

### National News

#### Union Government extends Stand Up India Scheme up to 2025

- Union Government has extended the **Stand Up India Scheme** that promotes entrepreneurship among women, SC and STs up to **2025**.
- This scheme was launched by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** in **2016** to facilitate loans to **Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and women borrowers**.
- The loan amount for **Stand Up India Scheme** is extended by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) between **10 lakhs** and **Rs. 1 crore**.

#### MECL signs an MoU with DMG for exploration of iron ore reserves in Goa

- The **Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL)**, a notified mineral exploration agency under the aegis of the **Union Ministry of Mines** of Government of India, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **Directorate of Mines & Geology (DMG), Goa**, for exploration of iron ore reserves in **Goa**.

### Goa

- Capital: **Panaji**
- Chief Minister: **Pramod Sawant**
- Governor: **PS Sreedharan Pillai**
- National Park: **Mollem National Park**

#### Indian Oil Corporation is set to build India's first green hydrogen plant at Mathura, Uttar Pradesh

- India's largest oil firm **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** is set to build India's first '**green hydrogen**' plant at its Refinery in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
- It aims to prepare for a future catering to the growing demand for both **oil** and **cleaner** forms of energy.

#### Union Government decides to set up Indian Institute of Heritage at Noida, Uttar Pradesh

- Union Government has decided to set up a world-class **Indian Institute of Heritage** at **Noida, Uttar Pradesh**.
- This world-class institute would focus on the conservation and research in **India's rich tangible heritage**.

### Uttar Pradesh

- Capital: **Lucknow**
- Chief Minister: **Yogi Adityanath**
- Governor: **Anandiben Patel**

- National Park: **Dudhwa National Park (Tiger Reserve)**
- Zoological Parks: **Shaheed Ashfaq Ullah Khan Prani Udyan (Gorakhpur), Kanpur Zoological Park, Nawab Wajid Ali Shah Zoological Garden**

### Cisco partners with the National Skill Development Corporation for digital upskilling

- Cisco Networking Academy has partnered with the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** to address the shortage of a **tech-proficient workforce** in **India** and create career opportunities for millions in the **digital economy**.
- This partnership will offer access to the **Cisco Networking Academy** courses through NSDC's **eSkill India platform** to provide comprehensive **digital skills** critical for the digital-first world.

### Assam Government has announced to provide government jobs for all Olympic, Asian, Commonwealth & National Games medalists

- Chief Minister of Assam **Himanta Biswa Sarma** announced that the medal winners in the **Olympics, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games** and **National Games** will get government jobs in **Assam**.
- He also stated that all those who won medals in National Games so far for **Assam** would be given **sports pension** by **Assam Government**.

### Assam

- Capital: **Dispur**
- Chief Minister: **Himanta Biswa Sarma**
- Governor: **Jagdish Mukhi**
- National Parks: **Orang National Park, Manas National Park, Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, Kaziranga National Park, Nameri National Park, Raimona National Park and Dihing-Patkai National Park**

### Jammu & Kashmir High Court was renamed as the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh

- The Common High Court for the Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh** was officially renamed as the **High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh**.
- The order was notified by the **Department of Justice of the Union Ministry of Law and Justice**.

### Jammu & Kashmir Government organises a 3-day festival in Gurez Valley to promote tourism

- **Jammu and Kashmir Government** has organised a 3-day festival in **Gurez Valley** in the **Bandipora** district to promote tourism in unknown or lesser-known destinations.

- **Gurez Festival** aims to highlight the **heritage and culture** of the area. During the festival, **several cultural and traditional programmes** will be performed by different clubs of **Gurez**.

### Jammu and Kashmir

- Capital: **Srinagar (Summer), Jammu (Winter)**
- Lt. Governor: **Manoj Sinha**
- National Parks: **Hemis National Park, City Forest (Salim Ali) National Park, Dachigam National Park, Kishtwar National Park**
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: **Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary, Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary, Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary, Baltal-Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary, Karakoram (Nubra Shyok) Wildlife Sanctuary**
- Lakes: **Mansar Lake, Nagin Lake, Wular Lake, Surinsar Lake, Dal Lake**

### Maharashtra becomes the first state in India to issue educational documents using blockchain technology

- **Maharashtra** became the first state in India to issue **educational documents** using **'LegitDoc' blockchain technology**.
- **LegitDoc** is a blockchain startup that helping the Government of Maharashtra to implement the **world's largest blockchain-powered educational credential system** by issuing nearly **1 million tamper-proof diploma certificates**.

### Maharashtra

- Capital: **Mumbai**
- Chief Minister: **Uddhav Thackeray**
- Governor: **Bhagat Singh Koshyari**
- National Parks: **Chandoli National Park, Gugamal National Park, Nawegaon National Park, Pench (Jawaharlal Nehru) National Park, Sanjay Gandhi (Borivilli) National Park**

### Kambhampati Hari Babu takes oath as the 22<sup>nd</sup> Governor of Mizoram

- Former Lok Sabha MP from Andhra Pradesh **Kambhampati Hari Babu** was sworn in as the new **Governor of Mizoram**. He is the **22<sup>nd</sup>** Governor of Mizoram after it attained statehood in **1987**. He replaced **PS Sreedharan Pillai**, who has been transferred as the **Governor of Goa**.

