

## July 2nd Week Current Affairs

### National News

#### Newly inducted Union Ministers assume charge of their ministries

- Several newly inducted **Union Ministers** took charge of their offices. **Forty-three ministers** were sworn into the Union Council of Ministers. They included **15 Cabinet Ministers** and **28 Ministers of State**.

#### Union Cabinet Ministers

Narayan Tatu Rane	Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Sarbananda Sonowal	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; Minister of AYUSH
Virendra Kumar	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
Jyotiraditya M Scindia	Minister of Civil Aviation
Ramchandra Prasad Singh	Minister of Steel
Ashwini Vaishnaw	Minister of Railways; Minister of Communications; Minister of Electronics and Information Technology
Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Minister of Food Processing Industries
Kiren Rijiju	Minister of Law and Justice
Raj Kumar Singh	Minister of Power; Minister of New and Renewable Energy
Hardeep Singh Puri	Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs
Mansukh Mandaviya	Minister of Health and Family Welfare; Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Bhupender Yadav	Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Minister of Labour and Employment
Parshottam Rupala	Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
G. Kishan Reddy	Minister of Culture; Minister of Tourism; Minister of Development of North Eastern Region
Anurag Singh Thakur	Minister of Information and Broadcasting; Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

## Union Minister S Jaishankar attends the SCO Foreign Ministers' meet in Tajikistan

- Union Minister of External Affairs **S Jaishankar** has participated in the meeting of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO)** Council of Foreign Ministers held in **Tajikistan**.
- The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in **2001** by the Presidents of **Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan** and **Uzbekistan**.

## Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- Headquarters: **Beijing, China**
- Secretary-General: **Vladimir Norov**
- Founded: **15 June 2001**
- SCO Members: **China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan**

## Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University signs an MoU with HI-NO-DE Foundation to train and place students

- **Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **HI-NO-DE Foundation** to implement the **Technical Intern Training Program (T.I.T.P.)** to train, skill and place the youth of India, especially those in **Delhi**.
- This partnership aims to transform the skill ecosystem in **India** through an exchange program between **young individuals** from **India** and **Japan**.

## NARCL gets incorporated with the Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs

- According to the **Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**, the **National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)** was incorporated and registered with the **Registrar of Companies, (RoC) Mumbai**.
- **NARCL** was incorporated with an authorised capital of **Rs. 100 crores** and paid-up capital of **Rs. 74.6 crores**. The **Indian Banks Association (IBA)** is likely to approach the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to seek an ARC (asset reconstruction company) licence.

## Ladakh signs an MoU with SSOCA to become organic by 2025

- A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Administration of **Union Territory of Ladakh** and **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (Leh/Kargil)** with **Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency (SSOCA)** for the implementation of **Prampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana** and **Mission Organic Development Initiative (MODI)** in the Ladakh region to convert **Ladakh** into an organic entity by **2025**.

## Ladakh

- Capital: **Leh**
- Lieutenant Governor: **Radha Krishna Mathur**

### ICCR and Delhi University sign an MoU to set up Bangabandhu Chair

- **Delhi University** will have a '**Bangabandhu Chair**' to foster a better understanding of developments in **Bangladesh**. This MoU was signed between the **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)** and **Delhi University** in **Dhaka** to set up this Chair at the Delhi University.
- This Chair was the celebration of the commonality of the world view between Indian and Bangladesh as both countries stand for **peace, tranquility, equal respect** for all belief systems and democracy.

### Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)

- Founder: **Abul Kalam Azad**
- Founded: **9 April 1950**
- Headquarters: **New Delhi**

### IITM-PTF and Sony India is set to host a national-level hackathon 'SAMVEDAN 2021'

- The **IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation (IITM-PTF)** is collaborating with **Sony India Software Centre Private Limited** to conduct a national hackathon called '**SAMVEDAN 2021 – Sensing Solutions for Bharat**' to inspire citizens to solve India-specific problems of societal interest using IoT sensor board.

### Union Minister for Tourism G Kishan Reddy chairs the BRICS Tourism Ministers' meeting

- Union Minister for Tourism **G Kishan Reddy** chaired the BRICS Tourism Ministers' meeting as part of **India's BRICS** chairship. The Ministers of all the member countries, viz. **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa** participated in the meeting.

### BRICS

- Established: **2009**
- Member Countries: **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa**
- 2021 Chairperson: **India**

### Bhutan becomes the first country to adopt India's UPI standards for its QR deployment

- **Bhutan** became the **first country** to adopt India's **Unified Payment Interface (UPI)** standards for its **quick response (QR) code**. It is also the second country after **Singapore** to have BHIM-UPI acceptance at merchant locations.
- **Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)** is India's digital payment application (app) that works through UPI, a system that powers multiple bank accounts into a **single mobile application**.

- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** is an umbrella organisation for operating **retail payments** and **settlement systems** in **India**. It is an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for creating a robust payment and settlement infrastructure in India.

### Bhutan

- Capital: **Thimphu**
- Currency: **Ngultrum**
- Prime Minister: **Lotay Tshering**

### Exim Bank provides \$35.26 mn loan for a power project in Senegal executed by Kalpataru Power Transmission Limited

- The **Export-Import (Exim) Bank of India** has extended a \$35.26 million loan for a power transmission project in **Senegal** being executed by **Kalpataru Power Transmission Limited**.
- The credit facility was extended under the **National Export Insurance Account (NEIA)**

### Exim Bank (Export-Import Bank of India)

- Headquarter: **Mumbai**
- Managing Director: **David Rasquinha**

### NTPC Renewable Energy Limited to set up India's first green hydrogen mobility project in Leh

- State-run power giant **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited's (NTPC)** arm, NTPC Renewable Energy Limited, will set up India's first **green hydrogen mobility project** in **Leh, Ladakh**.

### Ladakh

- Capital: **Leh**
- Lieutenant Governor: **Radha Krishna Mathur**

### Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates India's first private LNG plant in Nagpur

- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways **Nitin Gadkari** has inaugurated **India's** first private **LNG** (Liquefied Natural Gas) plant in **Nagpur, Maharashtra**. LNG is a clean and **cost-effective fuel** which can decrease the **logistics cost**.
- This plant has been set up by the **Baidyanath Ayurvedic Group** on **Kamptee Road** near the **Nagpur Jabalpur Highway**.

