal insects. It is annually observed across the globe on the last full week of July. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 17 to 25 – 10th edition of “National Moth Week”

763. This year again, “Earth Overshoot Day” has shifted back to July 29. This means humanity has used all biological resources that the Earth regenerates during the entire year by July 29, according to the Global Footprint Network (GFN). It is the same date as in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 29 – “Earth Overshoot Day 2021”

764. On July 29, The International Tiger Day was observed in India along with other countries to raise awareness about the falling number of tigers worldwide. India is home to 52 tiger reserves with the latest addition of Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve (RVTR) in Bundi district of Rajasthan. The last Tiger Census was conducted in 2018. India comprises over 70% of the tiger population globally. Tiger is one of the species that is classified as ‘Endangered’ by the IUCN. Currently, Madhya Pradesh holds the status of ‘Tiger State’ with 526 tigers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 29 – “International Tiger Day” or “Global Tiger Day”
- India has 52 Tiger Reserves (as of 2021) | Last Tiger Census was conducted in 2018
- India comprises over 70% of the Tiger population globally | Tiger – classified as ‘Endangered’ by the IUCN
- Madhya Pradesh – holds the status of ‘Tiger State’ with 526 tigers



765. World Day Against Trafficking in Persons was observed across the globe on July 30. Most common form of human trafficking (79%) is sexual exploitation. In 2021, the theme is “Victims’ Voices Lead the Way”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 30 – World Day Against Trafficking in Persons
- Theme – “Victims’ Voices Lead the Way”

766. World Ranger Day is observed every on July 31 in the memory of the rangers all around the world who have lost their lives or gotten injured in the line of duty. In 2021, the theme is “Ranger Safety and Wellbeing”. Two Indians - Sathish Sundaram & Mahindra Giri were among the 10 recipients of “International Ranger Awards” which was announced earlier. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 31 – World Ranger Day
- Theme – “Ranger Safety & Wellbeing”
- Indian recipients of “International Ranger Awards” – Sathish Sundaram & Mahindra Giri

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

767. On July 26, Uzbekistan has hosted a High-level International Conference titled “Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity, Challenges and Opportunities” at Tashkent. Minister of External Affairs of India Dr. S. Jaishankar represented India in this conference. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uzbekistan – hosted “Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity, Challenges and Opportunities Conference”
- Uzbekistan – Tashkent – So’m | President – Shavkat Mirziyoyev

768. On July 28, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has attended the “SCO Defence Ministers’ Meeting” in Dushanbe. Tajikistan is chairing the SCO this year and hosting a series of ministerial and official-level meetings. 2021 has been declared the “Year of SCO Culture”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh – attended the “SCO Defence Ministers’ Meeting” in Dushanbe (hosted by - Tajikistan)
- 2021 – “Year of SCO Culture”
- HQs of SCO – Beijing, China | 8 Countries: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pak
- Tajikistan – Dushanbe – Somoni | President – Emomali Rahmon



769. On July 29, India and the US will virtually co-host the 4th annual Indo-Pacific Business Forum (IPBF) in October, 2021 to promote trade, investment and economic cooperation between the United States and its partners throughout the Indo-Pacific region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + US – to virtually co-host the 4th annual Indo-Pacific Business Forum (IPBF) in October, 2021
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

770. The 6th meeting of the “BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group (CTWG)” was held virtually on 28-29 July 2021 under the Chairship of India. Mahaveer Singhvi, Joint Secretary for Counter-Terrorism, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has chaired the meeting. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 6th meeting of the “BRICS Counter Terrorism Working Group (CTWG)” – chaired by Mahaveer Singhvi (India)
- Joint Secretary for Counter-Terrorism, MEA – Mahaveer Singhvi
- BRICS Member Countries: 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | Chairmanship in 2021 – India

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

771. On July 26, Kandla Special Economic Zone (KASEZ) from Gujarat is the 1st Green SEZ to achieve the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) Green Cities Platinum Rating for Existing Cities. Government of India is working towards ensuring environmentally sustainable development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kandla SEZ (Gujarat) – 1st Green SEZ to achieve the IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