### Mizoram

- Capital: **Aizawl**
- Chief Minister: **Zoramthanga**
- Governor: **Hari Babu Kambhampati**

## Rajasthan develops 'Raj Kisan Organic' mobile app for the purchase and sale of organic products

- **Rajasthan** Agriculture Minister **Lalchand Kataria** launched '**Raj Kisan Organic**', a mobile app for the purchase and sale of organic products.
- **Individual farmers** or **farmer groups** can register themselves by downloading this app from the Google Play Store and directly sell their products to **registered buyers**.

### Rajasthan

- Capital: **Jaipur**
- Chief Minister: **Ashok Gehlot**
- Governor: **Kalraj Mishra**
- National Parks: **Desert National Park, Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Mukundra Hills National Park, Ranthambhore National Park, Sariska National Park**

## Union Government launches digital platform 'Kisan Sarathi' to facilitate farmers to get 'right information at the right time' in their desired language

- Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare **Narendra Singh Tomar** and Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology **Ashwini Vaishnaw** launched a digital platform named '**Kisan Sarathi**' on the 93<sup>rd</sup> **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** Foundation Day.
- **Kisan Sarathi** is a digital platform to facilitate farmers to get the '**right information at the right time**' in their desired language.

## Haryana Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala introduces the 'One Block, One Product' scheme

- Deputy Chief Minister of Haryana **Dushyant Chautala** introduced the '**One Block, One Product**' scheme to encourage and promote small industries in **rural areas**.
- Haryana's '**One District, One Product**' scheme, which is being implemented under the **Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**, has come up as a model across **India**.

### Haryana

- Capital: **Chandigarh**
- Chief Minister: **Manohar Lal Khattar**
- Governor: **Bandaru Dattatraya**
- National Parks: **Sultanpur National Park, Kalesar National Park**
- Dance: **Phag, Dhamal, Loor, Khoria**

## India's first-ever monk fruit cultivation exercise begins in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu

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

## Himachal Pradesh

- Capital: **Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter)**
- Chief Minister: **Jai Ram Thakur**
- Governor: **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar**
- National Parks: **Inderkila National Park, Simbalbara National Park, Great Himalayan National Park, Pin Valley National Park, Khirganga National Park**

## MeitY inked an MoU with MapmyIndia to enable map services in the UMANG app

- **Union Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)** has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **MapmyIndia** to enable the map services in the "**Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG) app**".
- This MoU will help to ease the lives of citizens by facilitating online delivery of **government services** and further enhance the initiatives of the **Digital India programme**, keeping in view the theme of '**Aatmanirbhar Bharat**'.

## CESL partners with WRI India to build a strategy for the renewable energy sector

- **Convergence Energy Services Ltd. (CESL)** and the **World Resources Institute (WRI) India** have signed a pact to work on strategising for India's transition towards a **net-zero emission**
- Under this partnership, **WRI India** will support CESL in building adaptive business models to help state governments in India realise their targets, including decentralising **renewable energy** and improving **battery storage capacities**.

## The 93<sup>rd</sup> Foundation Day of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research was celebrated virtually

- **Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR)** virtually celebrated its **93<sup>rd</sup> foundation day on 16 July**.
- As part of the celebration, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare **Narendra Singh Tomar** and Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology **Ashwini Vaishnaw** jointly launched '**Kisan Sarathi**', a digital platform to facilitate farmers to get '**right information at the right time**' in their desired language.

## Bandaru Dattatreya was sworn in as the 18<sup>th</sup> Governor of Haryana

- Former Union Minister **Bandaru Dattatreya** was sworn in as the **18<sup>th</sup> Governor** of **Haryana**. He was administered the oath of office by Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice **Ravi Shanker Jha** at the Raj Bhavan.

## India's first-ever 'Grain ATM' to be set up in Gurugram

- **India's** first grain dispensing ATM machine, '**Grain ATM**' was installed at Farrukhnagar in **Gurugram, Haryana**, under a pilot project.
- This machine is called an **Automated, Multi Commodity, Grain Dispensing Machine**, which works as a bank ATM.
- It can dispense up to **70 kg** of grains within **five to seven minutes** at a time.

## Haryana

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## Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma launches face recognition mobile app named "Pensioner's life certificate verification" for pensioners

- **Meghalaya** Chief Minister **Conrad Sangma** launched a mobile app named "**Pensioner's life certificate verification**". This app will offer pensioners a hassle-free interface with the **pension disbursing** authority to prove that they are alive.
- This app will help a pensioner to submit his **life certificate** through his mobile phone and receive a pension without moving out from his home, which is appropriate, especially during the ongoing pandemic.

## Meghalaya

- Capital: **Shillong**
- Chief Minister: **Conrad Sangma**
- Governor: **Satya Pal Malik**

## Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates 'Rudraksh' convention centre in Varanasi

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **International Cooperation and Convention Centre** known as **Rudraksh** in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.
- He also inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of multiple development projects worth over **1,500 crores**.

## IAHE inks an agreement with the University of New South Wales for setting up a centre for Advanced Transportation Technology and Systems in Noida

- The **Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE)** under the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has inked an agreement with the **University of New South Wales, Australia**, for setting up a **Centre for Advanced Transportation Technology and Systems (CATTS)** in **Noida, Uttar Pradesh**.

- This project will help to improve the **road safety scenario** in India. This agreement was signed in the presence of Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Minister **Nitin Gadkari**.

### Manduadih Railway Station in Varanasi was renamed as the Banaras Railway Station

- **Northern Eastern Railway (NER)** authorities has renamed the **Manduadih Railway Station** as the **Banaras Railway Station**, which is located in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.

