

Weekly Current Affairs

18-24 July, 2021

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NATIONAL NEWS

1. Andhra Pradesh to implement 10% EWS quota in employment, education

- Andhra Pradesh govt has issued orders for implementation of 10% EWS reservation in all government employment and education in accordance with 103rd Constitution Amendment Act 2019 that provides for the creation of the special EWS quota to be implemented by the state.
- AP government has simplified the norms stipulated by the Centre for its implementation without sub-categorisation.
- People with gross family income below Rs 8 lakh per annum are eligible for EWS reservation.

2. Annual Bonalu Festival Kicks-off in Telangana

- The annual state festival 'Bonalu' began on July 11, 2021 in Telangana. It is celebrated in the month of Ashada Masam which falls in July/August.
- The Hindu Festival is celebrated in Twin Cities Hyderabad, Secunderabad and other parts of Telangana to worship Goddess Mahakali.
- Bonam means Meal in Telugu, and denotes offering to the Mother Goddess as a form of thanksgiving after the fulfillment of vows.
- The traditional bonam (made from rice, jaggery and milk) is offered to the goddess Mahankali at 25 temples across the twin cities.

3. Government launches digital platform 'Kisan Sarathi'

- Govt has launched digital platform titled 'Kisan Sarathi' to facilitate farmers to get right information at right time in their desired language.
- It was jointly launched virtually by Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- Through this, farmers can avail personalised advisories on agriculture and allied areas directly from scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra through the digital platform.

4. Vaccination drive for pregnant women to begin from July 16 in Kerala

- The Kerala government's campaign 'Mathrukavacham' to vaccinate all the pregnant women in the state against COVID-19 infection was inaugurated at the district level recently. Spot registrations for vaccination of pregnant women would be carried out at various government hospitals. Pregnant women can receive the COVID vaccine at any time during their pregnancy. The special vaccination drive comes as a strong defence to protect pregnant women.

5. Tripura to promote commercial cultivation of agar

- The government of Tripura has taken initiatives to promote commercial cultivation of Agar trees and has set a target of achieving Rs 2,000 crore business from this sector in the coming three years.
- Tripura government has plans to export 1,500 kg of Agar oil and 75,000 kg of Agar chips in the year 2021-22.
- Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday and apprised him about the potential of Agar trees.

- Tripura government has launched a draft named Tripura Agar Wood Policy 2021 and a target has been set up of doubling the plantation by the year 2025. Currently, there are over 50 lakh agar trees in the state.
- Chief Minister of Tripura had also requested PM Modi for fixing a quota on Agarwood exportation and its products.

6.Monk fruit cultivation begins in Kullu for first time

- The cultivation of monk fruit (*Siraitia grosvenorii*) from China has been taken up for the first time in India by the Palampur-based CSIR-IHBT.
- The monk fruit is known for its properties as non-caloric natural sweetener. Its sweet taste is attributed to cucurbitane-type triterpene glycosides known as mogrosides, which is about 300 times sweeter than sucrose or cane sugar.
- In spite of its high demand, this crop is only cultivated in China. However, suitable agro climatic conditions are also available in India, particularly in Himachal.

7.Common High Court of J&K and Ladakh renamed as 'High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh'

- The Ministry of Law and Justice has informed that the name of the 'Common High Court of UT of Jammu and Kashmir and UT of Ladakh' has officially been changed to 'High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh'.
- To bring this change, President Ram Nath Kovind has signed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2021.
- The decision for renaming has been taken because the present nomenclature was rather long-winding and cumbersome. On the other hand, the new nomenclature is quite convenient as well as in consonance with the name pattern followed in other common HCs.

8.India emerges as 5th largest foreign exchange reserves holder in world

- India has emerged as the World's 5th-largest foreign exchange reserves holder after China, Japan, Switzerland and Russia.
- India's forex reserves stood at around 609 billion Dollars on 25th June, 2021 and is comfortable in terms of import cover of more than 18 months and provides cushion against unforeseen external shocks.
- In 2020-21, India's balance of payments recorded surplus in both current account and capital account.

9.Centre extends 'Stand Up India Scheme' up to 2025

- The Government of India has extended the duration of 'Stand Up India Scheme' up to the year 2025.
- The scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on 05 April, 2016 to facilitate loans to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and women borrowers, to promote entrepreneurship among them.
- The scheme offers bank loans to women and SC & ST communities for to encourage them in setting up a green field enterprise, outside of the farm sector, that is in manufacturing, services or trading sector.
- A total of 1,16,266 loans amounting to Rs. 26204.49 crore has been extended under the Scheme since its inception.

