

## July 4th Week Current Affairs

### National News

#### CRPF celebrates its 83<sup>rd</sup> Raising Day on 27 July 2021

- The **83<sup>rd</sup>** Raising Day of the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** was observed on **27 July 2021**. CRPF is India's largest Central Armed Police Force, under the authority of the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.

#### BS Yediyurappa resigns as the Chief Minister of Karnataka

- Karnataka Chief Minister **BS Yediyurappa** has announced his resignation. He had submitted his resignation to the Governor of Karnataka **Thawar Chand Gehlot**.
- He served as the **Chief Minister of Karnataka** for four terms and was the only Chief Minister to do so in Karnataka.

### Karnataka

- Capital: **Bengaluru**
- Governor: **Thaawarchand Gehlot**
- National Park: **Anshi National Park, Kudremukh National Park, Bandipur National Park, Bannerghatta National Park, Rajiv Gandhi (Nagarahole) National Park**

#### Uttar Pradesh joins hands with Sapio Analytics to revive the distribution automation software

- **Uttar Pradesh's** Department of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has signed an MoU with government advisory firm **Sapio Analytics** to provide licenses of automation software **Accloud**, worth **72 crores** to **20,000 MSMEs** of Uttar Pradesh.
- The software licenses shall be provided **free of cost** to the **MSMEs** who can apply for the same through a **portal**.

### 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**

## Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah**, along with Meghalaya Chief Minister **Conrad K Sangma**, inaugurated the much-awaited and prestigious '**Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme**'.
- The **Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme** was conceptualised by the **Government of Meghalaya** and funded by the **Union Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)** under the **North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS)** in the year 2019 at an amount of **24.08 crores**.

## Union Ministry of Women and Child Development launches web-based portal to facilitate 'pm cares for children' scheme

- Union Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched the web-based portal **in** to facilitate submission of applications, identification of children eligible to receive support under the '**PM CARES for Children**' scheme and processing of applications for securing benefits to them.
- The scheme aims to ensure comprehensive care and protection of children who have lost their parents to the **COVID-19** pandemic, in a sustained manner.

## Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) celebrates the 161<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Income Tax Day on 24 July 2021

- **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** celebrated the **161<sup>st</sup>** anniversary of **Income Tax Day** (also known as Aaykar Diwas Day) on **24 July 2021**. This day was first celebrated on **24 July 1980** in India by **Sir James Wilson**.

## Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)

- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- Chairman: **Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra**

## Arunachal Pradesh inks agreement with IIM Shillong for better financial and policy management

- **Arunachal Pradesh** Government has inked an agreement with the **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Shillong** to foster better financial and policy management aimed at improving livelihoods.
- The MoU is aimed at fostering mutual agreement between the **APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research Analysis** of IIM Shillong and the Finance Planning and Investment department of the Government of **Arunachal Pradesh**.

## Arunachal Pradesh

- Capital: **Itanagar**
- Chief Minister: **Pema Khandu**
- Governor: **BD Mishra**

## Yami Gautam joins hands with the Himachal Pradesh Government for the 'Baccho Ka Sahara, Phone Humara' initiative

- Bollywood actor **Yami Gautam Dhar** joined hands with the **Himachal Pradesh Government** for their initiative, '**Baccho Ka Sahara, Phone Humara**'.
- This initiative '**Baccho Ka Sahara, Phone Humara**' is a phone donation camp that has been launched by the Himachal Pradesh Government to help needy children who cannot afford **smartphones**.

### 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**

## Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan launches UNESCO's 'Historic Urban Landscape' project for Gwalior and Orchha

- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** virtually launched UNESCO's '**Historic Urban Landscape**' project for the cities of **Gwalior** and **Orchha** in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Gwalior** and **Orchha** cities were selected by UNESCO under the 'Historic Urban Landscape Project', which was started in the year **2011**, for the inclusive and well-planned development of **fast-growing historical cities** while preserving their culture and heritage.