### India is set to get its first pod taxi service between Noida Airport and Film City

- **Indian Port Rail and Ropeway Corporation Limited (IPRCL)** have submitted the final Detailed Project Report (DPR) to **Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA)** for the pod taxi project in India (Uttar Pradesh).
- It is **India's** first pod taxi that will run around **14 km** from **Noida Airport** to **Film City**.

### Uttar Pradesh

- Capital: **Lucknow**
- Chief Minister: **Yogi Adityanath**
- Governor: **Anandiben Patel**
- National Park: **Dudhwa National Park (Tiger Reserve)**
- Zoological Parks: **Shaheed Ashfaq Ullah Khan Prani Udyan (Gorakhpur), Kanpur Zoological Park, Nawab Wajid Ali Shah Zoological Garden**

### Delhi Government partners with Google to provide real-time bus tracking service

- The **Delhi Government** has collaborated with **Google** to launch a system to enable commuters to **track bus locations, arrival and departure times**, and routes on a real-time basis on their smartphones.
- Users will get an **estimation** of how long their trip is going to take and if their bus is delayed.

### New Delhi

- Chief Minister: **Arvind Kejriwal**
- Governor: **Anil Baijal**

### Rajasthan Government is planning to start 'Mukhyamantri Kisan Mitra Energy Yojana' for farmers

- **Rajasthan** Chief Minister **Ashok Gehlot** informed that the state of Rajasthan is going to start '**Mukhyamantri Kisan Mitra Energy Yojana**' for farmers.
- This scheme's benefit will be available to all general category rural metered and flat rate agricultural consumers. An additional grant of **1,450 crores** will be given by Rajasthan Government every year.

### Rajasthan

- Capital: **Jaipur**
- Chief Minister: **Ashok Gehlot**
- Governor: **Kalraj Mishra**
- National Parks: **Desert National Park, Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Mukundra Hills National Park, Ranthambhore National Park, Sariska National Park**

### **NCW signs an MoU with the Bureau of Police Research and Development for gender sensitisation of police personnel**

- The **National Commission for Women (NCW)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)** for gender sensitisation of police personnel across India.
- This programme aims to ensure gender sensitisation of police personnel with respect to legislation and policies concerning women and bringing attitudinal and behavioural changes in **police officers** while dealing with **crimes against women**.

### **Union Minister Amit Shah inaugurates research-based centre of excellence at the National Forensic Science University in Gandhinagar**

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated the Centre of Excellence for Research and Analysis of **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS)** at the **National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- This research-based Centre of Excellence will help Indian youths to become free from **addiction to drugs and narcotics**. This centre will help in research and analysis of drugs and narcotics seized in different parts of India and its routes.

### **Gujarat**

- Capital: **Gandhinagar**
- Chief Minister: **Vijay Rupani**
- Governor: **Acharya Devvrat**
- National Parks: **Blackbuck National Park, Vansda National Park, Gir Forest National Park, Marine (Gulf of Kachchh) National Park**

### **T-Hub partners with Atal Innovation Mission to boost growth for health tech innovations in India**

- **T-Hub** has partnered with **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, NITI Aayog to foster innovation and entrepreneurship across the **healthcare sectors**.
- Under this partnership, T-Hub is running a **3-month** cohort-based program **AIC T-Hub Foundation**, exclusively for the **deep tech startups** creating new-age solutions in the field of life sciences and healthcare.



### Union Government increases Dearness Allowance for Central Government employees from 17% to 28% from July 2021

- Union Government has increased the **Dearness Allowance (DA)** for **Central Government employees** and **Dearness Relief (DR)** for **pensioners**, respectively, from **17% to 28%**. It will be effective from **1 July 2021**.

### NTPC to set up India's single largest solar park at Rann of Kutch

- State-run power giant **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited's (NTPC)** arm, **NTPC Renewable Energy Limited**, has received approval from the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) to set up a **4750 MW** renewable energy park at **Rann of Kutch in Khavada, Gujarat**.
- As a part of its green energy portfolio augmentation, NTPC is aimed to build **60 GW** renewable energy capacity by **2032**.

### National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC)

- Headquarters: **New Delhi, India**
- Chairman and Managing Director: **Gurdeep Singh**
- Founded: **1975**

### Union Minister Piyush Goyal to replace Thaawarchand Gehlot as the Leader of House in the Rajya Sabha

- Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** was named the **Leader of the House** in **Rajya Sabha**. He held the post of Deputy Floor Leader for Rajya Sabha, will now succeed former Union Minister **Thaawarchand Gehlot** as the Leader of the House.
- **Thaawarchand Gehlot** took oath as the **19<sup>th</sup>** Governor of Karnataka. He succeeded **Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala**.

### World Food Programme partners with Rajasthan to improve Targeted Public Distribution System

- The **United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)** in India and the **Rajasthan Government** have joined hands to improve the **Targeted Public Distribution System (TDPS)** in **Rajasthan**.
- It helps to create a **digital dashboard** of supply and food grains received by beneficiaries for monitoring and evaluation of **TDPS**.

### World Food Programme (WFP)

- Headquarters: **Rome, Italy**
- Executive Director: **David Beasle**
- Founded: **1961**

### Rajasthan

- Capital: **Jaipur**
- Chief Minister: **Ashok Gehlot**
- Governor: **Kalraj Mishra**
- National Parks: **Desert National Park, Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Mukundra Hills National Park, Ranthambhore National Park, Sariska National Park**

## International News

### Ariel Henry was appointed as the Prime Minister of Haiti

- **Ariel Henry** was appointed as the new **Prime Minister** of He succeeded former President **Jovenel Moise**, who recently passed away.

