



## Current Affairs Supplement

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July 2021

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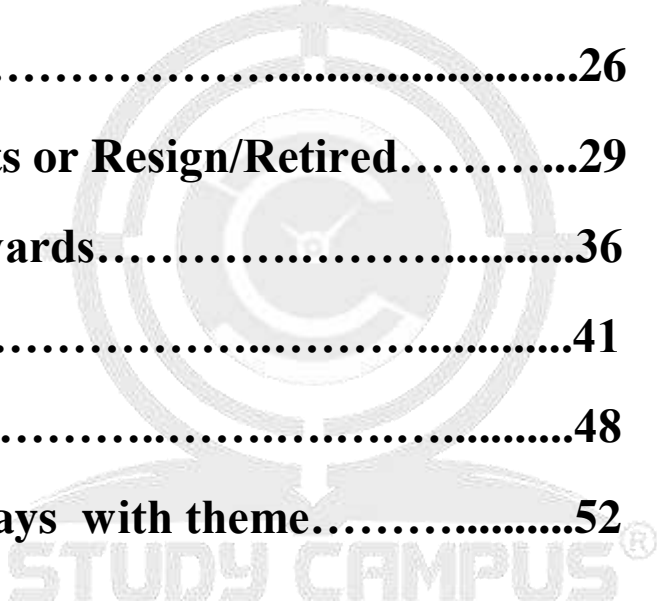
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## National

### States, UTs to Implement 'One Nation One Ration Card' by July 31, 2021: Supreme Court Order

The Supreme Court(SC) directed States and Union Territories (UT) to extend the implementation of the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme (ONORC) by **July 31, 2021**, to ensure food security, cash transfers and other welfare measures for migrant workers under COVID-19.

- The bench of justices Ashok Bhushan and M R Shah mentioned the difficulties faced by 38 crore migrant workers around India, who form one-fourth of the country's population during the second wave of COVID-19 due to lack of ration cards.
- It also directed that the process of registration of the unorganised labourers / migrant workers be completed at the earliest, but not later than December 31, 2021.

#### Highlights of the SC orders:

- Hence the SC insisted on the need for the ONORC scheme as it will enable the migrant workers to get ration at the place of their work i.e. in other states where they won't be having a registered ration card.
- The SC ordered the State governments to frame schemes to distribute dry ration to migrant workers by July 31, 2021, and ordered the Centre to supply whatever additional quantity of food grains a State is demanding.

#### About 'One Nation, One Ration Card' (ONORC) scheme:

- It was started in **June 2019** to enable migrant workers and their family members to buy subsidised ration from any fair price shop anywhere in the country under the National Food Security Act(NFSA), 2013.
- As of March 2021, 17 states have implemented the scheme, the 4 States/UT (Assam, Chhattisgarh, Delhi & West Bengal) were not yet covered under the scheme.

### RIL Signed Strategic Partnership with ADNOC to Build Mega Chemical Projects in UAE

Reliance Industries Ltd (**RIL**) signed a strategic partnership with the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (**ADNOC**) to establish a mega chemical project in Al Ruwais city, United Arab Emirates(**UAE**).

This project, a joint venture of ADNOC and ADQ (formerly known as Abu Dhabi Development Holding(ADDH) Co), will be constructed at the TA'ZIZ Industrial Chemical Zone in Ruwais Abu Dhabi, UAE. This is the first investment by Reliance in UAE.

- This agreement enhances the ADNOC's downstream and industry growth plans in line with ADNOC's 2030 strategy.
- Contracts have been awarded for the first stages of development of the TA'ZIZ site.

#### Features of the partnership:

- Under this partnership, RIL and ADNOC will construct an integrated plant with a capacity

to produce 940000 tonnes of chlor-alkali, 1.1 million tonnes of ethylene dichloride and 360000 tonnes of polyvinyl chloride(PVC).

ii. The partnership utilises the increasing demand for critical industrial raw materials and utilises the strengths of ADNOC and RIL.

iii. This project will manufacture ethylene dichloride(EDC), a key product for the production of PVC in India.

#### **About Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC):**

**Group CEO**– H. E. Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber

**Headquarters**– Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates(UAE).

#### **Kaushik Basu Authored a New Book Titled “Policymaker’s Journal: From New Delhi to Washington, DC”**

Indian Economist and Padma Bhushan **Kaushik Basu** has authored a new book titled “**Policymaker’s Journal: From New Delhi to Washington, D.C.**”. The book features the journal records of his career of 7 years, during which he served as the Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) to the Indian Government and the Chief Economist at the **World Bank** in Washington D.C.,

The book is published by **Simon & Schuster Publishers India Pvt Ltd.**

#### **About the book:**

This book is a revised version of Kaushik Basu’s journal which also features his encounters with world leaders and influencers like Manmohan Singh, Narendra Modi, Barack Obama, Sheikh Hasina, Deepika Padukone among others.

#### **Other Books by Kaushik Basu:**

Kaushik Basu has authored more than 20 book which includes,

- An Economist in the Real World: The Art of Policymaking in India
- Prelude to Political Economy: A Study of the Social and Political Foundations of Economics
- Beyond the Invisible Hand: Groundwork for a New Economics

#### **Prakash Javadekar e-inaugurated Asia’s longest & World’s 5<sup>th</sup> largest HST in Pithampur, Indore (MP)**

In the lines of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Initiative, Union Minister Prakash Kehav Javadekar, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (MoHI&PE) virtually inaugurated Asia’s longest and world’s 5<sup>th</sup> largest 11.3 km **NATRAX (National Automotive Test Tracks) High-Speed Track (HST)** in India’s Pithampur district of Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

- The project NATRAX was built under **NATRiP** (National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project) of MoHI&PE. NATRiP is a 100% Government funded project worth Rs. 3727.30 crore.
- HST will be used for measuring the **maximum speed capabilities** of high-performance two-wheelers, premium luxury cars and heaviest tractor trailers and other categories of vehicles.

**Features of NATRAX-HST:**

- i. It is an **oval-shaped** test track with four independent lanes each measuring 16 metres wide.
- ii. It has been developed across 1,000 acres and its proving ground covers 2,900 acres.
- iii. It is designed for neutral speeds of **250 kmph** (kilometre per hour) and maximum speeds of up to **375 kmph** on curbs. There is no limit to maximum speed on the straight patch.
- iv. It has **multiple test capabilities** like measurements of maximum speed, acceleration, constant speed fuel consumption, emission tests through real road driving simulation, high-speed handling and stability evaluation during manoeuvre, among others.

**Key Points:**

- i. With this HST now there is no need to send domestic vehicles and foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) like Volkswagen, FCA, Peugeot, Renault, Lamborghini etc. abroad for testing.
- ii. The track is also open for vehicles from overseas for the testing process.

**Central Government creates 'Ministry of Co-operation' to Strengthen Cooperative Movement**

The Central Government has created a separate '**Ministry of Co-operation (Sahkarita Mantralaya)**' to provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening the **Co-operative Movement in India**. The New Ministry has been carved out from the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Agriculture Welfare.

- The new process will help in realizing the government's vision of '**Sahakar se Samridhi**' (prosperity from cooperation).
- The New Ministry will work to streamline processes for 'Ease of doing businesses for cooperatives and enable development of Multi-State Co-operatives (MSCS).
- The announcement for creation of a separate Ministry for Co-operation was made by Union Minister of Finance, Nirmala Sitharaman during the Budget Session of 2021-22.

**Legal Process**

The New Ministry has been created through the creation of new rules under 'Government of India (Allocation of Business) Three Hundred and Sixty Second Amendment Rules, 2021' which amends the 'Government of India (Allocation of Business Rules), 1961'.

- The President exercising his powers conferred by Clause (3) of Article 77 of the Constitution approved the amendment.

**Google India becomes 1st SSMI to publish Transparency report under New IT rules**

Google India became the **1st technology company** which is qualified as 'Significant Social Media Intermediaries (SSMIs)' to publish a **Transparency report** under the new 'Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021'.

- Transparency report includes details of complaints received from users in India and the action taken across Google's platform between April 1-30, 2021.
- **SSMIs** are technology platforms which have more than 5 million users.

### **New IT Rules**

The 'Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021' has been framed in exercise of powers under section 87 (2) of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and in supersession of the earlier Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011. It was released by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

- Objective** – The rules have been framed after growing concerns about lack of transparency, accountability and rights of users related to digital media.
- The new IT rules aim to establish a **soft-touch self-regulatory architecture** and a **Code of Ethics** and **three tier grievance redressal mechanism** for news publishers and OTT Platforms and digital media.

### **About Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**

**Union Minister** – Ashwini Vaishnaw (Rajya Sabha – Odisha)

**MoS** – Rajeev Chandrasekhar (Rajya Sabha – Karnataka)

### **About Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**

**Union Minister** – Anurag Singh Thakur (Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh)

**MoS** – L. Murugan

### **Finance Ministry Scrapped LIC's Chairman Post; To Have MD & CEO**

On July 09, 2021, the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, Ministry of Finance, removed the position of **chairman** from the IPO (Initial Public Offer) bound – Life Insurance Corporation of India (**LIC**) and it will have Managing Director (**MD**) and Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**), by making amendments over the LIC Act 1956. It will create CEO post after this (Currently there is no CEO in LIC).

- The MD and CEOs will be appointed by the Central Government under section 4 of the LIC Act 1956.
- Currently, LIC has **MR Kumar** as its chairman and 4 MDs viz, Vipin Anand, Mukesh Kumar Gupta, Raj Kumar, and Siddhartha Mohanty.

### **Other Amendments:**

**ii.** The LIC (Special Allowance for In-House Development of Actuarial Capability) Rules, 2002 to appoint a full-time actuary for LIC was also amended.

- **Condition:** The designated actuary will have to be a member of the Institute of Actuaries of India or Institute of Actuaries, London, and should be nominated by the CEO or a committee authorised by him.

**iii.** Rules under pension schemes were also amended to empower the board to take decisions pertaining to it.

### **IPO of LIC:**

**i.** At the Budget 2021, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the IPO of LIC, to be floated in 2021-22 as a part of the **Rs 1.75 lakh crore** disinvestment target.

### A Book on the Rise of Indian-Americans Inspired by Kamala Harris

A group of Indian-Americans, scholars, diplomats and entrepreneurs have come together to write first of its kind an anthology named '**Kamala Harris and the Rise of Indian Americans**' to document the history of the rise of Indian diaspora's in the United States(US) and the progress election of Kamala Harris as the Vice President of the US.

- The anthology is compiled and edited by Indian editor, **Tarun Basu**.
- The anthology combines the stories of the Indian-American community's experience and the rapid emergence of Indian-Americans in US life. In which, the Scholars, diplomats, entrepreneurs, and others detail their paths to success and perspectives on diasporic progress.
- Kamala Harris is the current vice president of the US. She is the 1st female vice president and the highest-ranking female official in U.S. history, as well as the 1st African American and first Asian American vice president.

**Note** – Anthology is a collection of literary works of different authors compiled together.

### US Became the 4th Largest Crude Oil Supplier to India in 2020

As per the 70th edition of BP's report named '**Statistical Review of World Energy 2021**', the United States (US) became the **4th** largest **supplier of crude oil** and natural gas to India in **2020**.

- Even though the US has started exporting oil to India in 2017, its supply accounted for about **5 percent** of India's total imports of 204 million tonnes in 2020.

### Top 4 Crude Oil Supplier to India in 2020:

S.No.	Country	Oil Supplied (million tonnes)
1.	Iraq	47
2.	Saudi Arabia	38
3.	United Arab Emirates (UAE)	22
4.	US	10.7

### Central Govt reorganized Cabinet Committees; New Names Included

i.After a major reorganization in Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi led union cabinet, the Government has reconstituted the cabinet committees with the inclusion of new ministers.

### Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs:

**Head**– PM Narendra Modi

**Members**– It comprises **12** members including new members' viz. Union Minister **Smriti Zubin Irani**, Ministry of Women and Child Development; Union Minister **Bhupender Yadav**, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), and Ministry of Labour and Employment; and Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal**, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), and Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy)

**Static:**

There are **8** Cabinet Committees which are basically sub-committees within the Union Cabinet to look at specific issues, including security, economy, and even deciding on dates for Parliament sessions.

**Former Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale authored a new book “The Long Game: How the Chinese Negotiate with India”**

**Vijay Keshav Gokhale** former Foreign Secretary of India has authored a new book titled **“The Long Game: How the Chinese Negotiate with India”**. The book is focused on diplomacy and China's method of operations in diplomatic negotiations.

