

Eazyprep

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

COMPILATION

JULY 2021

www.eazyprep.com

1st July

1) National News

'Itat e-dwar' launched by Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad

The Union Minister for Law & Justice launched an e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), 'itat e-dwar' in New Delhi.

The portal would enable the online filing of appeals, applications and documents by various parties.

The 'ITAT e-dwar' portal aims to enhance accessibility, accountability and transparency in the day-to-day working of the ITAT.

Quick Fact: ITAT Headquarters: New Delhi, India; ITAT Parent agency: Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of Legal Affairs.

2) International News

Philippines included in FATF grey list

The Philippines was included in the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

FATF released its grey list of jurisdictions that would be subjected to increased monitoring.

In addition to the Philippines, Haiti, Malta, and South Sudan were also added to the grey list.

Quick Fact: Philippines President: Rodrigo Duterte; Philippines Capital: Manila; Philippines Currency: Philippine peso.

3) Technology

First disabled astronaut to be hired by European Space Agency

The ESA would hire and launch the world's first physically disabled astronaut as it received 22000 applicants for this recruitment.

ESA has been developing technologies for para-astronaut and would give a message to the world that 'Space is for everyone'.

Amazon founder Bezos is set to become the first man to go into space on his own rocket in July 2021.

Quick Fact: ESA: Intergovernmental organization of 22 member states; ESA formed: 1975; ESA Headquarters: Paris.

4) Sports News

UAE to host ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021

ICC Men's T20 World Cup, originally slated to be held in India, would now be shifted to the UAE.

The BCCI, which holds the hosting rights of this year's event, would inform the ICC in this regard.

The BCCI will remain the hosts of the events now to be held in Dubai International Stadium from 17 October to 14 November 2021.

Quick Fact: Secretary BCCI: Jay Shah; President BCCI: Sourav Ganguly; Headquarters BCCI: Mumbai, Maharashtra; Founded: December 1928.

5) Sports News

Gold at ISSF World Cup shooting won by Indian shooter Rahi Sarnobat

India's Rahi Sarnobat bagged a gold medal in the women's 25m pistol event at the ISSF shooting World Cup.

She became the first Indian to win one silver and two bronze medals with a score of 591 out of 600 in the qualifying stage.

France's Mathilde Lamolle won a silver medal and Russian Vitalina Batsarashkina won the bronze medal.

Quick Fact: ISSF World Cup founded: 1986.

6) Literature

'Anomalies in Law and Justice' launched by CJI NV Ramana

Chief Justice of India, NV Ramana, released former Supreme Court judge RV Raveendran's book 'Anomalies in Law and Justice'.

The book aims to explain that the legal system is still evolving and requires critical thinking to resolve issues persisting in the system for a long time.

The book covers procedural as well as substantive law relating to civil procedure, electoral reforms and the alternate dispute resolution mechanism.

Quick Fact: CJI NV Ramana: 48th Chief Justice of India.

7) Important Days

International Asteroid Day observed on June 30

This day aims to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard and to inform the public about the crisis communication actions to be taken.

Asteroids are rocky-metallic objects which range in size from about the dimensions of pebbles to around 600 miles across.

They orbit the Sun and are known as the leftover material of the Solar System.

Quick Fact: UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) Director: Simonetta Di Pippo.

8) Important Days

International Day of Parliamentarism: June 30

This day reviews the progress that parliaments have made in achieving some key goals to be more representative and adapting the times.

The Day was established in 2018 through a United Nations General Assembly Resolution.

This day also acknowledges the formation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the global organization of parliaments that was established in 1889.

Quick Fact: Inter-Parliamentary Union President: Gabriela Cuevas Barron;
Inter-Parliamentary Union Secretary-General: Martin Chungong.

2nd July

1) National News

‘HAUSLA- Inspiring her growth’ launched by Lt Governor in J&K

Lieutenant Governor J&K, Manoj Sinha, launched a comprehensive program for Catalysing Women Entrepreneurship in UT.

The government aims to reduce the gap between women and men entrepreneurs, in a systematic manner.

The intent of the initiative is to empower Women as vital drivers of the development process by identifying and empowering Women Entrepreneurs.

Quick Fact: J&K last Governor: Satya Pal Malik (2018-2019).

2) National News

Helpline ‘Sukoon’ inaugurated by J&K Chief Secretary

J&K Chief Secretary, Arun Kumar Mehta, inaugurated SDRF first Battalion’s 24×7 mental health helpline ‘SUKOON’ at its headquarters.

This initiative will guide the caller to avail services of clinical psychologists, therapists, counselors and psychiatrists.

‘SUKOON’ is a mental health initiative to offer guidance to citizens experiencing mental health emergencies and pandemic-induced stress.

Quick Fact: J&K Lieutenant Governor: Manoj Sinha.

3) India and the World

India ranked 10 in ITU's Global Cybersecurity Index 2020

India was ranked as the 10th best country in the world in the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2020, released by ITU.

The GCI 2020 ranked 194 countries and measured their commitment to cybersecurity at a global level.

The United States topped, while the UK and Saudi Arabia tied on the second position and Estonia ranked third in the index.

Quick Fact: International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland; ITU Head: Secretary-General; Houlin Zhao.

4) India and the World

India stood 20th in Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021

The Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021 by Startup Blink ranked India on the 23rd spot in 2020, and now to 20 in 2021.

India currently has 43 of its cities listed in the top 1000, globally, with Bengaluru(10th), New Delhi (14th) and Mumbai (16th) in the top 20.

Like last year, the US, the UK, Israel, Canada and Germany were in the top five spots this year, continuing their lead.

Quick Fact: The Global Startup Ecosystem Index has a score for each location, calculated as a sum of three parameters: quantity, quality and business environment.

5) Miscellaneous

Mumbai Samachar, India's oldest running newspaper, turns 200

On July 1, India's oldest running newspaper, Mumbai Samachar, would enter its 200th year.

It was founded by a Parsi scholar who experimented with various other publishing options before landing on this successful print run.

Formerly called Bombay Samachar, in Gujarati, the paper has always run as Mumbai na Samachar.

Quick Fact: Mumbai Samachar Founded: 1822; Mumbai Samachar Founder: Fardoonji Murazban.

6) Person in News

Youngest chess Grandmaster: Indian-origin American Abhimanyu Mishra

Indian-origin American Abhimanyu Mishra became the youngest-ever chess Grandmaster in the world.

At 12 years, four months and 25 days, he beat the record held by Sergey Karjakin, who was 12 years and seven months old when he attained the title.

Three years ago, India's R Praggnanandhaa had almost surpassed him but missed the opportunity by a whisker.

7) Important Days

National Doctors' Day observed on July 1

The National Doctors' Day is organized on 1st July annually in India by the Indian Medical Association (IMA).

The day honours the great physicians and helps us understand the importance of doctors in our lives and value them.

The day marks the birth and death anniversary of the second CM of West Bengal, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy.

Quick Fact: IMA Headquarters: New Delhi, India; IMA National President: DR. J.A. Jayalal.

8) Important Days

National Chartered Accountants Day: July 1

This day is celebrated to commemorate the founding of the ICAI by the parliament of India in 1949 and honour Chartered Accountants.

ICAI is India's national professional accounting body and also the second biggest accounting organization in the world.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) was established on this day in the year 1949 under an Act passed in Parliament.

Quick Fact: Institute of Chartered Accountants of India Headquarters: New Delhi; President ICAI: CA Nihar N Jambusaria.

3rd July

1) National News

'YSR Bima' scheme launched by Andhra CM

Andhra Pradesh CM launched 'YSR Bima' scheme where the government will directly pay insurance to the family of the deceased.

In order to support 1.32 lakh families through this scheme, the State government allocated Rs 750 crores for the year 2021-22.

In the last two years, the State government had spent Rs 1307 crore for YSR Bima.

Quick Fact: Andhra Pradesh CM: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy; Governor: Biswa Bhusan Harichandan.

2) Finance News

'Salute Doctors', banking solution for doctors, launched by ICICI Bank

ICICI Bank launched India's most comprehensive banking solutions for medical doctors titled as 'Salute Doctors'.

The solution offers customized banking as well as value-added services for every doctor, beginner to a senior medical consultant.

The initiative, powered by ICICI STACK, is a platform with 500+ services to help customers of the Bank avail services digitally.

Quick Fact: ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra; ICICI Bank MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi; ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.

3) India and the World

Military drill conducted with South Korean vessel by Indian Navy warship

Indian Navy warship conducted a military drill with a South Korean vessel in the East China Sea.

This exercise aimed to enhance interoperability and facilitate the exchange of best practices with partner navies.

Indian Navy's ASW Corvette INS Kiltan undertook the exercise with Republic of Korea's Ship ROKS Gyeongnam on June 28.

Quick Fact: Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh; Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950.

4) Finance News

'Salaam Dil Sey' initiative launched by HDFC Bank

HDFC Bank launched this initiative to show gratitude for the tireless service of doctors and paid a tribute to doctors across the country.

Salaam Dil Sey encourages all to acknowledge the contribution of doctors who have been bravely fighting the pandemic risking their own lives.

The bank created a web platform, www.salaamdilsey.com, wherein citizens can log on to the site and share a thank you message for doctors.

Quick Fact: Headquarters HDFC Bank: Mumbai, Maharashtra; MD and CEO HDFC Bank: Sashidhar Jagdishan; Tagline of HDFC Bank: We understand your world.

5) International News

Coronavirus Vaccine Funding expanded by World Bank to \$20 billion

The World Bank announced an additional funding of \$8 billion for Covid-19 vaccines, for developing countries.

With this, the total financing available for the Covid-19 vaccine reaches \$20 billion, including the earlier announced \$12 billion.

The World Bank Group President also called on countries with surplus doses to release it for use by developing countries.

Quick Fact: World Bank President: David Malpass; World Bank MD & CFO: Anshula Kant.

6) Technology

Grene Robotics developed India's 1 indigenous drone defence dome 'Indrajaal'

India's 1st indigenous drone defence dome, 'Indrajaal', was developed by Hyderabad-based Grene Robotics.

As per the company, the drone is capable of autonomously protecting an area of 1000-2000 sq km against aerial threats.

It protects the area by assessing and acting on aerial threats such as UAVs, and Low-RCS targets.

Quick Fact: Grene Robotics Director: Rajat Mehta, Tejuswini Chowdhury; Grene Robotics MD: Kiran Raju Penmatcha.

7) Miscellaneous

Shopsy launched by Flipkart to aid 25 million online entrepreneurs

Flipkart launched Shopsy, an app that will enable Indians to start their online businesses without any investment.

Flipkart aims to enable over 25 million online entrepreneurs by 2023 with the help of Shopsy.

Users of Shopsy will be able to share catalogues of a wide selection of upto 15 crore products offered by Flipkart sellers.

Quick Fact: Flipkart headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka; Flipkart CEO: Kalyan Krishnamurthy.

8) Miscellaneous

State Bank of India celebrated 66th Foundation Day

The oldest commercial bank in the country, State Bank of India (SBI), celebrated its 66th year on July 1.

SBI descends from the Bank of Calcutta founded in 1806 through the Imperial Bank of India.

The Bank of Madras merged into two presidency banks, the Bank of Calcutta and Bombay, to form Imperial Bank of India which in turn became the SBI.

Quick Fact: SBI Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara; SBI Headquarters: Mumbai; SBI Founded: 1 July 1955.

5th July

1) National News

Next CM of Uttarakhand: Pushkar Singh Dhami

Pushkar Singh Dhami to be the next and youngest CM of Uttarakhand.

Pushkar Singh Dhami is an MLA from the Khatima constituency in Udham Singh Nagar district.

He would replace Tirath Singh Rawat and was elected during the legislature party meeting in Dehradun.

Quick Fact: Governor Uttarakhand: Baby Rani Maurya.

