



# PLUTUS ACADEMY

## WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS



**PLUTUS ACADEMY WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS**  
**04/07/2021 to 11/07/2021**

Basement C59 Noida, Opposite to Priyagold Building Gate, Sector-2, Pocket-1, Noida  
Contact No. : +91 8448440231 | website : [www.plutusacademy.com](http://www.plutusacademy.com)



# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## JULY 2021

### National News

#### 1. PRESIDENT KOVIND LAID FOUNDATION STONE FOR AMBEDKAR MEMORIAL AND CULTURAL CENTRE

- President Ram Nath Kovind laid the foundation stone for Ambedkar Memorial and Cultural Centre in Lucknow.
- The cultural centre will come up at 5493.52 sq meter nazool land in front of Aishbagh Eidgah in Lucknow and have a 25-ft high statue of Dr Ambedkar.
- The centre, to come up at a cost of Rs. 45.04 crores, will also have an auditorium having a capacity of 750 people, library, research centre, picture gallery, museum and a multi-purpose convention centre.



### International News

#### 2. CHINA IS CERTIFIED MALARIA-FREE BY WHO

- Following a 70-year effort, China has been awarded a malaria-free certification from WHO – a notable feat for a country that reported 30 million cases of the disease annually in the 1940s.

- China is the first country in the WHO Western Pacific Region to be awarded a malaria-free certification in more than 3 decades. Other countries in the region that have achieved this status include Australia (1981), Singapore (1982) and Brunei Darussalam (1987).
- Globally, 40 countries and territories have been granted a malaria-free certification from WHO – including, most recently, El Salvador (2021), Algeria (2019), Argentina (2019), Paraguay (2018) and Uzbekistan (2018).
- China Capital: Beijing;
- China Currency: Renminbi;
- China President: Xi Jinping.



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### 3. PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI TO BE NEXT CHIEF MINISTER OF UTTARAKHAND

- Pushkar Singh Dhama will be the next chief minister of Uttarakhand. He will be the youngest CM of Uttarakhand. 45-year-old Pushkar Singh Dhama, an MLA from the Khatima constituency in Udham Singh Nagar district.
- He will replace Tirath Singh Rawat, who resigned from the post. Dhama was elected by the state leaders during the legislature party meeting in Dehradun.
- Governor of Uttarakhand: Baby Rani Maurya.



## Agreements News

### 4. AJNIFM, MICROSOFT PARTNER TO BUILD AI, EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

- The Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM) and Microsoft announced a strategic partnership to build an AI and emerging technologies centre of excellence at AJNIFM.
- The collaboration seeks to explore the role of cloud, AI and emerging technologies in transforming and shaping the future of public finance management in India. The centre of excellence will serve as a central body for research, AI scenario envisioning and tech-led innovation.
- AJNIFM and Microsoft will jointly explore use cases of emerging technologies in finance and related areas, across central and state ministries and public sector enterprises.
- Microsoft will partner closely with AJNIFM to define the future of public finance management in India, providing the technology, tools and resources to build a strong ecosystem of partners, upskill government officials and build thought leadership.



## Summits and Conferences News

### 5. 7TH INDIAN OCEAN NAVAL SYMPOSIUM CONCLUDES IN FRANCE

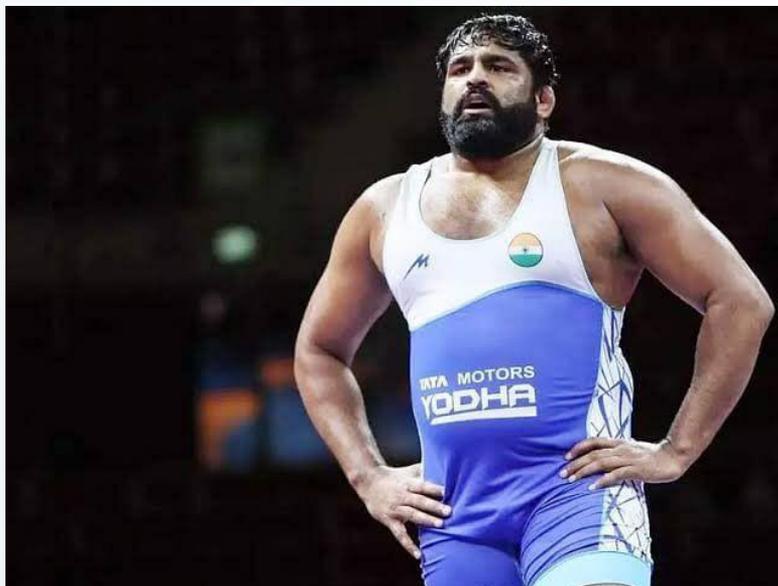
- The 7th edition of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), concluded in France on July 01, 2021. The biennial event was hosted by the French Navy at La Réunion from 28 June to 01 July 2021.



- From India, Admiral Karambir Singh, Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy, participated in the inaugural session of the event virtually. France is the current chair of the Symposium, which assumed the Chairmanship on 29 June 2021 for a two-year tenure.
- The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) is a series of biennial meetings, held between the littoral states of the Indian Ocean region, to enhance maritime cooperation among Navies of the member states, by providing an open and inclusive forum for discussion of regionally relevant maritime issues such as maritime security cooperation, discuss regional maritime issues, and promote friendly relationships.
- The first such symposium was held in 2008 with India as host.
- The chairmanship and location of the Symposium rotates between the various member states.

## Sports News

### 6. INDIAN WRESTLER SUMIT MALIK GETS TWO-YEAR BAN FOR DOPING



- Indian wrestler Sumit Malik was banned for two years by the sport's world governing body UWW after his B sample also returned positive for a prohibited stimulant. The 28-year-old has one week to decide if he would accept the sanction or challenge it.
- He was handed a provisional suspension last month for failing a dope test during the World Olympic Qualifier event in Sofia, where he had qualified for the Tokyo Games in the 125 kg category.

## 7. MARIYAPPAN THANGAVELU NAMED FLAG-BEARER FOR TOKYO PARALYMPICS



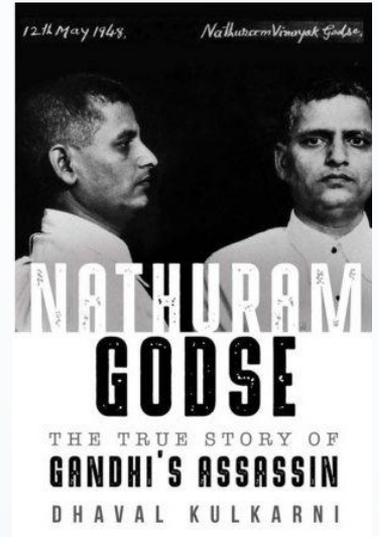
- Top para high-jumper Mariyappan Thangavelu was named the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent in the Tokyo Paralympics, which begins on August 24.
- Thangavelu, who is defending the T-42 gold he had won in the 2016 Rio Paralympics during the August 24 to September 5 showpiece in Tokyo, was picked for the honour by the executive committee of the national body.
- The 25-year-old Thangavelu, who was conferred with the Khel Ratna, the country's highest sporting award, last year is one of the 24 para-athletes picked by the selection committee for the Tokyo Paralympics.
- Thangavelu, who hails from Salem district in Tamil Nadu, suffered a permanent disability at the age of five when a bus crushed his right leg below the knee.

## Books and Authors

### 8. PAN MACMILLAN TO PUBLISH NATHURAM GODSE'S BIOGRAPHY

- The book titled "Nathuram Godse: The True Story of Gandhi's Assassin" by Mumbai-based journalist Dhaval Kulkarni will be published by Pan Macmillan India in 2022.
- A biography of Nathuram Godse, Mahatma Gandhi's infamous assassin, situates the man and his most defining act in the larger context of modern Indian history and contemporary society and politics.

- The book was acquired at auction by Teesta Guha Sarkar, editorial head at Pan Macmillan India, from Anish Chandy, founder of Labyrinth literary agency. “The book will be a deep-dive account and delve into the cataclysmic chain of events both before and after Gandhi’s murder.



## Important Days

### 9. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COOPERATIVES: 3 JULY

- The United Nations celebrates the International Day of Cooperatives every year on the first Saturday of July to increase awareness of cooperatives.
- In the year 2021, the International Day of Cooperatives will be celebrated on 3<sup>rd</sup> July with a focus on the contribution of cooperatives to combating climate change.
- This July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the International Day of Cooperatives (#CoopsDay) will be celebrated as “Rebuild better together”.
- Cooperatives around the world will showcase how they are meeting the COVID-19 pandemic crisis with solidarity and resilience and offering communities a people-centred and environmentally just recovery.