The book is published by **Vintage Books**, a subdivision of Random House, an international publishing group.

**About the book:**

- i. The book examines how China negotiated with India in the past through 6 historical and recent events in the Indo China relationship.
- ii. The book aims to identify the strategy, tactics and tools used by China during its diplomatic negotiations with India.

**About Vijay Gokhale:**

- i. Vijay Keshav Gokhale from Pune, Maharashtra is a 1981-batch IFS (Indian Foreign Service) officer (retired).
- ii. He has served as the 32nd Foreign secretary of India from January 2018 and retired in January 2020.
- iii. He has also served as the High Commissioner of India to Malaysia between 2009 to 2013.
- iv. He has served as the Indian Ambassador to Germany from 2013 to 2016 and as Ambassador to China from 2016 to 2017.
- v. His **first book** was “Tiananmen Square – The Making of a Protest” published by HarperCollins India in May 2021.

**India's 1st 'Grain ATM' set up as Pilot Project in Gurugram, Haryana**

Haryana's Minister for Food & Civil Supplies Department & Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala stated that India's 1st Grain ATM called **'Automated, Multi Commodity, Grain Dispensing Machine'** has been installed in **Farrukhnagar, Gurugram district, Haryana**. It has been set up as part of a pilot project under the **'World**





**Food Programme** of the United Nations.

- The machine which works like Bank ATMs can dispense approximately **70 kg of grains in 5-7 minutes**. It will dispense the quantity of ration as allocated by the Haryana government per individual family in the respective food bag designated at the ATM machine.
- The machines are set to be installed at all ration depots across the state; they will address the complaints regarding the time and right measurement of ration quantity.
- It will bring in more **transparency** in the Public Food Distribution system.
- The machine works like a bank ATM, using it 3 types of grains – Wheat, Rice and Millet can be distributed.

The grain machine is equipped with Biometry and a touch screen, any error in the measurement of grain is negligible.

### **PM Modi Inaugurates Railway Projects worth INR 1,110 Crore in Gujarat**

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated & dedicated several Railway Projects worth INR 1,100 crore in Gujarat.

- Inauguration of **India's 1st Re-developed railway station – Gandhinagar Capital Railway Station**.
- Gauge converted cum electrified Mahesana – Varethha line & the newly electrified 266 Km Surendranagar – Pipavav section (~ INR 289 crores).
- Inauguration of 3-new attractions at Gujarat Science City, Ahmedabad.
- PM Flagged off 2 new trains i.e Gandhinagar Capital – Varanasi Superfast Express and MEMU (Mainline Electric Multiple Unit) service trains between Gandhinagar Capital and Varethha.

### **Refurbished Gandhinagar Capital Railway Station**

PM Modi inaugurated the newly renovated Gandhinagar Capital railway station. It is India's 1st redeveloped station in line with Narendra Modi government's plan to modernise railway stations through Public Private Partnerships.

- It has been redeveloped at a cost of **~INR 71 crore** with world-class amenities, at par with modern airports.
- A newly-built **five-star hotel** atop the renovated Gandhinagar railway station was also inaugurated. It has been built at a cost of **~ INR 800 crore** by the Railways, and the Gandhinagar Railway and Urban Development Corporation (GARUD).

### India's 1st Monk Fruit Cultivation Exercise begins in Kullu, HP

The 'monk fruit' which is native to China was introduced for field trials in Himachal Pradesh (HP) by Palampur-based Council of Scientific Research and Industrial Technology-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT) in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh. It is the 1st ever monk fruit cultivation exercise in India.



- The field trials have begun 3 years after the CSIR-IHBT imported its seeds from China. It is currently cultivated only in China.
- Monk Fruit is known for its properties as a **non-caloric natural sweetener**.

### Reliance Retail Acquired 40.95% Stake in Just Dial for Rs 3,497 Crore

**Reliance Retail Ltd**, the largest retail player of India and the subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd (**RIL**) has made an agreement with **Just Dial Ltd** and its founder & managing director VSS Mani to acquire an aggregate of **40.95 percent** share of controlling stake in Just Dial for a total of **Rs 3,497 crore**.

- Initially Reliance Retail will acquire a 25.33 percent stake through preferential shares (at a price of Rs 1,022.25 per share) and later it will buy another 15.62 percent from Just Dial founder VSS Mani (at a price per share of Rs 1,020).
- After the acquisition, Reliance Retail plans to make an open offer to Just Dial's public shareholders to acquire up to 2.17 crore equity shares representing 26 percent.
- The current acquisition by Reliance Retail is intended to strengthen its online presence, with the same motive, it has recently acquired online pharmacy **Netmeds** and furniture retailer **Urban Ladder**.
- VSS Mani will again continue as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Just Dial after acquisition.

#### About Just Dial Ltd:

**Establishment** – 1996, 2007 (www.justdial.com launched)

**Headquarters** – Mumbai, Maharashtra

**CEO** – VSS Mani

#### About Reliance Group:

**Headquarters** – Mumbai, Maharashtra

**Group Chairman & CEO** – Anil Dhirubhai Ambani

### India's First Pod taxi to be Launched in UP Between Noida Airport, Film City

India's 1st Pod taxi service to be launched in Uttar Pradesh (UP) between the

upcoming '**Noida International Airport**' (NIA) (Jewar airport) and the proposed '**Film city**' in Uttar Pradesh (UP). '**Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority**' (YEIDA) has reported about the final Detailed Project Report (DPR) about the Project.



- The project will cost Rs.862 crore and it will run around **14.5 km** between the airport and film city.
- On July 17, 2021, Zurich Airport International AG, the Swiss company, signed a shareholder agreement with Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) for the development of the NIA in Jewar, UP.

#### **About Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA):**

**Establishment** – 2001 (Formerly Taj Expressway Industrial Development Authority)

**Headquarters** – Noida, Uttar Pradesh

**Chairman** – Arvind Kumar

#### **IOC to Build India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant at Mathura Refinery, UP**

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is set to build **India's 1st 'Green Hydrogen' plant** at Mathura refinery, Uttar Pradesh (UP). Through this, it aims to cater to the growing demand for cleaner forms of energy.



- It will be India's 1st Green Hydrogen Unit. Previous projects have been announced to produce 'green hydrogen' using fossil fuels such as natural gas.
- Green Hydrogen will **replace the carbon-emitting fuels used in Mathura refinery** to process crude oil into value-added products like petrol and diesel.
- Green hydrogen is hydrogen produced by splitting water by electrolysis. The process to make **green hydrogen is powered by renewable energy sources** such as wind or solar.
- IOC has set a vision to focus on Petrochemicals, hydrogen and electric mobility in the next 10 years.

#### **India Became 4th Country & Maharashtra Became 1st State – To Implement Blockchain-Powered Educational Documents**

The government of **Maharashtra**, with the help of **LegitDoc**, a blockchain startup, plans to implement the **world's largest** blockchain-powered educational credentialing system by issuing tamper-proof digital diploma certificates under the blockchain system.

- Through such initiative, the Govt of Maharashtra became the **1st** state in India to implement a blockchain-based educational document registry, and around the globe, India (Maharashtra Government) became the **4th country** to achieve such registry after **Malta, Singapore, and Bahrain**.
- LegitDoc, a SaaS (software as a service) based platform, has supported the Maharashtra govt in issuing and verifying around **1 million** digital diploma certificates for students of 'Maharashtra State Board of Skill Development' (**MSBSD**) across 8 academic years.

### About Maharashtra State Board of Skill Development (MSBSD):

**Establishment** – 1986

**Headquarters** – Mumbai, Maharashtra

**President** – Anil M. Jadhav

### Nomenclature Common High Court of J&K, Ladakh renamed to 'High Court of J&K and Ladakh'

In accordance with the **Department of Justice** in the Ministry of Law and Justice (MoL&J), the nomenclature 'Common High Court of UT of Jammu and Kashmir and UT of Ladakh' substituted with 'High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh'. The HC is located in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).



- This change has been done after the signing of **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2021** by the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind.
- Nomenclature is a name or naming system.

### Reason behind Change:

This decision has been taken to make the name pattern of J&K and Ladakh **High Courts (HC) at par with the other common HCs** like Punjab and Haryana HC which has jurisdiction over the states of Punjab and Haryana and the Union Territory (UT) of Chandigarh. Also the present nomenclature is long-winding and cumbersome.

### Point to be noted:

i. The Present Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is **Justice Pankaj Mithal**.

### About Jammu & Kashmir:

**Formation as Union Territory (UT)**– After the repeal of Article 370 in August 2019, it became UT with effect from October 31, 2019. It is headed by lieutenant governor (LG), under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

**Capitals**– Jammu (Winter), Srinagar (Summer)

### About Ministry of Law and Justice (MoL&J):

**Union Minister**– Kiren Rijju (Constituency- Arunachal West, Arunachal Pradesh)

**Minister of State (MoS)**- Satya Pal Singh Baghel (Constituency- Agra, Uttar Pradesh)

### Gujarat HC became 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Court to allow Public Viewing of Proceedings; Launched by CJI NV Ramana

The High Court (HC) of Gujarat became the first court of India to formally start live streaming of proceedings on its YouTube channel to ensure transparency and openness in the Indian judiciary. It was launched on the eve of the 101st birth anniversary of Late Former CJI (16th) Yeshwant Vishnu Chandrachud by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) **Nuthalapati Venkata (NV) Ramana**.

- The CJI, who was the chief guest of online inaugural function, also released the **Gujarat High Court (Live Streaming of Court Proceedings) Rules, 2021** in the presence of Guest of Honour Supreme Court judge Justice Dhananjaya Yeshwant (DY) Chandrachud along with Chief Justice of Gujarat HC Vikram Nath and other judges of the high court.

#### Key Points:

i. Live-streaming of proceedings will cater to the dissemination of information, which is an important aspect of **Article 19** (right to freedom of speech and expression) of **The Constitution of India 1949**.

ii. People can get first-hand information about the entire proceedings and the opinions of the judges cutting misconceptions caused due to lack of direct access.

iii. Supreme Court will also start this live streaming soon.

#### Background:

In 2018, the Supreme Court had allowed the live streaming of cases of national importance on the basis of the judgment of **Swapnil Tripathi VS Supreme Court**. After that from October 26, 2020, Gujarat HC started hearing the cases live on YouTube on an experimental basis from October 26, 2020.

Justice DY Chandrachud, the present chairperson of the Supreme Court E-committee took the initiative for executing the live streaming of proceedings. This was followed by a unanimous decision by Gujarat HC judges.

### Bollywood Filmmaker Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra Penned his Autobiography “The Stranger in the Mirror”

Bollywood Filmmaker **Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra** has authored his debut book – his autobiography – titled **“The Stranger in the Mirror”**. The book is co-written by noted author **Reeta Ramamurthy Gupta**.



- The foreword of the book is written by **AR Rahman** and the afterword is written by **Aamir Khan**.
- The book published by Rupa Publications India is set to release in July 2021.

### About the book:

- The book features the life events of India's celebrated ad director turned filmmaker Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra.
- The book has a multi-dimensional, multi-character narration which allows the readers to understand Rakeysh Omprakash.

### About Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra

- Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra has directed ad films for Indian and international brands such as Coke, Pepsi, American Express etc.,
- He debuted as a feature film director with Ask(2001) starring Amitabh Bachan.
- His 2006 film 'Rang De Basanti' starring Aamir Khan, won the 4 National Award including the award for Best Popular Film.
- His well-known films include, Delhi 6(2009), Bhaag Milkha Bhaag(2013), Mirza's Lady(2016), Mere Pyare Prime Minister(2018) and Toofaan(2021).
- He established "Flicks: The Motion Picture Company" in 1987 which became 'Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra Pictures' in 2004.

### About Reeta Ramamurthy Gupta:

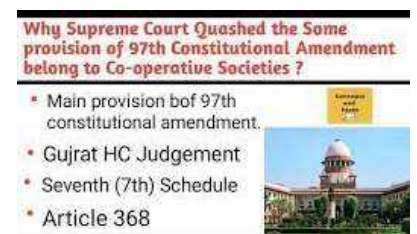
- Author Reeta Ramamurthy Gupta is well known for her works on biographies of live and posthumous luminaries.

- She is set to write the biography of 2-time national award-winning actor Sanjeev Kumar.