### Maharashtra

- Capital: **Mumbai**
- Chief Minister: **Uddhav Thackeray**

- Governor: **Bhagat Singh Koshyari**
- National Parks: **Chandoli National Park, Gugamal National Park, Nawegaon National Park, Pench (Jawaharlal Nehru) National Park, Sanjay Gandhi (Borivilli) National Park**

### India's first-ever cryptogamic garden was inaugurated in Dehradun

- India's first **cryptogamic garden** was inaugurated in the **Deoban** area of the **Dehradun district** in **Uttarakhand**. The garden has nearly **50 species** of **lichens, ferns and fungi**. It was inaugurated by social activist **Anoop Nautiyal**.

### Uttarakhand

- Capital: **Dehradun**
- Chief Minister: **Pushkar Singh Dhami**
- Governor: **Baby Rani Maurya**
- National Parks: **Corbett National Park, Gangotri National Park, Govind Pashu Vihar National Park, Nanda Devi National Park, Rajaji National Park, Valley of Flowers National Park**

### Amazon launches its first 'Digital Kendra' in Surat

- **Amazon India** has launched its first '**Digital Kendra**' in **Surat, Gujarat**, under its initiative to digitise **micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)**. Amazon will invest \$1 billion in India to help digitise 10 million Indian MSMEs by **2025**.
- Amazon **Digital Kendras** will provide MSMEs information about the benefits of **e-commerce** and help avail **third-party services** such as shipping and logistics support, cataloguing assistance, digital marketing services, GST and taxation support to start their digital journey.

### Gujarat

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

### Indian Army's Gulmarg firing range was named the Vidya Balan firing range

- The **Indian Army** has named its **Gulmarg firing range** in Kashmir after Bollywood actress **Vidya Balan**. The **Vidya Balan firing range** is situated at **Gulmarg** in the Baramulla district of **Jammu & Kashmir**.

### Jammu and Kashmir

- Capital: **Srinagar (Summer), Jammu (Winter)**
- Lt. Governor: **Manoj Sinha**



- National Parks: **Hemis National Park, City Forest (Salim Ali) National Park, Dachigam National Park, Kishtwar National Park**
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: **Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary, Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary, Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary, Baltal-Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary, Karakoram (Nubra Shyok) Wildlife Sanctuary**
- Lakes: **Mansar Lake, Nagin Lake, Wular Lake, Surinsar Lake, Dal Lake**

### Union Government sets up 25-member Development Council for Cement Industry headed by Puneet Dalmia

- Union Government has set up a 25-member **Development Council for Cement Industry (DCCI)** under the Chairmanship of **Puneet Dalmia**, CMD of Dalmia Bharat Group.
- The panel will suggest ways to **eliminate waste, obtain maximum production, improve quality, reduce costs** and promote the standardisation of **products**.

### Indian Railways opens its first movable freshwater tunnel aquarium at Bengaluru railway station

- **Bengaluru City Railway Station** (also known as Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station) has become the first railway station in **India** with a **movable freshwater tunnel aquarium**.
- The 12-feet-long aquarium was opened by the **Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC)** in collaboration with the **HNI Aquatic Kingdom**.

### Karnataka

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

### Delhi Metro launches India's first FASTag-based cashless parking at Kashmere Gate station

- The **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)** has launched **India's first FASTag or Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** based parking facility to reduce the time for entry and payment. The facility was launched at the **Kashmere Gate metro station, New Delhi**.
- The parking lot in this metro station is a **Multi-Model Integration (MMI)** Vehicles using this facility can now make payment for entry and exit through **FASTag**.

### New Delhi

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

## Indian Army inaugurates a war memorial of Captain Gurjinder Singh Suri

- **Indian Army** has inaugurated a war memorial in memory of **Captain Gurjinder Singh Suri** in **Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir**, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Captain Gurjinder Singh Suri, who died during the Operation “**Birsa Munda**” in 1999.

## Jammu and Kashmir Government approves uploading of geotagged photographs through “PROOF” mobile app

- **Jammu and Kashmir** Government accorded sanction to uploading of **geotagged** photographs through “**PROOF**” (Photographic Record Of On-site Facility) mobile application while preferring bills in the concerned treasuries against the budget allotted through **BEAMS** (Budget, Estimation, Allocation & Monitoring System) application.

## Jammu and Kashmir

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

## Union Government brings the Department of Public Enterprises under the Union Finance Ministry to boost disinvestment coordination

- The Union Government has decided to bring the **Department of Public Enterprises (DPE)** under the **Union Ministry of Finance**.
- The DPE was earlier under the **Union Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises**. It was decided to be brought under the **Union Ministry of Finance** to ease coordination related to future disinvestment plans.

## NABARD sanctions Rs. 2891.15 lakhs to Goa under the RIDF scheme

- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has sanctioned a loan worth **2891.15 lakhs** under the **Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)** to the Government of Goa for the construction of Phase II building of **Goa Dental College and Hospital** in **Bambolim, Goa**.

## Goa

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

## National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

- Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- Formation: **12 July 1982**
- Chairman: **Chintala Govinda Rajulu**

## Union Ministry of Tourism signs an MoU with Yatra to strengthen tourism and domestic hospitality industry

- **Union Ministry of Tourism** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Yatra** to strengthen and enable the **tourism and hospitality industry**.
- This MoU was signed under an arrangement between the **Union Ministry of Tourism** and the **Quality Council of India (QCI)**.

## Union Minister Prakash Javadekar virtually inaugurates India Pavilion at the 74<sup>th</sup> Cannes Film Festival

- Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Minister **Prakash Javadekar** has inaugurated the India Pavilion during the **74<sup>th</sup> Cannes Film Festival** held in **Cannes, France**.

## Union Minister of AYUSH Kiren Rijiju launches five important portals in AYUSH sector

- Union Minister of AYUSH (IC) **Kiren Rijiju** has virtually inaugurated five portals of importance and four publications to provide health security to the Indian people.

The five portals are:

1. Ayurveda Dataset on Clinical Trial Registry of India (CTRI)
2. CCRAS-Research Management Information System
3. E-Medha (Electronic Medical Heritage Accession) Portal
4. AMAR (Ayush Manuscripts Advanced Repository) Portal
5. SHAI (Showcase of Ayurveda Historical Imprints) Portal

## Union Government sets up a 9-member panel headed by RS Sharma to check digital monopolies

- The **Union Ministry of Commerce** has announced the constitution of a nine-member advisory committee headed by **RS Sharma** (CEO of **National Health Authority**) for the development of an open network for digital commerce (ONDC) to curb the **digital monopolies in India**.
- **Nandan Nilekani** was appointed as the advisor to the 9-member advisory committee set up to prevent digital monopolies.
- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** has initiated a digital project ONDC and the task has been assigned to the **Quality Council Of India (QCI)**.