- The loan under Stand Up India Scheme are extended by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) between Rs. 10 lakh and Rs.1 Crore.

10.Maharashtra to issue educational documents using blockchain technology

- Maharashtra Govt will become the first state to issue educational documents to student of educational institutions using blockchain technology.
- Currently only Singapore, Malta and Bahrain are the only other countries using this technology.
- For this, Maharashtra government has partnered with LegitDoc.
- Each student will receive a 'certificate_LegitDoc.zip' digital file containing the original PDF diploma certificate and corresponding blockchain proof file.

11.First elections of Balika Panchayat successfully held at Kunariya village

- First-ever elections of Balika Panchayat has been successfully held at Kunariya village, Kutch, Gujarat.
- Young females aged between 10 to 21 years contested elections for this unique Panchayat.
- It will take up issues pertaining to adolescent girls and women in the village.
- It was inspired by TV show, Balika Vadhu to develop leadership qualities in the girls for Future Panchayat polls.
- This Panchayat will be run by girls and for girls.
- Sarpanch of Kunariya: Suresh Chhanga.

12.Uttar Pradesh to set up panchayat secretariat in all panchayats of the state

- Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has announced to set up Panchayat Secretariat in all panchayats of the state for the first time to strengthen the rural democracy and providing employment to the rural youth.
- There are currently 58,189 gram panchayats in UP.
- UP govt will also provide free healthcare to all Antyodaya card holders who are not covered under any healthcare scheme, benefitting around 40 lakh families.
- Panchayat assistant will be given Rs 6,000 as remuneration.

13.Union Cabinet Approves Central University in Ladakh, to be Constructed at Rs 750 Crore

- The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of a Central University in the Union Territory of Ladakh, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur announced on 22nd July.
- Two important decisions for Ladakh have been taken. The Cabinet has approved a Central University in Ladakh at a cost of Rs 750 crore and an integrated, multi-purpose corporation will be set up in Ladakh.
- A long-pending demand, the Central University in Ladakh, will address regional imbalances in higher education level and promote overall growth and development of the UT.
- On establishing the Ladakh Integrated Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (LIIDCO), the Union minister said the body will look at the development of industries and tourism in the region.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. USA announce new Quad group for Afghan peace process

- The US, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan will create a new Quad group to promote the Afghan peace process, stability and trade in the region.
- The parties consider long-term peace and stability in Afghanistan critical to regional connectivity and agree that peace and regional connectivity are mutually reinforcing.
- This development comes as the security situation in Afghan has been deteriorating following the withdrawal of US military forces from the country.

2. Saudi Arabia ends male guardian requirement for women attending hajj

- According to the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, Saudi Arabia, women can now register for the annual Hajj pilgrimage without a male guardian (marham). In registration guidelines of Hajj for domestic pilgrims, the ministry highlights, women do not need to require a male guardian to register and could do registration along with other women. Women wishing to perform Hajj will have to register individually.
- India had announced the same rule in 2017 when the Modi government declared that women could go on Hajj without a male companion. Muslim women were exempted from mahram and also from the lottery system.

NEW APPOINTMENTS AND PERSON IN A NEWS

1. Dr. Kambhampati Hari Babu sworn in as new Governor of Mizoram

- Kambhampati Hari Babu has been sworn in as the 22nd Governor of Mizoram at Raj Bhavan in Aizawl.
- He has been administered the oath of office by Gauhati High Court Judge, Justice Michael Zothankhuma.
- He succeeded P.S Sreedharan Pillai, who was appointed as the Governor of Goa.
- Gauhati High Court has jurisdiction over the states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Mizoram.

2. Ariel Henry sworn-in as new Prime Minister of Haiti

- Ariel Henry has been sworn in as the Prime Minister of Haiti, after the country's President Jovenel Moïse was assassinated.
- He could not take over the post immediately as he was locked in a political tussle with Claude Joseph, the country's interim PM at the time of the attack.
- Haiti: Island of Hispaniola in Greater Antilles archipelago of the Caribbean Sea, to east of Cuba and Jamaica and south of Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands.

3. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi appointed as Deputy Leader of Rajya Sabha

- Union minister for minority affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has been appointed as the Deputy Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha.
- He succeeded Piyush Goyal, who has been appointed as the Leader of the House in the Upper House (Rajya Sabha).
- Rajya Sabha or Council of States: Upper house of the bicameral Parliament of India. It has a maximum membership of 245, of which 233 are elected by the legislatures of the states and UTs while President can appoint 12 members.

4.Vice President Venkaiah Naidu addresses World Universities Summit 2021

- Vice President Venkaiah Naidu addressed 'World Universities Summit 2021', organized by O.P. Jindal Global University
- Theme of World Universities Summit 2021: Universities of the Future: Building Institutional Resilience, Social Responsibility and Community Impact.
- The summit witness 150+ thought leaders from 6 continents and 25+ Countries including Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Columbia, Ecuador, France, Germany, etc
- Jindal partnered with 6 Global Education Networks.

5.Pedro Castillo declared as President-elect of Peru

- Pedro Castillo (51 years) has been declared as the President-elect of Peru, after winning 2021 Presidential election of the country.
- He will take oath as the President of Peru on 28 July.
- He secured 50.1% of the votes to win the 2021 election.
- He is a Peruvian school teacher, union leader and politician, who attained prominence as a leading figure in 2017 teacher strike and ran in the election as the candidate of the left-wing Free Peru party.

BANKING

1.FDI limit in NPS fund managers hiked to 74%

- The govt notified a hike in the FDI limit in pension fund management to 74% from 49% under the national pension system (NPS).
- The higher FDI limit in pension fund managers (PFMs) follows a Parliament nod in March to hike the FDI limit in the insurance business to 74% from 49%.
- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Act links the FDI ceiling in the sector to the same in the insurance sector.

2.Bank of Maharashtra signs MoU with NABARD

- Bank of Maharashtra has signed an MoU with NABARD to boost ongoing developmental initiatives linked to priority sector lending in Maharashtra.
- The MoU envisages joint initiatives for the benefit of farmers, farmer producer organisations, joint liability groups, self help groups, rural artisans, weavers, agripreneurs, agri start-ups, micro, small and medium enterprises in the State.
- BoM is the convener of State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) for Maharashtra.

3.Bad Bank launched for stressed assets as a measure to clean up bank books

- Govt has launched Bad Bank with all the regulatory approvals in place for stressed assets as a measure to clean up bank books.
- It was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget Speech 2021-22.
- RBI is the regulator of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs).
- RBI has already prescribed a regulatory framework for the functioning of ARCs and there are well-laid norms for transfer of stressed assets by banks and non-banking finance companies to ARCs.



4.ADB lowers India's economic growth forecast for this fiscal to 10%

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) has downgraded India's economic growth forecast for the current financial year to 10% from 11% projected in April due to adverse impact of the coronavirus pandemic.
- India's GDP growth recovered to 1.6% in the last quarter of fiscal year that ended on March 2021.
- GDP for FY2022 (ending in March 2023) is upgraded from 7% to 7.5%.
- GDP growth forecast for South Asia in 2021 is downgraded to 8.9%.

5.LIC launches new health insurance plan called Arogya Rakshak

- Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has launched new health insurance plan titled Arogya Rakshak
- It is a non-linked, non-participating, regular premium and individual health insurance plan
- It provides fixed health insurance cover against certain specified health risks and provides timely support in case of medical emergencies.
- It will be available for principal insurers, spouses and parents up to 80 years and for children up to 25 years.

6.SBI selects Paisalo Digital as National Corporate Business Correspondent

- SBI has selected Paisalo Digital as its National Corporate Business Correspondent to boost financial inclusion drive with the help of kiosk-based banking services.
- Under this, Paisalo Digital shall extend its services and its reach to the general public including its existing and new customers.

- Paisalo: Systemically Important Non-Deposit taking NBFC registered with RBI.
- It was incorporated in 1992 as a Private Company and converted in Public Ltd Company in 1995.

SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

1. Zurich airport signs shareholder agreement with NIAL for development of Noida airport

- The Zurich Airport International has signed a shareholder agreement with the Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) in Lucknow for the development of the Noida International Airport at Jewar.
- As per the shareholder agreement, NIAL will hold one golden share in Yamuna International Airport Pvt Ltd (YIAPL) and the right to nominate two directors to the board.
- YIAPL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Zurich Airport International AG, incorporated as a special purpose vehicle (SPV) to develop the greenfield Noida International Airport.
- The two directors who will be part of the board are Arun Vir Singh, chief executive of NIAL, and Vishak Iyer, Director Civil Aviation, Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- The Zurich Airport will design, develop and operate the new greenfield airport in Jewar under a 40-year concession.