## International Day of Cooperatives

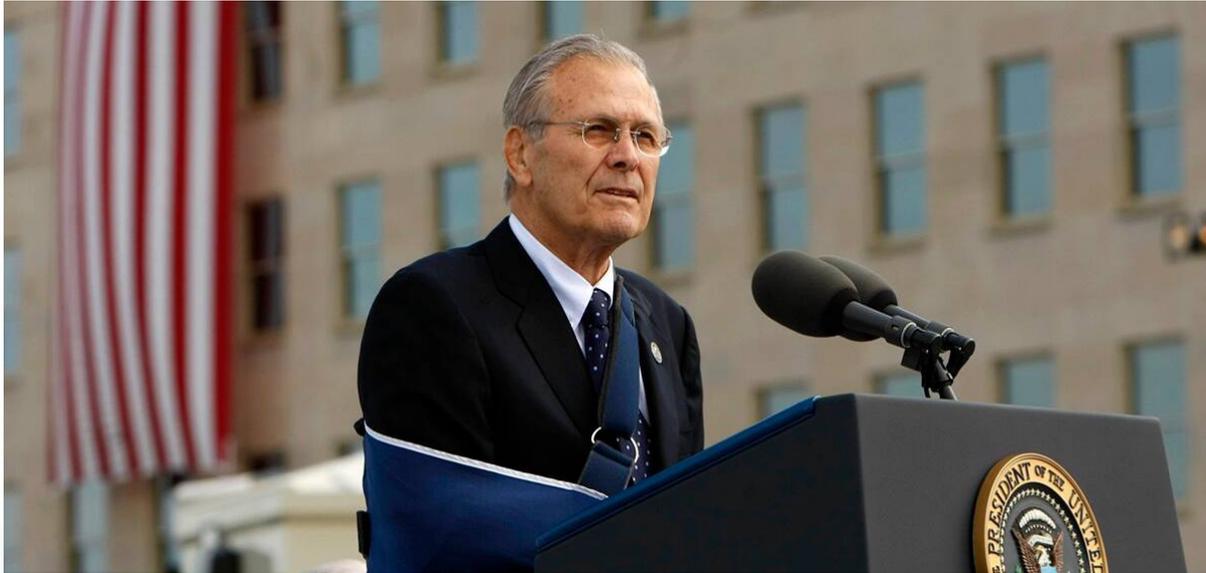
Rebuild better together

**3 July 2021**

## Obituaries News

### 10. FORMER US DEFENCE SECRETARY DONALD RUMSFELD PASSES AWAY

- Donald Rumsfeld, the two-time defence secretary and the one-time presidential candidate whose reputation as a skilled bureaucrat and visionary of a modern US military was unravelled by the long and costly Iraq war, died recently.
- Rumsfeld is the only person to serve twice as Pentagon chief. The first time, in 1975-77, he was the youngest ever.



## Miscellaneous News

### 11. NEW JUMPING SPIDER SPECIES NAMED AFTER 26/11 MARTYR TUKARAM OMBLE

- A group of scientists who discovered two new species of jumping spiders from the Thane-Kalyan region named one of them after the brave police constable Tukaram Omble who lost his life in the 26/11 terror attacks.
- The species is called 'Icius Tukarami.'
- The paper citing the discovery of the new species was published in the Russian science journal Anthropoda Selecta by scientists Dhruv A. Prajapati, John Caleb, Somnath B. Kumbhar and Rajesh Sanap.



—BY SOHIL SINGH

# Appointments News

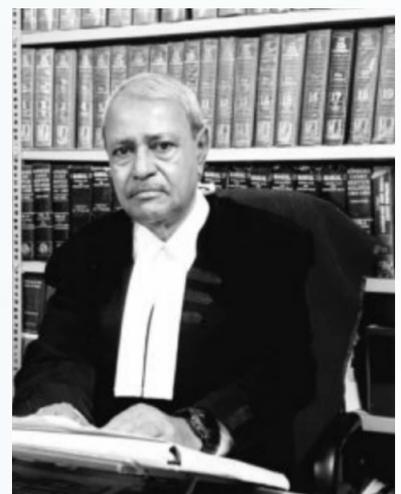
## 1. SATISH AGNIHOTRI TAKE CHARGES AS MD OF NHSRCL

- Satish Agnihotri has taken over charge as Managing Director, National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd. He comes with more than 20 years of experience in the implementation of mega rail infrastructure projects.
- He has worked as Chairman & Managing Director, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), a schedule 'A' CPSE under the Ministry of Railways for close to 9 years. During his tenure as CMD/RVNL, RVNL completed 7000 km of project length including 3000 km doubling/3rd line, 880 km conversion of metre gauge track to broad gauge, 3000 km railway electrification, 85 km new line, 6 factories and many important bridges.
- A 7 km long tunnel was also completed in a record time of 25 months in a new line project in Andhra Pradesh.



## 2. KN BHATTACHARJEE APPOINTED NEW LOKAYUKTA IN TRIPURA

- Veteran advocate Kalyan Narayan Bhattacharjee has been appointed as the new Lokayukta in Tripura. He has been appointed to the post for three years w.e.f. July 1.
- The Lokayukta Act has been in force in Tripura since 2008 and in 2012, the first Lokayukta was appointed in Tripura.
- Bhattacharjee is the third Lokayukta in the state and the first to hold the post as a lawyer. Former Gujarat & Guwahati HC judge Pradeep Kumar Sarkar was 1st Lokayukta in Tripura.
- Chief Minister of Tripura: Biplab Kumar Deb; Governor: Ramesh Bais.



## Banking News

### 3. INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK BECOMES THE SECOND MOST-VALUED PUBLIC LENDER

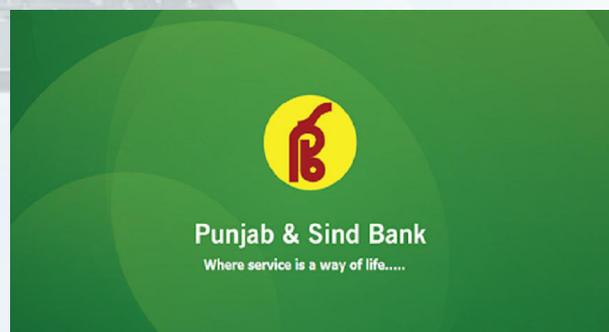
- Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has become the second most-valued listed public sector bank (PSB) with a market capitalisation of over Rs 50,000 crore. As Street discounts privatisation of the state-owned lender, its shares have appreciated nearly 80 per cent on the BSE in the past one month.
- IOB stood with an m-cap of Rs 51,887 crore, pushing PNB (Rs 46,411 crore) and BOB (Rs 44,112 crore) to third and fourth position, respectively, as per data available on BSE.
- In the past month, the market price of IOB has zoomed 57 per cent, as compared to a 4 per cent decline in PNB and a 5 per cent gain in BOB share price. The bank plans to come out of the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework by focusing on recovery, low-cost deposits, and less capital consuming advances.
- Indian Overseas Bank Headquarters: Chennai;
- Indian Overseas Bank CEO: Partha Pratim Sengupta;
- Indian Overseas Bank Founder: M. Ct. M. Chidambaram Chettyar;
- Indian Overseas Bank Founded: 10 February 1937, Chennai.



### Indian Overseas Bank

### 4. RBI IMPOSES RS 25 LAKH PENALTY ON PUNJAB & SIND BANK

- The Reserve Bank of India imposed a penalty of Rs 25 lakh on Punjab and Sind Bank for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions on 'Cyber Security Framework in Banks.
- The state-owned bank had reported a few cyber incidents to the RBI on May 16 and 20, 2020, the central bank said while giving details. Accordingly, the central bank had issued a show-cause notice to the bank asking it why a penalty should not be imposed for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI.
- This penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of section 47 A (1) (c) read with sections 46 (4) (i) and 51 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- Punjab and Sind Bank Founder: Vir Singh;
- Punjab and Sind Bank Founded: 24 June 1908;
- MD & CEO of Punjab and Sind Bank: S Krishnan.



### 5. AXIS BANK TIE-UP WITH AWS FOR POWERING DIGITAL BANKING SERVICES

- Axis Bank has inked a multi-year deal with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to power the digital transformation programme of the country's third-largest private sector bank.

- As part of the agreement, Axis Bank with help of AWS will build a portfolio of new digital financial services to bring advanced banking experiences to customers, including online accounts that can be opened in 6 min & instant digital payment.
- This will help the bank increase customer satisfaction by 35 per cent and lower costs by 24 per cent.
- To date, Axis Bank has deployed over 25 mission-critical applications on AWS, including a Buy Now Pay Later product and a new loan management system to support it, Account Aggregator, Video-Know Your Customer (V-KYC), and WhatsApp Banking.
- Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Axis Bank Founded: 1993;
- Axis Bank MD and CEO of Axis Bank: Amitabh Chaudhry.



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#### **6. INDIAN ARMY CHIEF TO INAUGURATE WAR MEMORIAL FOR INDIAN SOLDIERS IN ITALY**

- Indian Army chief General MM Naravane will embark on an official visit to the United Kingdom (UK) and Italy, during which he will be meeting his counterparts and the senior military leadership of these countries.
- The highlight of the visit will be Gen Naravane's inauguration of the Indian Army Memorial in the famous town of Cassino, Italy. In the Battle of Monte Cassino during World War II, over 5,000 Indian soldiers laid down their lives while fighting to save Italy from fascist forces.
- Nearly 50,000 Indians were enlisted for Italy's liberation between September 1943 and April 1945. Both the UK and Italy are important partners for India in the fields of defence, healthcare, aerospace, education, clean technology, renewable energy and information and communication technology among others.



## Awards News

### 7. INVEST INDIA WON THE MOST INNOVATIVE INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCY 2021 AWARD



- Invest India has been awarded the world's most innovative Investment Promotion Agency 2021 by OCO Global. OCO Global is a leading authority on foreign investment and offers a range of economic development services, products, and unique company assessment tools.
- Invest India, set up in 2009, is a non-profit venture under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

## Science and Technology News

### 8. ISRO GIVES NOD TO PARLIAMENTARY PANEL TO IMPLEMENT SATELLITE TV CLASSROOMS



- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has given its nod to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education to provide technical assistance for satellite TV classrooms in the country to bridge the learning gap due to COVID-induced lockdown.
- ISRO scientists have appeared before the Parliamentary Standing
- Committee for Education and made a detailed presentation about the proposed satellite TV classroom for students.
- ISRO Chairman: K.Sivan.
- ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ISRO established: 15 August 1969.

## 9. INDIAN-AMERICAN SIRISHA BANDLA SET TO FLY INTO SPACE



- India-origin woman Sirisha Bandla will travel to the edge of the space aboard 'VSS Unity' of Virgin Galactic, which is scheduled to fly off on July 11 from New Mexico. This is significant as she will be the third woman of Indian origin to go to space after Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams.
- Bandla, the vice-president of government affairs at Virgin Galactic in Washington DC, will travel alongside his boss and the group's founder, billionaire Richard Branson and four others in the company's spaceflight.