772. World No. 1 para shuttler Pramod Bhagat has been named “Differently Abled Sportsman of the Year” at Indian Sports Honour for 2019. Indian Sports Honours are awards given annually by the RPSG Group in association with the Virat Kohli Foundation. The awards were founded in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pramod Bhagat (Para shuttler) – named “Differently Abled Sportsman of the Year” for 2019 at Indian Sports Honour
- Indian Sports Honour awards are given annually by = RPSG Group + Virat Kohli Foundation | Founded – in 2017



773. On July 28, Out of total 50, 3 Indian Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) are among the winners of a \$1,00,000 global competition of “Best Small Business: Good Food for All” announced by the United Nations. It provides inspiring, diverse and impactful solutions in improving access to healthy and sustainable food. From India, the winners are Edible Routes Pvt Ltd, Oorja Development Solutions India and Taru Naturals. The competition was held in conjunction with the UN Food Systems Summit. Narendra Singh Tomar virtually participated in the 3-day long summit where the UN accepted India’s proposal to celebrate 2023 as “International Year of Millets”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3 Indian SMEs are among the winners of UN’s global competition of “Best Small Business: Good Food for All”
- 3 Indian SMEs:
 - Edible Routes Pvt Ltd
 - Oorja Development Solutions India
 - Taru Naturals
- Narendra Singh Tomar participated in the 3-day “UN Food Systems Summit 2021”
- UN – accepted India’s proposal to celebrate 2023 as “International Year of Millets”

774. On July 27, National award-winning filmmaker Aditya Vikram Sengupta’s third Bengali feature film “Once Upon A Time in Calcutta” has been selected in the Orizzonti (Horizons) section of the 78th Venice International Film Festival. It is the only film from India to have its world premiere at the prestigious film festival, to be held from September 1 to 11. The film is shot by Nuri Bilge and Gokhan Tiryaki. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Once Upon A Time in Calcutta” – selected for the 78th Venice International Film Festival
- The film is directed by – Aditya Vikram Sengupta & shot by – Nuri Bilge & Gokhan Tiryaki

775. On July 28, Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh has received the “NatWest Group Earth Heroes Award 2021” in the ‘Earth Guardian’ category for best management. This tiger reserve is home to 17% of India’s Tiger population. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Satpura Tiger Reserve ([Madhya Pradesh](#)) – received the “NatWest Group Earth Heroes Award 2021”
- Category – ‘Earth Guardian’ for best management
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel](#)

776. 25-year-old Vaidehi Dongre from Michigan was crowned “Miss India USA 2021”. She also won the “Miss Talented” award for her performance of Kathak. Arshi Lalani from Georgia was declared the first runner up. North Carolina's Mira Kasari was declared the second runner up. Diana Hayden, Miss World 1997, was the Chief Guest and chief judge for the pageant. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vaidehi Dongre – crowned “Miss India USA 2021” | Chief Guest – Diana Hayden
- Vaidehi Dongre – also won the “Miss Talented” award
- 1st runner up - Arshi Lalani (Georgia) | 2nd runner up - Mira Kasari (North Carolina)

Appointments & Resignations

777. On July 26, A billionaire businessman and former Prime Minister, Najib Mikati has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Lebanon. He has succeeded Hassan Diab who resigned in August 2020 but continued to serve as caretaker prime minister. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Najib Mikati – appointed as the new PM of Lebanon (succeeding Hassan Diab)
- Lebanon – Beirut – Lebanese Pound | PM – Najib Mikati

778. On July 28, Gujarat cadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana was appointed as Delhi Police Commissioner. Mr. Asthana has replaced Balaji Srivastava who was given the additional charge of Commissioner of Delhi Police on July 1. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rakesh Asthana – appointed as Delhi Police Commissioner (replacing - Balaji Srivastava)
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Bajjal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