2. Ministry of Civil Aviation releases Drone Rule 2021 for public consultation

- Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has released the updated 'The Drone Rules 2021' for public consultation that will replace UAS Rules 2021 (released on 12 March 2021).
- Drone Rules 2021 include:
- Approvals for authorisation number, import clearance, etc abolished
- Number of forms reduced from 25 to 6.
- Fee reduced to nominal levels.
- Safety features like 'No permission – no take-off' (NPNT), real-time tracking beacon, geo-fencing etc. to be notified in future.

3. Adani Group takes management control of Mumbai International Airport

- Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL) has taken over the management control of the world class Mumbai International Airport (MIAL), by both passenger and cargo traffic, from the GVK Group.
- With this, Adani has become the largest airport infrastructure company in India.
- Now, it accounts for a total of eight airports in its management and development portfolio, accounting for 25% of airport footfalls.
- It will also control 33% of the country's air cargo traffic.

4. United States Navy hands over first two MH-60R multi-role helicopters to Indian Navy

- The Indian Navy received the first two MH-60R Multi Role Helicopters (MRH) from the United States Navy on July 16, 2021, at Naval Air Station in North Island, San Diego.

- In February 2020, the Indian Navy and the US Navy had signed Rs 15,157 crore (\$2.13 billion) deal to buy 24 MH-60 Romeo helicopters, manufactured by Lockheed Martin, under foreign military sales from the US government.
- The delivery of the first two MH-60R 'Romeo' helicopters to the Indian Navy marks the beginning of a new era of defence collaboration and partnership between the US and India.
- Further, the US Navy will support the Indian Naval Forces through capability upgrades and sustainment as the aircraft is inducted.

5. Maharashtra govt launches new Electric Vehicle Policy 2021

- The Maharashtra state government has launched the new Electric Vehicle Policy-2021. The policy announced by the State Environment Minister, Aaditya Thackeray aims to accelerate the adoption of Battery Electric Vehicles in the country. The new EV policy introduced in Maharashtra is a revision of the 2018 policy. It is introduced with an aim to make Maharashtra the "topmost producer of battery-powered electric vehicles in India."
- The policy also aims for electric vehicles (EVs) to make up 10 per cent of all new vehicle registrations, by 2025. For this ambitious mission, the state government has rolled out an Rs. 930 crore policy, valid up to 31st March 2025. To make this successful, EVs will be exempted from road tax and registration charges.

6. OFT hands delivery of 25 remote control guns to Navy, Coast Guard

- Ordnance Factory of Tiruchirappalli handed over the locally assembled 12.7 mm Stabilised Remote Control Gun (SRCG) system to the Navy and Coast Guard for enhanced surveillance.
- The first batch consisted of 25 weapons.
- They were assembled in the Trichy factory through the transfer of technology (ToT) initiative with the support of Israel-based defense company Elbit Systems.
- The SRCG is fitted with a 12.7 mm M2 NATO standard heavy machine gun.

7. MeitY inked MoU with MapmyIndia to enable map services in UMANG App

- MeitY has inked an MoU with MapmyIndia to enable the map services in "UMANG App"
- Aim: to ease the lives of citizens by facilitating online delivery of Government services and further enhance the initiatives of Digital India Programme, keeping in view the theme of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.
- After this citizens will be able to find government facilities nearest to their location, such as mandis, blood banks, and much more, at the click of a button.

8. Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus to Receive Olympic Laurel at Tokyo Olympics Opening

- Bangladeshi Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus has been chosen to receive the Olympic Laurel at the upcoming Tokyo Games on 23 July 2021, becoming the second recipient of the award.
- Professor Yunus will be awarded the prize for "his extensive work in sport for development, including founding the Yunus Sports Hub, a global social business network".

- The Olympic Laurel award was created in 2016 to recognise endeavours in culture, education, peace and development through sport and will be awarded at the Opening Ceremony of each Summer Games.
- It was given for the first time at the 2016 Rio Games to Kenyan former Olympian Kip Keino.
- Muhammad Yunus is a Bangladeshi social entrepreneur, banker, economist, and civil society leader who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006, for founding the Grameen Bank and pioneering the concepts of microcredit and microfinance.