#### Haiti

- Capital: **Port-au-Prince**
- Currency: **Haitian Gourde**
- Prime Minister: **Ariel Henry**

### India chairs the 2021 BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade issues (CGETI) meeting

- The **27<sup>th</sup>** meeting of the **2021 BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI)** meeting was held under the Chairmanship of India.
- **India** is the current Chair of the 2021 BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa).

### Jose Pedro Castillo Terrones was elected as the President of Peru

- **José Pedro Castillo Terrones** was elected as the new **President** of **Peru** after he won the presidential election held recently. He will serve as Peru's President for a five-year term from **2021 to 2026**. He succeeded **Francisco Sagasti**.

#### Peru:

- Capital: **Lima**
- Currency: **Peruvian Sol**
- President: **Jose Pedro Castillo Terrones**
- Prime Minister: **Walter Roger Martos Ruiz**

### Qatar Airways becomes the first airline in the Middle East to join the IATA's Turbulence Aware platform

- **Qatar Airways** was the **first Middle Eastern airline** to participate in the **Turbulence Aware initiative** when it was launched as a pilot project in December **2018**.
- This platform will help the aviation industry meet its **carbon targets**, alongside other initiatives such as **carbon offsetting, sustainable aviation fuels, electric aircraft** and general awareness about the impact of flying.

## Cleopas Dlamini was appointed as the Prime Minister of Eswatini

- Eswatini's King Mswati III has appointed Cleopas Dlamini as the new Prime Minister of Eswatini. He succeeded Themba Masuku, who died recently.

### Kingdom of Eswatini:

- Capital: Mbabane (executive), Lobamba (legislative)
- Currency: South African Rand & Swazi Lilangeni
- Prime Minister: Cleopas Dlamini

## Zurich International Airport signs shareholder agreement with NIAL for Noida International Airport development

- The Zurich International Airport signed a shareholder agreement with the Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) for the development of the Noida International Airport.
- According to the shareholder agreement, NIAL will hold one golden share in Yamuna International Airport Pvt Ltd. (YIAPL), a 100% subsidiary of Zurich Airport International and the right to nominate two directors to the board.

### Uttar Pradesh

- Capital: Lucknow
- Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath
- Governor: Anandiben Patel
- National Park: Dudhwa National Park (Tiger Reserve)
- Zoological Parks: Shaheed Ashfaq Ullah Khan Prani Udyan (Gorakhpur), Kanpur Zoological Park, Nawab Wajid Ali Shah Zoological Garden

## Bashar al-Assad was sworn in as the President of Syria for the fourth seven-year term

- Bashar al-Assad was sworn in as the President of Syria for the fourth seven-year term. He won 1 per cent of the votes cast in the election. He is the 19<sup>th</sup> President of Syria since 17 July 2000.

### Syria

- Capital: Damascus
- Currency: Syrian Pound
- Prime Minister: Imad Khamis
- President: Bashar al-Assad

## Africa becomes the first continent to complete collection of digital land-use data

- Africa became the first continent in the world to complete the collection of accurate, comprehensive and harmonised digital land use and land-use change data under the Africa Open Data for the Environment, Agriculture and Land Initiative (DEAL)

- The data collection and analysis initiatives were led by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** and the **African Union Commission (AUC)**.

### Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- Headquarters: **Rome, Italy**
- Director-General: **QU Dongyu**
- Founded: **16 October 1945**
- Motto: **“Fiat panis”** (Let there be bread)

### US, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan announce a new Quad group for the Afghanistan peace process

- The **US, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan** have agreed in principle to establish a new **quadrilateral diplomatic platform** focused on enhancing regional connectivity.
- The countries consider long-term peace and stability in Afghanistan critical to regional connectivity and agree that **peace and regional connectivity** are mutually reinforcing.

### World's first commercial modular small reactor enters the construction phase in China

- The world's first commercial modular **small reactor** on land, the **Linglong 1**, has entered into the construction phase for a demonstration project in **Changjiang Nuclear Power Plant in South China's**

### China

- Capital: **Beijing**
- President: **Xi Jinping**
- Currency: **Renminbi**

### India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives hold TTX-2021 joint exercise on Maritime Security

- **India, Sri Lanka** and the **Maldives** participated in a virtual **Trilateral Table Top (TTX-2021) exercise**. This TTX-2021 was coordinated by the **Maritime Warfare Centre, Mumbai**.
- The **two-day** joint exercise was aimed at enhancing mutual understanding and exchange of best practices procedures for countering common **transnational crimes**.

### Maldives

- Capital: **Male**
- Currency: **Maldivian Rufiyaa**
- President: **Ibrahim Mohamed Solih**

### Sri Lanka

- Capital: **Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte**
- Currency: **Rupee**

- Prime Minister: **Mahinda Rajapaksa**
- President: **Gotabaya Rajapaksa**

### Union Minister Jaishankar unveils a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Georgia

- Union Minister of External Affairs **S Jaishankar** unveiled a statue of **Mahatma Gandhi** in **Georgia**. This ceremony was held in **Tbilisi Park**, and he was accompanied by **David Zalkaliani**, the Georgian Foreign Minister.
- During his two-day visit to **Georgia**, he also handed over the relics of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, **Queen Ketevan** to Georgia and the people of Georgia at a ceremony in Tbilisi.

### Georgia

- Capital: **Tbilisi**
- Currency: **Georgian Lari**
- Prime Minister: **Irakli Garibashvili**
- President: **Salome Zourabichvili**

### UNICEF's Executive Director Henrietta Fore resigns

- United Nations Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres** has accepted the resignation of **Henrietta Fore** as the Executive Director of the **United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)**.