## Sports News

### 10. NORWAY'S KARSTEN WARHOLM BREAKS MEN'S 400 METRES HURDLES WORLD RECORD



- Karsten Warholm, a 25-year-old athlete from Norway, broke the long-standing world record in the 400m hurdles during the Bislett Games. Earlier the record was held by American hurdler Kevin Young for 29 years.
- His mark of 46.78 seconds was set at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, which was finally broken with an official time of 46.70 seconds by Warholm.

### 11. MITHALI RAJ SURPASSES EDWARDS TO BECOME HIGHEST RUN-GETTER

- India captain Mithali Raj became the highest run-getter in women's cricket across formats, overtaking former England skipper Charlotte Edwards. Mithali became the world's most prolific batter in women's internationals, overtaking Edwards' 10,273 runs.
- Suzie Bates of New Zealand is third with 7849 runs. Stafanie Taylor (7832) and Meg Lanning (7024) round up the top five.
- Mithali achieved the feat during the third and final inconsequential ODI against hosts England while chasing 220 for a consolation win.



- In 2020, Raj was named to the ICC's ODI team of the decade, a fitting honour for her consistency in the sport. She is also the most capped player in the history of the women's game, having featured in 11 Tests, 216 ODIs and 89 Twenty20 Internationals so far.

## **12. MAX VERSTAPPEN WINS FORMULA 1'S AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX 2021**

- Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the Austrian Grand Prix at the Red Bull Ring, the ninth race of the 2021 Formula 1 World Championship season.
- Verstappen won the race ahead of Mercedes-AMG's Valtteri Bottas and McLaren's Lando Norris.
- Lewis Hamilton – Bottas' teammate and Verstappen's challenger for the 2021 Drivers' championship – came home in fourth place.

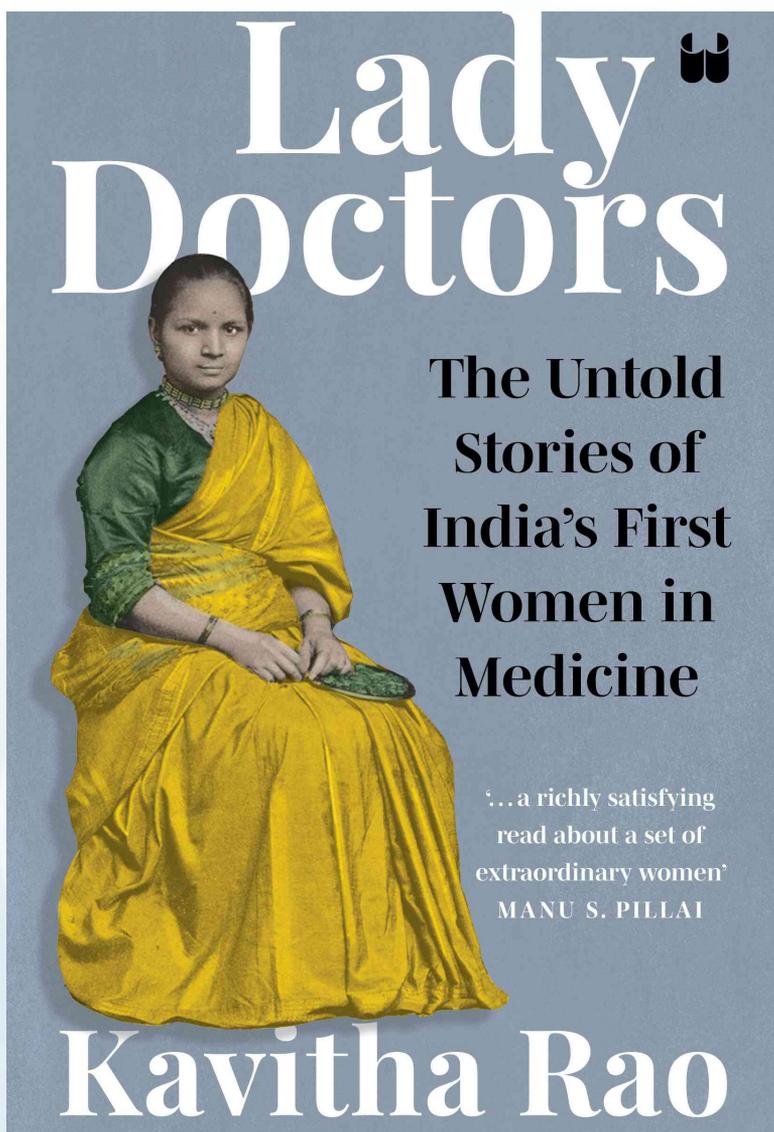


## **Books and Authors**

### **13. “LADY DOCTORS: THE UNTOLD STORIES OF INDIA’S FIRST WOMEN IN MEDICINE” BY KAVITHA RAO**

- A book titled “Lady Doctors: The Untold Stories of India’s First Women in Medicine” was authored by Kavitha Rao. This book recovers the stories of India’s first women doctors, often ignored by history.

- In this excerpt from Kavitha Rao's 'Lady Doctors: The Untold Stories of India's First Women in Medicine, the story of Rukhmabai Raut.
- Rukhmabai was an Indian physician and feminist. She is best known for being one of the first practising women doctors in colonial India as well as being involved in a landmark legal case involving her marriage as a child bride between 1884 and 1888.

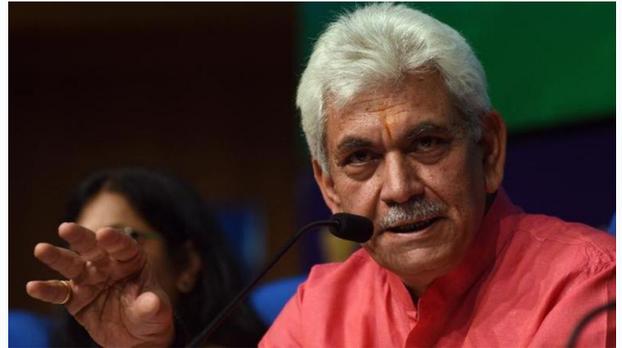


## Miscellaneous News

### 14. J&K ENDS 149-YEAR-OLD DARBAR MOVE TRADITION

- The LG Manoj Sinha formally put an end to a 149-year-old biannual tradition of shifting offices between summer capital Srinagar and winter capital Jammu. The administration served notice to employees to vacate the 'Darbar Move' related accommodations in three weeks in Jammu and Srinagar.
- Administration cancelled the residential accommodation of "darbar move" employees in Jammu and Srinagar, implying the employees will remain stationed in either Jammu or Kashmir.

- Dogra monarch Maharaja Gulab Singh is believed to have started the tradition of shifting the capital in 1872. The tradition was continued after 1947 by J&K's political class, as it acted as a major bridge and a space for interaction between two diverse linguistic and cultural groups of Kashmir and Jammu regions.
- Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir: Manoj Sinha.



## 15 GOI EXTENDS SUPERANNUATION AGE OF LIC CHAIRMAN TO UP TO 62 YEARS

- The government has extended the superannuation age of IPO-bound LIC Chairman, M R Kumar, to up to 62 years by making amendments to the Life Insurance Corporation of India (Staff) Regulations, 1960.
- The changes made in the rules will be called the Life Insurance Corporation of India (Staff) Amendment Rules, 2021, according to a government notification dated June 30, 2021. It is to be noted that the retirement age for the top executives of the majority of PSUs is 60 years, barring a few exceptions, including the State Bank of India (SBI).
- LIC Headquarters: Mumbai;
- LIC Founded: 1 September 1956.

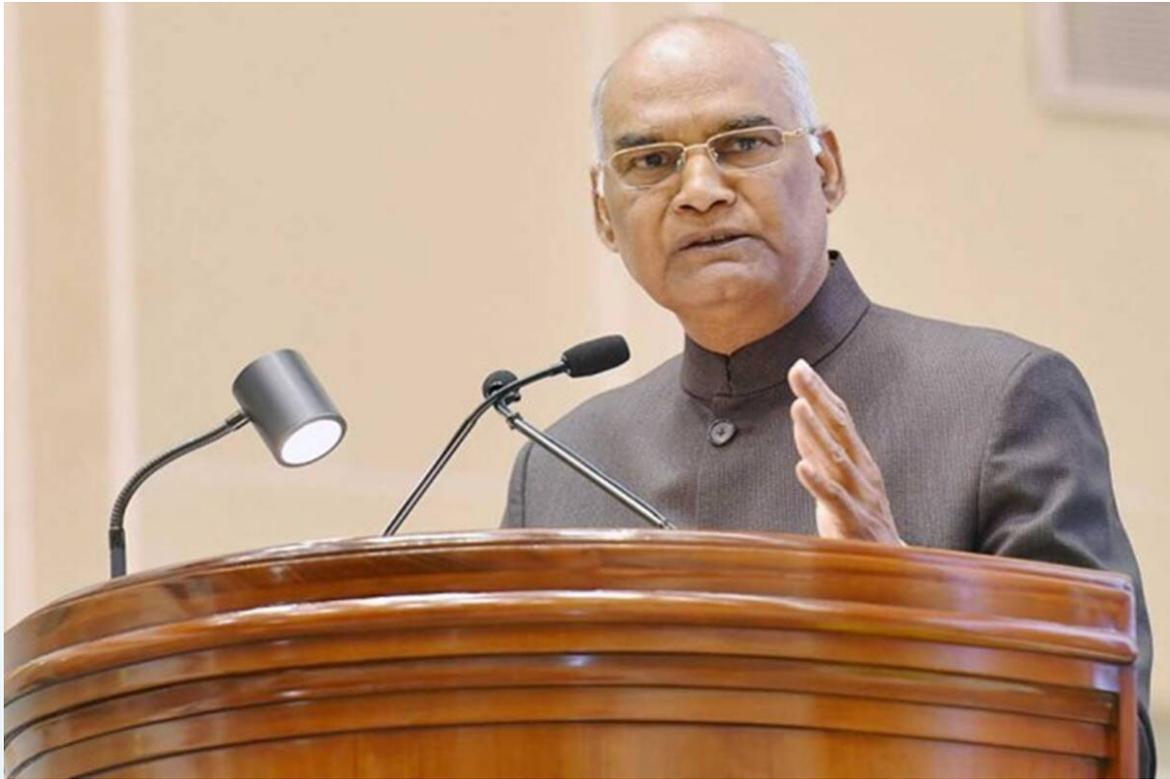


## National News

### 1. PRESIDENT KOVIND APPOINTS NEW GOVERNORS FOR EIGHT STATES

President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has appointed new Governors for eight states. The new governors have been appointed for states including Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Tripura, Jharkhand,

Mizoram and Himachal Pradesh. While some of the current governors have been transferred to new states, in some others new appointments have been made.