**Books:** Rescript Your Life: Awaken The Voice Within You.

### SC quashes Provisions of 97th Amendment related to Co-operative Societies

A 3-judge Supreme Court (SC) bench comprising Justices R F Nariman, K M Joseph and B R Gavai **struck down certain parts of Part IXB of the Indian Constitution**. Part IXB was inserted by the Constitution (97th Amendment) Act, 2011, it deals with incorporation, terms of members of board and its office bearers and effective management of cooperative societies.



- The SC Judgement however held that Part IXB of the Indian Constitution dealing with functioning and incorporation of **multi-state co-operative societies will be operative**.

### Reason for Striking down

The 97th Constitutional Amendment required ratification by at least one-half of the state

legislatures as per **Article 368(2) of the Constitution**, as it deals with an **exclusive state subject (co-operative societies)**.

- As the ratification was not done, the 97th Amendment has been struck down.
- In 2013, Gujarat High Court had also struck down part of the Constitution (97th Amendment) Act, 2011 citing the same reasons.

### **97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011**

i. The 97th constitutional amendment was passed by Parliament in December 2011 and came into effect from February 15, 2012.

ii. The change amended Article 19 (1) (c) to give protection to the cooperatives and inserted Article 43B and Part IX B, relating to them.

### **About Supreme Court**

**Chief Justice** – Justice N.V. Ramana

### **Tata Boeing Aerospace delivers 100th Fuselage for the AH-64 Apache Helicopter to Boeing**

On 23rd July 2021, Tata Boeing Aerospace Limited (TBAL) delivered the 100th fuselage for AH-64 Apache combat helicopter to Boeing's AH-64 Apache manufacturing facility at Arizona, USA. These fuselages developed in Hyderabad under Make in India policy will be used by Boeing in its Global production of the state-of-art AH-64 combat helicopters.



i. TBAL is Boeing's 1st Joint Venture Company in India, that was set up in **Hyderabad**, Telangana as a result of the 2015 agreement between **Tata Advanced Systems** and **Boeing**.

### **About Boeing:**

**President & CEO** – David L. Calhoun

**Headquarters** – Chicago, USA

### **About Tata Advanced System:**

**Established** – 2007

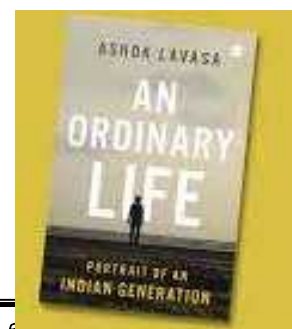
**Headquarters** – Hyderabad, Telangana

### **Former ECI Ashok Lavasa Authored a New Book “An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation”**

**Ashok Lavasa**, retired IAS officer and former Election Commissioner of India (ECI), has authored a new book titled “**An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation**” featuring the experiences of his father – Uday Singh and the way of life in India during his generation.

The book is published by HarperCollins Publishers.

### **About the book:**



i. The book explores the morality of honest living and illustrates the possibilities to prosper in the world of aspiration and competition while preserving one's ideals.

ii. The book also features the wisdom of the previous Indian generation and their way of life.

#### About Ashok Lavasa:

i. Ashok Lavasa is a retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1980 batch from the Haryana cadre.

ii. He is currently serving as Vice President for Private Sector Operations and Public-Private Partnerships of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

iii. He has served as the Election Commissioner of India from 2018 to 2020.

iv. Previously he has served as the Secretary in the ministries of Environment, Civil Aviation and Finance.

#### Other Books:

i. He has co-authored the book "An Uncivil Servant: The Success story of a Bureaucrat turned Businessman" with Ravi Mohan Sethi.

ii. He has co-authored a book titled "Mannat" with his wife Novel Singhal.

#### Rudreswara Temple becomes India's 39th UNESCO World Heritage Site

During the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), India's nomination of **Kakatiya Rudreswara Temple** (also known as the Ramappa Temple) at Palampet, Mulugu district, Warangal, Telangana was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list. It will be India's **39th World Heritage Site & the 1st World Heritage Site from Telangana.**



- Rudreswara Temple was proposed by India as its only nomination for the UNESCO World Heritage site tag for the year 2019.
- The WHC consists of 21 Members and China is the Chair of the Committee.

#### Kakatiya Rudreswara Temple

i. It was constructed in **1213 AD during the reign of Kakatiya Empire by Recharla Rudra Reddy**, a general of Kakatiya king Ganapati Deva.

- It is also known as Ramappa Temple, after the sculptor who executed the work in the temple for 40 years. The presiding deity in the temple is **Ramalingewara Swamy**.



### Former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan's New Book Titled "The India Story"

**Dr Bimal Jalan**, Former Governor of Reserve Bank of India(RBI) and Member of Parliament (MP), has authored a new book titled "**The India Story: An Epic Journey Of Democracy And Development**" based on extensive research and data, and his experience as RBI Governor.

The book published by **Rupa Publications India** focuses on the economic history of India and provides lessons for the future of the political economy.

#### About the book:

i.The book is divided into 2 sections:

- Learning from our Economic Past
- Beyond the Metrics of Economy

ii.The book covers a wide range of topics from economic and political reforms to good governance.

iii.The book also traces the economic policies of India between 1991 to 2019.

#### About Bimal Jalan:

i.Dr. Bimal Jalan has served as the Governor of RBI from 1997 to 2003.

ii.He has served as the Rajya Sabha MP(nominated) from 2003 to 2009.

iii.He had representative India on the boards of the International Monetary Fund(IMF) and the World Bank from 2014 to 2016.

iv.Before his appointment as the RBI Governor, he has served as the Chief Economic Advisor(CEA) to the Government of India, Banking Secretary, Finance Secretary, Member Secretary of Planning Commission, and Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister

**Other books:** India After Liberalisation: An Overview, India Ahead: 2025 and Beyond, India Then & Now: an insider's account, Resurgent India: Politics, Economics and Governance, India: Priorities for the Future.

### Lohum Plans to Set up India's Largest 3 GWh Li-ion Battery Factory

**LohumCleantech**, a lithium-ion(Li-ion) battery maker and a battery recycling solutions company, plans to set up **India's largest 3 GWh Li-ion** manufacturing as well as recycling plant in Greater **Noida**, Uttar Pradesh with an investment of Rs 300 crore within 18 months.



- It also plans to introduce a new recycling facility in Kandla, Gujarat.

- The key raw materials required for manufacturing a Li-ion battery are lithium, cobalt, nickel and graphite.

### Edtech Company Byju's Acquired Great Learning for 600 Million USD

Byju's, Indian Educational technology(**Edtech**) company based in Bengaluru has acquired the Singapore based higher education platform "**Great Learning**" for 600 million USD(around Rs 4466 Crore) and after-school learning app "**Toppr**" for 150 million USD(around Rs 1117 crore).

- Byju's is set to invest an additional 400 million USD to accelerate the growth of "Great Learning".

In 2021, Byju's has acquired 6 startups across India and the United State(**US**) and in the past 6 months the company has spent more than 2 billion USD on acquisition.

### Indore -the only Indian city selected for Clean Air Catalyst Programme

India's cleanest city **Indore** has become the only city from India to be selected for International Clean Air Catalyst Programme

- It is a new flagship programme launched by The U.S Agency for International Development (**USAID**) in collaboration with a group of organisations, led by World Resources Institute (WRI) and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)
- The project will be rolled out for **5 years** with the support of Indore Municipal Corporation and Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board.

### Clean Air Catalyst Programme

- **Objective:** To accelerate clean air solutions in low and middle income countries.
- This programme will be piloted in two cities- **Indore, India and Jakarta, Indonesia.**
- Under this project, USAID and partners will work with local communities to identify and raise awareness of local pollution sources and build focussed groups to deliver solutions which leads to cleaner and healthier air.
- It has several new and innovative features such as Source awareness, Root cause analysis, Focused Coalition building and others.

### About USAID

- Headquarters – Washington D.C
- Administrator – Samantha Power

### India becomes 4th Largest Forex Reserves Holder Globally

India became the **4th largest** foreign exchange (**Forex**) reserves holder globally after China, Japan, and Switzerland. India's Forex reserves in the week ended July 16, 2021, rose by \$835 million to touch a record high of \$612.73 billion.



- India's forex reserves cover Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs), Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), Gold Reserves and the country's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

### MoHFW Reserves 27% seats for OBCs, 10% for EWS in Medical Education

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) announced **27% Reservation for OBCs** (Other Backward Classes) & **10% Reservation for EWS** (Economically Weaker Section) in the All-India Quota Scheme (AIQ). It will be applicable for all Medical & Dental courses (both Undergraduate & Postgraduate) from the academic year 2021-22.

- Around 5,500 students will benefit because of the reservation.

### All-India Quota (AIQ) Scheme

Introduced in 1986 as per the Supreme Court's direction, the main objective of the scheme was to allow **merit-based opportunities** to students. It allows **students from any state to study in a medical college in another state.**

- It consists of 15% of total available UG seats & 50% of total available PG seats in Government medical colleges.

### About Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW)

**Union Minister** – Mansukh L. Mandaviya (Rajya Sabha – Gujarat)

**MoS** – Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar (Dindori, Maharashtra)

### Cabinet Approved Amendment in GIBNA to Privatisise 1 General Insurance Company

The Union Cabinet has approved the amendment in the General Insurance Business Nationalisation Act (**GIBNA**), 1972 to facilitate the **privatisation** of 1 **General Insurance Company** in the public sector.

### Amendments for Privatisation:

i. Currently there exist **4** general insurance companies in the **public sector** such as National Insurance Company Ltd (**NICL**), New India Assurance Company (**New India**) Ltd, Oriental

Insurance Company Ltd (**OICL**), and the United India Insurance Company Ltd (**UIICL**).

**ii.**2 provisions of GIBNA, 1972 such as Section 10A and Section 10B might be amended to facilitate the privatisation.

**iii.**After the amendment, one of the 4 General Insurance Companies will be privatised (Not yet finalised by the Government).

**About General Insurance Corporation (GIC) of India:**

**i.**The entire General insurance business in India was nationalized in 1972 by GIBNA and amalgamated the 107 insurers into 4 General Insurance Companies – NIC, New India, OICL, and UIIC.

**ii.**Later the government incorporated GIC in 1972 and made those 4 insurance companies as its subsidiaries.

**iii.**From 2003, the ownership of the 4 insurance companies and GIC were transferred to the government of India and notified GIC as the Indian Reinsurer.



## International

### Ashgabat, Turkmenistan becomes World's Most Expensive City, Mumbai Ranked 78th: Mercer Survey 2021

According to Mercer's 2021 Cost of Living City Rankings – **Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan** has become the world's **most expensive city for foreign workers (Expatriates)** followed by Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR) & Beirut, Lebanon. Mumbai, Maharashtra was ranked at 78, making it India's most expensive city for expatriates (a fall of 18 places compared to 60th rank in 2020 Mercer Survey).

- The rankings are based on **Mercer's 27th annual Cost of Living Survey**.
- Around 209 cities across 5 continents have been ranked in the survey. New York City, which was ranked 14th on the list, was used as the base city for the survey.

City	Global Rank
Mumbai, Maharashtra	78
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan	1
Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR)	2
Beirut, Lebanon	3

### IOB Become the 2nd Most-valued Listed PSB; Surpassed PNB, BoB

**Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** has become the **2nd** most-valued listed Public Sector Bank (**PSB**) with a market capitalisation (market-cap) of over **~Rs 50,000 crore** by surpassing its peers viz, Punjab National Bank (**POB**) (3rd) and Bank of Baroda (**BOB**)(4th).

- IOB's net profit increased by 2 times to Rs 350 crore in Q4FY21 (January-March, 2021) when compared with its net profit of Rs 144 crore in Q4FY20.
- IOB and the Central Bank of India are expected to be privatised at the 1st phase of the government's (govt) privatisation drive – a part of the govt's broader divestment target of Rs 1.75 trillion for FY22.

### Bengaluru ranked 6<sup>th</sup> among Top 10 Established Technology Submarkets in APAC, Beijing topped Colliers Report

In accordance with the report by Colliers titled '**Growth engines of innovation: How Asia Pacific's technology hubs are reshaping regional real estate**', Outer Ring road of

Bengaluru (Karnataka) has been ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the top 10 established technology submarkets in APAC (Asia Pacific) for companies to set up operations.