### United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF):

- Headquarters: **New York, United States**
- Executive Director: **Henrietta Holsman Fore**
- UNICEF Representative in India: **Dr Yasmin Ali Haque**

### Banking and Economy

#### SBI selects Paisalo Digital as its National Corporate Business Correspondent

- India's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** has selected **Paisalo Digital** as its **National Corporate Business Correspondent** for boosting its financial inclusion drive with the help of **kiosk**-based banking services.
- **Paisalo Digital** will help SBI in improving the synergy with the thrust of the already up and running **fully digital small loan business** under SBI-Paisalo Loan Co-origination.

### State Bank of India (SBI)

- Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- Chairman: **Dinesh Kumar Khara**
- Tagline: **"The Banker to Every Indian"**

### Paytm Payments Bank's customers can now make payments from fixed deposits account held with IndusInd Bank

- **Paytm Payments Bank's** customers can now make instant payments through its payment gateway using balances available in their fixed deposit account held with **IndusInd Bank**.
- Paytm all-in-one payment gateway now allows **fixed deposit (FD)** balances to make payments on partnered platforms (IndusInd Bank).

### Paytm

- Headquarters: **Noida, Uttar Pradesh**
- Founder: **Vijay Shekhar Sharma**
- Founded: **2010**

### LIC launches a health insurance plan named 'Arogya Rakshak'

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has introduced a benefit-based health insurance policy named '**Arogya Rakshak**'.
- This policy provides fixed benefit **health insurance** cover against certain specified health risks and provides timely support in the case of **medical emergencies** and helps the insured and his family to remain financially independent in difficult times.

### Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)

- Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- Founded: **1 September 1956**
- Chairman: **MR Kumar**

### ICICI Bank has partnered with HPCL to launch 'ICICI Bank HPCL Super Saver' co-branded credit card

- Private lender **ICICI Bank** had launched '**ICICI Bank HPCL Super Saver**' co-branded credit card with **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)** to enable users to get benefits and reward points of using multiple credit cards in one.
- This card offers best-in-class rewards and benefits to customers on their everyday spends on **fuel** as well as other categories including **electricity** and **mobile, departmental stores** like Big Bazaar and D-Mart, and e-commerce portals, among others.

### ICICI (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India)

- Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- MD and CEO: **Sandeep Bakhshi**
- Tagline: **Hum Hai Na, Khyal Apka**

## Dhanlaxmi Bank announces strategic alliance with SMC Global Securities Limited

- The **Dhanlaxmi bank** has announced a strategic alliance with **SMC Global Securities Limited** for offering **online trading services** to customers.
- This tie-up will offer an integrated **3-in-1 account**, comprising a savings, **demat** and **trading account** providing a hassle-free and convenient trading experience to the Dhanlaxmi Bank customers through the portal **smctradeonline.com** apart from mobile trading app ‘**SMC ACE**’ and desktop-based software.

### Dhanlaxmi Bank:

- Headquarters: **Thrissur, Kerala**
- MD & CEO: **JK Shivan**
- Established: **1927**

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

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Navy** for salary accounts.
- The MoU enables KMBL to offer its salary account proposition to all personnel of the Indian Navy — both **servicing** and **retired**.

### Kotak Mahindra Bank

- Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- CEO: **Uday Kotak**
- Tagline: “**Let’s make money simple**”

## SEBI introduces an expected loss-based rating scale for credit rating agencies

- Markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** introduced a new framework that requires **credit rating agencies** to provide **expected loss-based** ratings for projects and instruments associated with the infrastructure sector.
- **SEBI** has introduced the expected loss-based rating that is divided into a scale of **seven levels**, spanning from the **lowest** to the **highest** expected loss.

### Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

- Headquarter: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- Chairman: **Ajay Tyagi**
- Founded: **12 April 1992**

## ADB revises India’s GDP growth forecast to 10% for FY22

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has revised India’s GDP growth estimate for the current **2021–22** fiscal to **10 per cent** from the earlier **11 per cent** due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ADB also projected the GDP growth rate for **FY23 (2022–23)** to **7.5 per cent** from the earlier projection of **7 per cent**.

### Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- Founded: **19 December 1966**
- Headquarters: **Mandaluyong, Philippines**
- President: **Masatsugu Asakawa**
- Chief Economist: **Yasuyuki Sawada**

### Microsoft acquires cybersecurity firm RiskIQ for \$500 million

- **Microsoft** has acquired **RiskIQ**, a San Francisco-based provider of **cybersecurity services**, including **malware** and **spyware monitoring** and mobile app security. Microsoft has acquired for **\$500 million**.
- **RiskIQ** was founded in **2009** by Elias Manousos, Chris Kiernan and David Pon.

### Union Government increases FDI limit in NPS fund managers to 74% from 49%

- The Union Government notified a hike in the **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** limit in pension fund management to **74%** from **49%** under the **National Pension System (NPS)**.
- The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Act** links the FDI ceiling in the sector to the same in the **insurance sector**.

### Federal Bank launches 'FEDDY' AI-powered virtual assistant for customers

- The **Federal Bank** has launched '**FEDDY**', an Artificial Intelligence-powered **virtual assistant** to help customers with banking-related **queries**
- '**FEDDY**' is also integrated into Google Business Messaging, the first-of-its-kind feat by an **Indian based bank**.