### Complete list of new governors:

Sl.no	State	New Governor
1.	Karnataka	Thawarchand Gehlot
2.	Madhya Pradesh	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
3.	Mizoram	Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati
4.	Himachal Pradesh	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
5.	Goa	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
6.	Tripura	Satyadev Narayan Arya
7.	Jharkhand	Ramesh Bais
8.	Haryana	Bandaru Dattatraya

## 2. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION LAUNCHES NIPUN BHARAT PROGRAMME

- Union Minister for Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has launched NIPUN Bharat programme.
- The aim of the NIPUN programme is that every child in India gets foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27. NIPUN stands for National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy.
- This Mission, which has been launched under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha, will focus on providing access and retaining children in foundational years of schooling; teacher

capacity building; development of high quality and diversified Student and Teacher Resources/ Learning Materials; and tracking the progress of each child in achieving learning outcomes.

- To help this scheme achieve its objective, teachers will play an important role. In view of the challenges of in-service teacher training across the different stages of school education, NCERT has designed an innovative integrated programme of teacher training, now, popularly known as NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads'' and Teachers'' Holistic Advancement).



### 3. KVIC PROJECT 'BOLD' TO BOOST TRIBAL INCOME

- KVIC (Khadi and Village Industries Commission) has launched Project BOLD (Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Draught), a first-of-its-kind exercise, to create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones.
- It is the first of its kind exercise in India which was launched from the tribal village Nichla Mandwa in Udaipur, Rajasthan. Under the project, 5000 saplings of special bamboo species i.e. Bambusa Tulda and Bambusa Polymorpha have been planted over 16 acres approx. of vacant arid Gram Panchayat land.
- KVIC Founded: 1956;
- KVIC Headquarters: Mumbai;
- KVIC Chairperson: Vinai Kumar Saxena.



## Agreements News

### 4. FLIPKART PARTNERS WITH PHONEPE TO DIGITISE CASH-ON-DELIVERY PAYMENT

- Digital payments platform PhonePe has partnered with Flipkart to launch a contactless 'Scan and Pay' feature for Flipkart's pay-on-delivery orders.
- Using PhonePe's QR code solution, the Flipkart customers who earlier opted for cash on delivery can pay digitally through any UPI app at the time of delivery.
- While on one hand, the new feature will help in reducing personal contact as well as ensure safety, on the other hand, it will drive contactless payments for customers who are traditionally more comfortable with cash on delivery.
- Flipkart headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Flipkart CEO: Kalyan Krishnamurthy.
- CEO of Phonepe: Sameer Nigam
- Headquarters of Phonepe: Bengaluru, Karnataka.



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**Defence News**

### 5. ARMY INDUCTS 10M BRIDGING SYSTEM DEVELOPED BY DRDO



- The Army inducted the first production lot of 12 Short Span Bridging System (SSBS)-10m, designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in association with Larsen & Toubro Limited, the production agency.
- The SSBS-10m plays a crucial role of bridging the gaps up to 9.5m as a single span providing a 4m wide, fully decked roadway, ensuring faster movement of the troops.
- The project involved the development of two prototypes of 5m SSBS on Tatra 6×6 chassis and another two prototypes of 10m SSBS on Tatra 8×8 re-engineered chassis.
- This bridging system is compatible with the Sarvatra bridging system (75 m), where the last span required covering gaps less than 9.5 m.
- The DRDO has developed a range of bridges for the Army that have already been inducted.
- Chairman DRDO: Dr G Satheesh Reddy.
- DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- DRDO Established: 1958.

## Banking News

### 6. RBI ANNOUNCES CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT SECURITIES AUCTION METHODOLOGY

- The Reserve Bank of India has announced a change in Government securities auction methodology for benchmark securities.
- They noted in the latest update that on a review of market conditions and market borrowing program of the government, it has been decided that benchmark securities of tenor 2-year, 3-year, 5-year, 10-year, 14-year tenor and Floating Rate Bonds (FRBs) will be, henceforth, issued using the uniform price auction method.
- For other benchmark securities i.e. 30-year and 40-year, the auction will continue to be multiple price-based auctions, as hitherto. The above arrangement will continue till further review, note the bank.
- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikanta Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.



## Summits and Conferences News

### 7. PM NARENDRA MODI INAUGURATES THE CO-WIN GLOBAL CONCLAVE

- The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi inaugurated and addressed the CoWin Global Conclave, virtually.
- The global meet was participated by representatives from 142 countries. The Conclave was jointly organized by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and National Health Authority (NHA) with an objective to extend the Co-WIN platform as a digital public good to the world.
- India has offered its indigenously developed cloud-based CoWIN platform to be made open-source so that it is available to any and all countries.
- The CoWin Global Conclave served as a platform to share India's learnings and experiences with regards to planning, strategizing and executing the world's largest vaccination drive through Co-WIN.



## Science and Technology News

### 8. DRDO GIVES LICENCE TO LAURUS LABS TO MAKE & MARKET 2-DG

- Hyderabad-based pharma player Laurus Labs has received a licence from the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) for manufacturing and marketing Covid-19 drug 2-Deoxy-D-Glucose (2-DG) in India.
- The licence to Laurus Labs has been granted by DRDO as part of efforts to make the drug affordable and accessible to patients. DRDO had recently invited expression of interest (EoI) from other pharma companies for manufacturing this drug and had said it would grant licences to 15 companies on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Meanwhile, the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research institution Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT) has been licencing the know-how for 2-DG synthesis to other companies, including Lee Pharma, Suven Pharma, Anthem Biosciences and Nosch Labs.



## Books and Authors

### 9. A BOOK TITLED ‘THE FOURTH LION: ESSAYS FOR GOPALKRISHNA GANDHI’

- A book titled ‘The Fourth Lion: Essays for Gopalkrishna Gandhi’ authored by Venu Madhav Govindu and Srinath Raghavan.
- The book consists of twenty-six essays contributed by individuals drawn from various walks of life and from across the globe. Gopalkrishna Gandhi has been an administrator, diplomat, author, and public intellectual of distinction for over four decades.
- His writings have spanned diverse genres, showcasing both his deep scholarship as well as a profound engagement with issues of politics, history, literature, and culture.



## Sports News

### 10. MARY KOM, MANPREET SINGH TO BE INDIA’S FLAG-BEARERS AT TOKYO OLYMPICS

- MC Mary Kom, the six-time world boxing champion, and Manpreet Singh, the men’s hockey team skipper, will be India’s flag-bearers at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics, announced Indian Olympic Association (IOA).
- Bajrang Punia, a silver medallist at the 2018 World Wrestling Championships, will be the flag-bearer at the closing ceremony on August 8.
- First, India is having two flag-bearers — one male and one female — at the upcoming Tokyo Games to ensure “gender parity”. The IOA has communicated the decision in this regard to the Organising Committee of the Games.



## 11. JAMES ANDERSON CLAIMS 1000<sup>th</sup> FIRST-CLASS WICKET

- Veteran England fast bowler James Anderson has added another feather to his cap as he completed 1000 wickets in first-class cricket. Anderson achieved the rare feat during Lancashire's County Championship clash against Kent in Manchester.
- Anderson is the leading wicket-taker among pacers in Test cricket. In 162 Tests, the England great has claimed 617 wickets at an average of 26.67 with 30 five-fors and three 10-wicket match hauls.
- Anderson is only the 14th player to claim 1,000 first-class wickets this century and only the fifth among pacers. Andy Caddick, Martin Bicknell, Devon Malcolm and Wasim Akram were the other pace bowlers to cross the 1000-wicket landmark before Anderson.

## Important Days

### 12. WORLD ZONOSSES DAY: 6 JULY

- World Zoonoses Day is held every year on July 6 to raise awareness of the risk of zoonotic diseases. Zoonoses are infectious diseases (virus, bacteria and parasites) that can spread from animals to humans, and vice versa, either with direct contact with animals or indirectly, vector-borne or food-borne.
- It was on July 6, 1885, when Louis Pasteur successfully administered the first vaccine against Rabies virus, which is a zoonotic disease.
- World Zoonoses day was observed after Louis Pasteur, a French biologist successfully administered the first vaccine against Rabies virus, which is a zoonotic disease. We remembered this day every day to raise awareness against Zoonotic disease.



## Miscellaneous News

### 13. 52<sup>nd</sup> IFFI TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER 2021 IN GOA

- The 52<sup>nd</sup> edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held in Goa from 20<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The regulations and poster for the 52<sup>nd</sup> IFFI were released by Hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting Shri Prakash Javadekar.
- On the occasion of the birth centenary of the maestro of Indian cinema Shri Satyajit Ray, the "Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema" has been instituted from this year to be given at the IFFI every year starting from this year.