- The HITEC (Hyderabad Information Technology and Engineering Consultancy) City of Hyderabad (Telangana) ranked grabbed the 10<sup>th</sup>
- The list has been topped by **Beijing (China)**.

#### **What do these cities offer?**

- Balance of infrastructure and talent for occupiers
- Future growth
- Investment opportunities for owners

#### **Key Points:**

**i.**Bengaluru's Whitefield and North Bengaluru are ranked at 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively in **top 10 upcoming technology submarkets in APAC.**

- They were followed by Hyderabad's peripheral Business District at 5<sup>th</sup> place, and Delhi NCR's (National Capital Region) Noida expressway and Golf Course Extension Road (Gurugram) at 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>

- This list has been topped by Shanghai's **Yangpu**, China.

**ii.**Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Shenzhen, Delhi NCR (and Manila (Philippines), are the top markets by property factors i.e. availability of quality space at competitive rentals.

**iii.**Other cities developing strengths in specific areas of technology are Seoul (South Korea) and Hong Kong in fintech.

#### **Microsoft Officially Launched 'Windows 11'**

Microsoft officially launched its new Windows operating system 'Windows 11' on June 24, 2021. It is being called the "next generation" of Windows.

- The release comes nearly six years after the current latest Windows Operating System 'Windows 10' was launched in July 2015.

#### **Key Points:**

- Windows 11 is special because it focuses on a new user interface, a new Windows Store, and improvements to performance, including centre-aligned Taskbar and Start button.
- One of the unique features of Windows 11 is that it will support Android apps via Amazon's app store. It will work better in touch mode as well.
- Windows 11 operating system (OS) will be available as a free upgrade for Windows 10 users in late 2021.
- PCs having Intel's sixth and seventh-generation processors will not be eligible to use Windows 11.

#### **Singapore Unveils One of the World's Largest Floating Solar Panel Farms**

Singapore implemented one of the world's largest **floating solar panel farms**, spanning an area equivalent to **45-hectare (111.2 acres)** and producing electricity to power the island's 5 water treatment plants.

- The project would generate electricity from the 122,000 solar panels on the site.
- The project aims to multiple its solar energy production by 4 times by 2025 to tackle climate change.
- Floating solar farms will perform between 5 percent to 15 percent better than land solar farms because of the cooling effect of the water.



### Blue Origin's 'New Shepard' Completes 1st Human Passenger Flight

On July 20, 2021, 'New Shepard' Rocket System built by Blue Origin (a Company owned by Amazon's Founder, Jeff Bezos) successfully completed its **1st human spaceflight** with 4 people on board. It was launched from a private launch site near Van Horn, Texas.

- The 4 members in the spaceflight were Jeff Bezos, Mark Bezos, Wally Funk (82 years, oldest to ever fly in space) & Oliver Daemen (18 years, youngest ever to fly in space).
- July 20 marks the 52nd anniversary of Neil Armstrong & Buzz Aldrin's moon landing (on Apollo 11).
- Recently, US based Spaceflight company 'Virgin Galactic' owned by Richard Branson successfully completed its successful space flight.

### Indian-born Engineer part of Team that Built New Shepard

Indian born engineer **Sanjal Gavande** is part of the Blue Origin team that built the New Shepard Rocket. She hails from **Kalyan, Maharashtra**.

### World's 1st 3D-printed Steel Bridge Opened to Public in Amsterdam

**World's 1st 3D-printed Steel Bridge**, a 12-meter long steel structure, developed by **MX3D**, a Dutch robotics company in collaboration with a consortium of experts, has been opened to the public in **Amsterdam, Netherlands**. The unveiled ceremony of the bridge was presided over by Queen Máxima of the Netherlands.

The 3D printed bridge has been installed over one of the oldest canals – Oudezijds Achterburgwal – in Amsterdam's city centre.



- The 12 meter long smart bridge, equipped with hi-tech sensors will be a '**living laboratory**' that will collect real-time data on the overpass' performance. This data will be used by the **digital twin**, a computer model which will imitate the actual bridge in real-time to improve accuracy over time.

- The smart sensor network was designed and installed by the team from Alan Turing Institute.

### Sweden joins International Solar Alliance

In July 2021, **Sweden**, a leading member of the European Union (EU), ratified the framework agreement for International Solar Alliance (ISA). ISA, a global initiative by India aims to provide Solar energy & sustainable solutions to enhance energy security and tackle the challenges faced due to Climate Change.



i. Sweden will promote its renewable energy technologies among ISA member countries to reduce

ii. Notably, **Sweden** has set an ambitious target of achieving 100% renewable electricity capacity by **2040**.

iii. Sweden's joining comes just 4 months after the virtual meet between Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi & Swedish PM Stefan Löfven, where they discussed enhancing cooperation in technology & innovation.

#### About Sweden:

**Prime Minister** – Stefan Löfven

**Capital** – Stockholm

**Currency** – Swedish Krona

#### About International Solar Alliance (ISA):

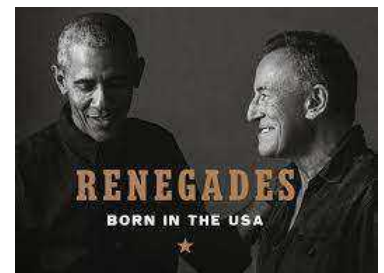
ISA was founded in **2015** during the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-21)

**Headquarter** – Gurugram, Haryana

**Director General** – Ajay Mathur

### Obama and Springsteen's Book 'Renegades: Born in the USA'

The former United States President **Barack Obama** and American musician **Bruce Springsteen** authored the book 'Renegades: Born in the USA', the bound edition of 'Renegades podcast'. The book will be published by 'Crown Publishing Group', a subsidiary of Penguin Random House.



- The book contains the conversation between Obama and Springsteen about their origin stories, career-defining moments, and America's polarized politics.



- The book includes rare photographs, handwritten Springsteen lyrics and annotated Obama speeches.

### About the Authors:

**i.Barack Obama:** He was the 44th president of US. He authored different books viz, Dreams from My Father, The Audacity of Hope, and A Promised Land

- He received the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples.

**ii.Bruce Springsteen:** He is an American singer, songwriter, and musician, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from Barack Obama in 2016

### World's Largest Floating Solar Farm to be Built in Indonesia

Singapore's Sunseap Group and Batam Indonesia free zone authority signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to build the **world's largest floating solar farm** and energy storage system **Indonesian city Batam** at the cost of \$2 billion, to double its renewable power generation capacity.

- The floating photovoltaic system will have a capacity of 2.2 gigawatt-peak (GWp) and will be located on the Duriangkang Reservoir in Batam Island spanning around 1,600 hectares. The project would begin in 2022 and would be completed by 2024).

*Note* – India's Largest Floating Solar Power Plant of 100 MegaWatt (MW) capacity is being constructed at Ramagundam in Peddapalli district of Telangana. It will be India's largest floating solar plant in a single location.

### Paseo del Prado boulevard and Retiro Park added to UNESCO World Heritage list

The tree-lined Paseo del Prado boulevard & the adjoining Retiro Park, both situated in Madrid, Spain were added to UNESCO's World Heritage list by WHC of UNESCO.

- The committee also inscribed Quanzhou: Emporium of the World in Song-Yuan China (China), Trans-Iranian Railway (Iran) to the World Heritage List.

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

**Director-General** – Audrey Azoulay

**Headquarters** – Paris, France

## Defence

### Indian Army names firing range in Gulmarg as 'Vidya Balan Firing Range'

Indian Army named a military firing range in Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir as "Vidya Balan Firing Range". This comes as a move to honour the veteran Bollywood actress Vidya Balan, for her varied accomplishments in the field of Cinema & as a woman. Notably, she was the **only actor to join the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences**, the governing body behind the Oscars.

### Indian Navy receives 1st Batch of MH-60R helicopters from US Navy

In July 2021, Indian Navy received the **1st batch of 2 MH-60R** Multi Role Helicopters (MRH) from the United States (US) Navy. The helicopters were formally transferred during an event, which was attended by Taranjit Singh Sandhu – Indian Ambassador to US.



i. India has ordered a total of **24** MH-60R Helicopters to the US government at an estimated cost of USD 2.4 billion. The Helicopters will be manufactured by Lockheed Martin.

#### About MH-60R Multi Role Helicopters:

i. MH-60R helicopter is an all-weather helicopter designed to support multiple missions with enhanced performance like vertical replenishment, search and rescue, and communications.

ii. Induction of the all-weather multi-role helicopters comes with anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare in India-US bilateral defence ties.

iii. Indian cabinet had approved the purchase of helicopters in February 2020

#### About United States of America (USA):

Joe Biden is the **46th** President of USA

**US Secretary of State** – Antony Blinken

No of States in USA – **50**

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

Indian Navy (IN) participated in a Bilateral Passage Exercise (**PASSEX**) with United Kingdom's (UK) Royal Navy in Bay of Bengal from July 21-22, 2021. The Maritime Exercise aimed at sharpening the ability of two navies to operate together in the maritime domain.



- From the Indian side, IN ships Satpura, Ranvir, Jyoti, Kavaratti, Kulish and a submarine participated in the exercise. Anti-submarine warfare capable P8I Aircraft also took part in the exercise.

- While from the UK side, **Royal Navy Carrier Strike Group (CSG)-21** led by HMS Queen Elizabeth & comprises Type 23 Frigates and an Astute-class Submarine also participated in the exercise.

ii. The exercise covered a spectrum of maritime operations like Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), Anti-Air and Anti-Surface warfare.

### About Indian Navy

**Chief of Naval Staff (CNS)** – Admiral Karambir Singh

**Integrated Headquarters of Ministry of Defence (Navy)** – New Delhi

### India, Sri Lanka & Maldives conduct TTX-2021, 'Exercise Shield' on Maritime Security

Defence Officials from India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives participated in a virtual Trilateral Tabletop Exercise 2021 (TTX-2021), 'Exercise Shield' on Maritime Security. TTX-2021 was organized by Maritime Warfare Centre, Mumbai from July 14-15, 2021.

- Enhancing mutual understanding, exchanging best practices & procedures for countering common transnational crimes like curbing narcotics and assistance in maritime search and rescue were discussed.
- India is holding discussions with countries in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) as per its 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)' policies.

### Operation Sagar Aaraksha II

Recently, Indian Coast Guard (ICG) in coordination with Sri Lankan Navy & Airforce executed 'Operation Sagar Aaraksha II' to fight a major fire onboard the **MV X-Press Pearl**, a chemical laden container vessel anchored off Colombo.

### About Sri Lanka

**President** – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

**Capital** – Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte

**Currency** – Sri Lankan Rupee

### 12th Edition of 'INDRA NAVY-21' Exercise held between Indian & Russian Navies

The 12th Edition of Biennial bilateral maritime Exercise 'INDRA Navy-21' was held between the Indian Navy & Russian Federation Navy in the **Baltic Sea** from July 28-29, 2021.



- Stealth Frigate **INS Tabar** represented the Indian Navy, while Corvettes RFS Zelyony Dol and RFS Odintsovo of the Baltic Fleet represented the Russian Federation Navy.
- The focus of exercises were on enhancing interoperability, understanding and procedures for various maritime operations.
- The Army version of INDRA exercise is set to be held from August 1-13, 2021 in Volgograd, Russia.

**Background**

The Bilateral Exercise INDRA has been held between India & Russia **since 2003**.

- The 11th Edition of the exercise was held in Bay of Bengal in September, 2020.

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## Appointments or Resign/Retired

### Uttarakhand CM Tirath Singh Rawat Resigned

Uttarakhand Chief Minister(CM) **Tirath Singh Rawat** of Bharatiya Janata Party(**BJP**), has submitted his resignation to Baby Rani Maurya, Governor of Uttarakhand. He resigned 4 months after taking charge as the Chief Minister.

The BJP Legislature party has scheduled a meeting at the BJP Headquarters in Uttarakhand to select a new Chief Minister.

### Background:

i. Tirath Singh Rawat was not an elected member of the legislative assembly(MLA) in the Uttarakhand Assembly while he took over as the Chief Minister, under the Representative of People Act.

ii. The term of the Uttarakhand assembly expires in March 2022.

### About Tirath Singh Rawat:

i. Tirath Singh Rawat was a Lok Sabha Member of Parliament representing the Pauri Garhwal constituency of Uttarakhand.

ii. He replaced Trivendra Singh Rawat as the Chief Minister on 10th March 2021.

### President Ram Nath Kovind Appoints New Governors for 8 States

President Ram Nath Kovind appointed new Governors for 8 States.