779. The 15th National Assembly (NA) of Vietnam has re-elected Pham Minh Chinh as the Vietnamese Prime Minister for the 2021-2026 tenure. He is also a member of the Politburo of the 13th Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee (CPVCC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pham Minh Chinh – re-elected as Prime Minister of Vietnam – for 2021-2026
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM – Pham Minh Chinh | President – Nguyen Xuan Phuc

780. NPCI’s flagship bill payments platform - Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) has appointed former Executive of PayU and Airtel Payments Bank - Noopur Chaturvedi as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). According to latest RBI data, the number of BBPS transactions rose 16% month-on-month to 45.47 million in June, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Noopur Chaturvedi – appointed as the CEO of Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)



- BBPS was launched on Pilot basis – by NPCI in 2016 (became operational in 2017)
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

781. Veena Reddy, an Indian American United States Foreign Service officer with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) has been named “USAID India Mission Director”. She was previously Cambodia Mission Director. She will be the first Indian-American to lead USAID-India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Veena Reddy – first Indian-American to be appointed as the “USAID India Mission Director”
- HQs of USAID – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Samantha Power | Founded in – 1961

782. Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has announced that weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu, who won Silver at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, will be appointed as the Additional Superintendent of Police (Sports) in the police department. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Saikhom Mirabai Chanu – to be appointed as the ASP (Sports) in the Manipur Police Department
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla

783. On July 31, Peru’s President Pedro Castillo has appointed Guido Bellido as a Prime Minister from within his Marxist-Leninist Free Peru party. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Guido Bellido – appointed as a new Prime Minister of Peru
- Peru – Lima – Sol | President – Pedro Castillo | PM – Guido Bellido

Amount & Agreements

784. On July 29, The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) has entered into an agreement of cooperation with the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI) to promote business between Afghanistan and Telangana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FTCCI + ACCI = an agreement of cooperation to promote business between Afghanistan & Telangana
- Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan



785. On July 29, The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned Rs 445.89 Cr for drinking water projects in Ferozepur, Fazilka, Hoshiarpur and Rupnagar districts of Punjab. The funds have been sanctioned under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NABARD – sanctioned Rs 445.89 Cr for drinking water projects in 5 districts of Punjab under the “RIDF”
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Govinda Rajulu Chintala | Founded in – 1982
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

786. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was on a two-day visit to India from July 27-28. The United States has announced an additional \$25 million assistance to support COVID-19 vaccination efforts across India through the USAID. So far, USAID has allocated more than \$226 million in COVID-19 relief to India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US announced an additional \$25 million assistance to support COVID-19 vaccination efforts across India
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

787. On July 27, Unemployment rate for women fell to 4.2% in 2019-20 from 5.1% in 2018-19, according to “Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)” conducted by National Statistical Office (NSO). The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for women has increased to 30% in 2019-20 from 24.5% in 2018-19. The government has taken several initiatives which include enhancement in paid maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)” – conducted by the NSO
- Unemployment rate for women fell to – 4.2% in 2019-20 | LFPR for women increased to – 30% in 2019-20
- LFPR – Labour Force Participation Rate
- HQs of NSO – New Delhi | Chairperson – Bimal Kumar Roy

788. India has ranked 9th among the Top 10 list of “Agricultural Produce Exporters” in 2019 with 3.1% share in the export of rice, cotton, soya beans and meat, according to a World Trade Organization (WTO) report on the trends in world agricultural trade in the past 25 years. The list was topped by the European Union, US & Brazil respectively. India is also the 3rd largest cotton exporter (7.6%), and the 4th largest importer (10%) in 2019. India became the Top rice exporter of the World in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WTO report: India (3.1% share) – 9th among the Top 10 list of “Agricultural Produce Exporters” in 2019



- 1st – EU | 2nd – US | 3rd – Brazil
- India – 3rd largest cotton exporter in 2019 & Top rice exporter in 2019
- HQs of WTO – Geneva, Switzerland | 7th DG – Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria) | Countries – 164