### Union Government launches mobile app 'Matsya Setu' for Indian aqua farmers

- Union Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister **Giriraj Singh** launched a mobile app named '**Matsya Setu**' to disseminate the latest freshwater aquaculture technologies to **Indian aqua farmers**.
- The app has been developed by the **ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar**, with the funding support of the **National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad**.

### Union Government creates a new Ministry of Cooperation for strengthening cooperative movement

- The Union Government has created a new **Ministry of Cooperation** to strengthen the **cooperative movement** in India. This Union Ministry of Cooperation will work to streamline processes for '**ease of doing business**' for cooperatives and enable the development of **multi-state cooperatives (MSCS)**.

### Ramgarh Vishdhari becomes the fourth tiger reserve in Rajasthan

- Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has approved the **Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary (1,071 sq. km)** in Rajasthan's **Bundi district** as the **fourth tiger reserve in Rajasthan** and the **52<sup>nd</sup> tiger reserve in India**.
- The other three tiger reserves in Rajasthan are **Ranthambore Tiger Reserve** in Sawai Madhopur, **Sariska Tiger Reserve** in Alwar and **Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve** in Kota.

### Rajasthan

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

### Nitin Gadkari becomes the brand ambassador of Khadi Prakritk Paint to promote paint made from cow dung

- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways and MSME **Nitin Gadkari** has inaugurated **India's first** and only paint made from cow dung under the brand name **Khadi Prakritk Paint** in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**.
- He declared himself as the brand ambassador of **Khadi Prakritk Paint** to promote it across India and encourage young entrepreneurs to take up the manufacturing of **cow dung paint**.

### Rajasthan

- Capital: **Jaipur**
- Chief Minister: **Ashok Gehlot**

- Governor: **Kalraj Mishra**
- National Parks: **Desert National Park, Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Mukundra Hills National Park, Ranthambhore National Park, Sariska National Park**

### **KVIC launches unique Project BOLD to boost tribals' income**

- **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** has launched a unique project named **Project 'Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought' (BOLD)** to create bamboo-based green patches in **arid and semi-arid land zones**.
- Project **BOLD** is the first of its kind exercise in **India** that was launched from the **Nichla Mandwa tribal village in Udaipur, Rajasthan**.

### **International News**

#### **Sher Bahadur Deuba takes oath as the new Prime Minister of Nepal**

- **Sher Bahadur Deuba** took oath as the new **Prime Minister** of He succeeded **Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli**, who resigned as **Nepal's** Prime Minister recently.
- **Sher Bahadur Deuba** served **four terms** as the **Prime Minister** of **Nepal** from 1995 to 1997, 2001 to 2002, 2004 to 2005 and 2017 to 2018.

#### **Nepal:**

- Capital: **Kathmandu**
- Currency: **Nepalese Rupee**
- Prime Minister: **Sher Bahadur Deuba**
- President: **Bidhya Devi Bhandari**

#### **SJVN signs an MoU with the Nepal Government to develop 679 MW Lower Arun Hydel Project**

- **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN)**, a Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Union Ministry of Power, Government of India, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Investment Board of Nepal (IBN)** for the execution of **679 MW Lower Arun Hydro Electric Project** in Nepal.

#### **Abiy Ahmed was elected as the Prime Minister of Ethiopia for a second term**

- **Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's** Prosperity Party won the most seats **410** of **436** in **Ethiopia's** parliamentary election. He was elected as the **Prime Minister** of **Ethiopia** for the second term.
- He was appointed as the Prime Minister of **Ethiopia** in **April 2018** after former Prime Minister **Hailemariam Desalegn**

#### **Ethiopia**

- Capital: **Addis Ababa**
- Currency: **Ethiopian Birr**

- Prime Minister: **Abiy Ahmed**
- President: **Sahle-Work Zewde**

## United States became fourth-largest crude oil supplier to India in 2020: BP Report

- According to **BP's** latest report, the **United States** became the fourth-largest supplier of **crude oil** to **India** in 2020.
- The US supplied 10.7 million tonnes of crude oil to India in 2020, behind **Iraq** (47 million tonnes), **Saudi Arabia** (38 million tonnes) and the **UAE** (22 million tonnes).

## Indian Naval Ship Tabar conducts “Maritime Partnership Exercise” with the Italian Navy in the Tyrrhenian Sea

- **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tabar**, the Navy's Talwar-class Russian-built frigate, has just concluded a two-day naval exercise, “Maritime Partnership Exercise”, with the **Italian Navy** in the **Tyrrhenian Sea**.
- **INS Tabar** participated in the military exercises along with a front-line frigate of the Italian Navy, the **ITS Antonio Marceglia** (F 597).

## Italy

- Capital: **Rome**
- President: **Sergio Mattarella**
- Prime Minister: **Mario Draghi**

## Union Cabinet approves the MoC between the Competition Commission of India and Japan Fair Trade Commission

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, has approved the Memorandum on Cooperation (MoC) between the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** and **Japan Fair Trade Commission (JFTC)** to promote and strengthen cooperation in the matter of **competition law and policy**.
- This MoC will enable the CCI to emulate and learn from the experiences and lessons of its counterpart competition agency in Japan which would **enhance efficiency**.

## Japan

- Capital: **Tokyo**
- Currency: **Japanese Yen**
- Prime minister: **Yoshihide Suga**

## World's tallest sandcastle was built in Denmark

- The **world's tallest sandcastle** was constructed in **Denmark**. The castle is 21.16 metres in height (69.4 feet) and comprises nearly 5,000 tonnes of sand.
- According to **Guinness World Records**, this castle in Denmark is 3 metres taller than one built in **Germany** in **2019**, which previously held the title for the world's tallest castle.

## Denmark

- Capital: **Copenhagen**
- Currency: **Danish krone**

## Stefan Lofven was re-elected as the Prime Minister of Sweden

- **Stefan Lofven** was re-elected as the **Prime Minister** of **Sweden**. He had quit as the Prime Minister of Sweden after losing a no-confidence vote on 21 June 2021.
- He won **117 votes** from overall **349 votes** to prove the majority. He has been serving as the Prime Minister of **Sweden** since **2014**.

## Sweden

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

## Union Cabinet approves an MoU between India and Gambia on governance reforms

- The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between **India** and **Gambia** on refurbishing **personnel administration** and **governance reforms**.
- The main objective of the MoU is to **strengthen** and **promote** bilateral cooperation between the two countries in personnel administration and governance reforms.