- **Article 155 of the Indian Constitution** states that the Governor of a State shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.
- **As per Article 159, The Chief Justice of the concerned State High Court** administers the oath of office to the Governor.

### New Appointments & Transfers

State	New Governor	Preceded by
Goa	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai (Currently Governor of Mizoram)	Bhagat Singh Koshiyari
Tripura	Satyadeo Narain Arya (Currently Governor of Haryana)	Ramesh Bais

Jharkhand	Ramesh Bais (Currently Governor of Tripura)	Droupadi Murmu
Haryana	Bandaru Dattatraya (Currently Governor of Himachal Pradesh)	Satyadeo Narain Arya
Mizoram	Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
Madhya Pradesh	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel	Anandiben Patel
Himachal Pradesh	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar	Bandaru Dattatraya

### IBM president and former Red Hat CEO Jim Whitehurst quits

American multinational technology company International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) has announced that Jim Whitehurst has decided to step down as President of the company, Whitehurst former CEO of Red Hat has played a pivotal role in the \$34 billion IBM and Red Hat integration deal in 2018 and He will continue to work as senior advisor to Arvind Krishna, Chairman and CEO of IBM.

### Overview of Cabinet Reshuffle & Portfolio of New Ministers

On 7th July, 2021, the reshuffle and expansion of the Union Cabinet took place. As many as 43 Ministers (15 Cabinet Ministers, 28 Ministers of State) were sworn in, taking the strength of the Council of Ministers to 77 (78 including Prime Minister).

- Out of 43, 36 were New Faces & 7 Ministers were promoted to the rank of Cabinet Minister.
- As per Article 75 (4) The Ministers were **administered the oath of office and secrecy by President Ram Nath Kovind** at a ceremony held in the Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
- Before the appointment of Ministers, The President accepted the resignation of 12 Ministers.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to directly monitor the Ministry of Science & Technology.

### Stefan Lofven re-elected as Prime Minister by Swedish Parliament

Stefan Lofven of the Swedish Social Democratic Party was re-elected as **Prime Minister of**

**Sweden** by the Swedish Parliament in July 2021. This comes a month after the June 11 No-Confidence vote in the Parliament, which led to his resignation after he failed to prove majority in the 349-member legislature.

i. Stefan Lofven won the majority in the recent voting by only 2-votes, which requires a minimum of 175 votes to prove majority. The narrow win puts him in a critical position in passing the country's budget.

ii. Notably, the next Swedish Parliamentary election is set to be conducted in September 2022.

iii. He serves as the Prime Minister of Sweden, since 2014

#### **About Sweden:**

**Capital** – Stockholm

**Currency** – Swedish Krona

**Parliament Name** – Riksdag

**5 Countries** – Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, and Iceland together called as 'Scandinavian Countries'

#### **Manu Sawhney resigns from the CEO Post of ICC**

**Manu Sawhney**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the International Cricket Council (ICC) has resigned from his post with immediate effect following the report against his "abrasive behaviour" with his colleagues.

**Geoff Allardice** will continue as the acting CEO of ICC.

#### **Background:**

i. In March 2021, Manu Sawhney was sent on leave after the allegations against him emerged during the internal investigation conducted by the audit firm. **PricewaterhouseCoopers**.

ii. In the absence of Manu Sawhney, Geoff Allardice was appointed as the acting CEO.

#### **About Manu Sawhney:**

i. Manu Sawhney was appointed as the CEO of ICC in July 2019 for a tenure till 2022. He took over from **Dave Richardson** after the 2019 ICC Men's World Cup.

ii. Manu Sawhney has served as the CEO of the Singapore Sports hub and as the Managing Director of ESPN Star Sports.

iii. He is a non-executive director and a member of the Audit Committee of Manchester United Limited.

#### **About International Cricket Council (ICC):**

**Chairman**– Greg Barclay

**CEO**– Geoff Allardice (Acting CEO)

**Headquarters**– Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)

#### **Satish Agnihotri Appointed as new MD of NHRCL**

Satish Agnihotri, retired Indian Railways Service of Engineers (**IRSE**) officer (1982 batch), has been appointed as the new Managing Director (**MD**) of the National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (**NHRCL**). He succeeds **Achal Khare**, the **first** MD of NHRCL (2017 to 2021).

- He has served as the Chairman and MD of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), schedule A Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) under the Ministry of Railways.
- He has also served as the Chairman, High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (HSRC), a fully owned subsidiary of RVNL.

NHSRCL was incorporated on 12th February 2016 with an aim to finance, construct, maintain and manage the high-speed rail corridor in India.

### **Pawan Singh Becomes 1st Ever Indian juror at Tokyo Olympics**

**Pawan Singh**, Joint Secretary-General of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), has become the **1st ever Indian juror** to be selected to officiate an Olympics Games. The International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) has selected Pawan Singh as a juror to officiate at the upcoming **Tokyo Olympic Games in shooting sports**.

- He has been selected as one of the 4 RTS (Result, Timing, Score) Jury members.
- Other than jury members from Japan (Host country), he is the only jury member in Rifle/pistol discipline from Asian countries.

### **Worldwide Partner of Olympic Games:**

**Thums Up**, owned by Coca-Cola became the **1st** Indian origin beverage brand to become the worldwide partner of the Olympic Games.

### **Jury members of Tokyo Olympics:**

The Tokyo Olympics will be officiated by a total of 26 jury members.

6 out of the 26 members will be from Japan and the rest will be from other countries.

### **About Pawan Singh:**

- i. Pawan Singh is a former rifle shooter and shooting coach for the Indian team.
- ii. Pawan Singh has been the competition manager of the ISSF World Cup held in New Delhi in 2017.

### **IAMAI Appointed Google India MD Sanjay Gupta as its Chairman**

Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) has appointed **Google India** Vice President and Managing Director **Sanjay Gupta** as its Chairman for **2021-23** by succeeding Amit Agarwal, Amazon Senior Vice President and India Country Manager.

- IAMAI has also named **Facebook India** Vice President and Managing Director **Ajit Mohan** as Vice Chairman of its association by succeeding Dhruv Shringi, Yatra.com co-founder and CEO.
- **Harshil Mathur**, CEO and Co-founder of Razorpay was elected as the Treasurer of IAMAI succeeding Satyan Gajwani, Vice Chairman of Times Internet Ltd.





**Pedro Castillo was declared the President-Elect of Peru**

Jose Pedro Castillo Terrones (51 years old), a former school teacher turned politician of Free Peru National Political Party, was declared as the President-Elect of the Republic of Peru. He will be succeeding Francisco Sagasti, the incumbent president of Peru.

- Pedro Castillo will be sworn in as President of Peru on 28th July 2021 and serve as the president for the period of 5 years from 2021 to 2026.
- He won the 2021 Presidential election against Keiko Fujimori, daughter of former President Alberto Fujimori.

**About Pedro Castillo:**

i. Pedro Castillo has worked as an elementary school teacher for around 25 years in San Luis de Puna, Cajamarca, Peru.

ii. He led the largest teacher strike in 2017, to get better pay for the teachers.

**Congress of Republic of Peru:**

i. The Congress of the Republic of Peru (**Congreso de la Republica del Peru**) is the unicameral body that assumes legislative power in Peru.

ii. The Congress is composed of **130 seats**.

**About the Republic of Peru:**

**President-** Francisco Sagasti

**President Elect-** Jose Pedro Castillo Terrones

**Capital-** Lima

**Currency-** Peruvian sol

**Shiv Nadar steps down as HCL Tech MD, C Vijayakumar to succeed**

The founder of HCL Group, Shiv Nadar (76), has resigned as managing director and director of HCL Technologies Ltd, a subsidiary of HCL, with effect from July 19, 2021. He is succeeded by **C. Vijayakumar**, president and chief executive officer (CEO), as the managing director for five years.

**Key Points:**

i. Shiv Nadar will continue as firm's chairman emeritus and strategic adviser to the board for five years.

ii. The company posted a net profit of Rs 3,214 crore for the June quarter, up nearly 10% annually.

**About HCL Technologies Ltd:**

**Establishment**– 1991

**Headquarter**– Noida, Uttar Pradesh

### **Basavaraj S Bommai takes charge as the 23<sup>rd</sup> Chief Minister of Karnataka**

Basavaraj S Bommai, who belongs to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) took charge as the **23rd Chief Minister of Karnataka**. He will succeed **BS Yediyurappa** who resigned on July 26, 2021.

- He was administered the oath of office & Secrecy by Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot

### **Basavaraj Bommai**

- Basavaraj is a 3-time MLA from **Shiggaon Constituency**, he has been representing the constituency since 2008 in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly.
- He has also served as a member of the Karnataka Legislative Council during the period of 1998 – 2008.
- He held the Home Ministry portfolio under Yediyurappa's Ministry. In the past, he has held several other portfolios such as Irrigation, Law, Parliamentary Affairs & others.

### **Article 164**

Article 164 of the Indian constitution deals with appointment of Chief Ministers and other Ministers

- Article 164(1)- Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister.
- 164(3)- Oaths of Office & of Secrecy administered by Governor

### **About Karnataka:**

**Governor** – Thaawar Chand Gehlot

**Capital** – Bengaluru

### **Pham Minh Chinh Re-elected as PM of Vietnam**

**Pham Minh Chinh** was re-elected as the Prime Minister (PM) of **Vietnam** for **2021-2026** through the 15th National Assembly (NA) of Vietnam.

- At first, he was elected as PM of Vietnam on 5 April 2021.
- Pham Minh Chinh, is a member of the Politburo of the 13th Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee (CPVCC), was re-elected with a 95.99 percent approval rate among deputies at the ongoing first session of the 15th NA.



**About Vietnam:**

**Capital** – Hanoi

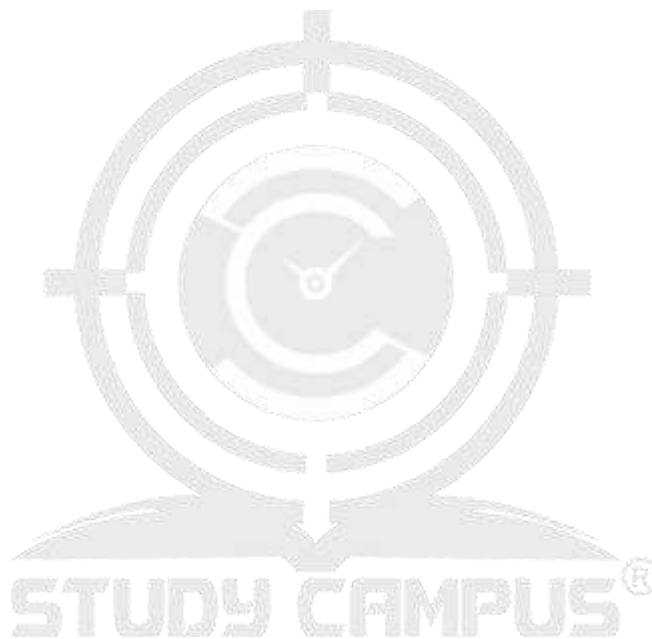
**President** – Nguyen Xuan Phuc

**Currency** – Vietnamese dong

**Nasir Kamal IPS Appointed as DG of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security**

The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appointed **Nasir Kamal**, 1986 batch IPS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, as the Director-General(DG) of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security(BCAS), an independent department under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

- He will hold the post till **31st July 2022**, the date of his superannuation.
- He has previously served as the Director of the National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science.



## Honours/ Awards

### 3 Delhi Students Won Diana Award 2021 for Their Contribution During COVID-19

Three Delhi students – **Kaif Ali**, student of Jamia Millia Islamia; **Sana Mittar**, from the University of Warwick; and Devanshi Ranjan, from Lady Shri Ram College has won the 2021 Diana Award Roll of Honour for their contribution to society during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The **Diana Award** is established in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales and is given out by the charity named – Diana Award, it is supported by her sons, William, the Duke of Cambridge, and Harry, the Duke of Sussex.

### Invest India awarded as World's Most Innovative Investment Promotion Agency of 2021

In July 2021, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal and Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar congratulated 'Invest India' for winning the World's Most Innovative Investment Promotion Agency for 2021 by the OCO Global.

i. Invest India has been continuously identifying innovative areas of investment and bringing in sustainable investors to India, despite the disruptions caused by COVID-19 pandemic

**Note-** In December 2020, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) declared '**Invest India**' as winner of the 2020 United Nations Investment Promotion Award

#### **About Invest India:**

**Objective** – Promotion of India's National Investment through sector specific targeted development in partnership with substantial investment promotion agencies and multilateral organizations.