789. On July 27, India has generated 10,14,961.2 tonnes of e-waste in 2020, a massive 31.6% increase from 2019, as informed by the Minister of State for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Ashwini Kumar Choubey to the Rajya Sabha. The “e-Waste (Management) Rules” were notified in 2016 which got amended from time to time. So far, the Environment Ministry has notified 21 types of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) as e-waste. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India generated 10,14,961.2 tonnes of e-waste in 2020 (31.6% increase from 2019)
- “e-Waste (Management) Rules” were notified in 2016
- Ministry of State for Environment, Forests & Climate Change: Ashwini Kumar Choubey (Constituency – Buxar, Bihar)

790. According to weekly data from the RBI, India’s foreign exchange (Forex) reserves rose by \$835 million to reach \$612.73 billion in the week ended July 16, 2021. It is helped by a rise in Foreign Currency Assets (FCA). According to RBI’s weekly data, FCAs rose by \$463 million to \$568.748 billion. India’s Forex reserves cover Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs), Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), Gold Reserves and India’s reserve position with the IMF. Currently, China (\$3,349 Billion) has the largest reserves followed by Japan (\$1,376 Billion) and Switzerland (\$1,074 Billion). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – became 4th largest Forex reserves holder with \$612.73 billion as on July 16, 2021 (rose by \$835 million)
- FCAs – reached \$568.748 billion (rose by \$463 million)
- India’s Forex reserves cover:
 - FCAs - **F**oreign **C**urrency **A**ssets
 - SDRs - **S**pecial **D**rawing **R**ights
 - Gold Reserves
 - India’s reserve position with the IMF
- Largest Forex Reserves holders: 1st - China (\$3,349 Bn) | 2nd - Japan (\$1,376 Bn) | 3rd - Switzerland (\$1,074 Bn)

791. On July 28, The World Health Organization (WHO) has released the 8th edition of the “Global Tobacco Epidemic 2021: Addressing new and emerging products”. e-cigarettes and other Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) were presented on the report. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 8th edition of the “Global Tobacco Epidemic 2021: Addressing new and emerging products” – released by WHO
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948



792. As per National Mineral Inventory data, the total reserves/resources of Gold ore (primary) in India have been estimated at 501.83 million tonnes as of April 1, 2015. In India, largest resources of Gold ore (primary) are located in Bihar (44%) followed by Rajasthan (25%), Karnataka (21%). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Total reserves/resources of Gold ore in India – estimated at 501.83 million tonnes as of April 1, 2015
- Largest resources of Gold ore (primary) in India are located – in Bihar (44%) | Followed by Rajasthan & Karnataka

793. On July 28, The ICT Working Group of the “US-India CEO Forum” has launched a report titled the “Future of Connectivity in India”, at a virtual event hosted by the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF). The report was prepared by Deloitte and the ICT Working Group. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Future of Connectivity in India” report – prepared by Deloitte + ICT Working Group
- USISPF – hosted the “US-India CEO Forum”
- HQs of Deloitte – London, UK | CEO – Punit Renjen

794. On July 28, India has ranked 5th highest in terms of the impact from automation and 9th in terms of level preparedness, according to a recent report titled “The Future of Work is Now: Is APAC Ready?” conducted by Deloitte and commissioned by Autodesk Foundation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Future of Work is Now: Is APAC Ready?” report – conducted by Deloitte & commissioned by Autodesk Foundation
- India: 5th highest in terms of the impact from automation & 9th in terms of level preparedness
- HQs of Deloitte – London, UK | CEO – Punit Renjen

795. On July 28, As per the latest edition of the “SIDBI - TransUnion CIBIL MSME Pulse Report” indicate that in FY 2021, loans worth Rs 9.5 lakh Cr were disbursed to MSMEs. It is 40% higher than Rs.6.8 lakh Cr in FY20. The total on-balance sheet commercial lending exposure in India stood at Rs 74.36 lakh Cr in March’21, with YOY growth rate of 0.6%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “CIBIL MSME Pulse Report” – released by SIDBI + TransUnion
- Loans worth Rs 9.5 lakh Cr were disbursed to MSMEs in FY 2021 (40% higher than Rs 6.8 lakh Cr in FY20)
- Commercial lending exposure in India stood at Rs 74.36 lakh Cr in March’21 (growth rate - 0.6%)
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | MD & Chairman – Sivasubramanian Ramann | Established in – 1990
- HQs of TransUnion CIBIL – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Rajesh Kumar