## Gambia

- Capital: **Banjul**
- Currency: **Gambian Dalasi**
- President: **Adama Barrow**

## Banking and Economy

### RBI introduced the 'RBI Retail Direct' scheme to facilitate the investment of individual investors in G-secs

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced the '**RBI Retail Direct**' scheme, a one-stop solution to facilitate investment in **Government Securities (G-secs)** by **individual investors**.
- Under this scheme, **retail investors (individuals)** will have the facility to open and maintain the '**Retail Direct Gilt Account**' (RDG Account) with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

### Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- Formation: **1 April 1935**

- Governor: **Shaktikanta Das**
- Deputy Governors: **MK Jain, MD Patra, M Rajeshwar Rao and T Rabi Sankar**
- Subsidiaries: **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran (BRBNM)**

### Axis Bank announces its first transaction in SOFR linked derivative

- **Axis Bank** announced its first derivative transaction linked to **SOFR (Secured Overnight Financing Rate)**.
- **SOFR** is the recommended US Dollar interest rate benchmark, which is expected to replace the **London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR)** at the end of 2021.

### Axis Bank

- Headquarters: **Mumbai**
- MD & CEO: **Amitabh Chaudhry**
- Tagline: **“Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi”**

### Tata Motors partners with IndusInd Bank to offer finance solutions for its passenger vehicles customers

- **Tata Motors** has partnered with **IndusInd Bank** to offer **finance solutions** for its passenger vehicle customers.
- Under this partnership, the auto major (Tata Motors) will provide the **‘Step Up’ scheme** where the customers can choose and buy from its range of passenger cars in India, with a special low **EMI** options scheme for the first **3–6 months**.

### IndusInd Bank

- Headquarters: **Pune, Maharashtra**
- MD & CEO: **Sumant Kathpalia**
- Tagline: **“We Make You Feel Richer”**

### Bank of Baroda signs an MoU with Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) for start-up funding

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)** and **AIC STPINEXT** Initiatives to support start-ups across India under its Baroda Start-up Banking programme.
- Under this programme, **15 dedicated start-up branches** are operational across the major start-up hubs, viz. Gurugram, Delhi, Noida, Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Pune, Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Lucknow, Kolkata, Indore and Kochi.

### Bank of Baroda (BOB)

- Headquarters: **Baroda (Vadodara), Gujarat**
- MD & CEO: **Sanjiv Chadha**
- Chairman: **Hasmukh Adhia**



- Tagline: “**India’s International Bank**”

### Mastercard, Mumbai Metro and Axis Bank launch ‘One Mumbai Metro Card’ to ensure a seamless commute for Mumbai people

- **Mastercard, Mumbai Metro and Axis Bank** have announced the launch of ‘**One Mumbai Metro Card**’, to ensure **contactless** and **cashless travel** for Mumbai people.
- It is a prepaid, open-loop **contactless card** that can be used as a part of the daily transit journey with just a tap. This card can be used for all daily purchases from **food, groceries, medicines** as well as tickets.

#### Axis Bank

- Headquarters: **Mumbai**
- MD & CEO: **Amitabh Chaudhry**
- Tagline: “**Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi**”

### NIIT IFBI has partnered with Axis Bank to launch a digital banking academy

- **NIIT Institute of Finance Banking and Insurance (NIIT IFBI)** – a subsidiary of **NIIT Limited**, has partnered with Axis Bank to launch a FinTech Professional Programme under the ‘**Axis Bank – NIIT Digital Banking Academy**’. The course is designed to build **future-ready FinTech professionals** for Axis Bank.
- The programme offers graduates with **zero to three years** of experience with an opportunity to join Axis Bank as a **Deputy Manager (IT)**.

#### Axis Bank

- Headquarters: **Mumbai**
- MD & CEO: **Amitabh Chaudhry**
- Tagline: “**Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi**”

### Axis Bank signs an MoU with the Indian Army to offer defence service salary package under its “Power Salute” initiative

- India’s third-largest private lender **Axis Bank** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Army** to offer a defence service **salary package** with best-in-class benefits and features under its “**Power Salute**”
- This initiative will offer personal accidental cover of up to **56 lakhs** to all army personnel; up to **Rs. 8 lakhs** additional education grant; total permanent disability cover benefit up to **Rs. 46 lakhs**; permanent partial disability cover of up to **Rs. 46 lakhs**; air accident cover of **Rs. 1 crore** and free additional debit card for a family member.

#### Axis Bank

- Headquarters: **Mumbai**
- MD & CEO: **Amitabh Chaudhry**
- Tagline: “**Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi**”

## Easiloan launches India's first AI-based home loan selection engine

- Easiloan Techno Solutions, a new-age FinTech start-up, has launched the “**Easiloan Instant Match**” application for home buyers. It is the housing finance industry’s **first Artificial Intelligence (AI)** technology-based selection and recommendation engine for home buyers.
- This application brings developers, direct selling agents (DSAs), customers, banks and NBFCs on a **single platform** for **end-to-end digital processing** of home loans.

## IndusInd Bank partners with TPCODL to launch a fully digital payment network in Odisha

- **IndusInd Bank** has partnered with **TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL)**, a joint venture between TATA Power and the Government of **Odisha**, to introduce a fully **digital network** for facilitating **electricity bill payments** across 300 **semi-urban** and **rural** regions in Odisha.

### IndusInd Bank

- Headquarters: **Pune, Maharashtra**
- MD & CEO: **Sumant Kathpalia**
- Tagline: “**We Make You Feel Richer**”

## SBI General Insurance launches ‘Arogya Supreme’ a comprehensive Health Insurance plan

- **SBI General Insurance** has announced the launch of a comprehensive health insurance plan named ‘**Arogya Supreme**’. This specific plan is designed to ensure that customers can have full health insurance coverage, including **20 basic covers** and **8 optional covers**.
- The policy provides a wide range of sum insured options up to **5 crores**, wherein customers can choose from 3 options viz **Pro, Plus** and **Premium** based on the sum insured and coverage features.

### SBI General Insurance:

- Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- MD and CEO: **Prakash Chandra Kandpal**
- Tagline: “**Suraksha Aur Bharosa Dono**”

## Max Bupa Health Insurance and Axis Bank entered into a bancassurance partnership

- **Max Bupa Health Insurance** has entered into a bancassurance partnership with **Axis Bank** to provide **comprehensive health insurance** solutions to Axis Bank’s employees and customers.
- This partnership will enable **Axis Bank** customers to benefit from products and their customisable variants across 4,500 plus branches to gain access to quality **healthcare solutions** through a range of health insurance products offered by **Max Bupa**.