2) International News

WHO certified China to be malaria-free

China was awarded a malaria-free certification from WHO – the country that reported 30 million cases of the disease annually in the 1940s.

China is the first country in the WHO Western Pacific Region to be awarded a malaria-free certification in more than 3 decades.

Other countries in the region that achieved this status include Australia (1981), Singapore (1982) and Brunei Darussalam (1987).

Quick Fact: China Capital: Beijing; China Currency: Renminbi; China President: Xi Jinping.

3) National News

Foundation Stone For Ambedkar Memorial & Cultural Centre laid by President

President Ram Nath Kovind laid the foundation stone for Ambedkar Memorial and Cultural Centre in Lucknow.

The cultural centre will come up in front of Aishbagh Eidgah in Lucknow and have a 25-ft high statue of Dr Ambedkar.

The centre would have an auditorium, library, research centre, picture gallery, museum and a multi-purpose convention centre.

Quick Fact: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar is known for Dalit Rights movements, drafting the constitution of India and Dalit Buddhist movements; Awards: Bharat Ratna (1990).

4) Technology

AI emerging technologies to be built in partnership by AJNIFM and Microsoft

The Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM) and Microsoft announced a strategic partnership to build an AI.

The collaboration seeks to explore the role of cloud, AI and emerging technologies in shaping the future of public finance management in India.

The centre of excellence will serve as a central body for research, AI scenario envisioning and tech-led innovation.

Quick Fact: Microsoft CEO: Satya Nadella; Microsoft Founders: Bill Gates, Paul Allen.

5) Sports News

Flag-bearer for Tokyo Paralympics: Mariyappan Thangavelu

Top para high-jumper Mariyappan Thangavelu was named the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent in the Tokyo Paralympics.

Thangavelu, who is defending the T-42 gold, was picked for the honour by the executive committee of the national body.

The 25-year-old Thangavelu was conferred with the Khel Ratna, the country's highest sporting award, last year as one of the 24 para-athletes.

6) Literature

Nathuram Godse's biography to be published by Pan Macmillan

The book 'Nathuram Godse: The True Story of Gandhi's Assassin' by Mumbai-based journalist Dhaval Kulkarni will be published in 2022.

This biography situates the man and his most defining act in the larger context of modern Indian history and contemporary society and politics.

The book will be a deep-dive account and delve into the cataclysmic chain of events both before and after Gandhi's murder.

Quick Fact: Pan Macmillan Founder: Alan Bott; Pan Macmillan Headquarters: Clerkenwell, London.

7) Important Days

International Day of Cooperatives observed on July 3

The UN celebrates the International Day of Cooperatives every year on the first Saturday of July to increase awareness of cooperatives.

In the year 2021, the International Day of Cooperatives was celebrated on July 3 with a focus on the contribution of cooperatives to combating climate change.

The theme of International Day of Cooperatives (#CoopsDay) was 'Rebuild better together'.

6th July

1) National News

New Lokayukta of Tripura: KN Bhattacharjee

Veteran advocate Kalyan Narayan Bhattacharjee was appointed as the new Lokayukta in Tripura for three years w.e.f. July 1.

The Lokayukta Act has been in force in Tripura since 2008 and in 2012, the first Lokayukta was appointed in Tripura.

Bhattacharjee is the third Lokayukta in the state and the first to hold the post as a lawyer.

Quick Fact: Tripura CM: Biplab Kumar Deb; Governor: Ramesh Bais.

2) Finance News

Penalty of INR 25 lakh imposed on Punjab & Sind Bank by RBI

The RBI imposed a penalty on Punjab and Sind Bank for non-compliance with 'Cyber Security Framework in Banks' provisions.

The state-owned bank had reported a few cyber incidents to the RBI on May 16 and 20, 2020.

The central bank issued a show-cause notice to the bank for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI.

Quick Fact: Punjab and Sind Bank Founder: Vir Singh; Punjab and Sind Bank Founded: 24 June 1908; MD & CEO of Punjab and Sind Bank: S Krishnan.

3) National News

149-year-old darbar move tradition ended in J&K

The LG, Manoj Sinha, formally put an end to the biannual tradition of shifting offices between summer capital Srinagar and winter capital Jammu.

The administration served notice to employees to vacate the 'Darbar Move' related accommodations in three weeks in Jammu and Srinagar.

Dogra monarch Maharaja Gulab Singh is believed to have started the tradition of shifting the capital in 1872.

Quick Fact: Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir: Manoj Sinha.

4) Finance News

Indian Overseas Bank titled as the second most-valued public lender

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) became the second most-valued listed PSB with a market capitalization of over Rs 50,000 crore.

As Street discounts privatisation of IOB, its shares appreciated nearly 80% on the BSE in the past one month.

In the past month, the market price of IOB zoomed 57%, as compared to a 4% decline in PNB and a 5% gain in BOB share price.

Quick Fact: IOB Headquarters: Chennai; IOB CEO: Partha Pratim Sengupta; IOB Founder: M. Ct. M. Chidambaram Chettyar.

5) National News

Superannuation age of LIC chairman extended by GOI to up to 62 years

The GOI extended the superannuation age of IPO-bound LIC Chairman by making amendments to the LIC of India (Staff) Regulations, 1960.

The changes made in the rules will be called the LIC of India (Staff) Amendment Rules, 2021.

The retirement age for the top executives of the majority of PSUs is 60 years, barring a few exceptions, including the SBI.

Quick Fact: LIC Headquarters: Mumbai; LIC Founded: 1 September 1956.

6) Miscellaneous

Tie-up between Axis Bank and AWS for powering digital banking services

Axis Bank inked a multi-year deal with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to power their digital transformation programme.

Axis Bank, with help of AWS, plans to build a portfolio of new digital financial services to bring advanced banking experience to customers.

This will help the bank increase customer satisfaction by 35% and lower costs by 24%.

Quick Fact: Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai; Axis Bank MD and CEO of Axis Bank: Amitabh Chaudhry.

7) National News

ISRO's approval to parliamentary panel on satellite TV in classrooms

ISRO gave a nod to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education to provide technical assistance for satellite TV classrooms.

ISRO scientists presented a proposal of a satellite TV classroom for students before the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Education.

The satellite TV classrooms would help with the issue of smartphone and data connectivity, especially in the rural areas.

Quick Fact: ISRO Chairman: K.Sivan; ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka; ISRO established: 15 August 1969.

8) Person in News

New MD of NHRCL: Satish Agnihotri

Satish Agnihotri took charge as Managing Director, National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd.

He has more than 20 years of experience in the implementation of mega rail infrastructure projects.

He has worked as CMD, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), a schedule 'A' CPSE under the Ministry of Railways for close to 9 years.

Quick Fact: NHSRCL Headquarters: Delhi, India; NHSRCL Owners: Government of India (50%), Government of Gujarat (25%), Government of Maharashtra (25%).

7th July

1) National News

Co-WIN Global Conclave inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated and addressed the CoWin Global Conclave, which was participated by representatives from 142 countries.

The Conclave was jointly organized by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, External Affairs, and National Health Authority (NHA).

The objective of this conclave was to extend the Co-WIN platform as a digital public good to the world.

2) Finance News

Changes announced in Government securities auction methodology by RBI

The RBI announced a change in Government securities auction methodology for benchmark securities.

In a Uniform Price auction, the bidders would pay for the allotted quantity of securities at the same rate, i.e., at the auction cut-off rate.

In a Multiple Price auction, the bidders will pay for the allotted quantity of securities at the respective price/yield at which they bid.

Quick Fact: RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikanta Das; RBI Headquarters: Mumbai; RBI Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.

3) National News

NIPUN Bharat Programme launched by Ministry of Education

Union Minister for Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', launched the NIPUN Bharat programme.

The NIPUN programme aims for every child in India to get foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27.

NIPUN stands for National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy.

Quick Fact: Ministry of Education Headquarters: Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi; Deputy Minister: Sanjay Shamrao Dhatre.

4) National News

New Governors appointed for eight states by President Kovind

President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, appointed new Governors for eight states.

The states with new governors included Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Tripura, Jharkhand, Mizoram and Himachal Pradesh.

While some of the current governors were transferred to new states, in some others new appointments were made.

5) Miscellaneous

Tribal income to be boosted by KVIC project 'BOLD'

KVIC (Khadi and Village Industries Commission) launched Project BOLD (Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Draught).

It is a first-of-its-kind exercise, to create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones.

It is the first of its kind exercise in India which was launched from the tribal village Nichla Mandwa in Udaipur, Rajasthan.

Quick Fact: KVIC Founded: 1956; KVIC Headquarters: Mumbai; KVIC Chairperson: Vinai Kumar Saxena.

6) Miscellaneous

To digitise cash-on-delivery payment Flipkart partnered with PhonePe

Flipkart partnered with digital payments platform PhonePe to launch a contactless 'Scan and Pay' feature for Flipkart's COD orders.

Using PhonePe's QR code solution, Flipkart's customers who opted for COD, would be able to pay through any UPI app at delivery.

The new feature would help in reducing personal contact to ensure safety and will drive contactless payments for customers.

Quick Fact: Flipkart CEO: Kalyan Krishnamurthy; Phonepe CEO: Sameer Nigam.

7) Sports News

Government recognition to WAKO India Kickboxing Federation

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports granted recognition to WAKO India Kickboxing Federation as National Sports Federation (NSF).

To be included and accepted in the Olympic, this movement is important for the recognition and development of the sport of kickboxing.

It is expected that with government recognition of WAKO as NSF, this sport would develop at a faster pace in the country.

Quick Fact: Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports: Kiren Rijiju.

8) Sports News

India's flag-bearers at Tokyo Olympics: Mary Kom & Manpreet Singh

MC Mary Kom, 6-time world boxing champion, and Manpreet Singh, skipper of the men's hockey team, would bear India's flag at the Tokyo Olympics.

First, India decided on two flag-bearers, one male and one female, at the Tokyo Games to ensure 'gender parity'.

The IOA communicated the decision in this regard to the Organising Committee of the Games.

8th July**1) National News****MoU between Tourism Ministry and Yatra to strengthen tourism industry**

The tourism ministry signed a MoU with Yatra to strengthen and enable the tourism and hospitality industry.

While the MoU is meant to mainly strengthen tourism, it also takes into consideration and provides support for accommodation units.

SAATHI is an initiative by the Ministry of Tourism in partnership with the Quality Council of India.

Quick Fact: Minister of State (IC) of Ministry of Tourism: Prahlad Singh Patel.

2) Finance News**GST collection dipped below Rs 1 lakh crore in June**

GST collection dipped below Rs 1 lakh crore in June after staying above that mark for eight consecutive months.

Centre collected a total of INR 92,849 crore GST for the month of June.

With improvements in the overall Covid-19 situation, the government expects GST revenues to rise from July 2021 onwards.

Quick Fact: GST Council head: Nirmala Sitharam (Union Finance Minister, India).

3) National News

‘Matsya Setu’ app launched by Gol for Indian aqua farmers

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Giriraj Singh, launched the Online Course Mobile App ‘Matsya Setu’.

The ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar, developed the app with funding from NFDB, Hyderabad.

The online course app aims to disseminate the latest freshwater aquaculture technologies to the aqua farmers of the country.

Quick Fact: Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying: Giriraj Singh; Minister of state: Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Pratap Chandra Sarangi.

4) National News

9-member panel set up by DPIIT to curb Digital Monopolies

The Central Government formed a 9-member panel for the development of an ONDC, designed to curb digital monopolies.

This ONDC project was initiated by the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce.

The committee of ONDC will advise the Gol on measures needed to digitise the entire value chain and enhance it for consumers, among other things.

Quick Fact: ONDC Full Form: Open Network for Digital Commerce.

5) Miscellaneous

‘Postpaid Mini’ launched by Paytm to provide small-ticket instant loans

Paytm launched Postpaid Mini, small-ticket loans, to give users the flexibility to access loans, in partnership with Aditya Birla Finance Ltd.