### Federal Bank

- Headquarters: **Aluva, Kerala**
- MD & CEO: **Shyam Srinivasan**
- Tagline: **"Your Perfect Banking Partner"**

### Reliance Retail acquires 66.95% stake in Just Dial for Rs. 5,719 crores

- **Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd. (RRVL)** acquired a **66.95 per cent** stake in **Just Dial** for **5,719 crores**, bolstering its digital play in the rapidly growing online commerce market in **India**.
- **RRVL** will acquire **25.33 per cent** in **Just Dial** through a preferential allotment at **Rs. 1,022.25** per share and take another **15.62 per cent** from its founder VSS Mani at **Rs. 1,020** per share.



### RBI cancels the licence of Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar Urban Co-operative Bank Limited

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled the licence of **Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar Urban Co-operative Bank Limited, Maharashtra**, for it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.

### RBL Bank ties up with VISA to issue credit cards

- Private sector lender **RBL Bank** has partnered with global card player **VISA** to issue credit cards enabled on the **VISA payment network**.
- **RBL Bank** had a tie-up with Mastercard for issuing credit cards. Recently the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** banned **Mastercard** from onboarding new customers on its network from 22 July over non-compliance with local data storage guidelines.

### Bank of Maharashtra signs an MoU with NABARD

- **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD)** to boost ongoing developmental initiatives linked to priority sector lending in **Maharashtra**.
- The MoU envisages joint initiatives for the **benefit of farmers**, farmer producer organisations, joint liability groups, self-help groups, rural artisans, weavers, agripreneurs, agri start-ups, and micro, small and medium enterprises in **Maharashtra**.

### RBI revises India's GDP growth forecast to 10.5% for FY22

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** had revised its projection for **gross domestic product (GDP)** growth for 2021–22 fiscal (FY22) to **10.5 per cent** from the earlier forecast of **9.5 per cent**.

## Science and Technology

### IIT-Ropar researchers develop a first-of-its-kind oxygen rationing device

- Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar**, have developed a first-of-its-kind device that can regulate the flow of **medical oxygen** from the cylinder during inhalation and exhalation by a patient, thereby **reducing wastage**.
- This device supplies the required **volume of oxygen** to a patient during inhalation and trips when the patient exhales, thereby saving the flow of oxygen at that time.

### Russia successfully test-fires S-500 missile system

- **Russia** had successfully test-fired its new **S-500 air defence missile** systems at a southern training range and hit a high-speed ballistic target.
- **S-500 missile system** is expected to have a maximum firing range of **600 kilometres**. It is the **most advanced anti-missile system** in the world and is capable of countering attacks from space.

## Russia

- Capital: **Moscow**
- Currency: **Russian Rouble**
- President: **Vladimir Putin**
- Prime Minister: **Mikhail Mishustin**

## Russia successfully test-fires ship-based Zircon hypersonic cruise missile

- **Russia** had successfully test-fired the **Zircon hypersonic cruise missile**. It was launched from the Russian Navy's Admiral **Gorshkov warship**, which locked into a target on the **Barents Sea coast** in northern **Russia**.
- The Zircon hypersonic cruise missile successfully hit a target directly at a range of over **350 kilometres (217 miles)**.

## Russia

- Capital: **Moscow**
- Currency: **Russian Rouble**
- President: **Vladimir Putin**
- Prime Minister: **Mikhail Mishustin**

## IIT Madras develops an AI algorithm to spot cancer-causing mutations

- Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** have developed an **Artificial Intelligence**-based mathematical model to identify **cancer-causing alterations** in cells.
- The algorithm uses a relatively unexplored technique of leveraging **DNA composition** to pinpoint genetic alterations responsible for **cancer progression**, which is difficult using present methodologies.

## Appointments

### Binaya Srikanta Pradhan was appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the United Republic of Tanzania

- **Binaya Srikanta Pradhan** was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the **United Republic of Tanzania**. He is a 2002 batch **Indian Foreign Service officer (IFS)**. He is presently working as the **Deputy Chief of Mission** in the Embassy of India, Moscow.

## Tanzania

- Capital: **Dodoma**
- Currency: **Tanzanian Shilling**
- President: **Samia Suluhu Hassan**

### Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi was appointed as the Deputy Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha

- Union Minister of Minority Affairs **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** was appointed as the **Deputy Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha**.
- He succeeded Union Minister of Commerce **Piyush Goyal**, who has now taken over as the **Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha**.

### A 20-year-old Bharti Garva was elected as the first-ever sarpanch of Balika Panchayat in Gujarat

- The 20-year-old **Bharti Garva** won by **117 votes** to become the **first sarpanch** of the **Balika Panchayat** in **Kunariya village** in **Gujarat**.
- The **Kunariya village** held the election to elect Balika Panchayat, a unique body to be governed by **girls below the age of 21** to address the issues faced by **women and adolescent girls**.
- A total of **410 voters**, all of them girls aged between **10–21 years**, cast their votes to elect a sarpanch.

### Indian-American Seema Nanda was appointed as the new Solicitor for the USA's Labour Department

- The US Senate has confirmed the appointment of Indian-American civil rights lawyer **Seema Nanda** as the **US Labour Department's new Solicitor**.
- She served as the CEO of the **Democratic National Committee** and also served in the Department of Labour during the Obama **administration**.

### Awards and Recognitions

#### Cachar district of Assam wins the SKOCH Award for "Pushti Nirbhor" nutri-garden project at Dinnathpur Bagicha village

- Assam's **Cachar district** won the **SKOCH Award** under the health category for its **nutri-garden project** named "**Pushti Nirbhor**" which was implemented at **Dinnathpur Bagicha village** in Assam.
- This village is near the **India-Bangladesh** border in the **Katigorah circle** of the Cachar district.