## Airtel Payments Bank launches 'Pay to Contacts' facility for UPI-based transactions

- **Airtel Payments Bank** has launched a new 'Pay to Contacts' This facility will allow customers to initiate a **unified payments interface (UPI)** payment by simply selecting the **recipient's mobile number** from their phonebook.
- 'Pay to Contacts' displays the valid **UPI ID** associated with the selected contact, irrespective of the **UPI app** used by the receiver.

### Airtel Payments Bank

- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- CEO: **Anubrata Biswas**
- Founded: **January 2017**

## Razorpay partners with Mastercard to launch MandateHQ for recurring payments

- Fintech unicorn **Razorpay** and payments technology major **Mastercard** have launched 'MandateHQ', a safe and secure recurring payment interface.
- It is a payment interface that will help **card-issuing banks** to enable **recurring payments** for their customers.

## FREO partners with HDB Financial Services to offer lending solutions

- Neobank **FREO** has partnered with **HDB Financial Services** to offer a **credit line** and high-ticket **personal loans** to customers across multiple cities in India.
- This partnership offers consumers high-ticket personal loans of up to **10 lakhs**.

### HDB Financial Services (HDBFS)

- Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- MD & CEO: **G Ramesh**

## Bajaj Allianz General Insurance partners with the Bank of India to distribute its Insurance products

- **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** and **Bank of India** have entered into a corporate agency agreement.
- This agreement will enable the distribution of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance's products through **Bank of India's** vast network of 5,084 branches, 80 retail business centres and 60 SME city centres across India.

### Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company

- Headquarters: **Pune, Maharashtra**
- MD and CEO: **Tapan Singhel**

### Bank of India (BOI)

- Headquarters: **Mumbai, India**
- Non-Exe Chairman: **Padmanabhan**
- MD & CEO: **Atanu Kumar Das**
- Tagline: **“Relationship Beyond Banking”**

### Fitch Ratings revises India GDP growth forecast to 10% for FY22

- **Fitch Ratings** revised India’s GDP growth forecast to **10 per cent** from **12.8 per cent** estimated earlier for the current fiscal year FY22 (2021–2022).

### Drip Capital partners with SBM Bank India to empower MSME exporters

- **Drip Capital**, a fintech provider of cross-border trade finance, has partnered with **SBM Bank India** to offer trade financing solutions customised for small and medium-sized exporters in India.
- Under this partnership, **MSME exporters** will be able to avail collateral-free working capital at **competitive rates**.

### SBM Bank India Limited

- Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- MD & CEO: **Sidharth Rath**
- Established: **1994**

### Flexiloans partners with Google Pay to provide digital loans to small and medium-sized enterprises

- **FlexiLoans** has partnered with **Google Pay** to offer fast and flexible loans to their merchant base. The collaboration will address the credit gap by offering **instant loans** to **small merchants** and **entrepreneurs** across India who are unable to access formal credit.
- **FlexiLoans** is the first lender to go live on the **Google Pay platform**. It is aiming at disbursing loans to over **50,000** small businesses in the next 12 months from this collaboration.

### HDFC Bank partners with Creditas Solutions to offer digital self-service credit portal

- **HDFC Bank** has joined hands with **Creditas Solutions** to offer a guided and customised debt management solution for its loan and credit card customers.
- The **debt management solution platform** helps customers in accessing their **credit account** information in **real-time**, on any device and also streamline and enable the **repayment process**, allowing further flexibility to pay when and how they choose.

### HDFC Bank (Housing Development Finance Corporation)

- Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- Chairman: **Deepak Parekh**
- MD & CEO: **Sashidhar Jagdishan**

- Tagline: “We understand your world”
- Established: **1994**

## Appointments

### Twitter names Vinay Prakash as the Resident Grievance Officer for India

- Twitter has named **Vinay Prakash** as its **Resident Grievance Officer (RGO)** for India.
- **Twitter** has already appointed California-based **Jeremy Kessel** as the new Grievance Officer for **India**, as required under the new Information Technology Rules, 2021.

### Vietnam appoints NS Srinivasa Murthy as the first Honorary Consul General from India

- As part of Vietnam’s efforts to deepen cooperation with various states in India, industrialist **NS Srinivasa Murthy** was appointed as the **Honorary Consul General of Vietnam** for **Karnataka** for three years.
- He is the **first** Honorary Consul General of **Vietnam** from **India** and the **19<sup>th</sup>** across the world.

#### Vietnam:

- Capital: **Hanoi**
- Currency: **Vietnamese Dong**

### Joe Biden nominates Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti as Ambassador to India

- US President **Joe Biden** has nominated Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** as the Ambassador to **India**. He has been mayor of **Los Angeles** since **2013** and he is a former intelligence officer from the **US Navy** and a **Rhodes Scholar**.

### Shyam Srinivasan was re-appointed as the MD & CEO of Federal Bank for 3 years

- **Federal Bank** has received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to re-appoint **Shyam Srinivasan** as its Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for **three years**.
- Shyam Srinivasan had joined **Federal Bank** with the experience of over **20 years** with leading multinational banks in India, the **Middle East** and **Southeast Asia**.

#### Federal Bank

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

### West Indies Cricketer Daren Sammy was named as the brand ambassador of Fun88

- Global sporting platform, **Fun88**, has signed two-time **T20 World Cup**-winning team **West Indies** captain **Daren Sammy** as its brand ambassador.



- He will feature in the series of **Fun88's** brand films targeting sports fans in India.

### Neha Parikh was appointed as the CEO of crowdsourced navigation app Waze

- Indian-American **Neha Parikh** was appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Waze**, a crowdsourced navigation app and a subsidiary of tech giant **Google**. She replaced **Noam Bardin**, who stepped down recently.
- The 41-year-old Neha was the former **President** of the travel website **Hotwire**.

### Sukhbir Singh Sandhu was appointed as the Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand

- Chief Minister of Uttarakhand **Pushkar Singh Dhama** has appointed **Sukhbir Singh Sandhu** as the new Chief Secretary of **Uttarakhand**. He is a 1988 batch **Indian Administrative Service (IAS)** officer.

### Uttarakhand

- Capital: **Dehradun**
- Chief Minister: **Pushkar Singh Dhama**
- Governor: **Baby Rani Maurya**
- National Parks: **Corbett National Park, Gangotri National Park, Govind Pashu Vihar National Park, Nanda Devi National Park, Rajaji National Park, Valley of Flowers National Park**

### Science and Technology

#### Indian Navy receives its tenth P-8I maritime patrol aircraft from Boeing

- **Indian Navy** has received its **10<sup>th</sup> anti-submarine warfare and maritime patrol aircraft P-8I** Poseidon from the US-based aerospace company **Boeing**. The aircraft is used for maritime reconnaissance and as anti-submarine warfare.
- Union Ministry of Defence had initially signed a contract with **Boeing** for **eight P-8I** aircraft in **2009** for the Indian Navy. It later signed another contract for four additional **P-8I aircraft** in **2016**.