Established in **2009**, under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

**Managing Director & CEO** – Deepak Bagla

#### **About OCO Global:**

**Headquarters** – Belfast, Ireland

**Founder & CEO** – Mark O'Connell

**Established** – 2001

### Indian Economist Kaushik Basu Gets Humboldt Research Award for Economics for 2021

Indian Economist **Kaushik Basu** has been honoured with the **Humboldt Research Award for Economics for 2021** by the **Alexander von Humboldt Foundation** based in **Bonn, Germany**.

Professor Dr Hans-Bernd Schäfer of Bucerius Law School, Hamburg, Germany nominated Kaushik Basu for this award.

Kaushik Basu is set to use this award to do research on moral philosophy and game theory, and on law and economics.

#### About Humboldt Research Award:

i. The Humboldt Research Award is sponsored by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and annually it is presented to more than 100 recipients.

ii. The award recognises and honours scientists and economists from across the world for their work.

iii. The award carries prize money of **60000 euros**.

#### About Kaushik Basu:

i. Kaushik Basu is a Professor of Economics and Carl Marks Professor of International Studies at Cornell University.

ii. He has served as the Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) to the Government of India (2009 to 2012) and Chief Economist of the World Bank From (2012 to 2016).

- He was the 1st Indian to become the World Bank Chief Economist and 2nd from a developing country.

iii. He has served as the President of the International Economic Association (IEA) from 2017 to 2021.

**Honours:** The Government of India honoured him with the **Padma Bhushan** in **2008** for literature and education.

#### Syed Osman Azhar Maqsusi wins United Kingdoms Commonwealth Points of Light award

Syed Osman Azhar Maqsusi (41), a hunger activist from Hyderabad has been awarded the prestigious Commonwealth Points of Light award by the United Kingdom (UK) Government. He had launched the #HungerHasNoReligion initiative through his NGO 'Sani Welfare Foundation', which has helped to feed over 1,500 people a day.

- The Points of Light award recognizes outstanding individual volunteers – people who are making a change in their community.
- This award was first established by President George H. W. Bush in 1990.

#### Overview of 74th Cannes Film Festival 2021

The 74th Cannes Film Festival 2021 was held from July 6-17, 2021 at Palais des Festivals et des Congrès Convention Center in Cannes, France.

i. American director & Screenwriter **Spike Lee** served as Jury President of Cannes Film Festival 2021.

ii. French Actress Doria Dillier was the host of the 74th Cannes Film Festival.

iii. 'Night of Knowing Nothing' directed by **India's Payal**



**Kapadia** won the Oeil d'or (Golden Eye) award for best documentary at the Film Festival.

iv. Former Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the virtual 'India Pavilion' during the 74th Cannes Film Festival, organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting jointly with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).

### **Cannes Film Festival**

- It is an Annual Film Festival held in Cannes, France, and has been held since 1946.
- The Palme d'Or & Grand Prix are the 2 major awards given at the festival.
- The 2020 Cannes Film Festival was cancelled.

### **Major Awards 2021**

**Palme d'Or** – Titane, **Director** – Julia Ducournau

**Best Director** – Leos Carax, *Annette*

**Best Screenplay** – Ryusuke Hamaguchi & Takamasa Oe, *Drive My Car*

**Best Actress** – Renate Reinsve, *The Worst Person in The World*

**Best Actor** – Caleb Landry Jones, *Nitram*

### **Football: Forward Bala Devi and Defender Sandesh Jhingan Named the AIFF's Footballer of the Year 2020-2021**

Indian women's football team forward **Bala Devi** (31 years old) from Manipur and Indian Men's football team's defender **Sandesh Jhingan** (28 years old) from Chandigarh, has been named the **Women's Footballer of the year 2020-2021** and **Men's Footballer of the Year 2020-2021** respectively at the annual All India Football Federation(AIFF) Awards 2020-2021.



- This is the 3rd time for Bala Devi to receive the honour. Previously she received the award in 2014 and 2015.
- Bala Devi is playing for the Rangers Women's FC in Scotland, she is the first Indian women footballer to sign a professional contract in Europe.
- 2020 Arjuna awardee Sandesh Jhingan has previously won the AIFF Men's Emerging Footballer of the Year in 2014.

### **Selection of Winners:**

- The winners of women's awards were chosen by Maymol Rocky, national team head coach in consultation with Savio Medeira, interim Technical Director of AIFF.
- The winners of the men's awards were voted by the club coaches of Hero Indian Super League and the Hero I-League.

### **Other Awards at the annual AIFF Awards 2020-2021:**

Award 2020-2021	Winner
AIFF Men's Emerging Footballer of the Year	Suresh Singh Wangjam(midfielder)
AIFF Women's Emerging Footballer of the Year	Manisha Kalyan(midfielder)
AIFF Awards for the Best Referee	TejasNagvenkar (Goa)
AIFF Award for Best Assistant Referee	SumantaDutta(Assam)

### Former Indian Footballer Shibaji Banerjee will be Honoured with Mohun Bagan Ratna Award 2021 Posthumously

Former goalkeeper of the Indian Football team, **Late Shibaji Banerjee (1950-2017)**, who has played for the Mohun Bagan Athletic Club (Kolkata, West Bengal) for more than a decade will be honoured with **Mohun Bagan Ratna Award 2021(posthumously)** at the Mohun Bagan Day Celebration which will be organised virtually on 29th July 2021.



- He is well known for stopping the free kick taken by Brazilian footballer **Pelé** during the 1977 exhibition match against New York Cosmos held in Eden Gardens, Kolkata, West Bengal.
- After retirement, he has served on the technical committee of Mohun Bagan.

### Mohun Bagan awards 2021:

**i. Best Footballer Award 2021** will be given to **Roy Krishna**, Fijian footballer and the captain of ATK Mohun Bagan in the Indian Super League(**ISL**), for his performance in ISL 2020-2021 season.

He won the ISL Golden ball for 2020-21.

**ii. Best Cricketer Award 2021** will be given to Bengal skipper **Abhimanyu Easwaran**, who helped Mohun Bagan to win the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) first division One-day tournament.

**iii. Best Athlete Award 2021** will be given to Athlete (hurdles & High jump) **Bidisha Kundu** who won the 100m hurdles and high jump in the National Championship

### **Pramod Bhagat Named as Differently Abled Sportsman of the Year by Indian Sports Honour**

World No. 1 Para-shuttler **Pramod Bhagat** was named as the Differently Abled Sportsman of the Year by **Indian Sports Honour** for **2019** (the award was delayed due to COVID-19).

#### **About Indian Sports Honour:**

It is an annual award founded in 2017 by the RPSG Group and the Virat Kohli Foundation to recognize and honour the outstanding sports personalities of India.

#### **About Pramod Bhagat:**

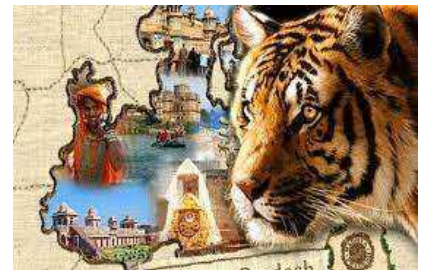
- i. He is a professional Para-badminton player from Odisha, he has been ranked as world No 1 in para-badminton men's singles SL3.
- ii. He won 2 gold medals and a bronze at the Dubai Para-Badminton Tournament in 2021.
- iii. He will be participating in singles and mixed doubles events at the 16th Summer Paralympic Games, which are scheduled to be held in Tokyo, Japan between 24 August and 5 September 2021.
- iv. In 2019, he received Arjuna Awards and Biju Patnaik Sports Award Odisha for Outstanding Performance in Sports and Games.



### **Satpura Tiger Reserve won Natwest Group Earth Heroes Award- 2021**

The Satpura Tiger reserve in the state of **Madhya Pradesh** has won the Natwest Group Earth Heroes Award-2021 in the **Earth Guardian** category for best management.

- **Natwest Earth Heroes Award** formerly known as RBS Earth Heroes Award, takes place annually, **since 2011**.
- The Awards bring recognition and honour to individuals and institutions who work exceptionally hard to preserve and protect our critical ecosystems.



#### **Gist about Satpura Tiger Reserve**

- i. Satpura Tiger Reserve is located in Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh (India) and it is part of the Deccan bio-geographic zone of India.
- ii. It has placed in the tentative list of UNESCO's world heritage sites.

#### **About Madhya Pradesh**

**Governor**– MangubhaiChangbhai Patel

**Chief Minister** – Shivraj Singh Chouhan



## Sports

### Indian American Abhimanyu Mishra Became the Youngest Chess Grandmaster

Indian American chess player **Abhimanyu Mishra** (12 years 4 months, 25 days old) became the youngest ever Chess Grandmaster after he scored his third Grandmaster (**GM**) norm in Budapest, Hungary. He won the title against 15-year-old Indian chess player Leon Luke Mendonca

- Abhimanyu Mishra broke the record of Grandmaster Sergey Karjakin who held the position for 19 years. He became the youngest grandmaster at the age of 12 years and seven months.

### About Abhimanyu Mishra:

- i.Abhimanyu Mishra scored both his first and second Grandmaster norms at the April Vezerkepzo tournament and the May 2021 First Saturday tournament.
- ii.He scored his 3rd GM norm having crossed the required 2500 Elo rating.

### ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 Shifted to UAE – Oman

The International Cricket Council (**ICC**) has shifted the venue of **ICC Men's T20 World Cup** Tournament from India to United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) and **Oman**, due to India's prevailing pandemic situation. The tournament will be hosted by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (**BCCI**) at 4 venues from 17 October to 14 November 2021.

- i.ICC Men's T20 World Cup will be participated by **16 teams** and the last T20 World Cup event was won by West Indies in 2016 in India.

### Indian Men and Women Hockey teams remain at 4th & 10th in FIH rankings

In the recent rankings released by the International Hockey Federation (**FIH**), the positions of Indian Men's and Women's Hockey teams remain unaltered at **4th** and **10th** position respectively.

- i.**Australian** Men's team moved up to the top position, while **Netherlands** Women Team remains at the Top position in the World Hockey Rankings.

### Jabir 1st Indian Male to participate in 400m hurdles in Olympics; Maana Patel 1st ever Indian Female Swimmer at Olympics

Indian Navy's athlete **MP Jabir** will be **1st Indian male athlete to participate in the 400m hurdles** in Olympics when he competes at the Tokyo Olympics 2020. He qualified for the 400m hurdles event after clocking 49.78s to win Gold at the Inter-State Athletics Championships held at Patiala, Punjab.

- Jabir hails from Malappuram, Kerala and is currently ranked 34th in the World Athletics' Road to Olympics rankings, where 40 athletes qualify.
- India's PT Usha had competed in the 400m hurdles at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

### Indian Cricketer Mithali Raj Became Leading Scorer in All forms of Women's International Cricket

Indian cricketer and women's ODI Captain **Mithali Raj** (38 years old) became the leading scorer in women's international cricket in all three formats. She overtook former England's batter **Charlotte Edward's** tally of **10273** runs during the 3rd and final One-Day Internationals (ODI) between England and India held in Worcester, Massachusetts, United States.

- Mithali Raj has scored a total of **10277** runs in 317 matches.
- She is the **only Indian cricketer** and 2nd international cricketer to score more than 10000 runs in Women's International Cricket.

Mithali Raj tops the **ICC ODI women's Batting Rankings** for the 8th time. She achieved the feat for the first time in April 2005.

- She has represented India in more than 200 ODI and has scored 6974 runs.
- She also holds the record of the most runs in Women's ODIs.

### Tennis – Overview of Wimbledon Championships 2021

The **134th Edition** (127th staging of the Ladies' Singles Championship event, the 53rd in the Open Era) of Wimbledon Championships 2021 was held at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, London, UK from 28th June – 11th July, 2021.

- It is one of the 4 Grand Slam tennis tournaments (others being Australian Open, French Open and the US Open) and takes place in **Grass court**.
- It has been held since 1877. The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club (AELTC) & International Tennis Federation (ITF) organized the tournament.
- The 2020 Wimbledon Championships were cancelled due to COVID-19 (1st cancellation of the Tournament since World War II).