### Madhya Pradesh

- Capital: **Bhopal**
- Chief Minister: **Shivraj Singh Chauhan**
- Governor: **Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel**
- National Parks: **Bandhavgarh National Park, Dinosaur Fossils National Park, Fossil National Park, Pench National Park, Kanha National Park, Kuno National Park, Madhav National Park, Panna National Park, Sanjay National Park, Satpura National Park, Van Vihar National Park**

## Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates the World Universities Summit 2021

- Vice President of India **M Venkaiah Naidu** has inaugurated the **World Universities Summit 2021 (WUS 21)**. This summit was organised by **P. Jindal Global University** under the theme of "**Universities of the Future: Building Institutional Resilience, Social Responsibility and Community Impact**".

## Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates the World Universities Summit 2021

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## International News

### The Philippines becomes the first country to approve genetically modified 'golden rice' for commercial production

- The **Philippines** became the **first country in the world** to approve the commercial production of genetically modified '**golden rice**', a variety of rice enriched with nutrients to help reduce **childhood malnutrition**.
- This golden rice was developed by the **Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute (DA-PhilRice)** in partnership with the **International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)**.

### Philippines

- Capital: **Manila**
- Currency: **Peso**
- President: **Rodrigo Duterte**

### WHO signs an MoU with IPC for the promotion of diversity and equity in health and sports

- **World Health Organization (WHO)** and **International Paralympic Committee (IPC)** signed an agreement to work together to foster **diversity** and **equity** through global initiatives promoting health and sport for everybody, everywhere.

### World Health Organisation (WHO)

- Headquarters: **Geneva, Switzerland**
- Head: **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**
- Chief Scientist: **Soumya Swaminathan**
- Founded: **7 April 1948**

### World's largest floating solar farm is set to be built in Indonesia

- **Singapore**-based solar energy provides **Sunseap** and **Badan Pengusahaan Batam (BP Batam)** are planning to spend more than **\$2 billion** to build the **world's largest floating solar farm** and energy storage system at Batam Island,
- The floating solar farm is expected to have a capacity of **2 gigawatts**. It will float on the **Duriangkang Reservoir** on the southern area of Batam Island and span nearly

**4,000 acres** (1,600 hectares). The energy storage facility will have a capacity of more than **4,000 megawatts** per hour.

### Indonesia

- Capital: **Jakarta**
- Currency: **Indonesian Rupiah**
- President: **Joko Widodo**

### India and Maldives sign \$4.5 million agreement for community development projects

- **India** and **the Maldives** signed an agreement for a grant of **\$4.5 million** for implementing **community development projects** in the **Indian Ocean archipelago** that is seen as a key pillar of New Delhi's "**Neighbourhood First**" policy.
- The agreement was signed by external affairs minister **S Jaishankar** and his Maldivian counterpart **Abdulla Shahid**, who is also president-elect of the **UN General Assembly**.

### Maldives

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

### Indian Navy conducts PASSEX with UK Navy in the Bay of Bengal

- The **Indian Navy** conducted a two-day bilateral passing exercise (PASSEX) with **UK Navy** in the **Bay of Bengal**. The bilateral maritime exercise was designed to hone the **two navies'** ability to operate together in the maritime domain.
- The maiden exercise between the **Indian Navy** and the **Royal Navy's** latest aircraft carrier, **HMS Queen Elizabeth** included **CSG-21**, which included **Type 23 Frigates** and an Astute-class submarine in addition to the other surface combatants.
- The Indian Navy was represented by **INS Satpura, Ranvir, Jyoti, Kavaratti, Kulish** and a submarine. The exercise also included the **P8I**, a long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft capable of anti-submarine warfare.

### Sweden joins the International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- Leading European nation **Sweden** has ratified the framework agreement for the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, an initiative of India aimed at promoting **renewable energy** and **sustainable development**.
- **Sweden** aims at an ambitious target of achieving **100%** renewable electricity capacity by **2040**.