The product is an extension of its Buy Now, Pay Later service, driving affordability amongst those new to credit.

These instant loans will help users manage their household expenses to maintain liquidity during the ongoing pandemic.

Quick Fact: Paytm HQ: Noida, Uttar Pradesh; Paytm Founder & CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma; Paytm Founded: 2009.

6) Person in News

‘Brand Ambassador’ of Khadi Prakritik Paint: Nitin Gadkari

The Union Minister of Road Transport & MSME, Nitin Gadkari, inaugurated India’s first and only paint made from cow dung, named ‘Khadi Prakritik Paint’.

The minister also declared himself as the ‘Brand Ambassador’ for promotion and to encourage young entrepreneurs for manufacturing the same.

The KPP automated manufacturing plant was set up on the campus of KNHPI, Jaipur, which is a unit of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

7) Person in News

CEO of crowd-sourced navigation app ‘Waze’: Neha Parikh

Indian-American, Neha Parikh, was appointed as the CEO of Waze, a crowd-sourced GPS navigation app and subsidiary of Google.

Neha replaced Noam Bardin, who stepped down as the CEO in November 2020, after leading the Israeli company for 12 years.

The Waze app can give out directions in 56 different languages. It was acquired by Google in 2013 for around USD 1.1 billion (110 crores).

Quick Fact: Waze Founded: Israel (2008).

8) Miscellaneous

Jim Whitehurst resigned as IBM president

Jim Whitehurst announced his resignation as the president of IBM which is one of the several management moves in IBM.

His exit led to shares of the technological giant falling by 4.8% to \$139.83, the most in five months.

Whitehurst was appointed as IBM's president last year.

Quick Fact: IBM CEO: Arvind Krishna; IBM Headquarters: Armonk, New York, United States.

9th July

1) National News**Cabinet Reshuffle resulting in 43 leaders taking oath as ministers**

The Union Cabinet led by PM Narendra Modi expanded its council of ministers.

The names in the cabinet reshuffle included several new entrants as well as existing ministers who were reassigned.

In total, 15 Ministers were inducted into the Union Cabinet and 28 Ministers were inducted as Ministers of State.

Quick Fact: This was PM Modi's first major overhaul of the Union Cabinet since he took office for a second term in 2019.

2) Economy**India's GDP growth for FY22 at 10% projected by Fitch Ratings**

Fitch Ratings revised its GDP growth projection for India in 2021-22 (FY22) to 10%, which was previously projected at 12.8%.

The reason for this cut is the slow recovery post-second wave of COVID-19.

Rapid vaccination could support a sustainable revival in business and consumer confidence.

Quick Fact: Fitch Ratings Founder: John Knowles Fitch; Fitch Ratings Headquarters: New York City, United States.

3) National News

Retail and Wholesale Trade included in MSME sector by the Government

The Ministry of MSME decided to include Retail and Wholesale trade as MSMEs only for the limited purpose of Priority Sector Lending.

These segments of businesses will now be able to take loans under the Priority Sector Lending arrangement in the MSME category.

The registration will be allowed under three categories:

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

Quick Fact: Ministry of MSME Cabinet Minister: Narayan Rane; Minister of State: Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma.

4) Miscellaneous

‘MandateHQ’ to be launched by Razorpay in partnership with Mastercard

Razorpay partnered with Mastercard to launch ‘MandateHQ’ to help card-issuing banks to enable recurring payments for their customers.

The RBI had previously issued a framework for processing e-mandates on recurring online transactions.

The MandateHQ solution can be fully integrated with any bank within seven days.

Quick Fact: Razorpay Founded: 2013; Razorpay CEO: Harshil Mathur (May 2014–); Mastercard President: Michael Miebach.

5) National News

India's first UPI-based cashless parking launched by DMRC

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) launched India's first FASTag or Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-based parking facility.

This was done to reduce the time for entry and payment. The facility was launched at the Kashmere Gate metro station.

The facility can accommodate 55 four-wheelers and 174 two-wheelers. The entry and exit and payment of 4-wheelers can be done through the FASTag.

Quick Fact: DMRC Founded: 3 May 1995; DMRC MD: Mangu Singh; DMRC Owners: GOI (50%), Government of Delhi (50%).

6) National News**War Memorial of Capt Gurjinder Singh Suri inaugurated by Indian Army**

On the birth anniversary of Captain Gurjinder Singh Suri, the Indian Army inaugurated a war memorial in his memory in Gulmarg near the LOC.

Lieutenant Colonel (Col), Tej Prakash Singh Suri (Retd), father of Captain Gurjinder Singh Suri, MVC (Posthumous) was also present on the occasion.

Gurjinder Singh Suri was later awarded Maha Vir Chakra (Posthumous).

7) Person in News**New Director General of All India Radio: N Venudhar Reddy**

N Venudhar Reddy, an Indian Information Service, IIS Officer of 1988 batch took charge as Director General of All India Radio.

He was given additional charge of AIR upon the approval of the Appointments Committee of the cabinet.

All India Radio has been officially known as Akashvani since 1957.

Quick Fact: All India Radio Founded: 1936; All India Radio Headquarters: Sansad Marg, New Delhi.

8) Awards

Prestigious Humboldt Research Award presented to Kaushik Basu

Indian economist, Kaushik Basu, was awarded the Humboldt Research Award for Economics.

The award was presented by Professor Dr Hans-Bernd Schäfer of Bucerius Law School in Hamburg, Germany.

A former chief economist of the World Bank, Basu is currently a professor of Economics at Cornell University.

Quick Fact: Basu served as chief economic advisor of Gol from 2009 to 2012, and was a recipient of the Padma Bhushan in India.

10th July

1) National News

SPARSH System implemented by the Ministry of Defence

The Ministry of Defence implemented SPARSH (System for Pension Administration Raksha).

This is a web-based system that processes pension claims and credits it directly into the bank accounts of defence pensioners.

The two largest banks dealing with defence pensioners – SBI and PNB – have been co-opted as Service Centres.

Quick Fact: Minister of Defence: Rajnath Singh.

2) National News

Gandhinagar to host India's first maritime arbitration centre

The Gujarat Maritime University signed a MoU with the IFSCA in GIFT City to set up the Gujarat International Maritime Arbitration Centre (GIMAC).

GIMAC would be the first of its kind in India to manage arbitration and mediations for disputes related to the maritime and shipping sector.

The aim is to create a world-class centre focused on maritime and shipping disputes to resolve commercial and financial conflicts.

Quick Fact: Gujarat Chief Minister: Vijay Rupani; Gujarat Governor: Acharya Devvrat.

3) National News

Dept of Public Enterprises brought under Finance Ministry

The Government of India decided to bring the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) under the finance ministry.

DPE was under the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. The Finance ministry now comprises 6 departments after inclusion of DPE.

This was done to ease coordination regarding future disinvestment plans.

Quick Fact: Minister of Finance; Minister of Corporate Affairs: Nirmala Sitharaman.

4) International News

World's tallest sandcastle: Denmark

A sandcastle in Denmark entered into a new Guinness World Record for being the tallest sandcastle in the world.

The triangular-shaped sandcastle was built in the town of Blokhus in Denmark, standing at a height of 21.16 metres (69.4 feet).

Dutch creator, Wilfred Stijger, was assisted by 30 of the world's best sand sculptors for this.

Quick Fact: Denmark Capital: Copenhagen; Denmark Currency: Danish krone.

5) National News

Nation's first movable freshwater tunnel aquarium installed at Bengaluru Station

The Bengaluru City Railway Station became the first railway station in India with a movable freshwater tunnel aquarium.

The state-of-the-art aquarium was jointly opened by the IRSDC in collaboration with the HNI Aquatic Kingdom.

The Aquatic Kingdom aquarium is based on the concept of the Amazon River and is 12-feet long.

Quick Fact: Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) Chairman: Pradeep Kumar; IRSDC CEO & MD: S. K. Lohia.

6) Miscellaneous

Amazon's first Digital Kendra launched in Gujarat

Amazon launched its first Digital Kendra in India in Surat, Gujarat, inaugurated by Vijay Rupani, CM of Gujarat.

Digital Kendras are centres that will provide MSMEs the opportunity to learn about the benefits of e-commerce.

MSMEs can visit the Kendra and avail of third party services including training on eCommerce, GST support, shipping and logistics support, etc.

Quick Fact: Amazon CEO: Andrew R. Jassy; Amazon Founded: 5 July 1994.

7) Miscellaneous

Newsletter platform 'Bulletin' launched by Facebook

Facebook announced a set of publishing and subscription tools named Bulletin, aimed to promote independent writers in the US.

The bulletin will include support focused on the creation of content, monetisation and audience growth.

It also aims to integrate its existing tools to support writing and audio content — from podcasts to Live Audio Rooms in one place.

Quick Fact: Facebook Founded: February 2004; Facebook CEO: Mark Zuckerberg; Facebook Headquarters: California, United States.

8) Miscellaneous

NewsOnAir Radio Live-stream Global Rankings

NewsOnAir Radio Live-stream Global Rankings recently released rankings of countries where live-streams on the NewsOnAir app are most popular.

In the latest Rankings of top countries in the world (excluding India) Fiji jumped from 5th position to 2nd, while Saudi Arabia made a comeback in the top 10.

Kuwait and Germany were marked as new entrants, while France and New Zealand left the top 10. The United States continues to be ranked 1.

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

12th July

1) National News

INR 499-crore deal signed by Bharat Dynamics Ltd with Indian Air Force

BDL signed a contract with the Ministry of Defence for the manufacture and supply of Akash missiles to the IAF.

CMD of BDL stated that BDL is supplying Akash Missiles to the Indian Army and Indian Air Force.

Akash is a medium-range mobile surface-to-air missile (SAM) system, developed under India's Integrated Guided MDP.

Quick Fact: BDL Headquarters: Hyderabad, India; BDL Chairman & MD: Commodore Siddharth Mishra (Retired).

2) Finance News

Monetary penalty imposed on 14 banks by RBI for non-compliance

RBI imposed penalties on SBI, Bank of Baroda, IndusInd Bank, Bandhan Bank and 10 other lenders for contravention of various regulatory norms.

The penalty imposed on the 14 banks totals Rs 14.5 crore, with a maximum Rs 2 crore fine on Bank of Baroda.

The central bank imposed Rs 2 crore penalty on the Bank of Baroda, Rs 1 crore each on 12 other banks and Rs 50 lakh on the SBI.

Quick Fact: RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikanta Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.

3) National News

MoU between Axis Bank and Indian Army to offer defence service salary package

Axis Bank signed an MOU with the Indian Army offering a defence service salary package under its 'Power Salute' initiative.

The package would offer different benefits to all ranks of army officers including serving Defence personnel and pensioners.

The bank will offer Personal accidental cover, education grant, Permanent and permanent partial Disability Cover and air accident cover.

Quick Fact: Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai; Axis Bank Founded: 1993; Axis Bank MD and CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry.

4) Miscellaneous

Bancassurance partnership between Axis Bank and Max Bupa Health Insurance

Max Bupa Health Insurance has entered into a bancassurance partnership with Axis Bank, the country's third-largest private sector bank.

This partnership will help provide comprehensive health insurance solutions to Axis Bank's employees and customers.

The tie-up will enable Axis Bank customers across 4,500+ branches to gain access to quality healthcare solutions offered by Max Bupa.

Quick Fact: Max Bupa Health Insurance CEO: Krishnan Ramachandran; Max Bupa Health Insurance Headquarters: New Delhi, India.

5) National News

46 Kempegowda heritage sites to be developed by Karnataka Govt. in Bengaluru

The Karnataka state government decided to develop 46 Kempegowda heritage sites in a bid to promote tourism.

According to the Karnataka CM, the sites identified to be in three circuits would be developed at a cost of Rs 223 crore.