### 14. WAKO INDIA KICKBOXING FEDERATION GETS GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has decided to grant recognition to WAKO India Kickboxing Federation as National Sports Federation (NSF) for promotion and development of the Kickboxing sport in India. To be fully included and accepted in the Olympic movement is important for the recognition and development of the sport of kickboxing.
- It is expected that with government recognition of WAKO India Kickboxing Federation as NSF, the sport of kickboxing will develop at a faster pace in the country. WAKO has been a provisionally recognized member of the IOC Since 30 November 2018. The full recognition of WAKO will be finally decided by the IOC Session in Tokyo in July 2021.
- Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports: Kiren Rijju.



BY SOHIL SINGH

## National News

### 1. GOI LAUNCHES MOBILE APP 'MATSYA SETU' FOR INDIAN AQUA FARMERS

- Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Giriraj Singh has launched the Online Course Mobile App “Matsya Setu”.
- The app was developed by the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar, with the funding support of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad.
- The online course app aims to disseminate the latest freshwater aquaculture technologies to the aqua farmers of the country.



### 2. GOVT CREATES MINISTRY OF COOPERATION TO BOOST COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT

- The government has created a Ministry of Cooperation to boost the Indian cooperative movement and give a fillip to the indigenous enterprises. India's first minister of cooperation will also be sworn in once the Union Cabinet reshuffle takes place and the new ministers take the oath of office at the Durbar Hall in President House.



- The new ministry of Cooperation will work to realise the vision of “Sahakar se Samriddhi” and will provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework to boost the cooperative movement in the country.
- The development will aid the deepening of the cooperatives as true people-based movements with benefits going down to the grassroots. The ministry will be mandated to streamline the processes for the ease of doing business for cooperatives and ultimately aim to broaden and strengthen the multi-state cooperatives.

## Appointments News

### 3. JIM WHITEHURST RESIGNS AS IBM PRESIDENT

- Jim Whitehurst has announced he is stepping down as the president of IBM. Whitehurst’s resignation is being seen as one of the several management moves IBM announced.
- The 53-year-old’s exit led to shares of the technological giant falling 4.8 per cent to \$139.83, the most in five months.
- Whitehurst was appointed as IBM’s president last year. This was the first time in decades that the corporation split up the designation of a chief executive officer (CEO) and president.
- IBM CEO: Arvind Krishna.
- IBM Headquarters: Armonk, New York, United States.



### 4. NITIN GADKARI BECOMES “BRAND AMBASSADOR” OF KHADI PRAKRITIK PAINT

- The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways & MSME, Nitin Gadkari, virtually inaugurated India’s first and only paint made from cow dung, under the brand name ‘Khadi Prakritik Paint’.
- In addition to this, the minister also declared himself as the “Brand Ambassador” of paint, to promote it across the country and encourage young entrepreneurs to take up the manufacturing of cow dung paint.



- The Khadi Prakritik Paint automated manufacturing plant has been set up on the campus of Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute (KNHPI), Jaipur, which is a unit of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

#### 5. NEHA PARIKH APPOINTED AS CEO OF CROWD-SOURCED NAVIGATION APP 'WAZE'

- Indian-American, Neha Parikh, has been appointed as the CEO of Waze, a crowd-sourced GPS navigation app and a subsidiary of tech giant Google.
- The 41-year-old Neha replaces Noam Bardin, who stepped down as the CEO in November 2020, after leading the Israeli company for 12 years.
- The Waze app can give out directions in 56 different languages. The app was founded in Israel in 2008. It was acquired by Google in 2013 for around USD 1.1 billion (110 crores).



## Agreements News

### 6. TOURISM MINISTRY SIGNS MoU WITH YATRA TO STRENGTHEN HOSPITALITY, TOURISM INDUSTRY

- The tourism ministry signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Yatra to strengthen and enable the tourism and hospitality industry.
- The event was organised under an arrangement between the Ministry of Tourism and the Quality Council of India (QCI), where the MoU for the Tourism Ministry Yatra tie-up was signed.
- While the MoU is meant to mainly strengthen tourism, it also takes into consideration and provides support for accommodation units.
- The MoU outlines that both parties signing the document would encourage the accommodation units to self-certify themselves on the System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for the Hospitality Industry (SAATHI) on the Online Travel Agency Platform (OTA).
- Earlier this year, the Ministry of Tourism had also signed an MoU with ClearTrip and Ease My Trip. There has been an ongoing effort by the ministry to strengthen the tourism sector in India while extending support to accommodation units.
- The accommodation units registered on NIDHI and SAATHI on the OTA platform are to be provided with extended visibility with the signing of this MoU. SAATHI is an initiative by the Ministry of Tourism in partnership with the Quality Council of India.
- Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of Tourism: Prahlad Singh Patel.



## Economy News

### 7. GST COLLECTION DIPS BELOW Rs 1 LAKH CRORE IN JUNE

- GST collection dipped below Rs 1 lakh crore in June after staying above that mark for eight consecutive months.
- Centre mopped up Rs 92,849 crore GST for the month of June of which CGST is Rs 16,424 crore, SGST is Rs 20,397 crore, IGST is Rs 49,079 crore (including Rs 25,762 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is Rs 6,949 crore (including Rs 809 crore collected on import of goods).

- With eased relaxations following improvement in the overall Covid-19 situation in the country, the government expects GST revenues to rise from July 2021 onwards.

### List of GST Collection previous months

- May 2021: Rs 1,02,709 crore
- April 2021: Rs 1.41 lakh crore (All time Highest)
- March 2021: Rs. 1.24 lakh crore
- Feb 2021: Rs 1,13,143 crore
- January 2021: Rs 1,19,847 crore



## Business News

### 8. PAYTM LAUNCHES 'POSTPAID MINI' TO PROVIDE SMALL-TICKET INSTANT LOANS

- Paytm has announced the launch of Postpaid Mini, small-ticket loans that will give users the flexibility to access loans ranging from Rs 250 – Rs 1,000, in partnership with Aditya Birla Finance Ltd.
- The product is an extension of its Buy Now, Pay Later service, driving affordability amongst those new to credit. These small ticket instant loans will give flexibility to users and also help manage their household expenses to maintain liquidity during the ongoing Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.
- Paytm Postpaid is offering a period of up to 30 days for repayment of loans at 0 percent interest.
- There are no annual fees or activation charges, only a minimal convenience fee. With the launch of Postpaid Mini, the company will offer access to loans ranging from Rs 250 to Rs 1000, in addition to Paytm Postpaid's instant credit of up to Rs 60,000.
- This could help users pay for their monthly expenses, including mobile and direct to home (DTH) recharges, gas cylinder booking, electricity and water bills, shop on Paytm Mall and more.
- Paytm HQ: Noida, Uttar Pradesh;
- Paytm Founder & CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma;
- Paytm Founded: 2009.



## Committees News

### 9. DPIIT SETS UP 9-MEMBER PANEL TO CURB DIGITAL MONOPOLIES

- The Central Government has formed a nine-member panel for the development of an Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), designed to curb digital monopolies.
- This ONDC project is initiated by the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and will be implemented by the Quality Council of India (QCI).
- The nine-member committee of ONDC will advise the Government of India on measures needed to digitise the entire value chain, standardise operations, promote inclusion of suppliers, derive efficiencies in logistics and enhance value for consumers, among other things.



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### 10. KOREAN AIR WINS AIR TRANSPORT WORLD'S AIRLINE OF THE YEAR AWARD

- Korean Air has been announced the winner of one of the most prestigious honours in the aviation industry: Air Transport World's (ATW) 2021 Airline of the Year. This year's award is even more meaningful to Korean Air, as the global industry has been suffering from the unprecedented crisis caused by COVID-19.
- The company's excellent leadership, its ability to remain operationally profitable through the industry's worst-ever crisis, its strong commitment to health safety customer service excellence, and its remarkable relationship with employees."
- The judges also noted the airline's "transformational strategic deal to incorporate Asiana and create a larger, more global flagship carrier. Korean Air plans to continue to strengthen its position in the global aviation industry and aims to become one of the world's top 10 airlines after successfully acquiring and integrating Asiana Airlines.



## Sports News

### 11. JAIPUR TO GET INDIA'S SECOND-LARGEST CRICKET STADIUM

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) released a financial grant of Rs 100 crore to the Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA), which will be used to build India's second-largest cricket stadium.
- The facility, which will be second to the recently inaugurated Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, is set to be built in Jaipur. The construction of the new stadium is likely to be completed within 24-30 months from commencement.
- Meanwhile, an amount of Rs 290 crores has been estimated to be spent on the construction of the second-largest cricket stadium in India.
- This amount will be sourced from; Rs 100 crore from the bank loan, Rs 100 crore from BCCI grant, Rs 90 crore from RCS funds, sale of boxes, seats & sponsorship. The proposed stadium will have a spectator capacity of 75,000.



## Important Days

### 12. WORLD CHOCOLATE DAY CELEBRATED ON 7<sup>th</sup> JULY

- World Chocolate Day or International Chocolate Day is observed on 7th July every year. The day celebrates the existence of chocolate in our lives. It is marked by eating chocolates and sharing with dear ones.
- The day is an annual global celebration of chocolate, which allows people to gorge and indulge, hopefully guilt-free, in it. World Chocolate Day was first celebrated in the year 2009.



- However, some even believe that people started marking July 7 as International Chocolate Day because it was the day when chocolate was first introduced to Europe in 1550.