### Sweden



- Capital: **Stockholm**
- Currency: **Swedish Krona**
- Prime Minister: **Stefan Löfven**

### India and France Navies Conduct Defence Exercise in the Bay of Biscay

- Indian warship **INS Tabar** was part of a two-day exercise with French frigate **FNS Aquitaine** and **four Rafale fighter aircraft** of the French Navy in the Bay of Biscay.
- They conducted a wide range of exercises, including **anti-submarine** and **air defence drills**.

### France

- Capital: **Paris**
- Currency: **Euro**
- President: **Emmanuel Macron**
- Prime Minister: **Jean Castex**

### China launches the world's largest emission trading system

- **China** has finally launched its long-awaited national **Emissions Trading System (ETS)**, although concerns remain on the overall impact it will initially have on reducing emissions from the **world's largest emitter** of **greenhouse gases**.
- **China** replaced the European Union as the largest **carbon market**.

### China

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

### India participates in the environment ministers' meeting at the 16<sup>th</sup> G20 Summit

- Union Minister of Environment **Bhupender Yadav**, along with the Union Minister of State for Environment **Ashwini Choubey**, virtually took part in the **two-day** meeting at the **16<sup>th</sup> G20 Summit**.
- **Italy** is the current chair and **Mario Draghi** is the current Chairman of the **G20 Summit**.
- The members of the G20 are **Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States** and the **European Union**.

### Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City was delisted from UNESCO's World Heritage List

- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** has decided to delist **United Kingdom's Liverpool City waterfront** as a historic heritage site.
- This decision came after the United Nations cultural body **UNESCO** discussed its concern during the **44<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee** held in **Fuzhou, China**.

### United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):

- Headquarters: **Paris, France**
- Director-General: **Audrey Azoulay**
- Founded: **16 November 1945**

### World's first 3D-printed steel bridge opens to the public in Amsterdam

- **World's first 3D-printed** steel bridge was opened to the public in **Amsterdam, the Netherlands**. This bridge was unveiled by Netherlands Queen **Máxima**.
- It was developed by **MX3D**, a Dutch robotics company, in collaboration with a consortium of experts and represents a major milestone for **3D-printing technology**.

### Netherlands:

- Capital: **Amsterdam**
- Currency: **Euro**
- Prime Minister: **Mark Rutte**

### China unveils the fastest ground vehicle "Maglev Train" in the world

- **China** unveiled **Maglev Train** which is being touted as the **fastest ground vehicle** in the world with a maximum speed of **600 kmph** or **372 kmph**. It was manufactured in the coastal city of **Qingdao, China**.
- The train uses **electro-magnetic force**, making it to **"float"**. so, there is no contact between the rail and the body.

### China

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

## Banking and Economy

### Care Ratings projects the Indian economy to grow 8.8% to 9% in FY22

- **Care Ratings** has projected India's GDP growth as **8.8%–9%** with **GVA (gross value added)** growth of **7.8%** for the fiscal year 2021–2022 (FY22).

### IFC extends \$250 million to HDFC Limited for a green affordable housing portfolio

- **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** has extended a **\$250 million** loan to **HDFC Limited** to support its moves to grow its affordable housing and emerging **green affordable housing portfolio**.
- This will enable low and **middle-income borrowers** with improved access to finance while supporting **India's** climate goals.

### RBI increases loan limit of Bank Directors to Rs. 5 crores from Rs 25 lakhs

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has overhauled rules for extending loans to **Directors of other banks** and relatives of directors. **RBI** has increased the limit of personal loans given to any Director of a bank to **5 crores** from **Rs. 25 lakhs** earlier.

### Max Bupa rebrands itself as Niva Bupa

- Standalone health insurer **Max Bupa Health Insurance**, backed by private equity firm **True North and Bupa**, has rebranded itself to **Niva Bupa Health Insurance**.
- This stand-alone Health insurer will look to complete its brand transition by **December 2021**.