These sites would help people acknowledge the contribution of NadaPrabhu Kempegowda, the founding father of Bengaluru.

Quick Fact: Karnataka Capital: Bengaluru; Karnataka Chief minister: B. S. Yediyurappa.

6) National News

First passenger train reaches Manipur marking it on India's railway map

A passenger train, Rajdhani Express, reached Manipur's Vaingaichunpao railway station from Assam's Silchar railway station for a trial run.

The train covered the distance of 11 km between the two northeastern stations, with railway officials onboard.

The Vaingaichunpao-Imphal railway line is under construction, and on completion, would be the longest railway tunnel near Imphal.

Quick Fact: Manipur CM: N. Biren Singh; Governor: Najma Heptulla.

7) Person in News

Manu Sawhney released as CEO from ICC

The ICC discontinued the services of Manu Sawhney as the CEO with immediate effect.

Geoff Allardice will continue as Acting CEO supported by the Leadership Team working closely with the ICC Board.

Sawhney was suspended in March following various allegations in an internal review conducted by an external agency.

Quick Fact: ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates; ICC Founded: 15 June 1909; ICC Deputy Chairman: Imran Khwaja; ICC Chairman: Greg Barclay.

8) Literature

‘The Pregnancy Bible’ introduced by Kareena Kapoor Khan

Kareena Kapoor Khan announced her new book titled Kareena Kapoor Khan's Pregnancy Bible.

The actor called the book her ‘third child’.

She has shared her pregnancy experience in the book.

9) Entertainment

Aamir Khan's ‘PK’ added to National Film Archive of India's collection

National Film Archive of India (NFAI) announced a significant addition of Rajkumar Hirani's 2014 film ‘PK’ in its collection.

The filmmaker handed the negatives over to Director NFAI, Prakash Magdum, in Mumbai.

The National Film Archive of India was established as a media unit of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Quick Fact: National Film Archive of India headquarters: Pune, India; National Film Archive of India founded: February 1964.

10) Awards

2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee award won by Zaila Avant-garde

Zaila Avant-garde, an African-American, from New Orleans in Louisiana, won the 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee.

The 14-year-old Avant-garde, an accomplished basketball player, is the first contestant to win the competition in the history of 93 years.

The 8th-grader Avant-garde correctly spelt 'Murraya', a genus of tropical Asiatic and Australian trees, to win a USD 50,000 prize.

Quick Fact: Zaila is also the first Black contestant to win since Jody-Anne Maxwell of Jamaica in 1998.

13th July

1) National Affairs

Ladakh Becomes First UT To Achieve 100% First Dose Vaccination Coverage

Ladakh has become the first union territory to fully vaccinate its population with the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

This was achieved in a period of three months.

While the population of Ladakh is low, the achievement is commendable given the difficult geography of the region.

Quick Fact: Siachen Glacier and Aksai Chin are both parts of Ladakh

2) Economy

National Asset Reconstruction Company Becomes a Legal Entity

National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARC) has become a legal entity after registration with the Registrar of Companies, Mumbai.

Considered to be a 'Bad Bank', it will be a one-stop solution for banking systems stressed assets.

It will help the government and banks to deal with non-performing assets (NPAs)

Quick Fact: A bad bank is a bank set up to buy the bad loans and other illiquid holdings of another financial institution.

3) Science and Technology

Blue Origin Approved By US For Human Space Travel

United States' Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has approved 'Blue Origin license' for human space travel

Blue Origin is an American aerospace manufacturer and sub-orbital spaceflight services company.

So far Virgin Galactic, Blue Origin, SpaceX have been working on space tourism, i.e. the travel of civilians into space for recreational purposes.

Quick Fact: Blue Origin was founded by Jeff Bezos in 2000

4) Sports

Euro 2020 Winner: Italy

Italy won its second European Championship trophy by defeating England by 3-2 in a penalty shoot-out in the Euro 2020 final.

The final was held at Wembley Stadium in London.

After their 2006 FIFA World Cup win, this is the first major international trophy won by Italy.

5) Miscellaneous

Jagannath Puri Rath Yatra 2021 Begins

In this famous event of Odisha, special chariots are built for three deities – Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Lordess Subhadra.

The yatra is conducted at Jagannath Temple, Puri, one of the Char Dhams of Hindu religion.

It is one of the biggest festivals of India.

Quick Fact: Jagannath Puri Temple was built by Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva in 12th century CE.

14th July

1) India and the World

Rail Cargo movement between India and Nepal boosted

India and Nepal signed a Letter of Exchange (LoE) to revise the 2004 India-Nepal Rail Services Agreement (RSA).

The revised agreement allows all authorized cargo train operators to utilize the Indian railway network to carry Nepal's container.

The agreement is another milestone in India's efforts to enhance regional connectivity under the 'Neighbourhood First'.

Quick Fact: PM Nepal: KP Sharma Oli; President: Bidhya Devi Bhandari; Capital Nepal: Kathmandu; Currency: Nepalese rupee.

2) National News

Two-child policy proposed by UP population draft bill

Uttar Pradesh CM, Yogi Adityanath, launched a population policy aimed to incentivise couples who do not have more than two babies.

The health minister, Jai Pratap Singh, said UP would be stable by 2050 and the government is trying to reduce the population growth rate to 2.1%.

The UP law commission that formulated a population control bill said the policy would be voluntary and nobody would be forced to follow any rule.

Quick Fact: UP Capital: Lucknow; UP Governor: Anandiben Patel; UP CM: Yogi Adityanath.

3) National News

ICCR to set up the 'Bangabandhu Chair' at the Delhi University

Delhi University will have a 'Bangabandhu Chair' to foster a better understanding of developments in Bangladesh.

An MoU was signed between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Delhi University in Dhaka to set up this Chair at Delhi University.

The Chair will focus on the common heritage of the two countries and subjects like Anthropology, Buddhist Studies, Geography, History, etc.

Quick Fact: PM Bangladesh: Sheikh Hasina; Capital: Dhaka; Currency: Taka; President Bangladesh: Abdul Hamid.

4) Awards

BKS Literary Award to Journalist N N Pillai

Journalist and playwright Omchery N N 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.

His enormous contributions as a whole to Malayalam language and literature are remarkable, which ultimately led to this award.

5) Literature

A book titled 'The Art of Conjuring Alternate Realities'

A book titled 'The Art of Conjuring Alternate Realities: How Information Warfare Shapes Your World', authored by Shivam Shankar Singh and Anand Venkatanarayanan.

This book widely talks about how information warfare is shaping your life and world.

Parallely it deals with the operations of political parties, cybercriminals, godmen, national states in manipulating the thoughts.

15th July

1) India and the World

India launched BHIM-UPI services in Bhutan

Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, launched BHIM-UPI QR-based payments in Bhutan to further strengthen the cooperation.

With the launch in Bhutan, the payment infrastructures of the two countries are seamlessly connected and will benefit tourists and businessmen.

She described BHIM UPI as one of the brightest in facilitating digital transactions in India during the pandemic.

Quick Fact: Bhutan Capital: Thimphu; Bhutan Prime minister: Lotay Tshering; Bhutan Currency: Bhutanese ngultrum.

2) International News

Sher Bahadur Deuba crowned as Nepal's Prime Minister for 5th time

Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba, on 13th July, became the country's Prime Minister for the fifth time.

His appointment is in line with the ruling issued by the Supreme Court on 12th July to make way for his claim to the premiership.

Deuba has served as Nepal's PM four times from 1997 to 2017.

Quick Fact: Nepal Capital: Kathmandu; Nepal Currency: Nepalese rupee; Nepal President: Bidhya Devi Bhandari.

3) Miscellaneous

Statue of Mahatma Gandhi unveiled in Georgia by EAM Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar, unveiled a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Georgia at a prominent Tbilisi park.

During his visit to Georgia, Jaishankar held talks with the country's top leadership and handed over the relics of 17th century St. Queen Keteva.

St. Queen Ketevan was a 17th century Georgian Queen who attained martyrdom whose relics were found in 2005 at the St. Augustine Convent in Old Goa.

Quick Fact: PM Georgia: Irakli Garibashvili; Georgia Capital: Tbilisi; Georgia Currency: Georgian Lari.

4) India and the World

Nepal Inked USD 1.3 billion mega-deal with India to develop Hydropower project

Nepal signed a USD 1.3 billion deal with India, to develop a 679-megawatt Lower Arun Hydropower project in eastern Nepal.

As per the deal, India's state-owned Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN), will develop the hydropower project in the neighbouring Himalayan nation.

This will be the second mega project undertaken by India in Nepal, after the USD 1.04 billion 900-MW Arun-3 hydro electric projects.

5) National News

India's first national dolphin research centre to come up in Patna

India's and Asia's first National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) will come upon the bank of the Ganges in the premises of Patna University.

Around 1,455 dolphins have been sighted during a survey conducted in 2018-19 in the river Ganga by the teams of experts.

The Gangetic dolphin is India's national aquatic animal but frequently falls prey to illegal poaching.

16th July

1) National News

Piyush Goyal appointed Leader of House in Rajya Sabha

Union Minister Piyush Goyal was appointed as the Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha, effective from July 06, 2021.

He will succeed Thawar Chand Gahlot, who took charge as the Governor of Karnataka.

The Leader of the House is responsible for organizing government meetings and business in the House.

2) National News

India's first 'Grain ATM' opened in Gurugram

The country's first 'Grain ATM', which is an automatic machine, like a bank ATM, was set up as a pilot project in Gurugram, Haryana.

This machine was installed under the 'World Food Programme' of the UN, and is called the 'Automated, Multi Commodity, Grain Dispensing Machine'.

At present, the distribution of wheat has been started from the 'Grain ATM' machine installed at Farrukhnagar.

Quick Fact: Haryana Capital: Chandigarh; Haryana Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya; Haryana CM: Manohar Lal Khattar.

3) National News

Ladakh signed MoU with Sikkim to turn UT organic by 2025

The UT of Ladakh organic, the administration of Ladakh, signed a MoU with the Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency (SOCCA).

This MoU was regarding the implementation of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana and Mission Organic Development Initiative (MODI) in the Ladakh region.

The main objective of this MOU is to get the organic certification after a tie-up with the Government of India.

Quick Fact: Governors & Administrators of Ladakh: Radha Krishna Mathur.

4) Finance News

RBI Launched 'Retail Direct Scheme'

RBI launched 'the RBI Retail Direct' scheme for retail investors, where they can directly buy and sell government securities (G-Secs).

The bond-buying window was opened to increase retail participation in G-Secs beyond the managers of pooled resources such as banks and mutual funds.

The RBI Retail Direct scheme is a one-stop solution to facilitate investment in Government Securities (G-Secs) by individual investors.

Quick Fact: RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikanta Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.

5) National News

Cabinet approved continuation of National AYUSH Mission scheme

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved the continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'National AYUSH Mission (NAM)'.

The scheme will now be implemented from April 01, 2021, to March 31, 2026.

The Centre allocated Rs. 4607.30 crore (Rs 3,000 crore as Central Share and Rs. 1607.30 crore as State Share) for the scheme to be invested over five years.

Quick Fact: Minister of AYUSH: Sarbananda Sonowal.

17th July

1) National News

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Rudraksh' convention centre in Varanasi

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the International Cooperation and Convention Centre 'Rudraksh', in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

The international cooperation and convention centre has as many as 108 Rudraksha at the centre with its roof shaped like a 'Shiva Linga'.

The aim is to provide opportunities for social and cultural interactions between people at the international convention centre.

Quick Fact: UP Capital: Lucknow; UP Governor: Anandiben Patel; UP CM: Yogi Adityanath.

2) International News

UAE became 1st Gulf nation to open embassy in Israel

The United Arab Emirates became the first Gulf nation to open an embassy in Israel, nearly a year after both countries agreed to normalise diplomatic ties.

The new mission is located in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange building and the ceremony was attended by new Israeli President Isaac Herzog.