796. On July 28, Mumbai and Bengaluru are out of the global top-100 list and are currently ranking at 106 and 110, respectively in the latest 9th edition of the “QS Best Student Cities Rankings” of the QS Quacquarelli Symonds. However, in the ‘Affordability’ indicator, Mumbai ranked 21st and Bengaluru ranked 7th globally. Mumbai ranked 52nd globally in the ‘Employer Activity’ indicator. London retains its status as the world’s best student city for the 3rd consecutive edition. It is followed by Munich & Seoul respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 9th edition of the “QS Best Student Cities Rankings” – released by QS Quacquarelli Symonds
- Mumbai & Bengaluru are out of the global top-100 list (currently ranking at 106 & 110 respectively)
- ‘Affordability’ indicator: Mumbai - 21st & Bengaluru - 7th
- ‘Employer Activity’ indicator: Mumbai - 52nd
- World’s Best Top three Student Cities: 1st - London (UK) | 2nd - Munich (Germany) | 3rd – Seoul (South Korea)

Acquisitions & Mergers

797. On July 27, Six Private sector lenders including HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank have picked up a stake in blockchain technology focused start-up Indian Banks’ Blockchain Infrastructure Company (IBBIC) Pvt Ltd. HDFC Bank and Axis Bank have acquired 5.55% stake while ICICI Bank has 5.44% stake in IBBIC. On May 25, 2021, about 15 banks came together to set up IBBIC, with an aim to expand the use of blockchain application in financial sector transactions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Six Private Sector Banks (Including HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank) – acquired a stake in “IBBIC Pvt Ltd”
- 15 banks incorporated IBBIC on May 25, 2021 to expand the use of blockchain app
- HQs of IBBIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra

798. On July 27, The government will sell 8% stake in Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) through an offer for sale (OFS) and is expected to mop up about Rs 721 Cr from the transaction. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government will sell 8% stake in HUDCO via offer for sale (OFS) to get about Rs 721 Cr
- HQs of HUDCO – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Kamran Rizvi

799. On July 27, The Reserve Bank of India has accorded its approval to the Government of Ladakh to acquire 8.23% of the paid-up equity capital of Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd as on the date of enforcement of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 (October 31, 2019). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI accorded its approval to Ladakh to acquire 8.23% of the paid-up equity capital of Jammu & Kashmir Bank
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- HQs of Jammu & Kashmir Bank – Srinagar, J & K | CEO – R. K. Chhibber



800. The International Finance Corporation (IFC), along with two investment funds managed by IFC Asset Management Company (IFC Financial Institutions Growth Fund and IFC Emerging Asia Fund) have acquired 4.99% stake in Federal Bank for ₹916 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IFC – acquired 4.99% stake in Federal Bank for ₹916 Cr
- HQs of Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – “Your Perfect Banking Partner”
- HQs of IFC – Washington D.C., US | MD – Makhtar Diop | Established in – 1956 (an arm of World Bank)

801. On July 31, Canadian pension fund Ontario Municipal Employees’ Retirement System (OMERS) has acquired 19.4% stake in Azure Power Global for \$219 million. The stake has been acquired from International Finance Corporation and IFC GIF Investment Company. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- OMERS acquired 19.4% stake in Azure Power Global for \$219 million – from IFC & IFC GIF Investment Company
- HQs of Azure Power Global Ltd – New Delhi | CEO – Ranjit Gupta | Founded in – 2008
- HQs of OMERS – Toronto, Canada | CEO – Blake Hutcheson