### Indian Bank signs an MoU with IIT Guwahati Technology Incubation Centre (TIC) for financing start-ups

- **Indian Bank** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **IIT Guwahati Technology Incubation Centre (TIC)** for financing Startups under Bank's loan product '**IND SpringBoard**'.
- Under this product, Indian bank supports start-ups by extending **credit facilities** up to **50 Crores** for working capital requirements and also fund-based Term Loan requirements for acquiring **fixed assets** for their unit.

### Indian Bank

- Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- MD and CEO: Padmaja Chunduru
- Establishment: **1907**
- Tagline: "**Your Own Bank**"
- **Allahabad Bank** was amalgamated with the **Indian Bank** on **1 April 2020**.



## IBBI amends regulations for the insolvency process to enhance transparency

- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** has amended the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016, to enhance the **discipline, transparency** and **accountability** in corporate insolvency proceedings.

### Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI):

- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- Chairperson: **MS Sahoo**

## U GRO Capital partners with Bank of Baroda to launch an Rs. 1,000-crore MSME co-lending programme 'Pratham'

- **U GRO capital** has partnered with **Bank of Baroda** to launch micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) co-lending programme '**Pratham**'
- It is an **1,000 crore** co-lending programme that will allow **MSMEs** to avail customised lending solutions at a competitive rate of interest. This programme was launched under the **Reserve Bank of India's** revised co-lending guidelines. The loan amount ranges from **Rs. 50 lakhs** to **Rs. 2.5 crores**.

### Bank of Baroda (BOB)

- Headquarters: **Baroda (Vadodara), Gujarat**
- MD & CEO: **Sanjiv Chadha**
- Chairman: **Hasmukh Adhia**
- Tagline: "**India's International Bank**"

## HDFC ERGO launches 'Optima Secure' health policy

- Non-life insurance company **HDFC ERGO General Insurance** has announced the launch of **Optima Secure**, a new health-indemnity health insurance product that seeks to redefine the value customers can get from their **insurance plan**.
- This product has the **Secure, plus, Protect** and **Restore** benefits built-in that offer customers up to **4 times** their sum insured at **no additional charge** while guaranteeing coverage for listed non-medical expenses.

## Multilink partners with NSDL Payments Bank to build 4,000+ business correspondent agent networks in India

- **NSDL Payments Bank** has announced a strategic partnership with **Multilink** to boost the banking facilities in **rural and semi-urban areas** in India.
- Multilink will begin its strategic partnership with NSDL Payments Bank to build agent points across India and the strategic tie-up will also result in providing **banking facilities** to rural and urban areas through **NEO banking systems**.

## NSDL Payments Bank

- Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- CEO: **Ashutosh Singh**
- Established: **2018**

## Biteeu India becomes the world's first space-based digital currency exchange for ultra-secure transactions

- **Biteeu India** partnership with **SpaceChain** for the successful launch of its **digital security infrastructure** into **space** onboard a **SpaceX Falcon 9** rocket under the rideshare program.
- This marks **Biteeu India** as the **first cryptocurrency exchange** in the world to leverage the high security of space-grade infrastructure for **ultra-secure Bitcoin cryptocurrency** transactions and having its public satellite key backed up on a space node.

## BYJU'S buys US-based kids' reading platform Epic for \$500 million

- India's ed-tech giant **BYJU'S** has acquired the US-based digital reading platform **Epic** for **\$500 million**. This American platform is focused on nurturing the **habit of reading** in the kids of **age 12 and below**.
- The acquisition is to help BYJU'S in expanding its **US footprint** by providing access to more than two million teachers and **50 million** kids in Epic's existing global user-base.