#### IIT Mandi and CPRI researchers develop an AI solution for detecting potato blight

- Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi**, working together with their counterparts at the **Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI)** in Shimla, have developed an **AI solution** that can detect diseases of the **tuber crop** simply by examining photographs of **potato leaves**.
- This research was led by **Srikant Srinivasan**.

### Bharat Dynamics Limited signs an Rs. 499 crore deal with the Union Ministry of Defense for the supply of Akash Missiles to IAF

- **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** has signed an **499 crore** deal with the **Union Ministry of Defence** for the manufacture and supply of **Akash Missiles** to the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.
- Akash is a medium-range mobile **surface-to-air missile (SAM)** system being developed under India's **Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)**.

### Sirisha Bandla becomes the second Indian-born woman to fly to space

- **Sirisha Bandla** became the second Indian-born woman to head to space as part of **Richard Branson's** Virgin Galactic crew on **Virgin Space Ship Unity**. The 34-year-old Sirisha Bandla is from **Andhra Pradesh**.
- She is the second-ever Indian-born woman to fly into space, behind **Kalpana Chawla**, who went in **1997**.

### Awards and Recognitions

#### Hyderabad activist Syed Osman Azhar Maqsusi wins top UK award for feeding the poor

- Hyderabad's hunger activist **Syed Osman Azhar Maqsusi** who has been feeding thousands of people every day as part of his food drive '**Hunger Has No Religion**' was awarded a top **UK award**.
- He was conferred with the **Commonwealth Points of Light Award** for his drive that helps to feed 1,500 people daily. The award is given for those '**outstanding individuals who are making a change in their community**'.

#### Zaila Avant-garde becomes the first African-American to win the US Spelling Bee competition

- The 14-year-old **Zaila Avant-garde** has won the **2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee** and became the **first African American** contestant to win the **93<sup>rd</sup>** edition of the prestigious competition.
- **Chaitra Thummala** of San Francisco and **Bhavana Madini** of New York came at the second and third positions, respectively.

#### Omchery NN Pillai won the 2021 BKS Literary Award

- Journalist and playwright **Omchery NN Pillai** was selected for the **Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS)'s Literary Award** for 2021. The award constitutes a cash prize of **50,000** and a citation acknowledging the achievement of the winner.
- As a playwright, he contributed to many works, including **Thevarude Aana** and **Pralayam**, to modern Malayalam theatre.

### **Kanchan Ugursandi finishes the world's 1st solo motorcycle expedition covering 18 passes of the Himalayas**

- Mountain biker **Kanchan Ugursandi** finished the world's first solo motorcycle expedition covering 18 treacherous passes of northern **Himalayan Mountain ranges**.
- She is the first woman to traverse a distance of **3,187 kilometres** from **New Delhi-Manali-Leh-Umlingla-Delhi** in **25 days**.

### **Indian economist Kaushik Basu was awarded the prestigious Humboldt Research Award**

- Indian economist **Kaushik Basu** was awarded the **Humboldt Research Award for Economics**. He is currently a professor of Economics at Cornell University. He served as the Chief Economist of the World Bank.
- Basu also served as the Government of India's **Chief Economic Advisor** from 2009 to 2012. He was awarded the **Padma Bhushan**, the third-highest civilian award in India.

### **Books and Authors**

#### **A new book titled "India that is Bharat: Coloniality, Civilisation, Constitution" authored by J Sai Deepak is set to be released soon**

- **J Sai Deepak's** new book titled **"India that is Bharat: Coloniality, Civilisation, Constitution"** is set to be released in August 2021. This book will be published by **Bloomsbury India**.

#### **Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu receives a book titled 'Urdu Poets and Writers – Gems of Deccan' authored by JS Ifthekhar**

- Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** received a book titled **'Urdu Poets and Writers – Gems of Deccan'** authored by senior journalist **JS Ifthekhar**.

#### **A new book titled 'Kamala Harris and the Rise of Indian Americans' was released**

- A group of influential **Indian-Americans, scholars, diplomats and entrepreneurs** have come together to write an anthology named **'Kamala Harris and the Rise of Indian Americans'** to document the historic election of **Kamala Harris** as the **Vice President** of the **United States** and the rise of the small but powerful Indian diaspora in this country.
- This anthology was compiled and edited by veteran Indian editor **Tarun Basu**.

#### **A new book titled "A Kashmiri Century: Portrait of a Society in Flux" was authored by Khemlata Wakhlu**

- **Khemlata Wakhlu's** new book titled **'A Kashmiri Century: Portrait of a Society in Flux'** was released. This book was published by **Harper Collins India**.

### Venkaiah Naidu releases a book 'Palleku Pattabhishekam' on rural India and agriculture

- Vice President of India **M Venkaiah Naidu** released a book titled '**Palleku Pattabhishekam**' authored by former MP **Yalamanchili Sivaji**. This book is based on rural India and agriculture.

### Vice President Venkaiah Naidu receives the first copy of the English translation of Thummeti Raghothama Reddy's book "Terrace Garden: Midde Thota"

- Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** received the first copy of the English translation book titled "**Terrace Garden: Midde Thota**" authored by **Thummeti Raghothama Reddy**.
- This book was translated by **Koduru Sitarama Prasad** from Telugu to English.

### Kareena Kapoor Khan launches her debut book titled "Pregnancy Bible"

- Bollywood actress **Kareena Kapoor Khan**'s debut book titled "**Pregnancy Bible**" was released. This book was authored by **Kareena Kapoor Khan** and **Aditi Shah Bhimjyani**. This book was published by juggernaut Publication.

### A new book titled "The Light of Asia: The Poem that Defined the Buddha" was authored by Jairam Ramesh

- Author **Jairam Ramesh**'s new book is titled "**The Light of Asia: The Poem that Defined the Buddha**". This book was published by **Penguin India House**.

### A new book titled "The Art of Conjuring Alternate Realities: How Information Warfare Shapes Your World" is set to be released in August 2021

- A new book titled "**The Art of Conjuring Alternate Realities: How Information Warfare Shapes Your World**" was authored by **Anand Venkatanarayanan** and **Shivam Shankar Singh**.
- This book will be published by **Penguin India House** on **2 August 2021**.

### A new book titled "The Fourth Lion: Essays for Gopalkrishna Gandhi" was authored by Venu Madhav Govindu and Srinath Raghavan

- A new book titled "**The Fourth Lion: Essays for Gopalkrishna Gandhi**" was authored by **Venu Madhav Govindu** and **Srinath Raghavan**. The book consists of **twenty-six essays** contributed by individuals drawn from various walks of life and from across the globe.