UAE Ambassador Mohammad Mahmoud Al Khajah officially presented his credentials at the beginning of March.

Quick Fact: UAE Capital: Abu Dhabi; UAE Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham; UAE President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan; Israel Prime minister: Naftali Bennett.

3) International News

Singapore unveiled one of the world's biggest floating solar panel farms

The project is part of efforts by the country to meet a goal of quadrupling its solar energy production by 2025 to help tackle climate change.

Located on a reservoir in western Singapore, the 60 megawatt-peak solar photovoltaic farm was built by a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sembcorp Industries.

The solar farm could help to reduce carbon emissions by about 32 kilo tons annually, comparable to taking 7,000 cars off the roads.

Quick Fact: Singapore Currency: Singapore dollar; Capital of Singapore: Singapore; PM Singapore: Lee Hsien Loong.

4) Miscellaneous

Rajnath Singh launched AI-based grievance analysis app 'CPGRAMS'

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched a mobile application, called CPGRAMS to lodge grievances using AI and machine learning tools.

He was briefed that this AI-powered application will automatically handle and analyse the complaints of the people.

This is the first AI-based system developed to improve grievance redressal in the Government.

5) National News

Manduadih railway station renamed as Banaras

The Manduadih railway station was finally renamed as Banaras by the Northeastern railways (NER).

The process to change the station's name started in 2019 when the former railway minister and the governor of J&K, Manoj Singh, put forth the request.

In the same year, the UP government accepted the proposal and forwarded it to the ministry of home affairs.

19th July

1) National News

Digital Platform 'Kisan Sarathi' launched to facilitate farmers

To facilitate farmers to get 'right information at right time' in their desired language, a digital platform namely 'KisanSarathi' was launched.

This initiative of KisanSarathi empowers farmers with technological interventions to reach farmers in remote areas.

The ICAR Scientists took up research on new technological interventions in the area of transportation of farmer's crops.

Quick Fact: KisanSarathi launched by: Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

2) National News

Maharashtra govt launched new EV Policy 2021

The Maharashtra state government launched the new Electric Vehicle Policy-2021.

The policy announced by the State Environment Minister, Aaditya Thackeray aimed to accelerate the adoption of Battery Electric Vehicles in the country.

The policy also aims for electric vehicles (EVs) to make up 10% of all new vehicle registrations, by 2025.

Quick Fact: Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshiyari; Maharashtra Capital: Mumbai; Maharashtra CM: Uddhav Thackeray.

3) National News

Andhra govt announced 10% reservation for EWS

The Andhra Pradesh government announced a 10% reservation for the Kapu community and other Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).

This was for appointments in the initial posts and services in the State government in accordance with the Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act, 2019.

The 10% reservation in employment would benefit Kapus who are neither benefited under BC quota nor under EWS quota.

Quick Fact: Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy; Governor: Biswa Bhusan Harichandan.

4) Miscellaneous

India's first pod taxi to operate between Noida Airport and Film City

IPRCL prepared a Detailed Project Report or DPR for the pod taxi service between Noida Airport at Jewar and Film City.

There are plans to run a driverless taxi between the two destinations, costing about Rs 862 crore.

Pod taxis can accommodate four to six passengers per car.

5) Important Days

World Day for International Justice observed on July 17

The World Day for International Justice is celebrated globally to support and recognize the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The day marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute on July 17, 1998, the treaty that created the International Criminal Court.

It was known as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court; all the countries that agreed to adopt the statute were accepting the jurisdiction of the ICC.

20th July

1) International News

New quad grouping between US, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan

The US, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan agreed to establish a new quadrilateral diplomatic platform to enhance regional connectivity.

Afghanistan's strategic location, for a long time, was touted as a competitive advantage for the country.

The formation of the new quad group is important amid China's desire to extend its Belt Road Initiative (BRI) to Afghanistan.

Quick Fact: BRI initiative launched by: Chinese President Xi Jinping; BRI launched in: 2013.

2) National News

Renaming of HC of J&K-Ladakh as High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh

The 'Common High Court for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh' was renamed as 'High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.'

The order was notified by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of Justice.

President Ram Nath Kovind signed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2021 to effect the change.

Quick Fact: Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K: Manoj Sinha; Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh: Radha Krishna Mathur.

3) National News

'One Block, One Product' scheme to be introduced by Haryana

The Haryana government would soon introduce this scheme to encourage and promote small industries in the rural areas.

The state government plans to connect every block of the state with industrial vision and is working expeditiously on this scheme.

Haryana's 'One District, One Product' Scheme, being implemented under MSME, came up as a model across the country.

Quick Fact: Haryana Capital: Chandigarh; Haryana Governor: Bandaru Dattatraya; Haryana CM: Manohar Lal Khattar.

4) National News

India's first monk fruit cultivation exercise began in Himachal's Kullu

The 'monk fruit' from China, known for its properties as a non-caloric natural sweetener, was introduced for field trials in Himachal Pradesh.

The introduction was by the Palampur-based Council of Scientific Research and IT Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT) in Kullu.

The field trials began three years after the CSIR-IHBT imported its seeds from China and grew it in the house.

Quick Fact: Himachal Pradesh Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya; Himachal Pradesh CM: Jai Ram Thakur.

5) Technology

Cybersecurity firm RiskIQ acquired by Microsoft for \$500M

Microsoft finalized a deal to acquire RiskIQ, a San Francisco-based provider of cybersecurity services, including mobile app security.

RiskIQ's services and solutions would join Microsoft's suite of cloud-native security products.

The cloud-based RiskIQ software detects security issues across networks and devices.

Quick Fact: Microsoft CEO and Chairman: Satya Nadella; Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States.

6) Miscellaneous

Second 'Cloud Region' launched by Google Cloud in India

Google Cloud announced the launch of its new Cloud Region in Delhi NCR, for customers in India and across the Asia Pacific.

This new Google Cloud region is the second such in India after Mumbai and the 10th in Asia-Pacific, among the 26 present across the globe.

As the second cloud region, customers are expected to benefit from improved business continuity planning, while maintaining data sovereignty.

Quick Fact: Google CEO: Sundar Pichai; Google Founded: 4 September 1998, California, United States; Google Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin.

7) Person in News

Olympic Laurel to be bagged by Bangladesh Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus

Bangladeshi Nobel Peace Prize winner will receive the Olympic Laurel at the Tokyo Games, the second time the trophy will be awarded.

Yunus's pioneering micro-lender, known for cutting poverty across the globe, and he will be honoured for his extensive work for development.

His initiatives include the Yunus Sports Hub, a network of social enterprises that promote development through sports.

Quick Fact: The Olympic Laurel was given for the first time at the 2016 Rio Games, to Kenyan former Olympian Kip Keino, who opened a children's home, a school and an athletes' training centre in his home country.

8) Sports News

B K Sinha named as Press Attache of India's Olympic contingent by IOA

IOA appointed retired IPS officer B K Sinha to perform the role of Security as well as Press Attache of the country's contingent at the Tokyo Games.

Sinha is a former Haryana DGP and also a recipient of the President's Police Medal.

India will be represented by a 228-strong contingent, including 119 athletes, at the Tokyo Olympics.

Quick Fact: Indian Olympic Association President: Narayana Ramachandran; Indian Olympic Association Founded: 1927.

9) Entertainment

Winners list of Cannes Film Festival 2021 announced

The Cannes Film Festival 2021 concluded on 17 July 2021.

Julia Ducournau won the Cannes' top prize, the Palme d'Or, for her film Titane, making her the second woman ever to win the award.

This year's Cannes had a wide range of films, from Wes Anderson's The French Dispatch to Julia Ducournau's Titane, and Leos Carax' Annette.

Quick Fact: Cannes Film Festival 2021 President: Spike Lee.

10) Literature**'The India Story' by Bimal Jalan**

Former RBI governor Bimal Jalan wrote a new book titled 'The India Story'.

The book focuses on India's economic history and aims to provide lessons for the future of India's political economy.

He traced India's economic policies from 1991 to 2019 to offer insights on learning from the past, before moving 'Beyond the Metrics of Economy'.

21st July**1) International News****Male guardian requirement for women attending hajj ended in Saudi Arabia**

The Ministry of Hajj and Umrah declared that women can now register for the annual Hajj pilgrimage without a male guardian (marham).

In registration guidelines of Hajj, the ministry highlighted that women do not require a male guardian to register.

India had announced the same rule in 2017 when the Modi government declared that women could go on Hajj without a male companion.

Quick Fact: Saudi Arabia Capital: Riyadh; Saudi Arabia Currency: Saudi riyal.

2) Finance News

MoU between Bank of Maharashtra and NABARD

Bank of Maharashtra signed a MoU with National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD).

It is on a collaborative approach to enhance rural prosperity through the convergence of institutional lending & ongoing development initiatives.

This encourages joint initiatives for the benefit of farmers, joint liability groups, self-help groups, rural artisans, Agri start-ups, MSMEs, etc in the State.

Quick Fact: Maharashtra Headquarters: Pune; Maharashtra CEO: A. S. Rajeev; Chairman of NABARD: G R Chintala; NABARD Headquarters: Mumbai.

3) Finance News

FDI limit in NPS fund managers hiked to 74%

The government notified a hike in the FDI limit in pension fund management to 74% from 49% under the national pension system (NPS).

This step opened doors for experienced foreign partners in this space and facilitated more competition in the fledgling segment.

Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA) Act links the FDI ceiling in the insurance sector.

Quick Fact: PFRDA Chairman: Supratim Bandyopadhyay; Owner: Ministry of Finance.

4) Technology

'FEDDY' - AI-Powered virtual assistant launched by Federal Bank for customers

The Federal Bank launched 'FEDDY', an Artificial Intelligence-powered virtual assistant to help customers with banking-related queries.

The bank mentioned that FEDDY could be accessed via Alexa, Google Assistant and WhatsApp.

It is integrated into Google Business Messaging, a first-of-its-kind by an Indian bank.

Quick Fact: Federal Bank MD and CEO: Shyam Srinivasan; Federal Bank Headquarters: Aluva, Kerala; Federal Bank Founder: K.P Hormis.

5) Technology

Certificates using Blockchain Technology to be issued by Maharashtra

Maharashtra would be the first state in the country to issue educational documents using blockchain technology.

Maharashtra would be the 1st Indian state and the world's largest user of Blockchain for educational certificates.

Each student will receive a 'certificate_LegitDoc.zip' digital file containing the original PDF diploma certificate and its corresponding blockchain proof file.

Quick Fact: Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshiyari; Maharashtra Capital: Mumbai; Maharashtra CM: Uddhav Thackeray.

6) Awards

Sparkassen Trophy to be won by Viswanathan Anand

Viswanathan Anand defeated Vladimir Kramnik to win the Sparkassen Trophy at Dortmund.

Anand needed only a draw in the final game of the No-Castling Chess event, and he got it in 40 moves.

Kramnik was forced to draw the game by giving perpetual checks.

7) Sports News

Mongolia, Tajikistan and Switzerland welcomed by ICC as new members

The International Cricket Council (ICC) inducted Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Switzerland as members at its 78th Annual General Meeting.

Mongolia and Tajikistan are the 22nd and 23rd members of the Asia region. Switzerland is Europe's 35th member.

With the ICC now comprising 106 members in total, including 94 associates.

Quick Fact: ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates; ICC Founded: 15 June 1909; ICC Deputy Chairman: Imran Khwaja; ICC Chairman: Greg Barclay.

8) Important Days

International Chess Day observed on July 20

This day has been celebrated annually since 1966 to celebrate one of the most ancient and most popular games in history.

It was on this day that the International Chess Federation (FIDE) was founded, in 1924.

The idea to celebrate the day as the international chess day was proposed by UNESCO.

Quick Fact: World Chess Federation Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland; World Chess Federation Founded: 20 July 1924, Paris, France; World Chess Federation CEO: Geoffrey D. Borg.