## Science and Technology

### IIT Kanpur launches a technology innovation hub to find cybersecurity solutions for anti-drone technologies

- **Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K)** has launched the first technology **innovation hub** to find cybersecurity solutions for anti-drone technologies, intrusion detection systems, block-chain and cyber-physical systems.
- As many as **13 startups** and **25** research and development principal investigators were selected after a rigorous application process.

### NASA selects SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket for a mission to Jupiter's icy moon Europa

- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has selected **SpaceX** spacecraft **Falcon Heavy rocket** for a mission to **Jupiter's moon Europa**.
- The **Europa Clipper mission** will launch in **October 2024** on a Falcon Heavy rocket from Launch **Complex 39A** at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in **Florida**.

### NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)

- Headquarters: **Washington DC, United States**

- Administrator: **Jim Bridenstine**

## Russia launches Nauka module to the International Space Station

- **Russia** successfully launched a long-delayed lab **Nauka module** for the **International Space Station** that is intended to provide more room for scientific experiments and space for the crew.
- A **Proton-M** booster rocket carrying the Nauka module lifted off from the Russian space launch facility in **Baikonur, Kazakhstan**.

## Russia

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

## DRDO successfully flights test indigenous Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)

- The **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully flight tested indigenously developed low weight, fire and forget **Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)**.
- This mission marked a major boost for the **Government of India's Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign** and would strengthen the Indian Army.

## Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- Chairman: **G Satheesh Reddy**
- Founded: **1958**

## Blue Origin completes its first human passenger flight using "New Shepard" rocket

- **Blue Origin** completed its first crewed launch sending **four human passengers to space** (including Amazon's founder **Jeff Bezos**) by **New Shepard rocket**. It was launched from a private launch site in **Texas, US**.
- **Sanjal Gavande**, an Indian-born engineer, was part of the **Blue Origin team** that built the **New Shepard rocket**.

## NSE Foundation launches largescale CSR project 'CAVACH' for increased COVID-19 vaccination in aspirational districts

- **NSE Foundation**, a subsidiary of the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)**, in partnership with the **NITI Aayog** and **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**, has launched a programme '**CAVACH**' to spread awareness on COVID-19 vaccination in India.

- This programme will unite the efforts of grassroots-level partners and the local district administration to facilitate **increased vaccination** in remote districts of India.

### DRDO successfully flight-tests surface-to-air missile Akash-NG

- **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully flight-tested the new generation **Akash missile (Akash-NG)**, a **surface-to-air missile** from Integrated Test Range (ITR) off the coast of **Odisha**.
- The missile system has been developed by **Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL)**, Hyderabad, in collaboration with other **DRDO laboratories**.

### Appointments

#### Social entrepreneur Sanjay Rai Sherpuria was named as the national brand ambassador for SDG Choupal

- Well-known social worker and entrepreneur **Sanjay Rai 'Sherpuria'** was named as the national brand ambassador for **SDG Choupal**.
- He was felicitated at an event for his remarkable contributions in the wake of **COVID-19**.

#### C Vijayakumar was appointed as the Managing Director of HCL Technologies Limited

- **C Vijayakumar** was appointed as the Managing Director of **HCL Technologies Limited**. He replaced Shiv Nadar, who resigned recently as the Managing Director.

#### Senior IPS officer Nasir Kamal was appointed as the Director-General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security

- Union Cabinet has approved the appointment of Senior IPS officer **Nasir Kamal** as the Director-General of the **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)**. He is a **1986** batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the **Uttar Pradesh**

#### Indian businessman Yusuffali MA was appointed as the Vice-Chairman of the top government business body in Abu Dhabi

- Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi **Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan** has appointed prominent Indian businessman **Yusuffali MA** as the Vice-Chairman of the **apex government body** for all businesses operating from the **UAE's capital city Abu Dhabi**, making him the only person from India on the **29-member board**.
- He is the Chairman and Managing Director of Abu Dhabi-based **LuLu Group**, which operates hypermarkets and retail companies in many countries.