#### Vaidehi Dongre from Michigan was crowned as the 2021 Miss India USA

- The 25-year-old **Vaidehi Dongre** from **Michigan (US)** was crowned the **2021 Miss India USA**, while **Arshi Lalani** from **Georgia** was declared the first runner-up at the beauty pageant. **Mira Kasari** from **North Carolina** was declared the second runner-up.
- **Vaidehi Dongre** also won the '**Miss Talented**' award for her flawless performance of Indian classical dance **Kathak**.

### Former Indian goalkeeper Shibaji Banerjee was conferred with Mohun Bagan Ratna posthumously

- Former Indian goalkeeper **Shibaji Banerjee** was conferred with **Mohun Bagan Ratna**. He denied Brazil's legendary football player **Pele** from scoring a goal in an exhibition match in **1977**.

**Mohun Bagan Executive Committee** has announced the following awards:

- Fijian footballer **Roy Krishna** was named the **Best Footballer** of 2020–21.
- Bengal cricket team skipper **Abhimanyu Easwaran** was chosen as the **Best Cricketer**.
- **Bidisha Kundu**, who won the **100 m hurdles** and high jump in the National Championship, was named the **Best Athlete**.

### Two Indian organisations won the 2021 UNDP Equator Prize

- **Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company Limited** and **Snehakunja Trust** are among the 10 awardees of the **2021 United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) Equator Prize** for their work in the field of conservation and biodiversity.
- The UNDP gives a biennial award to recognise community efforts to **reduce poverty** through the **conservation** and **sustainable** use of **biodiversity**.

### Julia Ducournau of France becomes the second woman to win Palme d'Or at the 74<sup>th</sup> Cannes Film Festival

- The 37-year-old **French** director **Julia Ducournau** became the only second woman in history to win the **Palme d'Or** at the **74<sup>th</sup> Cannes Film Festival**.
- She was awarded the **Palme d'Or Prize** for the film **Titane**, a wildly imaginative movie about a serial killer.

### India's Payal Kapadia wins the Oeil d'Or Award for Best Documentary at the 74<sup>th</sup> Cannes Film Festival

- Director **Payal Kapadia's** documentary 'A Night of Knowing Nothing' won the **Oeil d'Or (Golden Eye) Award for Best Documentary** at the **74<sup>th</sup> Cannes Film Festival** held in Cannes, **France**.

### Bangladesh Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus to receive Olympic Laurel

- Bangladeshi **Nobel Peace Prize** winner **Muhammad Yunus** will receive the Olympic Laurel at the **2020 Tokyo Olympic Games**. He will be honoured for his extensive work in **sport for development**.
- The award was given for the first time at the **2016 Rio Games** to former Kenyan Olympian **Kip Keino**, who opened a children's home, a school and an athletes' training centre in **Kenya**.

## Books and Authors

**Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra's autobiography titled 'The Stranger in The Mirror' is set to be release soon**

- Filmmaker **Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra's** autobiography titled “**The Stranger in The Mirror**” is set to be released on 27 July. This book will be published by **Rupa Publications**.

**Prince Harry to publish an 'intimate and heartfelt' memoir in 2022**

- **Prince Harry** has announced that his memoir is set to be released in **2022**. He will pen an “**intimate and heartfelt memoir**” that will detail the definitive account of the experiences, adventures, losses and life lessons that have helped shape him.
- This book will be published by **Penguin Random House**.

**A new book titled 'The India Story: An Epic Journey of Democracy and Development' was authored by Bimal Jalan**

- Former **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** Governor **Bimal Jalan's** new book titled “**The India Story: An Epic Journey of Democracy and Development**” was released. This book was published by **Rupa Publications India**.

**Chryseis Knight becomes the youngest author to publish her book titled 'The Great Big Lion'**

- The 7-year-old Canadian author **Chryseis Knight** became the youngest author to be published. Her book was titled “**The Great Big Lion**” and published by **Penguin Random House**.

**A new book titled 'A New Cold War: Henry Kissinger and the Rise of China' is set to be released soon**

- A new book titled “**A New Cold War: Henry Kissinger and the Rise of China**” was edited by **Sanjaya Baru** and **Rahul Sharma**. This book will be released on 14 August 2021.

## Sports News

**Viswanathan Anand wins the Sparkassen Trophy**

- **India's** Grand Master **Viswanathan Anand** won the **Sparkassen Trophy** held at Dortmund in Germany. He defeated **Vladimir Kramnik** of **Russia**.

## Indian wrestlers Aman Gulia and Sagar Jaglan become Cadet World Champions

- Indian young wrestlers **Aman Gulia (48 kg category)** and **Sagar Jaglan (80 kg category)** won the gold medal in the **Cadet World Championship** held in **Budapest, Hungary**.
- **Sahil** won the bronze medal in the **110 kg category**.

## ICC welcomes Mongolia, Tajikistan and Switzerland as its new members

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has inducted **Mongolia, Tajikistan** and **Switzerland** as the new members at its **78<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**.
- **Mongolia** and **Tajikistan** are the **22<sup>nd</sup>** and **23<sup>rd</sup>** members of the **Asia region**. **Switzerland** joined as **Europe's 35<sup>th</sup> member**, with the ICC now comprising of **106 members** (12 full members and 94 associate members).