22nd July

1) National News

Government jobs for National Games Medalists assured by Assam CM

Assam CM, Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, assured jobs for all National Games medalists of Assam from now on.

He mentioned that all those who won medals in National Games so far for Assam would be given Sports Pension by the State Government.

The CM shed light on how this would send a goodwill message to boxer Lovlina Borgohain, vying for a medal in the Tokyo Olympics.

Quick Fact: Assam Governor: Jagdish Mukhi; Assam CM: Himanta Biswa Sarma.

2) National News

New projects approved by NMGC for rejuvenation of 6 rivers in Uttarakhand

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) approved new projects for the rejuvenation of six rivers in Uttarakhand.

The projects shall cover the six polluted river stretches in the Kumaon region.

It also approved the Sewerage (I&D) scheme (Dhela River) Phase-1 of District Udham Singh Nagar, under Namami Gange Programme.

Quick Fact: Governor Uttarakhand: Baby Rani Maurya; Uttarakhand CM: Pushkar Singh Dhami.

3) International News

600 kph maglev train made public debut in China

China unveiled a maglev train capable of a top speed of 600 kph.

The maximum speed would make the train, self-developed by China and manufactured in the coastal city of Qingdao, the fastest ground vehicle globally.

At 600 kph, it would only take 2.5 hours to travel from Beijing to Shanghai by train – a journey of more than 1,000 km.

Quick Fact: China Capital: Beijing; China Currency: Renminbi; China President: Xi Jinping.

4) Miscellaneous

First 'green hydrogen' plant to be set up by IOC in Uttar Pradesh

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to build the first 'green hydrogen' plant of the country at its Mathura refinery, to meet the growing demand for oil and energy.

Previously, projects were announced to produce 'grey hydrogen' using fossil fuels such as natural gas.

For this, the company would use 250 MW of electricity produced from renewable sources like solar power.

Quick Fact: Indian Oil Corporation Chairperson: Shrikant Madhav Vaidya; Indian Oil Corporation Headquarters: Mumbai; Indian Oil Corporation Founded: 30 June 1959.

5) Miscellaneous

Goldman Sachs's global centre now in Hyderabad

Goldman Sachs opened a new facility in Hyderabad as part of its commitment to expand its global centre in India.

Hyderabad has been emerging as a key investment destination for banking & financial service.

The new office would have about 800 people by year-end and grow to over 2,500 people by 2023.

Quick Fact: Goldman Sachs CEO: David M. Solomon; Goldman Sachs Headquarters: New York, New York, United States; Goldman Sachs Founded: 1869.

6) Technology

Jeff Bezos launched to space aboarding New Shepard rocket ship

Billionaire Jeff Bezos made a short journey to space, in the first crewed flight of his rocket ship, New Shepard.

On this flight was the oldest person who has been to space, Wally Funk and the youngest, student Oliver Daemen.

New Shepard, built by Bezos' company Blue Origin, has been designed to serve the burgeoning market for space tourism.

Quick Fact: Amazon CEO: Andrew R. Jassy; Amazon Founded: 5 July 1994.

7) Person in News

New Deputy Leader of House in Rajya Sabha: Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi

The BJP appointed the Union minister for minority affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi as deputy leader of the House in Rajya Sabha.

Naqvi took over from Piyush Goyal, who was elevated as the leader of the house in the Upper House.

Both Goyal and Naqvi would handle the opposition in the Upper House and ensure that the house proceedings are conducted smoothly.

8) Miscellaneous

Perumkulam titled as Kerala's first 'Book Village'

Perumkulam, in Kollam District, was bestowed with the title - Kerala's first 'Book Village'.

This claim to fame resulted from years of concerted efforts aiming to encourage the habit of reading.

Bapuji Smaraka Grandhasala', a library in the village was at the forefront in this effort to make it the first book village of the State.

Quick Fact: Kerala CM: Pinarayi Vijayan; Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan.

23rd July

1) International News

New Peru President: Pedro Castillo, Leftist school teacher

Rural teacher-turned-political novice, Pedro Castillo, won Peru's presidential election after the country's longest electoral count in 40 years.

Castillo, whose supporters included Peru's poor and rural citizens, defeated right-wing politician Keiko Fujimori by just 44,000 votes.

Peru, world's second-largest copper producer, was crushed by the pandemic, taking the poverty level to almost one-third of the population.

Quick Fact: Peru Capital: Lima; Peru Currency: Sol.

2) National News

'Telangana Dalit Bandhu' to be launched by CM KCR from Huzurabad

Telangana CM to launch his government's new Dalit empowerment scheme on a pilot basis from the Huzurabad assembly constituency.

The scheme, which was to be called Dalit Empowerment Scheme, has been renamed as Dalita Bandhu scheme.

As part of the scheme, eligible Dalit families would be given Rs 10 lakh in cash directly to their accounts.

Quick Fact: Telangana Capital: Hyderabad; Telangana Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan; Telangana CM: K. Chandrashekar Rao.

3) International News

New Haitian Prime Minister: Ariel Henry

Ariel Henry formally assumed the post of Prime Minister of Haiti.

He assumed the role of the leader of the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation in a ceremony in the capital Port-Au-Prince.

Henry was installed as head in an attempt to stabilize the country on the brink of chaos since the murder of president Jovenel Moise on July 7.

Quick Fact: Haiti Capital: Port-au-Prince; Haiti Currency: Haitian gourde; Haiti Continent: North America.

4) Finance News

MoU signed between Kotak Mahindra Bank and Indian Navy for salary account

The Indian Navy signed a MoU with Kotak Mahindra for salary accounts of all its personnel – both serving and retired.

The bank would offer special salary account benefits to the Indian Navy like attractive rates and zero processing fees on various loans.

Kotak salary account provides a range of privileges, and would further personalize their offering, for the requirements of Indian Navy personnel.

Quick Fact: Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh; Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950; Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO: Uday Kotak.

5) Miscellaneous**Paisalo selected by SBI as National Corporate Business Correspondent**

SBI selected 'Paisalo Digital' as the National Corporate Business Correspondent for financial inclusion by providing banking services through kiosks.

Paisalo is tapping into the Rs 8 lakh crore market opportunity of small-ticket loans for India's 365 million unbanked population.

As a business correspondent for SBI, they will focus on the fully digital small loan business under SBI-Paisalo Loan Co-origination.

Quick Fact: SBI Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara; SBI Headquarters: Mumbai; SBI Founded: 1 July 1955.

6) Technology**DRDO successfully flight-tested indigenously developed MPATGM**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) flight-tested the third-generation Man-Portable Anti Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM).

The missile was launched from a man-portable launcher integrated with a thermal site, and all the mission objectives were met.

MPATGM is a low weight, fire and forgets missile, incorporated with state-of-the-art Miniaturized Infrared Imaging Seeker with advanced avionics.

Quick Fact: Chairman DRDO: Dr G Satheesh Reddy; DRDO Headquarters: New Delhi; DRDO Established: 1958.

7) Sports News

Aman Gulia and Sagar Jaglan titled as cadet world champions

Young wrestlers Aman Gulia and Sagar Jaglan emerged as the new world champions in their respective categories.

India dished out an impressive show on the second day of the Cadet World Championship 2021 at Budapest, Hungary.

Gulia was the winner with a convincing 5-2 win in a 48kg final while Jaglan banked 4-0 in the 80kg summit clash.

8) Awards

National Silver SKOCH award received by Cachar district

Cachar Deputy Commissioner, Keerthi Jalli received the National Silver SKOCH Award for 'Pushti Nirbhor' (nutrition-dependent).

Hers is a convergence project on transformation and development entailing setting up Nutri-gardens at houses in Dinnathpur Bagicha village.

Instituted in 2003, SKOCH Award salutes people, projects and institutions that go the extra mile to make India a better nation.

24th July

1) Finance News

U GRO Capital tied up with Bank of Baroda for MSME co-lending

U GRO Capital, a non-bank financier, and Bank of Baroda partnered for co-lending to the MSME sector.

Under the co-lending programme Pratham, Bank of Baroda and U GRO would disburse loans worth Rs 1,000 crore to MSMEs.

This program aims to dispense the entire amount by the end of this financial year.

Quick Fact: Bank Of Baroda Chairman: Hasmukh Adhia; Bank Of Baroda MD & CEO: Sanjiv Chadha; U GRO Capital's Managing Director: Shachindra Nath.

2) International News

Liverpool removed from world heritage list by UNESCO

UNESCO decided to remove Liverpool's waterfront from its list of world heritage sites, citing concerns about overdevelopment.

At committee talks chaired by China, 13 delegates voted in favour of the proposal and five against.

Those against delisting Liverpool included Australia, whose own listing for the Great Barrier Reef was threatened in this year's UNESCO deliberations.

Quick Fact: UNESCO headquarters: Paris, France; UNESCO Head: Audrey Azoulay; UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945.

3) Miscellaneous

Dvara E-Dairy and IFFCO Tokio General Insurance partnered for AI-led tag

Dvara E-Dairy Solutions launched an AI led digital tag 'Surabhi e-Tag' to identify cattle based on muzzle identity.

This would be used for cattle insurance products offered in partnership with IFFCO Tokio General Insurance.

Muzzle images of the cattle are collected through the Surabhi mobile application and stored in hi-resolution images as a unique digital identity.

Quick Fact: IFFCO Tokio General Insurance CEO: Anamika Roy Rashtrawar; IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Headquarters: Gurugram; IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Founded: 2000.

4) Person in News

Madhya Pradesh Para Shooter Rubina Francis bagged gold at Peru event

Madhya Pradesh shooter Rubina Francis set a world record at the ongoing Para Sport Cup in Peru.

She won gold in the 10-metre air pistol para-event for women.

She went past the world record of Aysegul Pehlivanlar of Turkey, securing the quota for India at the Tokyo Summer Paralympics 2020.

5) Literature

‘Palleku Pattabhishekam’ released by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu

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.

The VP said that we must address issues of the villages and agriculture holistically to bring ‘Gram Swarajya’ to our villages.

6) Literature

‘The Stranger In The Mirror’, autobiography of Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra

Filmmaker Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra announced his autobiography, ‘The Stranger In The Mirror’.

He co-wrote the book with noted author Reeta Ramamurthy Gupta.

The autobiography was published by Rupa Publications and would hit the stands across the country on July 27.

Quick Fact: Ad maker-turned-director Mehra, known for helming movies like Rang De Basanti, Delhi-6, Bhaag Milkha Bhaag and the recently released Toofan.

7) Important Days

World Brain Day observed on July 22

The World Federation of Neurology (WFN) celebrates World Brain Day every July 22, focusing on a different theme each year.

The theme for this World Brain Day was 'Stop Multiple Sclerosis'.

World Brain Day advocates early diagnosis of this condition that can help improve the quality of life of the patient.

8) Important Days

National Broadcasting Day: July 23

National Broadcasting Day is observed to celebrate the radio, which has been an important part of people's life in India.

On this day in 1927, the first-ever radio broadcast in the country went on the air from the Bombay Station under the Indian Broadcasting Company.

Currently, AIR (All India Radio) is one of the largest public broadcasting organisations in the world.

26th July

1) Finance News

Loans up to Rs 5 cr allowed by RBI to other banks' directors

RBI overhauled rules for extending loans to directors of other banks and relatives of directors.

The central bank allowed banks to extend personal loans up to ₹5 crores to directors of other banks and their relatives without board approval.

The earlier limit for such loans was ₹25 lakh.

Quick Fact: RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikanta Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.

2) International News

Amsterdam hosts World's first 3D-printed steel bridge

The world's first 3D-printed steel bridge was opened to the public in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

It was developed by MX3D, in collaboration with a consortium of experts, and represents a major milestone for 3D-printing technology.

After four years of development, the bridge was unveiled by Her Majesty Queen Máxima of the Netherlands.

Quick Fact: Netherlands Capital: Amsterdam; Currency: Euro.