## Obituaries News

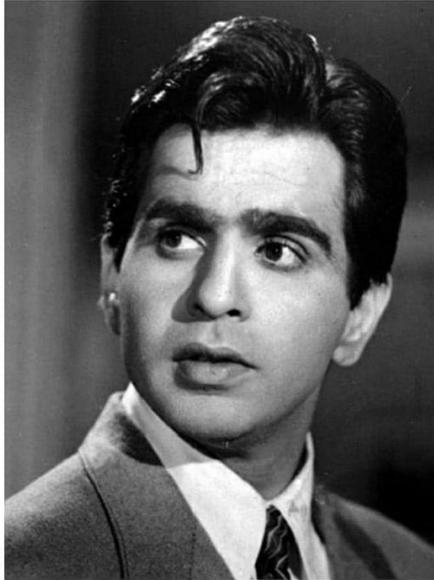
### 13. 'SUPERMAN' DIRECTOR RICHARD DONNER PASSES AWAY

- Ace filmmaker Richard Donner, best known for helping the original 'Superman' film, 'Lethal Weapon' film series and 'The Goonies', has passed away.
- The 91-year-old filmmaker was at the forefront of some of the most popular genres in the history of mainstream cinema: the superhero movie, the horror flick, the buddy cop romps.
- The legend got his first big directing break with the 1976 cult classic horror film 'The Omen', which solidified his foothold in the industry and led to his next major studio film, 'Superman' (also the original) that paved the path for countless other flicks, including 'Goonies', and all of the 'Lethal Weapon' movie series, starring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover.



### 14. LEGENDARY BOLLYWOOD ACTOR DILIP KUMAR PASSES AWAY

- Legendary Bollywood actor Mohammed Yusuf Khan, known professionally as Dilip Kumar, passed away at 98. He was popularly known as the tragic king of Bollywood. He was last seen in the 1998 film Qila.
- He was the first actor to win the Filmfare Award for Best Actor in 1954 and won it a total of 8 times. He and Shah Rukh Khan jointly hold the record for most Filmfare trophies.



—BY SOHIL SINGH

# PLUTUS National News Academy

## 1. CABINET RESHUFFLE: 43 LEADERS TAKE OATH AS MINISTERS



- The Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expanded its council of ministers. The names in the cabinet reshuffle include several new entrants as well as existing ministers who will be reassigned.
- The swearing-in ceremony of 43 Ministers was held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on July 7, 2021. In total, 15 Ministers were inducted into the Union Cabinet and 28 Ministers were inducted as Ministers of State. This is the first cabinet reshuffle since the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) retained power in 2019.

- The Union Cabinet can have 81 members, as per the rule. There were 53 ministers in PM Modi's cabinet but a series of them, including Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, resigned hours before the names were announced.
- PM Modi will continue to head the following – Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; All important policy issues; and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister
- **Here is the list of New Cabinet ministers:**

SI. No	Minister	Ministry
1.	Rajnath Singh	Minister of Defence
2.	Amit Shah	Minister of Home Affairs; and Minister of Cooperation
3.	Mansukh Mandaviya	Minister of Health and Family Welfare; and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers
4.	Nitin Gadkari	Minister of Road Transport and Highways
5.	Nirmala Sitharaman	Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Affairs
6.	Narendra Singh Tomar	Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
7.	Dr S. Jaishankar	Minister of External Affairs
8.	Arjun Munda	Minister of Tribal Affairs
9.	Smriti Irani	Minister of Women and Child Development
10.	Piyush Goyal	Minister of Commerce and Industry; Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of Textiles
11.	Dharmendra Pradhan	Minister of Education; and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
12.	Pralhad Joshi	Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Coal; and Minister of Mines
13.	Narayan Rane	Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
14.	Sarbananda Sonowal	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Minister of AYUSH
15.	Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Minister of Minority Affairs
16.	Dr. Virendra Kumar	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
17.	Giriraj Singh	Minister of Rural Development; and Minister of Panchayati Raj
18.	Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Minister of Civil Aviation
19.	Ashwini Vaishnav	Minister of Railways; Minister of Communications; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology
20.	Ramchandra Prasad Singh	Minister of Steel

21.	Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Minister of Food Processing Industries
22.	Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Minister of Jal Shakti
23.	Kiren Rijiju	Minister of Law and Justice
24.	Ra Kumar Singh	Minister of Power; and Minister of New and Renewable Energy
25.	Hardeep Singh Puri	Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs
26.	Bhupender Yadav	Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of Labour and Employment
27.	Mahendra Nath Pandey	Minister of Heavy Industries
28.	Parshottam Rupala	Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
29.	G. Kishan Reddy	Minister of Culture; Minister of Tourism; and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region
30.	Anurag Singh Thakur	Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

• **Ministers of State (Independent Charge)**

SI. No	Minister	Ministry
1.	Rao Inderjit Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs
2.	Dr Jitendra Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space

• **Ministers of State**

SI. No	Minister	Ministry
1.	Shripad Yesso Naik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism
2.	Faggansingh Kulaste	Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development

3.	Prahalad Singh Patel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries
4.	Ashwini Kumar Choubey	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
5.	Arjun Ram Meghwal	Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture
6.	General (Retd.) V. K. Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation
7.	Krishan Pal	Minister of State in the Ministry of Power; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries
8.	Danve Raosaheb Dadarao	Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways; Minister of State in the Ministry of Coal; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Mines
9.	Ramdas Athawale	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
10.	Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development
11.	Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
12.	Nityanand Rai	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
13.	Pankaj Chaudhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
14.	Anupriya Singh Patel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
15.	Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice
16.	Rajeev Chandrasekhar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
17.	Shobha Karandlaje	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
18.	Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
19.	Darshana Vikram Jardosh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways

20.	V. Muraleedharan	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
21.	Meenakashi Lekhi	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture
22.	Som Parkash	Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
23.	Renuka Singh Saruta	Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs
24.	Rameswar Teli	Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Employment
25.	Kailash Choudhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
26.	Annpurna Devi	Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
27.	A. Narayanaswamy	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
28.	Kaushal Kishore	Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
29.	Ajay Bhatt	Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism
30.	B. L. Verma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Cooperation
31.	Ajay Kumar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
32.	Devusinh Chauhan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications
33.	Bhagwanth Khuba	Minister of State in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
34.	Kapil Moreshwar Patil	Minister of State in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj
35.	Pratima Bhoumik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
36.	Dr. Subhas Sarkar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
37.	Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad	Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
38.	Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
39.	Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

40.	Bishweswar Tudu	Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti
41.	Shantanu Thakur	Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
42.	Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai	Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development; and Minister of State in the Ministry of AYUSH
43.	John Barla	Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs
44.	Dr. L. Murugan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
45.	Nisith Pramanik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

## International News

### 2. HAITI PRESIDENT JOVENEL MOISE ASSASSINATED AT HIS HOME

- Haiti President, Jovenel Moise was assassinated and his wife wounded in an attack at their home, the interim prime minister announced an act that risks further destabilizing the Caribbean nation beset by gang violence and political volatility.
- The president faced steep opposition from swathes of the population that deemed his mandate illegitimate, and he churned through a series of seven prime ministers in four years.
- Most recently, Joseph was supposed to be replaced this week after only three months in the post.
- Haiti Capital: Port-au-Prince;
- Haiti Currency: Haitian gourde;
- Haiti Continent: North America.



## Appointments News

### 3. N VENUDHAR REDDY TAKES CHARGE AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ALL INDIA RADIO

- N Venudhar Reddy, an Indian Information Service, IIS Officer of 1988 batch took charge as Director General of All India Radio. Currently Working as Principal DG of News Services Division, All India Radio, he was given additional charge of AIR, upon the approval of the Appointments Committee of the cabinet. All India Radio, officially known since 1957 as Akashvani.



- Reddy brings with him vast experience in media planning and management, administration and newsgathering. He has also served in various capacities earlier with All India Radio News and Doordarshan News.
- All India Radio Founded: 1936;
- All India Radio Headquarters: Sansad Marg, New Delhi.

#### 4. INDIAN ARMY NAMES FIRING RANGE AFTER VIDYA BALAN

- The Indian Army has named one of its firing ranges in Kashmir after Bollywood actress Vidya Balan. The Vidya Balan firing range is situated at Gulmarg in the Baramulla district of Jammu & Kashmir.
- The decision was taken in recognition of her contribution to Indian cinema. Earlier in the year, the actress and her husband Siddharth Roy Kapoor had attended the Gulmarg Winter Festival organised by the Indian Army.



## Agreements News

### 5. RAZORPAY PARTNERS WITH MASTERCARD TO LAUNCH 'MANDATEHQ'

- Razorpay has partnered with Mastercard to launch 'MandateHQ'. It is a payment interface that will help card-issuing banks to enable recurring payments for their customers.
- It must be noted that the Reserve Bank of India had issued a framework for processing e-mandates on recurring online transactions. The product by Razorpay is a step in this direction.
- The MandateHQ solution can be fully integrated with any bank within seven days. Razorpay's MandateHQ is an API-based plug-n-play solution that reduces the go-live time for any card issuing bank that wishes to enable recurring payments for its customers.
- MandateHQ will also enable businesses, especially subscription-based businesses, to get access to a wider customer base, who use debit cards, as recurring payments were mostly supported via credit cards previously.
- Razorpay Founded: 2013;
- Razorpay CEO: Harshil Mathur (May 2014–);
- Razorpay Headquarters location: Bengaluru;
- Mastercard Headquarters: New York, United States.
- Mastercard President: Michael Miebach.



### 6. BAJAJ ALLIANZ GENERAL TIES UP WITH BANK OF INDIA TO OFFER INSURANCE PRODUCTS

- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance and Bank of India have entered into a corporate agency agreement for the distribution of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance's products through the bank's network of 5084 branches.
- As a part of this agreement, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance will be offering a bouquet of personal lines of products such as motor insurance, health insurance, home insurance, travel insurance along with a commercial line of products like engineering insurance, marine insurance to the bank's customers.
- Managing Director of Bajaj Allianz: Tapan Singhel; Headquartered: Pune, Maharashtra.
- BOI Headquarters: Mumbai; MD and Ceo of BOI: Atanu Kumar Das.