802. On July 28, JSW Renew Energy Ltd has signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) for supply of 270 MW from its 810 MW wind capacity. JSW Energy has a power generation capacity of 4,559 MW, where about 30% of the capacity is from renewable sources. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- JSW Renew Energy + SECI = a PPA for supply of 270 MW from its 810 MW wind capacity
- HQs of JSW Group – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sajjan Jindal
- HQs of SECI – New Delhi | Chairman – Praveen Kumar

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

803. On July 28, InCred Finance has entered into a strategic partnership with Amazon India to provide collateral-free, working capital loans of up to Rs 50 lakh to Amazon merchants via its seller portal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- InCred+ Amazon India = a strategic partnership to provide collateral-free working capital loans of up to Rs 50 lakh
- HQs of InCred Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Founder & CEO – Bhupinder Singh
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle, USA | CEO – Andy Jassy | Incorporated in – 1994
- HQs of Amazon India – Hyderabad, Telangana | Country Head – Amit Agarwal



804. On July 27, ICICI Lombard General Insurance and Dr. Reddy's Laboratories-owned SVAAS Wellness have joined hands to offer cashless outpatient services to health insurance policyholders. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Lombard Gen Ins. + SVAAS Wellness = tie up for cashless outpatient services
- SVAAS Wellness – owned by Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (Hyderabad)
- HQs of ICICI Lombard – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Bhargav Das Gupta

805. On July 30, Skylo, the end-to-end narrowband IoT (internet of things) solution provider, has partnered with National Federation of Fishers Cooperatives (FISHCOPFED) to deliver Skylo's IoT-based solutions to marine fishing and aquaculture sectors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Skylo + FISHCOPFED = to deliver IoT-based solutions to marine fishing and aquaculture sectors
- HQs of Skylo – Us | CEO & Co-founder – Parthsarathi Trivedi
- HQs of FISHCOPFED – New Delhi

806. On July 29, NASSCOM has collaborated with the UK Government's Department for International Trade (DIT) and the UK India Business Council (UKIBC) to address the digital skills gap in the UK. This covered several of the UK's top universities such as University of Nottingham, University of Glasgow and Durham University. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASSCOM + DIT (UK) + UKIBC = to address the digital skills gap in the UK
- HQs of NASSCOM – New Delhi | President – Debjani Ghosh
- Chairman – Rekha M. Menon | Vice-Chairman – Krishnan Ramanujam
- HQs of UKIBC – London, UK | CEO – Jayant Krishna | Founded in – 1993

807. On July 29, JSW Future Energy has entered into a framework agreement with Australian Fortescue Future Industries to produce Green Hydrogen Fuel and explore Clean Energy market opportunities in India. JSW Energy has laid out a strategic blueprint to become a 20 GW capacity power generating company by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- JSW Future Energy + Fortescue Future Industries (Australia) = to produce Green Hydrogen Fuel
- JSW Energy – to become a 20 GW capacity power generating company by 2030
- HQs of JSW Future Energy – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Prashant Jain

808. On July 28, Maruti Suzuki India has partnered with Savitribai Phule Pune University, Maharashtra to train the youth in automobile retail. A customised 3-year 'Bachelor of Vocational Studies in Retail Management' course will be offered to students by the university with support from the company. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Maruti Suzuki India + Savitribai Phule Pune University (MH) = to train the youth in automobile retail
- HQs of Maruti Suzuki India – New Delhi | Chairman – R C Bhargava | MD & CEO – Kenichi Ayukawa

809. On July 28, The Meghalaya State Investment Promotion Society (MSIP) has signed an MoU with Invest India to leverage investment opportunities in key development sectors to boost trade and industries in the State. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Meghalaya + Invest India = an MoU to leverage investment opportunities in key development sectors
- HQs of Invest India – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Deepak Bagla | Established in – 2009 (under ministry of C&I)
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

810. National Fertilisers Ltd (NFL) and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Ltd (RCF) have signed an MoU with Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO) for 'Transfer of Technology' of fertiliser Nano Urea Liquid. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NFL + RCF + IFFCO = an MoU for 'Transfer of Technology' of fertiliser Nano Urea Liquid
- HQs of NFL – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | MD & Chairman – Virendra Nath Datt
- HQs of RCF – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & Chairman – S. C. Mudgerikar