3) National News

Significant improvement in UNESCAP score witnessed by India

India scored 90.32% in the 2021 UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation.

The overall score of India is found to be greater than many OECD countries including France, UK, Canada, Norway, Finland.

India is the best-performing country when compared to the South and South-West Asia region (63.12%) and the Asia Pacific region (65.85%).

4) Miscellaneous

UNESCO: Historic Urban Landscape project launched for Gwalior, Orchha

In the state of Madhya Pradesh, the cities of Orchha and Gwalior were selected by UNESCO under its 'Historic Urban Landscape Project.'

Six cities of South Asia, including the Indian cities of Varanasi and Ajmer, are already involved in this project that started in 2011.

Gwalior and Orchha were included as the 7th and 8th cities of South Asia.

Quick Fact: Madhya Pradesh CM: Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Governor: Anandiben Patel.

5) Miscellaneous

Niva Bupa - Rebranding by Max Bupa Health Insurance

The standalone health insurer Max Bupa Health Insurance rebranded itself as 'Niva Bupa Health Insurance'.

This development came after the company's promoter, Max India, owning 51% of the insurer, sold its stake to True North in 2019 for Rs 510 crore.

Niva Bupa targets to become a Rs 2,500 crore company by FY 2021-22.

Quick Fact: Max Bupa Health Insurance CEO: Krishnan Ramachandran; Max Bupa Health Insurance Headquarters: New Delhi, India.

6) Person in News

UN Tax Committee appointed FinMin Joint Secretary Rashmi R Das

The joint secretary of the Finance Ministry, Rasmi Ranjan Das, was appointed to the UN tax committee as a member for the term period 2021 to 2025.

Das is Joint Secretary – (FT&TR-I), Central Board of Direct Taxes, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

It assists countries in their efforts to prevent double or multiple taxations and curb international tax evasion and avoidance.

Quick Fact: United Nations Economic and Social Council: Arcot Ramasamy Mudaliar; President: Munir Akram.

7) Miscellaneous

IOA roped in Adani Group as sponsor for Tokyo Olympics

The Indian Olympic Association roped in Adani Group as a sponsor for the Indian contingent at the ongoing Tokyo Games.

IOA secretary general Rajiv Mehta, who is currently in Tokyo, announced the development.

The IOA had earlier entered into sponsorship deals with various private entities, including Amul, MPL Sports Foundation, JSW Sports among others.

Quick Fact: Indian Olympic Association President: Narayana Ramachandran; Indian Olympic Association Founded: 1927.

8) Sports News

Tokyo 2020: Mirabai Chanu won Silver in weightlifting

Mirabai Chanu won the silver medal and became the first Indian to win an Olympic medal at the 2020 Tokyo Games in the Women's 49 kg category.

Chanu managed to lift a total of 202 kg in the women's 49kg category to become the second Indian weightlifter after Karnam Malleswari to win an Olympic medal.

A new Olympic record was registered by Mirabai Chanu with a successful lift of 115kg in clean and jerk.

9) Sports News

AIFF 'Women's Footballer of the Year' 2020-21: Ngangom Bala Devi

Indian Women's National Team Forward, Ngangom Bala Devi, was named as the All India Football Federation (AIFF) Women's Footballer of the Year 2020-21.

She is the first Indian woman footballer to sign a professional contract with an overseas club in Europe.

Bala was a part of the Manipur U19 team that took part in Women's Championship in Assam in 2002, where she was declared the best player.

10) Important Days

Aaykar Diwas (Income Tax Day) observed by CBDT on July 24

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) observed the 161st Income Tax Day (also known as Aaykar Diwas) on 24 July 2021.

On 24 July 1980, Income Tax was introduced for the first time in India by Sir James Wilson.

The purpose of this tax was to compensate for the losses incurred by the British regime during the first war of independence against British Rule in 1857.

Quick Fact: Central Board of Direct Taxes chairman: Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra; Central Board of Direct Taxes Established: 1924; Central Board of Direct Taxes Headquarters: New Delhi.

27th July

1) National News

MoU between CRPF & C-DAC to train force manpower in advanced technologies

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) signed an MoU with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

The MoU aims to train the manpower of CRPF in advanced areas like the Internet of Things (IoT), Cybersecurity, AI, etc.

The MoU would provide CRPF personnel with customised advanced courses aligned to the needs of the field and practical applications.

Quick Fact: Central Reserve Police Force Headquarters: New Delhi, India; Central Reserve Police Force Formed: 27 July 1939; Central Reserve Police Force Motto: Service and Loyalty; CRPF director general: Kuldiep Singh.

2) India and the World

WTO's Top 10 Agricultural Produce Exporters In 2019 includes India

India entered the top ten list of agricultural produce exporters in 2019 with a significant share, according to the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

In 2019, India ranked ninth with a share of 3.1% in global agricultural exports, earlier this place was New Zealand's.

In the 'meat and edible meat offal' category, India was ranked eighth with a 4% share in global trade.

Quick Fact: WTO Director-general: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala; WTO Headquarters: Centre William Rappard, Geneva, Switzerland.

3) International News

International Solar Alliance joined by Sweden

Sweden ratified the framework agreement for the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and is now a member of the global platform.

ISA is an initiative of India aimed at promoting renewable energy and sustainable development.

In April 2018, PM Modi visited Stockholm during which both sides agreed to further deepen innovation partnership for a sustainable future.

Quick Fact: ISA Director-General: Ajay Mathur; Sweden Capital: Stockholm; Sweden Currency: Krona; PM of Sweden: Stefan Lofven.

4) Miscellaneous

Rudreshwar Temple inscribed as India's 39th UNESCO World Heritage List

The Kakatiya Rudreshwar Temple, at Palampet, near Warangal in Telangana, was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list recently.

With this latest induction, there are 39th World Heritage Sites located in India.

The Rudreshwar temple was constructed in 1213 AD during the reign of the Kakatiya Empire and is also known as Ramappa temple.

Quick Fact: UNESCO headquarters: Paris, France; UNESCO Head: Audrey Azoulay; UNESCO Founded: 16 November 1945.

5) International News

Cases of 'Norovirus' infection reported in United Kingdom

The United Kingdom reported an outbreak of norovirus, where Public Health England (PHE) recently issued a warning regarding the same.

England recorded 154 cases of norovirus in the country and an increase in norovirus cases in educational settings were reported.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), norovirus is very contagious and causes diarrhoea and vomiting.

Quick Fact: Prime minister of the United Kingdom: Boris Johnson; Capital of the United Kingdom: London.

6) Person in News

Shiv Nadar resigned as HCL Tech MD

Shiv Nadar, the founder of HCL Technologies Ltd, and its chief strategy officer, tendered his resignation as MD at 76 years of age.

Nadar would continue to guide the company in the capacity of chairman emeritus and be a strategic adviser to the board for five years.

Vijayakumar, president and chief executive officer, was appointed as the managing director for five years.

Quick Fact: HCL Technologies CEO: C Vijayakumar; HCL Technologies Founded: 11 August 1976; HCL Technologies Headquarters: Noida.

7) Sports News

Differently Abled Sportsman of the Year 2019: Pramod Bhagat

World's No. 1 para shuttler, Pramod Bhagat, was named the 'Differently Abled Sportsman of the Year' at Indian Sports Honour for 2019.

Indian Sports Honours are awards given annually by the RPSG Group with the Virat Kohli Foundation to outstanding sports personalities of India.

Bhagat will be participating in singles and mixed doubles badminton events at the Paralympics opening in Tokyo from August 24.

Quick Fact: Indian Sports Honor awards founded: 2017.

8) Important Days

Kargil Vijay Diwas: July 26

Kargil Vijay Diwas has been celebrated on July 26 since the year 1999, to mark India's victory over Pakistan in the Kargil conflict.

This year the nation celebrated 22 years of victory in the Kargil war.

It was in 1999 that a high altitude mountain war broke out along the peaks of Kargil near the Line of Control (LOC).

28th July

1) National News

Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme inaugurated by Amit Shah

Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, with Meghalaya CM, inaugurated the Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme at Sohra in East Khasi Hills.

This scheme was conceptualised by Meghalaya government and Rs. 24.08 cr was sanctioned by the DoNER ministry in 2019 under NESIDS.

Shah also planted tree saplings in Sohra as part of the Sohra Afforestation Project of the Assam Rifles.

Quick Fact: Meghalaya CM: Conrad K. Sangma; Meghalaya Capital: Shillong.

2) International News

First country to approve Golden Rice for planting: Philippines

The Philippines became the first country globally to get approval for the commercial production of genetically modified 'golden rice'.

Golden rice is a variety of rice that is enriched with nutrients to help reduce childhood malnutrition.

Golden rice was developed by the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute (DA-PhilRice) after spending nearly two decades.

Quick Fact: Philippines President: Rodrigo Duterte; Philippines Capital: Manila; Philippines Currency: Philippine peso.

3) National News

Foundation stone of bamboo industrial park laid by Assam CM

The CM of Assam laid the foundation stone of a bamboo industrial park at Manderdisa Village, Dima Hasao.

The project would be implemented with Rs 50 crore from the DoNER ministry.

The project, once completed, would usher in a new era in the economy of the region and create vast employment opportunities for the local youth.

Quick Fact: Assam Governor: Jagdish Mukhi; Assam CM: Himanta Biswa Sarma.

4) International News

World's biggest floating solar to be built by Sunseap in Indonesia

Singapore's Sunseap Group would spend 2 billion dollars to build world's largest floating solar farm and energy storage system in Batam, Indonesia.

The floating photovoltaic system would have a capacity of 2.2 gigawatts, and will cover 1600 hectares of the Duriangkang Reservoir on Batam Island.

An agreement between Sundeap and the Batam Indonesia free zone authority (BP Batam) to move forward with the project was signed.

Quick Fact: Indonesia Capital: Jakarta; Indonesia Currency: Indonesian rupiah.

5) Miscellaneous

UNESCO World Heritage List now comprises Dholavira

A Harappan-era metropolis, Dholavira in Gujarat, was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Gujarat now has three world heritage sites, Champaner in Pavagadh, Rani ki Vav in Patan and the historic city of Ahmedabad.

Dholavira is now the 40th treasure in India to be given.

Quick Fact: Gujarat Chief Minister: Vijay Rupani; Gujarat Governor: Acharya Devvrat.

6) Technology

SpaceX selected by NASA for mission to Jupiter moon Europa

The US space agency, NASA, selected SpaceX to provide launch services for Earth's first mission to conduct investigations of Europa.

The Europa Clipper mission would be launched in October 2024 on a Falcon Heavy rocket from Launch Complex 39A in Florida.

SpaceX would conduct a detailed survey of Europa to investigate whether the icy moon has conditions suitable for life.

Quick Fact: NASA administrator: Bill Nelson; Headquarters NASA: Washington D.C., United States; SpaceX founder & CEO: Elon Musk; SpaceX Headquarters: California, United States of America.

7) Sports News

Gold medal at World Cadet Wrestling Championship won by Priya Malik

Indian Wrestler Priya Malik won a Gold Medal at the 2021 World Cadet Wrestling Championship in Budapest, Hungary.

She defeated Kseniya Patapovich 5-0 in the summit clash of women's 73kg weight category to win the yellow medal.

The Indian team bagged as many as 13 medals, including 5 Golds at the championship, to make the country proud.

8) Important Days

83rd Raising Day observed by CRPF on July 27

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), observed its 83rd Raising Day on 27 July 2021.

CRPF is India's largest Central Armed Police Force, under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), located in New Delhi.

It came into existence as the Crown Representative's Police on 27 July 1939 and later became the CRPF by the CRPF Act on 28 December 1949.

29th July

1) National News

India's first city to provide quality drinking tap water: Puri

Puri became the first Indian city where people can avail high-quality drinking water directly from the tap on a 24-hour basis.