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- Managing Director of Bajaj Allianz: Tapan Singhel; Headquartered: Pune, Maharashtra.
- BOI Headquarters: Mumbai; MD and Ceo of BOI: Atanu Kumar Das.

## Economy News

### 7. GOVERNMENT INCLUDES RETAIL AND WHOLESALE TRADE IN MSME SECTOR

- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has decided to include Retail and Wholesale trade as MSMEs but only for the limited purpose of Priority Sector Lending.
- This means that these segments of businesses can now take loans under the Priority Sector Lending arrangement under the MSME category.
- According to the Retailers Association of India (RAI), this will give retail micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) the support they need to survive, revive and thrive.
- Retail and Wholesale traders can now register on Udyam Registration Portal. It is a portal by the Government of India for the registration of MSMEs.

#### The registration will be allowed under three categories:

- Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles.
- Wholesale trade except for motor vehicles and motorcycles.
- Retail trade except for motor vehicles and motorcycles.



## 8. FITCH RATINGS PROJECTS INDIA GDP GROWTH FOR FY22 AT 10%

- Fitch Ratings has revised its GDP growth projection for India in 2021-22 (FY22) to 10%. Earlier it had projected the same at 12.8%.
- The reason for this cut is the slow recovery of the post-second wave of COVID-19. Fitch believes that rapid vaccination could support a sustainable revival in business and consumer confidence; however, without it, economic recovery would remain vulnerable to further waves and lockdowns.



## Defence News

### 9. INDIAN ARMY INAUGURATES WAR MEMORIAL OF CAPT GURJINDER SINGH SURI

- On the occasion of the birthday of Captain Gurjinder Singh Suri, who died during the operation “Birsa Munda” in 1999, the Indian Army inaugurated a war memorial in memory of Captain in Gulmarg near the Line of Control (LOC).
- Lieutenant Colonel (Col) Tej Prakash Singh Suri (Retd), father of Captain Gurjinder Singh Suri, MVC (Posthumous) was also present on the occasion. Gurjinder Singh Suri was later awarded the Maha Vir Chakra (Posthumous).
- Operation Birsa Munda was a punitive raid conducted against a Pakistani post by a Bihar battalion of the Indian Army, in the month of November 1999.
- This was the time when Operation Vijay had drawn to a close, but the Line of Control was still active with sporadic incidents of trans Line of Control violence. In a swift and meticulously planned operation, the entire Pakistani post was destroyed, killing 17 Pakistani soldiers.



## Awards News

### 10. KAUSHIK BASU AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS HUMBOLDT RESEARCH AWARD

- Indian economist Kaushik Basu has been awarded the Humboldt Research Award for Economics. The award was conferred on him by Professor Dr Hans-Bernd Schäfer of Bucerius Law School in Hamburg, Germany.
- A former chief economist of the World Bank, Basu is currently a professor of Economics at Cornell University. He also served as the Government of India's chief economic advisor from 2009 to 2012. Basu is also a recipient of the Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award in India.
- The prestigious award is sponsored by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and awarded to as many as 100 recipients each year.
- The Humboldt Research Award honours scientists and economists from across the world for their work. The award entails prize money of 60,000 euros and an offer to carry out research projects at a scientific institution in Germany for up to 12 months.



## Sports News

### 11. MUMBAI, PUNE TO HOST 2022 WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP

- Women's Asian Cup in India will be held in Mumbai and Pune after the Asian Football Confederation dropped Bhubaneswar and Ahmedabad as venues to minimise the travelling time for participants and ensure an "optimum environment" for a bio-secure bubble.
- The Mumbai Football Arena at the Andheri Sports Complex and the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Balewadi, Pune have been chosen as the new venues.



- The decision was taken after considering the existing challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and as part of efforts to minimise the travelling time for teams and officials between the venues, whilst ensuring the optimum environment to implement the biomedical bubble for the benefit of all stakeholders.

## Obituaries News

### 12. FORMER HIMACHAL PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER VIRBHADRA SINGH PASSES AWAY

- Senior Congress leader and former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister, Virbhadra Singh, has passed away. The veteran politician was the 4<sup>th</sup> and longest-serving Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh.
- He served as the Chief Minister of the state six times, from April 8, 1983, to March 5, 1990, December 3, 1993, to March 23, 1998, March 6, 2003, to December 29, 2007, and then for the sixth time from December 25, 2012, to December 26, 2017.
- Apart from this, Singh also served as union deputy minister in Tourism and Civil Aviation, Minister of State for Industries, Union Minister of Steel and Union Minister of micro, small & medium enterprises (MSME).



### 13. OLYMPIC GOLD-WINNING HOCKEY LEGEND KESHAV DATT PASSES AWAY

- Two-time Olympic gold medallist in hockey Keshav Datt passed away. He was part of India's historic feat at the 1948 Olympics where they beat home team Britain 4-0 at the Wembley Stadium in London to win the first gold post Independence.
- Before the 1948 Olympics, Datt had toured East Africa under the leadership of hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand in 1947. An integral part of the Indian team, Datt also captained the Mohun Bagan hockey squad from 1951-1953 and again in 1957-1958.



## Miscellaneous News

### 14. DMRC LAUNCHES INDIA'S FIRST UPI-BASED CASHLESS PARKING

- Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has launched India's first FASTag or Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-based parking facility to reduce the time for entry and payment.



- The facility was launched at the Kashmere Gate metro station. As part of the Multi-Model Integration (MMI) initiative, dedicated Intermediate Public Transport (IPT) lanes for autos, taxis and r-Rickshaws were also inaugurated at the station.

–BY SOHIL SINGH

**National News**

## 1. DEPT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES BROUGHT UNDER FINANCE MINISTRY



- The Government of India has decided to bring the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) under the finance ministry. DPE was earlier under the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.

- It has been brought under the finance minister in a bid to ease coordination regarding future disinvestment plans. The Finance ministry now comprises six departments, after the inclusion of DPE.

**Other five departments are:**

- Department of Economic Affairs,
- Department of Expenditure,
- Department of Revenue,
- Department of Investment & Public Asset Management and
- Department of Financial Services.
- Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Affairs: Nirmala Sitharaman.

## International News

### 2. WORLD'S TALLEST SANDCASTLE CONSTRUCTED IN DENMARK

- A sandcastle in Denmark has entered into the new Guinness World Record for being the tallest sandcastle in the world. The triangular-shaped sandcastle has been built in the town of Blokhuis in Denmark.
- It stands at a height of 21.16 metres (69.4 feet). This new structure is 3.5m taller than the previous record held by a sandcastle measuring 17.66 m in Germany in 2019. Dutch creator, Wilfred Stijger, was assisted by 30 of the world's best sand sculptors.
- The structure is built in the shape of a triangle to avoid collapsing like many others have. A wooden structure was built around it to allow the artist to carve the incredible figures in the sand.
- This highly decorated monument in the small seaside village of Blokhuis, which is reminiscent of a pyramid, is made up of 4,860 tonnes of sand. To ensure the sand sticks, it was mixed with around 10% clay.
- Denmark Currency: Danish krone.



## State News

### 3. INDIA'S FIRST MARITIME ARBITRATION CENTRE TO BE SET UP IN GANDHINAGAR



- The Gujarat Maritime University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) in GIFT City to set up the Gujarat International Maritime Arbitration Centre (GIMAC).
- GIMAC will be the first of its kind centre in India to manage arbitration and mediation proceedings for disputes related to the maritime and shipping sector. It will be part of a maritime cluster that is being set up by the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) at GIFT City in Gandhinagar.
- There are over 35 arbitration centres in India. However, none of them exclusively deals with the maritime sector. The arbitration involving Indian players is now heard at the Singapore Arbitration Centre.
- The idea is to create a world-class arbitration centre focused on maritime and shipping disputes that can help resolve commercial and financial conflicts between entities having operations in India.
- Gujarat Chief Minister: Vijay Rupani;
- Gujarat Governor: Acharya Devvrat.

### 4. KERALA GOVT. TO HAVE ITS OWN OTT PLATFORM

- Kerala government has proposed to have its own over-the-top (OTT) platform. The state government has planned to launch it by November 1.
- The State government's proposed foray into the online content streaming space with the launch of an over-the-top (OTT) platform is a cultural intervention, rather than something prompted by the market or revenues.
- OTT players like Netflix and Amazon have been showing more interest in Malayalam cinema. But they are mostly limited to films from which they can get revenue.
- In the last one year, less than 15 Malayalam films, featuring big stars, have been taken up on these platforms.
- Furthermore, smaller & home-grown OTT platforms such as New Stream and Mainstream TV do not have much finance to match bigger players.
- Thus, the state government proposed this OTT platform which will ensure space and make some sort of revenue share for lower budget & independent films that are struggling to find space among the public.

## Defence News

### 5. INS TABAR CONDUCTS MILITARY EXERCISE WITH ITALIAN NAVY



- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tabar recently participated in military exercises with the frontline frigate of the Italian Navy. INS Tabar joined Italian Navy and entered the Port of Naples on July 3 as part of the ongoing deployment in the Mediterranean.
- Commanding officer Captain Mahesh Mangipudi called on senior officers of the Prefect of Naples Authority, regional Italian navy headquarters and coast guard headquarters during the stay.
- This exercise covered several naval operations such as air defence procedures, communication drills, replenishment at sea, and cross deck helo operations by day and night. The exercise was mutually beneficial for enhancing interoperability and consolidating combined operations against maritime threats.

### 6. MINISTRY OF DEFENCE IMPLEMENTS SPARSH SYSTEM

- The Ministry of Defence has implemented SPARSH (System for Pension Administration Raksha), an integrated system for automation of sanction and disbursement of defence pension.
- This web-based system processes pension claims and credits pension directly into the bank accounts of defence pensioners without relying on any external intermediary.