811. On July 30, Intel has collaborated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to launch the "AI For All" initiative, aimed at creating a basic understanding of artificial intelligence (AI) for people in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Intel + CBSE = to launch the "AI For All" initiative
- HQs of Intel – California, USA | CEO – Patrick P. Gelsinger | Founded on – July 18, 1968
- HQs of CBSE – New Delhi | Chairman – Manoj Ahuja | Formed in – 1962

Books & Authors

812. To satisfy this urge among sports buffs to know, read and discuss some of the greatest sporting stories, witnessed during the Olympics, Argentine sports journalist Luciano Wernicke has come out with the book "The Most Incredible Olympic Stories". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "The Most Incredible Olympic Stories" book – authored by Luciano Wernicke



813. A book about Leopard titled “Leopard Diaries - the Rosette in India” is authored by Sanjay Gubbi. In this book, the wildlife biologist explains why the elusive leopard needs more natural reserves to survive. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Leopard Diaries - the Rosette in India” book – authored by Sanjay Gubbi

814. On July 29, Captain Ramesh Babu, authored a new book titled “My Own Mazagon”. The book attempts to discover for the general reader the history of a little Island in the Bombay Archipelago that once upon a time had its own identity, inhabited by Kolis, Bhandaris and other natives. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “My Own Mazagon” book – authored by Ramesh Babu

Obituaries

815. On July 27, Former England bowler Mike Hendrick passed away at the age of 72. Hendrick is the fourth England player involved in the 1981 Ashes to have died after Bob Woolmer, Dilley and Willis. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mike Hendrick ([England](#)) – Former Cricketer – passed away

816. Nandu Natekar, one of the superstars in Indian badminton history, passed away in Pune due to prolonged illness. He was 88. Natekar was among the first batch of the Arjuna Award recipients in 1961 when the awards were introduced. He was the 1st Indian Badminton Player to win an International event in Kuala Lumpur in 1956. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nandu Natekar – a legendary Badminton Player – passed away
- Awards: “Arjuna Award” (1961) | The Arjuna Award was introduced – in 1961
- He was the 1st Indian Badminton Player to win an International event (1956)

817. On July 27, Basavaraj S. Bommai, veteran leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), took oath as the 23rd chief minister of Karnataka, succeeding BS Yediyurappa for the post. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Basavaraj Bommai ([BJP](#)) – took oath as the 23rd Chief Minister of Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot



818. On July 29, Bangladesh's legendary folk singer Fakir Alamgir passed away at the age of 71 due to Covid19. He was conferred with the 'Ekushey Padak', the second-highest civilian award in Bangladesh, in 1999. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Fakir Alamgir (Bangladesh) – a Folk Singer – passed away
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

819. Gira Sarabhai, co-founder of the renowned National Institute of Design (NID) in Ahmedabad and a pioneer of design education in India, passed away in Ahmedabad at the age of 98. She contributed immensely in the field of art and architecture. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gira Sarabhai – Indian Architect & Designer – passed away

Person in News

820. On July 28, Investor and billionaire Rakesh Jhunjhunwala is considering investing \$35 million to launch 70 aircrafts within next 4 years, as a part of his ultra-low-cost airline Akasa Air. Akasa Air is expected to get a no-objection certificate from the aviation ministry within the next 15 days. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rakesh Jhunjhunwala – is considering investing \$35 million to launch ultra-low-cost airline 'Akasa Air'
- He aims to launch 70 aircrafts within next 4 years

821. On July 28, A 19-year old climber Shehroze Kashif from Lahore, Pakistan has become the youngest person in the world to reach the summit of "K2", the second-highest peak in the world. He achieved the feat of scaling the 8,611-metre high peak with the aid of bottled oxygen. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shehroze Kashif (Pakistan - 19) – became the youngest person in the world to reach the summit of "K2" (8,611m)
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi



Science & Technology

822. On July 27, Google-parent Alphabet will launch a new robotics company named 'Intrinsic' which will focus on building software for industrial robots. The segment comes out of X, Alphabet's Moonshot factory that houses futuristic firms such as Waymo, Wing and Verily. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Alphabet – to launch a new robotics company named 'Intrinsic' for building software for industrial robots
- HQs of Alphabet Inc. – California, USA | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 2015

823. On July 28, Google has launched a new "Bug Bounty Platform" to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of its 'Vulnerability Rewards Programme'. The platform will conduct competition, run country-wise leaderboards and enable chances of winning awards for certain bugs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google – launched "Bug Bounty Platform" – to mark 10th anniversary of its 'Vulnerability Rewards Programme'
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

824. The Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) has launched the "Superpressure Balloon-borne Imaging Telescope (SuperBIT)". It is a new type of Space Telescope that could soar high above Earth's clouds to view the universe in a more environmentally-friendly and upgradable way than current technologies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RAS launched the "Superpressure Balloon-borne Imaging Telescope (SuperBIT)"
- HQs of RAS – London, UK | President – Emma Bunce

825. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has signed a Record of Discussions with the Indian government to further strengthen its a technical cooperation project with IIT Hyderabad. The cooperation is for the Project for Future Researchers at IITH to Enhance Network Development with Scholarship of Japan (FRIENDSHIP) Phase 2. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- JICA + Indian government = signed a Record of Discussions to strengthen its tech cooperation with IIT Hyderabad
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

826. On July 31, Science & Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has released the "Biotech-PRIDE" guidelines developed by Department of Biotechnology (DBT). "PRIDE" is short for "Promotion of Research and Innovation through Data Exchange". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Jitendra Singh – released the "Biotech-PRIDE" guidelines – developed by DBT
- PRIDE – Promotion of Research and Innovation through Data Exchange
- MoS (I/C) in the Ministry of Science & Technology: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udhampur, J&K



Ordinance, Bills and Acts

827. On July 27, Parliament has passed the “Marine Aids to Navigation Bill 2021”, which aims to replace over 90-year-old “Lighthouse Act 1927”. It aims to incorporate the global best practices, technological developments and India’s International obligations in the field of Marine Aids to Navigation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Parliament passed the “Marine Aids to Navigation Bill 2021” – to replace “Lighthouse Act 1927”

828. On July 29, The Union Cabinet has approved the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2021. The Bill provides account holders security of their money by allowing access to up to Rs 5 lakh within 90 days of a bank coming under a moratorium. Apart from this, the cabinet has also approved the “Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Bill 2021”. LLPs with contributions of less than or equal to Rs 25 lakhs and LLPs with turnover less than Rs 40 lakhs are considered as small LLPs. Now, the range will be from Rs 25 lakh to Rs 5 Cr. While the size of the business will be considered to be Rs 50 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved the “Deposit Insurance & Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2021”
- The Bill provides account holders security of their money by allowing access to up to Rs 5 lakh within 90 days
- Cabinet also approved the “Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Bill 2021”
- Range for LLPs will be from Rs 25 lakh to Rs 5 Cr

829. On July 29, The Union Cabinet has approved amendment in the “General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972” to facilitate privatisation of 1 General Insurance Company in the public sector. As on date, there are 4 General Insurance companies in the public sector - National Insurance Company Ltd, New India Assurance Company Ltd, Oriental Insurance Company Ltd and the United India Insurance Company Ltd. Now, one of these will be privatised for which the Government is yet to finalise the name. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved amendment in the “General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972” to privatize any 1 General Insurance Company out of 4
- 4 General Insurance Companies in the public sector at present: NICL + NIACL + OICL + UIICL

830. The minimum threshold for initiating pre-packaged insolvency resolution has been increased to Rs 1 Cr, as per the “Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment Bill), 2021” which was introduced by Corporate and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Minimum threshold for initiating pre-packaged insolvency resolution – increased to Rs 1 Cr
- “Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment Bill), 2021” – introduced by Nirmala Sitharaman





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