## International Cricket Council (ICC)

- Headquarters: **Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)**
- Chairman: **Greg Barclay**
- Motto: **“Cricket for Good”**

## Lewis Hamilton wins the 2021 Formula 1 British Grand Prix

- Mercedes driver **Lewis Hamilton** (Britain) won the **2021 Formula 1 British Grand Prix**. This is his **99<sup>th</sup>** career win and his **8<sup>th</sup>** win at the Silverstone Circuit, England.
- Lewis Hamilton was followed by **Charles Leclerc** (Monaco) and **Valtteri Bottas** (Finland).

## Gokulam Kerala FC is set to represent India in the AFC Women's Club Championship

- The **All-India Football Federation (AIFF)** has nominated **Gokulam Kerala FC** to represent India in the **AFC Women's Club Championship 2020–21**, following the postponement of the Indian Women's League.
- The winners of the **Indian Women's League** compete in the tournament, but since it will not be held, the national federation nominated the champions of the **fourth edition**.

## AR Rahman and Ananya Birla launch Tokyo Olympics cheer song 'Hindustani Way'

- Singer **Ananya Birla** has teamed up with music maestro **AR Rahman** have launched a cheer song, **'Hindustani Way'**, for Indian sports personalities as they gear up for the **2020 Tokyo Olympics**.
- This song was sung by **Ananya Birla** and composed by **AR Rahman**. This song was launched by the Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting **Anurag Thakur**.

### Karnataka is set to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Khelo India University Games in March 2022

- **Karnataka** is set to host the second edition of the **Khelo India University Games (KIUG)** in **Bangalore** from 5 March 2022. The first edition of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) was held in **Bhubaneshwar, Odisha**.

### Inox Group launches new campaign to support the Indian Olympic contingent

- **Inox Group** is the official sponsor of the **Indian Olympic Team**. It has unveiled a new campaign to support and cheer the **Indian team** to gear up for the **2020 Tokyo Olympics**.
- The campaign features boxers **MC Mary Kom** and **Vikas Krishan Yadav** along with Table Tennis player **Manika Batra**.

### Babar Azam becomes the fastest batsman to score 14 ODI centuries

- Pakistan captain **Babar Azam** became the fastest batsman to notch up **14 ODI centuries** from 81 matches in terms of innings. He surpassed South African batsman **Hashim Amla (84 matches)**, Indian captain **Virat Kohli (103 matches)** and Australian batsman **David Warner (98 matches)**.

### Important Days

#### International Chess Day – 20 July

- **International Chess Day** is globally celebrated on **20 July** every year. This day is celebrated as the founding day of **FIDE (World Chess Federation)**. This year (2021) will mark FIDE's **97<sup>th</sup>**
- This day was found on **20 July 1924** at the eighth summer Olympic Games in **Paris, France**.

#### Nelson Mandela International Day – 18 July

- **Nelson Mandela International Day** is observed on **18 July** every year. This day is celebrated in honour of **Nelson Mandela**. This day was officially declared by the **United Nations (UN)** in November **2009** and the first UN Mandela Day was celebrated on **18 July 2010**.

#### World Day for International Justice – 17 July

- **World Day for International Justice**, also known as International Criminal Justice Day, is observed on 17 July.
- This day is celebrated to commemorate the historic adoption of the **Rome Statute** and the establishment of the new system of international criminal justice in the year **1998**.
- 2021 Theme: **“Social justice in the digital economy”**

## World Emoji Day – 17 July

- **World Emoji Day** is observed annually on **17 July**, since **2014**. This day is to promote the use of emojis and spread the enjoyment that they bring to all of those around us.

## World Youth Skills Day – 15 July

- **World Youth Skills Day** is observed on **15 July** every year. This day is to recognise the importance of equipping young people around the world with essential skills for employment, work and entrepreneurship.
- 2021 Theme: “**Reimagining Youth Skills Post-Pandemic**”

## Obituary

### Filmmaker and Cartoonist Gautam Benegal passed away at 56

- National Award-winning writer, cartoonist, animation filmmaker **Gautam Benegal** has passed away at the age of 56. He had received the **National Award (Rajatkamal)** for Best Animation Film for his 2010 film “**The Prince and the Crown of Stone**”.

### Former Kerala Transport Minister K Sankaranarayana Pillai passed away at 78

- Former Transport Minister Kerala **K Sankaranarayana Pillai** passed away at the age of 78. He had served as Kerala’s Transport Minister in the **EK Nayanar** Government from **1987 to 1991**.
- He was elected to the Kerala Legislative Assembly from the erstwhile **Thiruvananthapuram East constituency** in **1982 and 1987**.

### Former Pakistan President Mamnoon Hussain passed away at 80

- Former President of Pakistan **Mamnoon Hussain** passed away after a prolonged illness. He was born in **Agra** in 1940 and migrated with his parents to Pakistan in 1947. He served as the **12<sup>th</sup> President of Pakistan** between September 2013 and September 2018.

### National award-winning actress Surekha Sikri passed away at 75

- National award-winning actress **Surekha Sikri** passed away at the age of 75. She is a **three-time National Award winner** for best performance in a supporting role. **Sikri** will be remembered for her realistic performances in **Tamas, Mammo** and **Badhai Ho**.

### Pulitzer Prize-winning Indian Photojournalist Danish Siddiqui passed away at 38

- Pulitzer-Prize-winning photographer **Danish Siddiqui**, who worked for the Reuters news agency based out of India, was killed while on assignment in southern **Afghanistan** after coming under fire by **Taliban militiamen**.