## Sports News

### Chris Gayle becomes the first batsman to score 14,000 runs in T20 cricket

- The 41-year-old West Indies batsman **Chris Gayle** became the first cricketer to score **14,000 runs** (431 Matches) in T20 cricket. He reached this run mark during the third T20 International match against Australia.
- He has scored a total of **22 centuries** and **86 half-centuries** in T20 cricket. His highest score in the T20 format is **175**.

### Deepak Kabra becomes the first Indian gymnastics judge at Olympics

- **Deepak Kabra** became the **first Indian** to be selected for judging the gymnastics competition of the **Olympic Games**. He will be officiating the men's artistic gymnasts at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics Games.
- The 33-year-old from **Maharashtra** was also the first Indian judge to officiate in the **Asian Games** (2014), **Commonwealth Games** (2018) and **Youth Olympics** (2018).

### India is set to host the 2026 World Badminton Championships

- According to the sport's global governing body **Badminton World Federation (BWF)**, **India** is set to host the **World Badminton Championships** in **2026**.
- This will be the **second time** that India will host the premium tournament.
- **India** was scheduled to organise the **Sudirman Cup** in **2023**, but the Badminton World Federation decided to award the hosting rights of the World Mixed Team Championships to **China**.

### Badminton World Federation (BWF)

- Headquarters: **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**
- President: **Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen**
- Founded: **5 July 1934**

### Haryana is set to host Khelo India Youth Games in 2022

- **Haryana** Government has decided to organize the '**Khelo India Youth Games – 2021**' in February **2022**.
- Haryana also announced that the **2021 BRICS Games** will be organised during the **Khelo India Youth Games**.

### New Zealand's Devon Conway and England spinner Sophie Ecclestone were named the ICC Players of the Month for June 2021

- **New Zealand** opening batsman **Devon Conway** was named as the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's Player of the Month for **June 2021**.
- **England** left-arm spinner **Sophie Ecclestone** was named as the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** Women's Player of the Month for **June 2021**.



### Bangladesh all-rounder Mahmudullah Riyad announces retirement from Test cricket

- **Bangladesh** all-rounder **Mahmudullah Riyad** has announced his retirement from **Test cricket**. He became only the **10<sup>th</sup>** batsman in **Test cricket** to score **150** or more runs in a retirement match.
- Mahmudullah began his Test career in **2009** and has played 50 Tests (43 Test wickets). He scored **2914 runs** from 94 innings at an average of **49** with the bat, with 5 centuries and **16 fifties**.

### Viswanathan Anand finishes second in the Croatia Grand Chess Tournament

- Former world champion **Viswanathan Anand** was defeated by **Maxime Vachier-Lagrave** in the **Croatia Grand Chess Tournament** held in Zagreb, Croatia. **Anish Kumar Giri** came in the **third**
- France's **Maxime Vachier-Lagrave** finished with 23 points (combined of Rapid & Blitz sections) while India's **Viswanathan Anand** finished with 21 points.

### Argentina beats Brazil to win the 2021 Copa America title

- **Argentina** beat **Brazil** (1-0) in the final of Copa America 2021 to secure Argentina's first title in **28 years** and **Lionel Messi's** first major international trophy. **Angel Di Maria** scored the only goal of the match.
- Argentina's **Lionel Messi** won the 2021 Copa America **Golden Boot award**. Argentina goalkeeper **Emiliano Martinez** won the 2021 Copa America **Golden Glove**.

### Ashleigh Barty beats Karolina Pliskova to win her maiden Wimbledon women's title

- The 25-year-old **Australian** tennis player **Ashleigh Barty** won the 2021 Wimbledon title by defeating **Karolina Pliskova (Czech)**. It is her first Wimbledon title.
- She became the first **Australian woman** since **Evonne Goolagong** in 1980 to win the **Wimbledon women's title**.

### Indian-origin player Samir Banerjee wins the Wimbledon Boys' singles 2021 title

- The 17-year-old Indian-American tennis player **Samir Banerjee** has won the **2021 Wimbledon Boys' singles title**. He defeated **Victor Lilov** of the USA to win the title in the final.

### Novak Djokovic wins the 2021 Wimbledon men's singles title

- World No.1 tennis player **Novak Djokovic (Serbia)** won his **third Grand Slam title** of **2021** as he beat **Matteo Berrettini (Italy)** in the final to clinch the 2021 Wimbledon men's singles title. He won his sixth Wimbledon Championship.
- Djokovic has now won **20 Grand Slam titles** and equalled **Roger Federer** and **Rafael Nadal** in the all-time championship winners' list.

## Italy beats England to win the 2020 UEFA European Football Championship

- **Italy** won the **2020 UEFA European Football Championship** for the second time by beating **England** (3-2) on penalties held at the **Wembley Stadium, England**. The match finished 1-1 after extra time. Italy won **its first Euro Cup** in **1968**.
- It was the first final to be decided on penalties since Czechoslovakia beat West Germany in **1976**.
- Portugal captain **Cristiano Ronaldo** won the **Golden Boot award** at the **2021 European Football Championship** after finishing as the top scorer (5 Goals) in the tournament.
- England goalkeeper **Jordan Pickford** won the **Golden Glove award** at the **2021 European Football Championship** after guiding his country to a runner-up finish in the tournament.

## Former India pacer Pankaj Singh retires from all forms of cricket

- Former **India pacer** and veteran **Rajasthan** cricketer **Pankaj Singh** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He represented India in **two Test matches** and one **One-Day International**.
- He has played **117 first-class games**, picking up **472 wickets** which included **28 five-wicket hauls**. He also has **118 List A wickets** under his belt.

## Manu Sawhney resigns as the CEO of ICC

- **Manu Sawhney** resigned as the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the **International Cricket Council (ICC)**. **Geoff Allardice** will continue as the acting CEO of the ICC Board.
- **Manu Sawhney** is the former CEO of **Singapore Sports Hub** and also served as the Managing Director of **ESPN Star Sports**, a company he worked with for **17 years**.

## International Cricket Council (ICC)

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

## Udayan Mane becomes the second Indian male golfer to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics 2020

- Leading Indian professional golfer **Udayan Mane** has qualified for the **Tokyo Olympics 2020**. The 30-year-old Mane joined **Anirban Lahiri** as the second Indian in the 60-player field in the **men’s golf** event at the Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- **Aditi Ashok** is the only woman Indian golfer to qualify in the **women’s event** for the Tokyo Olympics 2020.