## Aramane Giridhar gets additional charge as the Chairman of NHAI

- **Aramane Giridhar** was assigned the additional charge of the post of Chairman of the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**. He replaced Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, who was appointed as the new **Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand**.
- He will hold the position till any officer is appointed regularly or until further orders. He is presently serving as the Secretary of the **Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)**.

## National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)

- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- Chairman: **Aramane Giridhar**

## Union Finance Ministry officer Rasmi R Das was appointed as a member of the UN tax committee

- **Rasmi Ranjan Das**, a Joint Secretary in the Union Ministry of Finance, was appointed as a member of the **UN tax committee** for **2021-2025**
- He is among **25 tax experts** from around the world to be appointed as a member of the UN tax committee.

## Awards and Recognitions

### Kajal Chakraborty wins the Norman Borlaug National Award

- Principal Scientist at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) **Kajal Chakraborty** has won the **Norman Borlaug National Award** for research to combat lifestyle diseases instituted by the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** functioning under the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- The award is announced once in **five years** and carries a cash prize of **10 lakhs**.

### Kakatiya Rudreshwara Temple of Telangana was selected as a UNESCO World Heritage Site

- Telangana's **Kakatiya Rudreshwara Temple** was selected as a **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site**. It is India's **39<sup>th</sup> World Heritage Site**.
- This decision was taken at the **44<sup>th</sup> session** of the World Heritage Committee of **UNESCO**.



### India's Chief Hydrographer Vinay Badhwar receives the Alexander Dalrymple Award 2019

- India's Chief Hydrographer, Vice Admiral **Vinay Badhwar**, received the **Alexander Dalrymple Award** in recognition of his leadership in the disciplines of **hydrography and nautical cartography**.
- He was conferred with the prestigious award in **2019**, but the award ceremony was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Three monuments of Andhra Pradesh were identified as "Adarsh Smarak" for providing additional facilities

- Three monuments of **Andhra Pradesh**, namely **Monuments at Nagarjunakonda** of Guntur district, the **Buddhist Remains** at Salihundam of **Srikakulam district** and **Veerabhadra Temple** at Lepakshi in Anantapuram district, have been identified as "**Adarsh Smarak**" for providing additional facilities like Wi-Fi, cafeteria, interpretation centre, Braille signages, illumination, etc.

### Andhra Pradesh

- Capital: **Amaravati**
- Chief Minister: **YS Jaganmohan Reddy**
- Governor: **Biswa Bhushan Harichandan**
- Folk dances: **Kuchipudi, Vilasini Natyam, Bhamakalpam, Veeranatyam**
- National Parks: **Sri Venkateswara National Park, Rajiv Gandhi National Park, Papikonda National Park**

### Ngangom Bala Devi and Sandesh Jhingan win the AIFF Footballer of the Year awards

- **Sandesh Jhingan** was named the **AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year 2020-21**. This was the first time he has been given this award after being adjudged as the Emerging Player of the Year Award in 2014.
- **Ngangom Bala Devi** was named the **AIFF Women's Footballer of the Year 2020-21**. It was the **third** time that she had won this award.
- **Manisha Kalyan** and **Suresh Wangjam** had won the Women's and Men's **Emerging Player** of the Year awards, respectively.

### Books and Authors

#### Amitabh Kant releases book on Indian start-up ecosystem

- NITI Aayog **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Amitabh Kant** has launched a book titled '**Shifting Orbits: Decoding the Trajectory of the Indian Start-up Ecosystem**'.
- This book was organised by the **Innovation Venturing and Entrepreneurship in India Network (iVEIN)**.

### A new book titled “Why We Kneel How We Rise” was authored by Michael Anthony Holding

- Jamaican cricket commentator and former West Indies cricketer **Michael Anthony Holding** has authored a new book titled “Why We Kneel How We Rise”.

### Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari releases a book on post-Article 370 Kashmir

- **Maharashtra** Governor **Bhagat Singh Koshyari** had released a new book titled ‘Kashmir Ki Kyari Mein Aag Ki Lapte Aakhir Kab Tak?’ authored by Kashmiri writer and social worker **Beena Budki**.

### A new book titled “An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation” was authored by Ashok Lavasa

- Former Election Commissioner of India **Ashok Lavasa** has authored a new book titled “An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation”. This book was released by **HarperCollins Publishers India**.

### A new book titled “Over It: How to Face Life’s Hurdles with Grit, Hustle, and Grace” authored by Lori Susan Jones

- Three-time Olympian and world champion hurdler **Lori Susan Jones** (also known as Lolo Jones) authored a new book titled “Over It: How to Face Life’s Hurdles with Grit, Hustle, and Grace”.
- This book was published by **Thomas Nelson**.

### Former RBI Governor Duvvuri Subbarao unveils CK Garyali’s book ‘Bank with A Soul: Equitas’

- Former Governor of RBI **Duvvuri Subbarao** released a book titled ‘Bank with a Soul: Equitas’ which was authored by **CK Garyali**.
- **CK Garyali** is a founder trustee of **EDIT** (Equitas Development Initiative Trust).

## Rankings

### JNCASR ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> among top 50 Rising Institutions in Nature Index 2021 for Materials Science

- The Bengaluru-based research institute **Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR)** was ranked 23<sup>rd</sup> among the top 50 rising institutions in the world for materials science.
- **JNCASR** is the only institution from **India** to appear on the list.

## India enters WTO's top 10 agricultural produce exporters in 2019

- **India** cracked into the top ten list of **agricultural produce exporters** in **2019** with a significant share within the export of **rice, soya beans, cotton and meat**, according to the **World Trade Organisation (WTO) report** on trends in world agricultural trade in recent 25 years.
- **India** ranked 9 in **2019** with a share of 3.1% in global agricultural exports.

## Sports News

### Paralympic-bound shuttler Pramod Bhagat was named Differently abled Sportsman of the Year

- World No. 1 para shuttler **Pramod Bhagat** was named Differently Abled **Sportsman of the Year** at the **Indian Sports Honour** for 2019.
- He won two gold medals and a bronze at the **Dubai Para-Badminton Tournament** this year (2021).

### India's Priya Malik wins gold medal at the 2021 World Cadet Wrestling Championships 2021

- India wrestler **Priya Malik** clinched the gold medal at the **2021 World Cadet Wrestling Championships** held in **Budapest, Hungary**. She defeated **Kseniya Patapovich** (5-0). She won in the women's **73 kg** weight category.

### Japan's Yuto Horigome wins first-ever Olympic gold medal in skateboarding

- **Yuto Horigome** of **Japan** won the first-ever men's skateboarding competition at the **2020 Tokyo Olympic Games**, taking the gold medal in the men's street event at the **Ariake Urban Sport**. He won the gold medal with **18 points**.

### Indian Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu wins silver medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics

- The 26-year-old **Mirabai Chanu** (Manipur) won the silver medal and became the first Indian to win an **Olympic medal** at the **2020 Tokyo Olympics Games** in the Women's **49 kg category**. China's **Hou Zhihui** clinched the gold medal in this category.

### Hockey India launches player-oriented web-based platform 'Heroes Connect' for hockey players in India

- **Hockey India** has launched its own player-oriented web-based engagement platform, the **'Heroes Connect'**, in its bid to curate a detailed database of the players who have represented **India** in both men's and women's games.
- The unique responsive platform was designed to encourage former and current **Indian hockey players** to initiate constructive discussions around the sport.