Category	Winner	Runner-up
Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Matteo Berrettini (Italy)
Women's Singles	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)	Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic)

### Football: Italy wins UEFA EURO 2020

The **Italy National Football Team** won the **16th Edition of '2020 UEFA European Football Championship (UEFA Euro 2020)'** by defeating England on penalties in the finals held at Wembley Stadium, London, UK. This is Italy's 2nd European Championship Title (1st one was in 1968).

#### UEFA EURO 2020

- For the 1st time, The UEFA (Union of European Football Associations) Euro 2020 was held across Europe, with 11 host cities in all. 24 European National Teams participated in the Tournament which took place from 11th June-11th July, 2021.
- UEFA European Championship is a **Quadrennial men's football championship event** ( held once in 4 years) organized by UEFA.
- Defending Champions- Portugal

#### Awards – UEFA EURO 2020

Category	Winner
Alipay Top Scorer Award (Also known as Golden Boot Award)	Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal)
Player of the Tournament (Also known as Golden Ball Award)	Gianluigi Donnarumma (Italy)
Young Player of the Tournament	Pedro González López (Spain)

#### About Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)

**President** – Aleksander Čeferin

**Headquarters** – Nyon, Switzerland

### Vishwanathan Anand finishes 2nd in 2021 Croatia Grand Chess Tour

India's Vishwanathan Anand finished 2nd in the **2021 Croatia Grand Chess Tour** Rapid and Blitz tournament held at **Zagreb, Croatia** from July 5-12, 2021. Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France finished 1st in the tournament.

- Vachier-Lagrave finished with 23 points (combined of Rapid & Blitz sections) while Anand finished with 21 points.
- Croatia Grand Chess Tour is the 2nd Rapid and Blitz event and the 3rd stop on the 2021 Grand Chess Tour (GCT).
- GCT is a circuit of international events, The inaugural Grand Chess Tour was held in 2015.

#### FIDE Rankings

According to July rankings of FIDE (International Chess Federation), Norway's Magnus Carlsen is the World Number -1. Vishwanathan Anand is the top ranked Indian at 15.

- In the Women's section – Hou Yifan (China) is the World Number 1. Koneru Humpy is the highest ranked Indian at Number 3.

### Argentina wins Copa America 2021

On 11th July 2021, Argentina won the 2021's Copa America football tournament against Brazil in the finals on a 1-0 victory. The 2021 Copa America tournament was hosted by Brazil and the finals took place at Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

- i.Argentina under the Captaincy of Lionel Messi won the 1st title for the country after a gap of 28 years. This also makes the 1st major International Trophy for Messi.
- ii.The winning goal for the Argentinian side was scored by Angel di Maria.

**Note – Qatar** is set to host the 2022's FIFA World Cup

### Notable Awards:

- Golden Boot (Top Scorer) Award – Lionel Messi
- Golden Ball (Best Player) Award – Lionel Messi (4 Goals & 5 assist in 6-Matches)
- Golden Glove (Best Goalkeeper) Award – Emiliano Martinez (Argentina)
- Best Player Award – Lionel Messi (Argentina) & Neymar (Brazil)
- Best Player of Final – Angel di Maria (Argentina)

iii.Copa America is the Oldest-running International Football Tournament, contested among the South American nations.

### About FIFA:

It is the highest International governing body of the global football association

**Established** – 1904

**Headquarters** – Zurich, Switzerland

**President** – Gianni Infantino

### Chris Gayle becomes 1st Cricketer to Score 14,000 runs in T20

West Indies cricketer Chris Gayle popularly known as “Universal Boss” created history by becoming the 1st ever batsman to score 14,000 runs in T20 format. He achieved this feat during the ongoing T20 Internationals between Australia & West Indies. He also holds the record for Highest individual score of 175 runs in T20 format in 2013 Indian Premier League (IPL).

### Madhya Pradesh Cricketer Anshula Rao becomes 1st Woman Cricketer to be banned for doping

**Anshula Rao**, a woman cricketer from Madhya Pradesh, was banned for 4-years by the National Anti-Doping Agency after failing a dope test. She is the 1st Woman Cricketer to be banned for use of illegal substances, for intentionally using 19-Norandrosterone, a performance-enhancing steroid.

### **F1: Lewis Hamilton wins British Grand Prix 2021**

Mercedes driver **Lewis Hamilton (Britain)** won the British Grand Prix 2021 held at Silverstone Circuit, Silverstone, United Kingdom (UK). This is Hamilton's 8 victory at the British GP (his victory coming in 2008) & overall **99th GP victory**.



- Ferrari's Charles Leclerc (Monaco) finished 2nd while Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas (Finland) finished 3rd.
- F1 Drivers' Championship leader Mercedes' Max Verstappen (Netherlands) crashed out of the race after a collision with Lewis Hamilton.
- The F1 Championships are organised by Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA).

### **1st-ever F1 Sprint Qualifying Race**

At the 2021 British GP, for the **1st time ever**, a **Sprint Qualifying Race** was conducted to decide the Grid for the Race (Starting Position of Cars in a race).

### **About Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA):**

**President** – Jean Todt

**Headquarters** – Paris, France

### **Mithali Raj reclaims No.1 Spot in ICC Women's ODI Batting Rankings**

Indian Women's Team Captain (for ODIs) Mithali Raj has reclaimed the No.1 spot in the latest MRF Tyres ICC Women's ODI Batting Rankings. It is the 9th time that Mithali Raj is topping the rankings.



- In the latest MRF Tyres ICC Women's T20I Batting Rankings, India's Shafali Verma topped & Smriti Mandhana attained a career-best 3rd ranking.

### **Viswanathan Anand wins NC World Masters of Sparkassen Chess Trophy**

India's Viswanathan Anand defeated Russia's Vladimir Kramnik to win the 'No-Castling (NC) World Masters' event of the Sparkassen Trophy held at Dortmund, Germany.

- The NC World Masters is part of the **48th Dortmund Sparkassen Chess Meeting** held from July 10-18, 2021. It has been held annually since 1973 and was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic.

## 2032 Summer Olympics to be hosted by Brisbane, Australia

On 21st July 2021, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) awarded the honour of hosting the Games of the 35th Olympiad or **2032 Summer Olympics to Australia's Brisbane city**. Brisbane was selected unanimously by the IOC's 15-member executive board as the host city for the 2032 Olympics.



i. This will be the **3rd time** Australia will host an Olympic game, after the Melbourne games in 1956 and Sydney games in 2000.

ii. Notably, Australia's Queensland has recently hosted the 2018 Commonwealth Games

iii. Venues of Upcoming Summer Olympic games:

- **2020** Olympics – Tokyo, Japan
- **2024** Olympics – Paris, France
- **2028** Olympics – Los Angeles, USA

## About International Olympic Committee (IOC):

**President**– Dr. Thomas Bach (Germany)

**Headquarters**– Lausanne, Switzerland

## Highlights of Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics

The 32nd Edition of Olympic Games is set to take place in Tokyo, Japan from 23rd July, 2021 – 8th August, 2021. As many as 204 countries are participating in the games.

- Summer Olympic Mascot – 'MIRAITOWA'; Paralympic Mascot – Someity.
- The 2020 Games mark the 2nd time that Japan is hosting the Summer Olympic Games, the 1st one also took place in Tokyo in 1964. It is the 1st City in Asia to host the Summer Games Twice (Including Winter Games, it is the 4th Olympic Games in Japan).

## India's Squad

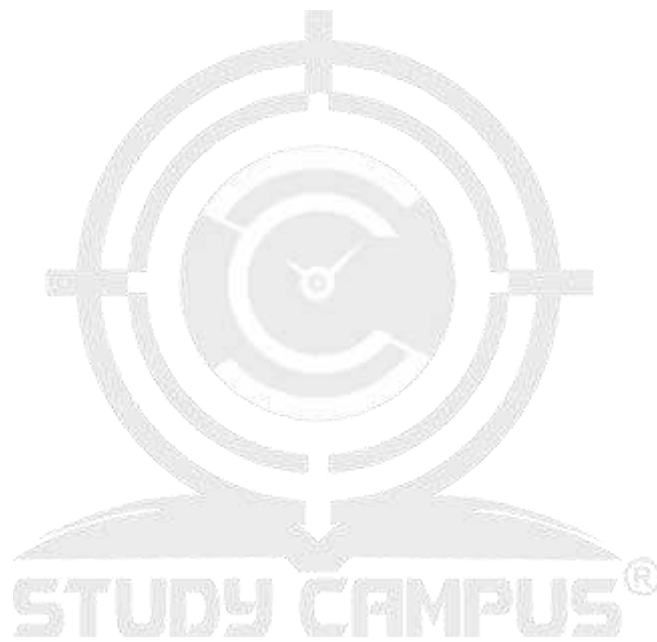
India is sending a 228-member Contingent to the Tokyo Olympics, which includes 119 athletes (67 male & 52 female). It will be India's largest ever contingent of athletes at the Olympics.

- **Mary Kom** (Boxing) & **Manpreet Singh** (Hockey) will be India's flag bearers in the Opening Ceremony, while Bajrang Punia (Wrestling) will be the flag bearer for the Closing ceremony.

## Olympic Laurel 2020

Bangladesh's **Muhammad Yunus** is set to receive the **Olympic Laurel award** for

**2020** during the opening ceremony. It aims to honour outstanding individuals for their achievements in education, culture, development and peace through sport.



## Obituaries

### **Bollywood Actor Dilip Kumar Passed Away at 98**

Veteran Bollywood Actor and Padma Awardee **Dilip Kumar**, popularly known as the ‘**Tragedy King of Bollywood**’, passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was born as Mohammed Yusuf Khan in Peshawar, British India (now in Pakistan) on 11th December 1922.

#### **About Dilip Kumar:**

- i. Dilip Kumar debuted as an Actor in the 1944 film “Jwar Bhata”.
- ii. He has starred in more than 65 films which include films like Devdas(1955), Mughal-e-Azam(1960), Ganga Jamuna(1961), Ram Aur Shyam(1967), Naya Daur(1957), Madhumati(1958), Kranti(1981), Vidhaata(1982), Shakti(1982) and Mashaal(1984).
- iii. He was the inaugural recipient of the Filmfare Best Actor Award (1954), He won the award for his film “Daag” (1953).

#### **Honours:**

- i. The government of India honoured him with the **Padma Bhushan** in **1991** and **Padma Vibhushan** in **2015**.
- ii. The government of Pakistan honoured him with its highest civilian honour the “**Nishan-e-Imtiaz**” in 1998. He is the only Indian to be honoured with this.
- iii. In 1994, He won the Dadasaheb Phalke award for his cinematic excellence.

### **Former CM of Himachal Pradesh & Congress Leader Virbhadra Singh Passed Away**

Former Chief Minister(CM) of Himachal Pradesh **Virbhadra Singh** passed away in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. He was born on 23rd June 1934 at Sarahan, Punjab, British India (Now in Himachal Pradesh). He is the sitting Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from the Arki assembly constituency (Solan District, Himachal Pradesh).

He was popularly known by the honorific ‘**Raja Sahib**’.

- Virbhadra Singh, a veteran Congress leader, has served as the CM of Himachal Pradesh (6 times) between 1983 to 2017.
- He was also a 9-time MLA and 5-time Member of Parliament(MP).

#### **About Virbhadra Singh:**

- i. Virbhadra Singh has served as the President of the Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee.
- ii. Virbhadra Singh has been elected to the Legislative assembly of Himachal Pradesh in 1983, 1985 from the Jubbal-Kotkhai Assembly Constituency, in 1990, 1993, 1998, 2003 and 2007 from the Rohru constituency and in 2012 from the Shimla Rural constituency.
- iii. He was re-elected to the 13th Vidhan Sabha in 2017 from the Arki constituency.
- iv. He was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1962 and 1967 from Mahasu Constituency (Himachal Pradesh), in 1971, 1980 and 2009 from Mandi constituency (Himachal Pradesh).
- v. He has served as the Deputy Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Minister of State for



Industries (1982 to 1983), Union Minister of Steel (2009 to 2011) and Union Minister of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) (2011- 2012).

### **Haiti President Jovenel Moïse Assassinated at age 53**

**Jovenel Moïse (53 years old)**, President of the Republic of Haiti was assassinated on 7th July 2021 at his private residence at Pèlerin 5, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. He was born on 26th June 1968 in Trou Du Nord, Nord Est, Haiti.