### Indian women cricketer Mithali Raj tops the ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings for the 8<sup>th</sup> time

- The **Indian** women's Test and ODI skipper **Mithali Raj (762 points)** topped the **ICC Women's ODI player ranking** list for the **eighth time** in her **22 year-long** international career. She has scored a total of **10,277 runs** in **317 matches**.
- **Lizelle Lee (758 points)** from South Africa came at the second position and **Alyssa Healy (756 points)** from Australia came at the third position.

### Hou Yifan wins the 2021 Women's Speed Chess Championship title

- **Hou Yifan** of **China** won the **2021 FIDE Women's Speed Chess Championship title**. She defeated **Harika Dronavalli** of India.

### FIDE (International Chess Federation)

- Headquarters: **Lausanne, Switzerland**
- CEO: **Geoffrey D Borg**
- President: **Kirsan Ilyumzhinov**
- Founded: **1924**

### Levon Aronian wins the Goldmoney Asian Rapid chess tournament 2021

- Grand Master **Levon Aronian** won the **Goldmoney Asian Rapid chess tournament 2021**. He defeated Grand Master **Vladislav Artemiev** twice to clinch the \$30,000 first prize. Grand Master **Magnus Carlsen** came at the third position.

### Mumbai and Pune to host the 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup

- The **Asian Football Confederation (AFC)** and the **AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022 Local Organising Committee (LOC)** announced that the **Mumbai Football Arena** and **Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex** in **Balewadi, Pune**, will be the new venues and host cities for the 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup.
- This decision was taken after the Asian Football Confederation dropped **Bhubaneswar** and **Ahmedabad** as venues to minimise the traveling time for participants.

### James Anderson takes 1000<sup>th</sup> first-class cricket wicket

- England pace bowler **James Anderson** claimed his **1,000<sup>th</sup>** first-class cricket wicket and his best career bowling figures of **seven for 19** for his country team Lancashire against Kent at **Emirates Old Trafford**.
- He became the 14<sup>th</sup> player to claim **1,000 first-class wickets** this century and just the **fifth pacer** after **Andy Caddick (2005)**, **Martin Bicknell (2004)**, **Devon Malcolm (2002)** and **Wasim Akram (2001)**.

## Nihal Sarin wins the Silver Lake Open chess tournament

- **Nihal Sarin** won the **Silver Lake Open chess tournament** in **Serbia**. He came on top of the field with eight points from nine rounds. He defeated **Branko Damljanovic** (Serbia).
- **Raunak Sadhwani** and **Abhimanyu Puranik** of India came in the third and fourth positions.

## Important Days

### World Paper Bag Day – 12 July

- **World Paper Bag Day** is observed every year on **12 July**. This day is observed to spread awareness about using **paper bags** instead of plastics. Plastic takes years to **decompose**, whereas paper bags can be **reduced** and **easily recycled**.
- 2021 Theme: “**Eradicate plastic and safeguard Earth**”

### World Population Day – 11 July

- **World Population Day** is observed globally on **11 July** every year to remind people of the challenges being faced due to **overpopulation**. This day is marked to call for attention to issues like the importance of family planning, child marriage, gender equality, human rights and others.
- This day was established by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** in **1989**.
- 2021 Theme: “**The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on fertility**”

### Malala Day – 12 July

- **Malala Day** is observed on **12 July** every year. This day is celebrated in honour of the young Pakistani human rights activist and youngest Nobel Prize laureate **Malala Yousafzai**'s birth anniversary.
- This day was declared by **United Nations (UN)** on **12 July 2013**.

### National Fish Farmers Day 2021 – 10 July

- The **National Fisheries Development Board** celebrated the **National Fish Farmers Day** virtually on **10 July 2021**.
- This annual event is celebrated to commemorate the contribution of Professor **Hiralal Chaudhury** and his colleague **Alikunhi** for achieving the successful induced breeding of major carps on **10 July 1957** at Angul in **Odisha** for the first time in India.

### Global Forgiveness Day – 07 July

- **Global Forgiveness Day** is observed globally on **07 July** every year to encourage the art of **forgiving**. This day aims to spread awareness about the healing power of **forgiveness** and its importance for a **peaceful life**.

## World Chocolate Day – 07 July

- **World Chocolate Day** is observed globally on 07 July every year. This day is an annual global celebration of **chocolate**, which allows people to gorge and indulge, hopefully guilt-free.

## Obituary

### Former Indian cricketer Yashpal Sharma passed away at 66

- Former Indian cricketer **Yashpal Sharma** passed away at the age of 66. He is a member of the Kapil Dev-led World Cup-winning team in **1983**. He has played **37 ODIs** and **42 Tests** from **1979–83**.

### Doyen of Ayurveda PK Warriar passed away at 100

- Doyen of Ayurveda and managing trustee of Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala (KAS) **PK Warriar** passed away at the age of 100. He was awarded India's third and fourth highest civilian awards — the **Padma Bhushan** in **2010** and the **Padma Shri** in

### Olympic gold-winning hockey legend Keshav Datt passed away at 95

- Two-time Olympic gold medallist in hockey, **Keshav Datt**, passed away due to age-related ailments. He was part of India's gold medal-winning hockey team in the **1948** and **1952 Olympics**.
- He was conferred with the **Mohun Bagan Ratna award** in **2019**, becoming the **first non-footballer** recipient of the honour.

### President of Haiti Jovenel Moïse passed away at 53

- **Haiti's** President **Jovenel Moïse** passed away at the age of 53. He was assassinated, after a group of unidentified people attacked his private residence. He served as the President of Haiti from **7 February 2017–7 July 2021**.

### Former Himachal Pradesh CM Virbhadra Singh passed away at 87

- Former **Himachal Pradesh** Chief Minister **Virbhadra Singh** passed away at the age of 87. He was the **longest-serving** and the **4<sup>th</sup> Chief Minister** of Himachal Pradesh. He served **six times** as the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh.

### Legendary actor Dilip Kumar passed away at 98

- Legendary actor **Dilip Kumar** passed away at the age of 98. He is famously known as the '**tragedy king**'. Some of his best-known films include **Aan, Daag, Devdas, Madhumati, Azaad, Mughal-e-Azam, Gunga Jamuna, Kranti, Karma, Ram Aur Shyam**, among others.

### Director of "Superman" Richard Donner passed away at 91



- Hollywood director and producer **Richard Donner** passed away at the age of 91. He is best known for the **Lethal Weapon series** and the original **Superman** film featuring **Christopher Reeve**.



Desire Decide Develop Achieve