- A Pensioner Portal is available for pensioners to view their pension-related information, access services and register complaints for redressal of grievances, if any, relating to their pension matters.
- SPARSH envisages the establishment of Service Centres to provide last-mile connectivity to pensioners who may be unable to directly access the SPARSH portal for any reason.
- In addition to several offices of the Defence Accounts Department, which are already functioning as Service Centres for pensioners, the two largest banks dealing with defence pensioners – State Bank of India (SBI) and Punjab National Bank (PNB) – have been co-opted as Service Centres.
- Minister of Defence: Rajnath Singh.

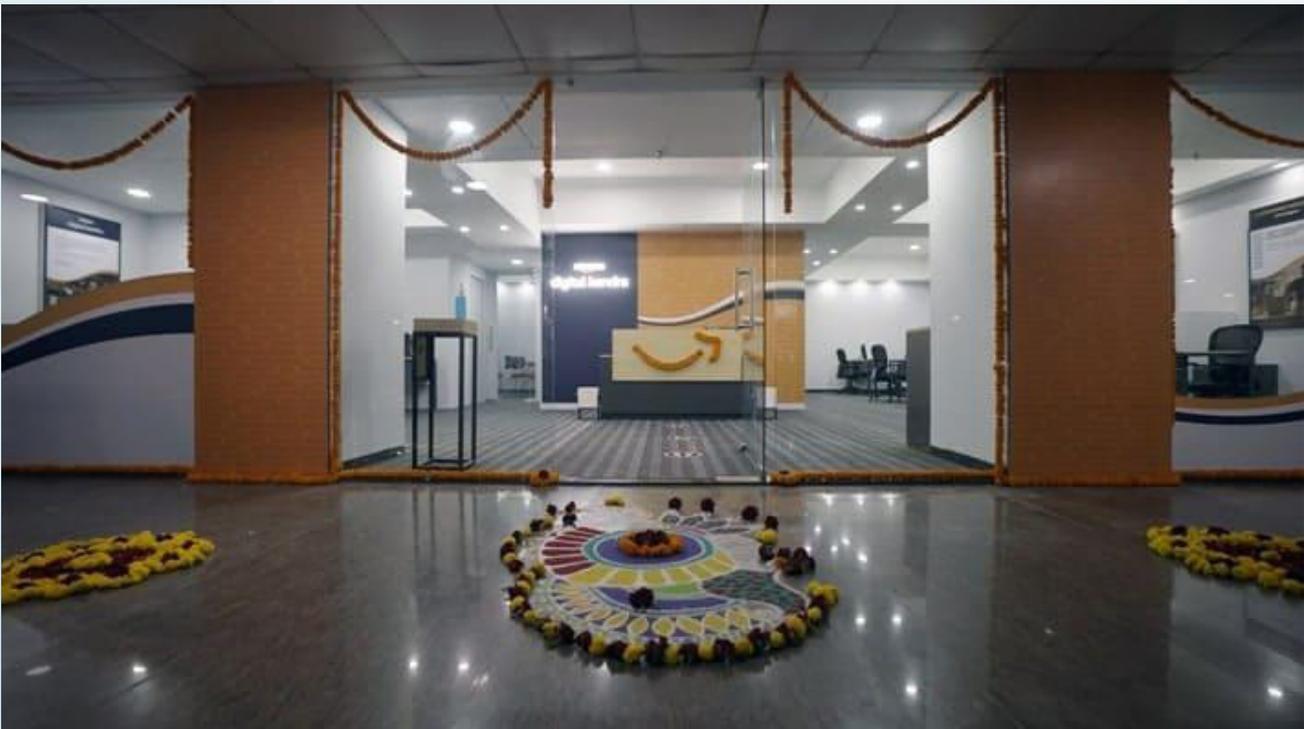


रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

## Business News

### 7. AMAZON LAUNCHES ITS FIRST DIGITAL KENDRA IN INDIA IN GUJARAT

- Amazon has launched its first Digital Kendra in India in Surat, Gujarat. Amazon Digital Kendra was inaugurated by Vijay Rupani, Chief Minister of Gujarat.
- Digital Kendras of Amazon are centres that will provide micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) the opportunity to learn about the benefits of e-commerce.
- MSMEs can visit the Amazon Digital Kendra and avail of third party services including training on the benefits of eCommerce, GST and taxation support, shipping and logistics support, cataloguing assistance and digital marketing services.



- The company has focused on enabling sellers to reach customers across India and globally, and has made significant investments in technology, logistics, delivery infrastructure and digitising payments that collectively helped more customers and businesses to come online.
- Amazon CEO: Andrew R. Jassy;
- Amazon Founded: 5 July 1994.

## Ranks and Reports News

### 8. NEWSOnAIR RADIO LIVE-STREAM GLOBAL RANKINGS

- NewsOnAir Radio Live-stream Global Rankings was released recently, ranking countries where All India Radio (AIR) live-streams on the NewsOnAir app are most popular.
- In the latest Rankings of top countries in the world (excluding India) where All India Radio Live-streams on NewsOnAir App are most popular, Fiji has jumped from 5th position to 2nd, while Saudi Arabia has made a comeback in the top 10.
- Kuwait and Germany are new entrants, while France and New Zealand are no longer in the top 10. The United States continues to be number 1.



#### NewsOnAir Top Countries (Rest of world)

Rank	Country
1.	United States
2.	Fiji
3.	Australia
4.	United Kingdom
5.	Canada
6.	United Arab Emirates
7.	Singapore
8.	Kuwait
9.	Saudi Arabia
10.	Germany

- AIR is the National Public Radio Broadcaster of India. Since 1956 it is officially known as Akashvani.
- Founded in 1936, it is a division of Prasar Bharati.

## Schemes and Committees News

### 9. GOI SETS UP 25-MEMBER DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR CEMENT INDUSTRY

- The central government has set up a 25-member development council for the cement industry under Dalmia Bharat Group CMD, Puneet Dalmia.
- The council will suggest ways to eliminate waste, obtain maximum production, improve quality, reduce costs and promote standardization of products. Dalmia is the chairman of the council.
- Its members include Shree Cement Ltd MD HM Bangur, The India Cements Ltd Executive President Rakesh Singh; Birla Corporation Limited CEO Pracheta Majumdar; J.K. Cement Ltd Deputy Managing Director Madhavkrishna Singhania, and JSW Cement Ltd CEO Nilesh Narwekar.



## Science and Technology News

### 10. FACEBOOK LAUNCHES NEWSLETTER PLATFORM “BULLETIN”

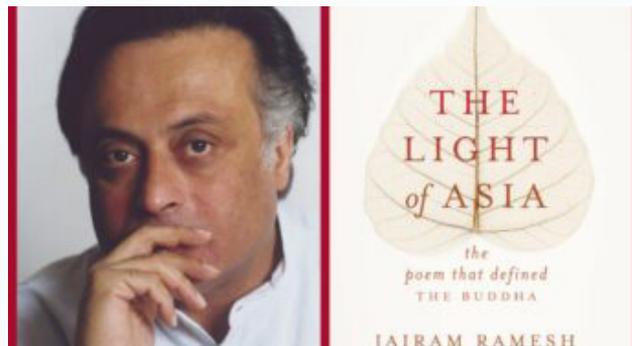
- Facebook has announced a set of publishing and subscription tools named Bulletin, aimed to promote independent writers in the US.
- The bulletin will include support focused on the creation of content, monetisation and audience growth. It also aims to integrate its existing tools to support writing and audio content — from podcasts to Live Audio Rooms in one place.
- Facebook is pushing to compete in the fast-growing email newsletter trend, as high-profile journalists and writers have left media companies over the past year to strike out on their own.
- Facebook Founded: February 2004;
- Facebook CEO: Mark Zuckerberg;
- Facebook Headquarters: California, United States.

FACEBOOK Bulletin

## Books and Authors News

### 11. A NEW BOOK TITLED “THE LIGHT OF ASIA” BY JAIRAM RAMESH

- A new book titled “The Light of Asia” authored by Jairam Ramesh is a biography of an epic bio-poem on Buddha.
- Ramesh, the author, Member of Parliament, former Union Minister, and Congress leader, digs deep in his new book to bring out the fascinating story behind the epic 1879 poem, “The Light of Asia” by Sir Edwin Arnold, that took the world by storm and in some ways, brought the Buddha’s story to the world at the turn of the last century.



## Miscellaneous News

### 12. INDIA’S FIRST MOVABLE FRESHWATER TUNNEL AQUARIUM INSTALLED AT BENGALURU STATION



- Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station, also known as Bengaluru City Railway Station, has become the first railway station in India with a movable freshwater tunnel aquarium.
- The state-of-the-art aquarium has been jointly opened by the Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) in collaboration with the HNi Aquatic Kingdom.

- The Aquatic Kingdom aquarium is based on the concept of the Amazon River and is 12-feet long. The entrance of the station now gives a glimpse into marine life, with a beautiful dolphin humbly greeting visitors with a slight bow and a smile. A 3D selfie area, 20 feet of glass periphery are also some attractive features of the new facility.

### **13. ANTARCTICA HITS A RECORD TEMPERATURE OF 18.3 DEGREES CELSIUS**

- The United Nations' World Meteorological Organization, recognised a new record high temperature for Antarctica. On February 6, 2020, the Esperanza station (the Argentine research station in the Trinity Peninsula) experienced 18.3 degrees Celsius.
- According to the UN agency, the high temperatures in Antarctica are a result of a large high-pressure system creating “fohn conditions”, which are downslope winds creating significant surface warming. The previous record for high temperature was 17.5 degrees Celsius, recorded on March 24, 2015, at the same station.



–BY SOHIL SINGH