## Important Days

### World Drowning Prevention Day – 25 July

- **World Drowning Prevention Day** is observed on **25 July**. This year (2021) is the first-year celebration of the event. This day aims to highlight the impacts of death caused by **drowning on families** and communities and to provide solutions to **prevent death** by drowning.
- 2021 Theme: **“Anyone Can Drown, No One Should”**

### World Mangrove Day – 26 July

- **World Mangrove Day** is observed annually on 26 July. **UNESCO** also celebrates **International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem** on 26
- This day is observed to raise awareness of the importance of **mangrove ecosystems** and to promote their **sustainable management** and **conservation**.

### Kargil Vijay Diwas – 26 July

- **Kargil Vijay Diwas** is celebrated annually on **26 July**. This day is celebrated to mark **India’s victory** against **Pakistan** in the **Kargil War** in **1999**. This year (2021) marks the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of **India’s victory** in the Kargil War. The operation was known as **“Operation Vijay”**.

### National Thermal Engineer Day (India) – 24 July

- **National Thermal Engineer Day (India)** is celebrated on **24 July** to appreciate the contribution of thermal engineers in everyday life in **India**. This day is celebrated to recognise the hard work and dedication of those in **thermal engineering**.

### National Broadcasting Day (India) – 23 July

- **National Broadcasting Day (India)** is observed on **23 July** every year to commemorate the **first-ever radio broadcast** in India that went on air from the Bombay Station under the **Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC)** in **1927**.

### World Brain Day – 22 July

- **World Brain Day** is observed on **22 July** every year. This day is observed to raise awareness and promote advocacy related to **brain health**.
- **World Federation of Neurology (WFN)** and **MS International Federation (MSIF)** are at the forefront, leading the World Brain Day campaign to spread awareness about multiple sclerosis (MS), a **neurological disease** whose effects range from cognitive impairment to significant physical disability.
- 2021 Theme: **“Stop Multiple Sclerosis”**

## National Mango Day (India) - 22 July

- **National Mango Day (India)** is celebrated on **22 July**. This day is solely dedicated to the delicious fruit of Mango that people love to eat or at times drink, especially during the summer season.

## National Refreshment Day (India) - 22 July

- **National Refreshment Day (India)** is observed on the **fourth Thursday of July** every year. This year (2021), the day falls on **22 July**. This day is celebrated to remind people that they can take out time from **their busy schedules** and enjoy themselves.

## Obituary

### Veteran actress Jayanthi passed away at 76

- Veteran multilingual actress **Jayanthi** passed away in Bengaluru, Karnataka. She acted in movies in five languages. Her work in superhit films like **Pedarayudu**, **Swathi Kiranam**, **Kodama Simham**, **Justice Chowdary** and **Kondaveeti Simham** brought her recognition among the Telugu audiences.

### Renowned Marathi litterateur Satish Kalsekar passed away at 78

- Banker-turned-Marathi litterateur **Satish Kalsekar** passed away at the age of 78. He was conferred the **Sahitya Akademi Award** in **2013** for his essay collection '**Vachanaryachi Rojanishee**'.

### Noted Carnatic Classical Violinist Sikkil R Bhaskaran passed away at 85

- Noted Carnatic Classical Violinist 'Kalaimamani' **Sikkil R Bhaskaran** passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He was an 'A' Grade Artist of AIR and has served for nearly 2 decades in Chennai radio Station from **1976 to 1994**.
- He has served as an Executive Committee member of the **Thiruvaiyaru Thyaga Brahma Festival** for more than 2 decades.

### Renowned theatre personality Urmil Kumar Thapliyal passed away at 78

- Renowned theatre personality and litterateur **Urmil Kumar Thapliyal** passed away at the age of 78. He has donned several roles of **playwright, author, poet, performer, satirist** and **theatre**. He has contributed immensely to the revival of '**nautanki**' and popularising theatre.



**Veteran Malayalam actor KTS Padannayil passed away at 88**

- Veteran Malayalam film actor **KTS Padannayil** passed away at the age of 88. He started acting in Malayalam movies in 1990. **Aniyan Bava Chettan Bava** directed by **Rajasen** was his debut movie.



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