#### **About Jovenel Moïse:**

- i.** Jovenel Moïse was an entrepreneur, who has been serving as the president of Haiti since 2017.
- ii.** In 2015, Jovenel Moïse was designated as the presidential candidate of the Haitian Tèt Kale Party (PHTK) by then-President Michel Martelly.
- iii.** He won the first round of the presidential election in October 2015 which was marred by voter fraud.
- iv.** He also won the vote which was held again in November 2016, and officially took office on **7th February 2017**.

### **Yashpal Sharma – 1983 World Cup winning Indian Cricketer passed away**

Former Indian Batsman, Yashpal Sharma, who represented India in the 1983 ICC World winning Cricket team passed away due to cardiac arrest on 13th July 2021. He represented India in 37 Test matches and 42 One-Day Internationals (ODI).

- i.** He also served as one of the selector of 2011 ODI World Cup winning Indian Team
- ii.** Yashpal Sharma was a Key middle order batsman in the 1983 ICC World Cup winning Indian team under the captaincy of Kapil Dev.
- iii.** In the 1983 tournament, he scored a total of 240 runs in 8 innings with 2 half centuries, to become the 2nd highest run scorer after Kapil Dev.
- iv.** Made his highest Test score of 140 against England in Chennai.



#### **About Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI):**

BCCI is the governing body of Cricket in India, it functions under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

**Established** – 1928

**President** – Sourav Ganguly

### **Former Pakistan President Mamnoon Hussain Passed Away**

**Mamnoon Hussain**, Former President of Pakistan and senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) has passed away in Karachi, Pakistan. He was born in 1940 in Agra, British India and migrated to Pakistan during the 1947 partition.

#### **About Mamnoon Hussain:**

- i. Mamnoon Hussain served as the 12th President of Pakistan from 2013 to 2018.
- ii. In 1999, he was appointed as the governor of Sindh by then-President Rafiq Tarar, later he was removed from the post when the Government of then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was overthrown by then Pakistan Army Chief General Pervez Musharraf in a military coup d'état.

### **Pulitzer Prize-winning Indian Photojournalist Danish Siddiqui Killed in Afghanistan**

Indian photojournalist and Pulitzer prize winner **Danish Siddiqui** (38 years old), was killed by the Taliban militants in Spin Boldak district of Afghanistan's Kandahar province. He was killed while covering the fighting between Afghan security forces and the Taliban.

He hails from Delhi, India.

#### **Note:**

According to the United Nations, more than 33 journalists were killed in Afghanistan between 2018 and 2021.

#### **About Danish Siddiqui:**

- i. Danish Siddiqui, a Mumbai based photojournalist, heads the Reuters Pictures multimedia team in India.
- ii. He has been working as a Reuters photographer since 2010.
- iii. He has covered the war in Iraq, the Hong Kong pro-democracy protests of 2019-2020, the deadly earthquakes in Nepal in 2015, the Mass Games in North Korea and the living conditions of asylum seekers in Switzerland.

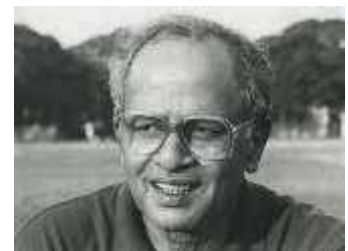
#### **Award:**

- He along with his co-workers from Reuters won the **Pulitzer prize in 2018** for covering the **Rohingya refugee crisis** in Bangladesh.
- He has been honoured with various photojournalism awards in the USA, England, China and India.

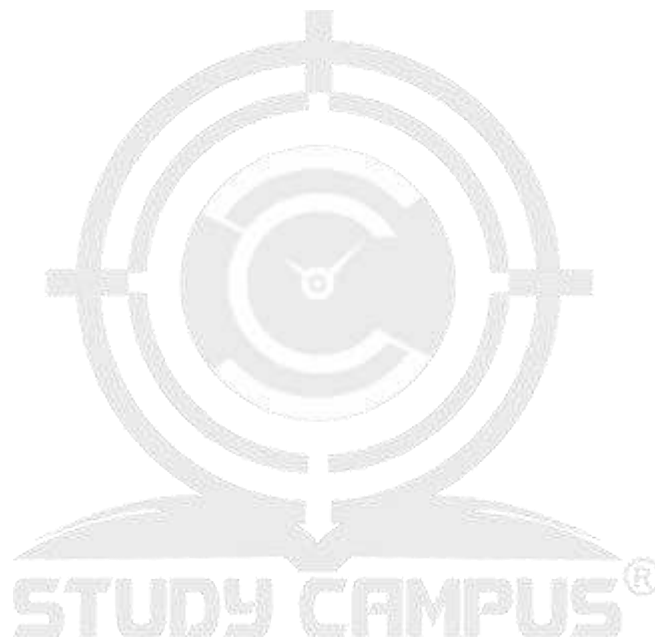
### **Indian Badminton Legend and Arjuna Awardee Nandu Natekar Passes Away**

On 28th July, 2021, Indian Badminton Legend & Arjuna awardee Nandu Natekar (88) passed away due to age related ailments in **Pune, Maharashtra**. He was the **1st Indian Badminton Player to win an International event**, when he won the Selangor International title held at Malaysia in 1956.

- He was **one of the 1st sportsmen to receive the Arjuna Award**, when they were introduced in 1961.



- Hailing from **Sangli in Maharashtra**, Natekar has won more than 100 National & International Titles during his career. He is also a 6-time National Champion.
- He led India at the Thomas Cup (World Men's Badminton Team Championships) in 1959, 1961 and 1963.
- Natekar represented India at the 1965 Commonwealth Games held in Jamaica.



## Important Days with theme

### National Doctors Day 2021 – July 1

The National Doctors Day is annually observed across India on **1st July** to recognise the efforts and contributions of the doctor's community to society and the commitment of the doctors towards their profession.

- The day also marks the birth and death anniversary of Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy, who served as the Chief Minister(CM) of West Bengal(WB) from 1948 to 1962.

•The Indian Medical Association(IMA) celebrates National Doctors Day across India. The headquarters of IMA has declared “**Save the Saviours**” as the **theme** of National Doctors Day 2021.

#### Event:

i.The IMA has organised a special Doctors Day program at the IMA headquarters in New Delhi.

ii.Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the medical fraternity at the event.

#### About Indian Medical Association(IMA):

**National President**– Dr. Rajan Sharma

**Headquarters**– New Delhi

### World Population Day 2021 – 11 July

United Nations(UN)'s **World Population Day** is annually observed across the globe on **11th July** to create awareness about the urgency and importance of population issues such as the importance of family planning, gender equality, poverty, maternal health and human right, and their relations to the environment and development.

#### Background:

i.The World Population Day was first established by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989, following the observance of the Day of Five Billion on 11th July 1987, the day when the world's population reached 5 billion.

ii.The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution in December 1990 and decided to continue the observance of the World Population day on 11th July.

iii.The first UN's World Population Day was observed on 11th July 1990.

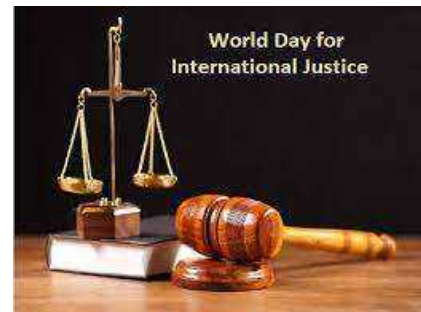
#### UP's Population Policy 2021-2030:

i.On the occasion of the World Population Day 2021, Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister(CM) of Uttar Pradesh(UP) inaugurated the Population Policy 2021-2030 for Uttar Pradesh.

ii.**Aim:** To bring down the gross fertility rate among women to 2.1 by 2026 and to 1.9 by 2030.

## Day of International Criminal Justice 2021 – July 17

**Day of International Criminal Justice** is annually observed across the globe by the International Criminal Court (ICC) on **17th July** to recognise the efforts of modern justice against international criminal acts and its role in bringing peace and security to the world.



- The day is also known as **World Day of International Justice** and **International Criminal Justice day**.

### Background:

- The Assembly of State Parties to observe July 17 as the Day of International Criminal Justice.
- The decision was taken at the Review Conference of the Rome Statute held in Kampala, Uganda on 1st June 2010.

### Why 17th July?

17th July marks the anniversary of the adoption of the **Rome Statute** on **17 July 1998**, the founding treaty of the ICC, the world's first permanent international criminal court.

- The Rome Statute is signed by 137 countries and ratified by 123 countries.

### About International Criminal Court (ICC):

**President**– Judge Piotr Hofmański (Poland)

**Headquarters**– The Hague, the Netherlands

## Nelson Mandela International Day 2021 – July 18

The United Nations (UN)'s **Nelson Mandela International Day** is annually observed across the globe on **18th July** to recognise the contributions of Nelson Mandela towards justice, peace and dialogue and his role in Africa's struggle for liberation and unity. The day also marks the birth anniversary of **Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela** who played a major role in creating a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa.



The day is also known as "**Mandela Day**".

The 2021 Mandela Day marks the **103rd** birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela.

The theme of the 2021 Nelson Mandela International Day is "**One Hand Can Feed Another**".

### Background:

- i. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/64/13 on 10th November 2009 and proclaimed **July 18th** of every year as Nelson Mandela International Day.
- ii. The first UN's Nelson Mandela International Day was observed on **18th July 2010**.
- iii. The resolution also acknowledged the international campaign of the Nelson Mandela Foundation and other related organisations on observing the birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela as "Mandela Day" on 18th July 2009.

### 22nd Anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas – 26th July 2021

India celebrates the 22nd Anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas on 26th July 2021 which marks the victory of India over Pakistan in the war fought from 3rd May to 26th July 1999 in Kargil, Jammu & Kashmir.

The day remembers the valour and sacrifices of the heroes of the Kargil War and pays homage to the martyrs who lost their lives in the line of duty.



#### **Background:**

- i. On 26th July 1999, the Indian army successfully executed **Operation Vijay**, which evicted the infiltrators, backed by the Pakistani Army, from the high outposts in Kargil after an armed conflict that lasted for more than 60 days.
- ii. Around 527 soldiers of the Indian Armed Forces were lost during the Kargil War.

#### **Operation Vijay:**

- i. Then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee declared the success of the operation Vijay on July 14th and the operation was officially declared closed on **26th July 1999**, since then the day is annually celebrated as **Kargil Vijay Diwas**.

#### **About Ministry of Defence:**

**Union Minister**– Rajnath Singh (Constituency- Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh)

**Minister of State**– Ajay Bhatt (Constituency- Nainital-Udhamsingh Nagar, Uttarakhand)

### 83rd Central Reserve Police Force Raising Day – 27th July 2021

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), India's largest Central Armed Police Force, under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) celebrates the **83rd CRPF Raising Day** on **27th July 2021**. The CRPF Raising Day is annually observed across India on **27th July** to mark the establishment of the Force.

The day recognises the valour and professionalism of the CRPF and recognises their contribution to securing the internal security of India and maintaining peace.

**History:**

The Central Reserve Police Force(**CRPF**) came into existence as ‘**Crown Representative’s Police**’ on 27th July 1939.

The force was renamed as the Central Reserve Police Force(**CRPF**) by an Act of Parliament on **December 28, 1949**.

**About Central Reserve Police Force(CRPF):**

**Director-General-Kuldiep Singh**

**Headquarters- New Delhi**

**About Ministry of Home Affairs(MHA):**

**Union Minister**– Amit Shah(Constituency- Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat)

**Minister of State-Nityanand Rai**(Constituency- Ujiarpur, Bihar), Ajay Kumar Mishra(Constituency- Kheri, Uttar Pradesh)

**International Tiger Day 2021 – July 29**

The **International Tiger Day** is annually observed across the globe on **29th July** to create awareness about the Tigers (scientific name: **Panthera tigris**, belong to genus **Panthera**), one of the species that is classified as **Endangered** by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The International Tiger Day is also known as **Global Tiger Day**.

**Aim:**

To spread awareness about the decreasing population of tigers and the importance of Tiger conservation and their natural habitats.

**Background:**

- i. On 23rd November 2010, ‘**The St. Petersburg Declaration on Tiger Conservation**’ signed during the International Tiger Forum in St. Petersburg, Russia from 21 to 24 November 2010, proclaimed the 29th July of every year as the Global Tiger Day.
- ii. The declaration was signed by Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam, the countries housing the remaining tigers in the wild.