The project would benefit 2.5 lakh citizens of Puri and 2 crore tourists who visit the tourist place every year.

Puri would no longer be burdened with 400 metric tonnes of plastic waste and water fountains have been developed at 400 locations in Puri.

Quick Fact: Odisha Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik; Governor: Ganeshi Lal.

2) National News

‘Devaranya’ scheme made by MP government to promote Ayurveda

In order to promote AYUSH in Madhya Pradesh and to link it with employment, the government made the ‘Devaranya’ scheme.

The scheme was made to provide employment to the people living in the tribal areas of the state.

A complete value chain for the production of AYUSH medicines would be developed in the state through Devaranya Yojana.

Quick Fact: Madhya Pradesh CM: Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Governor: Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel.

3) Finance News**India’s economic growth forecast for FY22 projected at 9.5% by IMF**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) sharply cut India’s economic growth projection by 300 basis points, from 12.5% to 9.5% for FY22.

The downward revision in the GDP growth rate was due to a lack of access to vaccines and the possibility of renewed waves of coronavirus.

In the case of the global economy, the IMF projected 6.0% growth in 2021 and 4.9% in 2022.

Quick Fact: IMF Headquarters: Washington, D.C., U.S; IMF MD and Chairman: Kristalina Georgieva; IMF Chief Economist: Gita Gopinath.

4) National News**New Chief Minister of Karnataka: Basavaraj Bommai**

The BJP legislature party unanimously elected Lingayat MLA Basavaraj S Bommai as the 23rd Chief Minister of Karnataka.

The 61-year-old would succeed BS Yediyurappa, who resigned on July 26, 2021.

Prior to this, Bommai was the Home Minister in the BSY government, and is a two-time MLC and three-time MLA from Shiggaon in the Haveri district.

Quick Fact: Karnataka Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot; Karnataka Capital: Bengaluru.

5) Miscellaneous

SCO Defence Ministers' meeting in Tajikistan to be attended by Rajnath Singh

Raksha Mantri, Rajnath Singh, would attend the annual meeting of the Defence Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states.

During the meeting, defence cooperation issues among SCO member states would be discussed and a communique is to be issued soon after.

Singh would also meet his Tajikistan counterpart, Col Gen Sherali Mirzo, to discuss bilateral issues and other issues of mutual interest.

Quick Fact: Tajikistan Capital: Dushanbe; Tajikistan Currency: Tajikistani somoni; Tajikistan President: Emomali Rahmon; Tajikistan Official language: Tajiki.

6) Sports News

Momiji Nishiya - one of the youngest gold medal winners in Olympic

Japan's Momiji Nishiya became one of the youngest individual Olympic champions in history at the age of 13 years and 330 days.

She won the inaugural women's skateboarding gold.

The youngest gold medalist was Team USA's Marjorie Gestring, aged 13 years and 268 days, in the 1936 games in Berlin.

7) Important Days

World Hepatitis Day: July 28

The World Health Organization observes 28th July every year as 'World Hepatitis Day'.

This day aims to enhance awareness of viral hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver that causes various health problems, including liver cancer.

This year's theme of World Hepatitis Day 2021 was 'Hepatitis Can't Wait'.

Quick Fact: WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland; Director general: Tedros Adhanom.

8) Important Days

World Nature Conservation Day observed on 28th July

World Nature Conservation Day is observed on 28th July every year.

The main objective of celebrating this day is to raise awareness about protecting nature and adopting best practices for natural resource conservation.

The Earth is supplied with a limited amount of properties that we all rely upon each day like water, air, soil and trees.

30th July

1) International News

Lebanon's New Prime Minister: Najib Mikati

Billionaire businessman, Najib Mikati, was appointed as Lebanon's new prime minister-designate.

He ran virtually unopposed, receiving 72 votes, with former ambassador Nawaf Salam receiving just one vote.

His appointment came 11 days after Saad Hariri resigned as PM, following nine months of political deadlock with President Aoun.

Quick Fact: Lebanon Capital: Beirut; Lebanon Currency: Lebanese pound; Lebanon President: Michel Aoun.

2) Finance News

RBI's nod at Ladakh to acquire 8.23% stake in J&K Bank

The RBI accorded its approval to the Government of the UT of Ladakh to acquire 8.23% of the paid-up equity capital of J&K Bank Ltd.

This move followed the Government of J&K's October 2020 order regarding transfer of 8.23% shareholding of J&K Bank to the UT of Ladakh.

The bank reported a net profit of ₹317 crores in the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2021, against a net loss of ₹294 crores.

Quick Fact: Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd CEO: R K Chhibber; Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd Headquarters: Srinagar.

3) National News**1st state to reserve jobs for transgenders: Karnataka**

Karnataka became the first state in the country to provide 1% reservation for the transgender community in all government services.

The government submitted a report to the High Court informing that a notification was issued after amending the Karnataka Civil Service Rule, 1977.

Whilst publishing inviting applications for government jobs, the 'others' column must be added along with male and female columns.

Quick Fact: Karnataka CM: Basavaraj S Bommai; Karnataka Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot; Karnataka Capital: Bengaluru.

4) Finance News**Rs 5-crore monetary penalty imposed on Axis Bank by RBI**

The Reserve Bank of India imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 5 crore on private sector lender Axis Bank.

The penalty was for contravention of and non-compliance with certain provisions of directions issued by RBI.

The penalty was imposed in the exercise of powers vested in RBI under section 47 A (1) (c) with section 46 (4) (i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the Act).

Quick Fact: Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai; Axis Bank Founded: 1993; MD and CEO of Axis Bank: Amitabh Chaudhry.

5) National News

Garima Grihas to be set up by Gol for transgender people for safe shelter

The Centre set up the Garima Grihas for transgender persons with the help of community-based organizations.

Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment informed Lok Sabha that 12 pilot shelter homes were initiated for transgender persons.

Such shelter homes were set up in the states of Maharashtra, Delhi, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Odisha.

Quick Fact: Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment: A. Narayanaswamy.

6) Miscellaneous

Tie-up between Maruti Suzuki and Savitribai Phule Pune University to train youth

Maruti Suzuki India Limited announced a partnership with Maharashtra's Savitribai Phule Pune University to train youth in automobile retail.

They aim to offer a customised three years 'Bachelor of Vocational Studies in Retail Management' course to students.

The course will allow the students to build a promising career in automobile sales in India.

Quick Fact: Maruti Suzuki CEO: Kenichi Ayukawa; Founded: 1982, Gurugram; Headquarters: New Delhi.

7) Finance News

1 crore FASTags mark crossed by Paytm Payments Bank

Paytm Payments Bank became the first bank in the country to achieve the milestone of issuing 1 crore FASTags.

According to the NPCI, over 3.47 crore FASTags were issued by all banks together till the end of June 2021.

Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL) now has close to 28% share as FASTag issuer bank.

Quick Fact: Paytm HQ: Noida, Uttar Pradesh; Paytm Founder & CEO: Vijay Shekhar Sharma; Paytm Founded: 2009.

8) Technology

Alphabet to launch new Robotics Company called Intrinsic

Google-parent Alphabet would launch a new robotics company, Intrinsic, to focus on building software for industrial robots.

The segment came out of X, Alphabet's Moonshot factory, that houses futuristic firms such as Waymo, Wing and Verily.

Intrinsic is developing software tools with an aim to make industrial robots easier to use, less costly and more flexible.

Quick Fact: CEO Intrinsic: Wendy Tan White; Alphabet CEO: Sundar Pichai; Google Founded: 4 September 1998, California, United States; Google Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin.

31st July

1) National News

'Pink Protection' project launched by Kerala police for women safety

The Kerala Police launched a new initiative called the Pink Protection project for the protection of women in public, private and digital spaces.

The Pink Protection project aims to prevent dowry-related issues, cyber-bullying and humiliation in public places.

A bullet patrol team of female police officers called 'Pink Romeo' was also launched as part of the project.

Quick Fact: Kerala CM: Pinarayi Vijayan; Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan.

2) International News

Maldives' Abdulla Shahid won the Presidency of the 76th UNGA

Foreign Minister of Maldives Abdulla Shahid won the Presidency of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

For the first time in the history of the United Nations (UN), Maldives would hold the office of President at the UNGA.

Shahid's victory at the UNGA Presidential election was a 'proud accomplishment' and 'a step forward in elevating the country's stature on the global stage'.

Quick Fact: President Maldives: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih; Capital Maldives: Male; Currency Maldives: Maldivian Rufiyaa.

3) Finance News

RBI cancelled licence for Madgaum Urban Co-op Bank

The RBI cancelled the licence of Madgaum Urban Co-operative Bank Limited, Margao, Goa.

As per the data submitted by the bank, about 99% of the depositors would receive full amounts of their deposits from the DICGC.

The bank ceased to carry on banking business with effect from the close of business on July 29, 2021.

4) Miscellaneous

BIAL signed a deal with IBM to set up 'Airport in a Box' platform

Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), signed a ten-year partnership with the company IBM to set up the 'Airport in a Box' platform.

The partnership would help BIAL improve its productivity, automate its IT services, increase operational flexibility and reduce costs.

The new platform would enable it to improve employee productivity, upgrade utilisation of IT assets and reduce costs via streamlined inventory control.

Quick Fact: IBM CEO: Arvind Krishna; IBM Headquarters: Armonk, New York, United States.

5) Technology

'AI For All' initiative in launched by Intel in collaboration with CBSE

Intel, with the CBSE, Ministry of Education, launched the AI For All initiative for creating a basic understanding of AI for everyone in India.

Based on Intel's AI For Citizens program, AI For All is a 4-hour, self-paced learning program that demystifies AI in an inclusive manner.

It is as applicable to a student, a stay at home parent, as it is to a professional in any field or even a senior citizen.

Quick Fact: Intel CEO: Pat Gelsinger; Intel Founded: 18 July 1968; Intel Headquarters: Santa Clara, California, US; Intel Founders: Gordon Moore and Robert Noyce.

6) Person in News

Vaidehi Dongre from Michigan crowned as Miss India USA

Vaidehi Dongre, a 25-year-old girl from Michigan, was crowned Miss India USA 2021 at the beauty pageant.

Dongre, a major in international studies, won the 'Miss Talented' title in the pageant for giving a flawless performance of Indian classical dance from Kathak.

There were 61 contestants from 30 states participating in three different pageants – Miss India USA, Mrs India USA and Miss Teen India USA.

7) Technology

Covid RNA test kit called 'COVIHOME' developed by IIT Hyderabad

India's first Rapid electronic Covid-19 RNA Test kit, allowing self-testing at home called 'COVIHOME', was developed at the IIT Hyderabad.

The kit was validated by the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology and could be used to check for Covid-19 traces at the comfort of home.

This test kit can produce results within 30 minutes for both symptomatic and asymptomatic patients.

8) Sports News

Vantika Agarwal bagged national women online chess title

Vantika Agarwal won the National Women Online Chess title as she scored 9.5 points from 11 rounds.

Arpita Mukherjee of West Bengal took the second spot and Tamil Nadu's Sreeja Seshadri secured the third spot in the competition.

The All India Chess Federation considered the performance of this online event to select players for the Asian individual championship and other events.

9) Important Days

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons: July 30

The United Nations observes 30 July every year as World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.

In 2013, the General Assembly designated this day to raise awareness of the victims of human trafficking and to promote and protect their rights.

The 2021 theme for World Day Against Trafficking in Persons was Victims' Voices Lead the Way.

Quick Fact: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Headquarters: Vienna, Austria.
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Founded: 1997.

10) Important Days

International Day of Friendship observed on 30 July

International Day of Friendship is observed globally on 30th July, to mark the importance of friends and friendship in life.

The day also advocates the role that friendship plays in promoting peace in several cultures across the world.

In 2011, the UNGA proclaimed this day to forge a strong bond of friendship of people of various countries irrespective of race, colour, gender, religion, etc.