9. Jeff Bezos launches to space aboard New Shepard rocket ship

- Jeff Bezos successfully soared into space Tuesday aboard his New Shepard rocket —and thanked Amazon's customers for funding it.
- The billionaire was one of four people on his Blue Origin aerospace company's first human flight as it launched from a West Texas desert at 9:12 a.m. EDT and traveled to an altitude of about 66 miles before returning to Earth.
- Blue Origin aerospace commemorated the feat as a "truly historic day" after Bezos' capsule touched down.

10. Russia successfully test-fires S-500 missile system

- Russia has successfully test-fired new S-500 air defence missile systems from southern training range, Kapustin Yar.
- It hit a high-speed ballistic target as planned during test-firing.
- S-500 is also known as Prometey or 55R6M Triumfator-M and is a Russian surface-to-air missile/anti-ballistic missile system which is the most advanced anti-missile system in the world.
- It has been developed by Almaz-Antey Air Defence Concern.
- It has a maximum firing range of 600 kilometres.

11. Prasar Bharati partners with IIT-Kanpur on NextGen broadcasting technology

- Prasar Bharati has signed MoU with IIT Kanpur to establish Centre of Excellence for Media and Broadcasting Technologies.
- Areas that will be covered under Center of Excellence are:
- Next Generation Broadcast Technology Trial (Direct to Mobile Broadcasting, Convergence with 5G).
- Automatic Speech Recognition for Speech Subtitling (Making Broadcast Content in Indian Languages Accessible).
- Archival Content Retrieval through Audio, Text Query.

12. IOC to set up first 'green hydrogen' plant at Mathura

- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will build first 'green hydrogen' plant of India at its Mathura refinery to meet the growing demand for both oil and cleaner forms of energy.
- IOC will make use of 250 MW of electricity which it produces from renewable sources like solar power to produce absolutely green hydrogen through electrolysis for this.
- Green hydrogen production is the ultimate clean hydrogen resource and uses renewable energy to create hydrogen fuel.

13.DRDO successfully flight-tests surface-to-air missile Akash-NG

- DRDO has successfully tested New Generation Akash Missile (Akash-NG) from Integrated Test Range (ITR) off the coast of Odisha.
- Akash-NG weapon system: It is a surface-to-air Missile that can strike targets at around 60 km and fly at a speed of up to Mach 2.5.
- It has been developed by Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories.

14.MyGov platform hosts Online Competition for Young Writers

- MyGov platform is hosting Online Competition under PM's Mentorship Scheme for Young Writers, seeking participation of young and aspiring Indian writers from across the globe.
- Online competition was launched on 4th June till 31st of this month.
- Winners will be announced on 15 August this year.
- 75 authors will be selected through the All-India Contest being conducted through nbtindia.gov.in and MyGov.in.

15.Byju's acquires US-based digital reading platform Epic

- Byju's has acquired US-based digital reading platform 'Epic' for \$500 million, strengthening its position in the education technology sector.
- This acquisition will help Byju's expand its US footprint by providing access to the more than two million teachers and 50 million kids in Epic's existing global user base, which more than doubled over the last year
- Epic model for inspiring the next generation through interactive reading.

16.Russia to conduct military drills with Uzbekistan, Tajikistan near Afghan border

- Russia will conduct military drills with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan near the border with Afghanistan,
- Joint drills will take place from 5th to 10th August at the Kharbmaidon training ground in Tajikistan near the Afghan border.
- The troops will run drills to defeat illegal armed units that invaded the territory of an allied country.
- Troops from a Russian military base in Tajikistan and the Central Military District will take part in the games.

17.UNESCO's 'Historic Urban Landscape' project for Gwalior, Orchha launched

- Gwalior and Orchha cities of Madhya Pradesh have been selected by UNESCO under 'Historic Urban Landscape Project'
- This project was introduced in 2011 for the inclusive and well-planned development of fast-growing historical cities while preserving culture and heritage
- Development and management plan of these cities will be under UNESCO, Govt of India and Madhya Pradesh
- Six cities of South Asia, including Ajmer and Varanasi in India are already involved in this project.

18. Union Cabinet approves PLI Scheme for Specialty Steel

- Union Cabinet has approved Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for specialty steel with budgetary outlay of ₹6322 crores
- Duration of the scheme: 5 years from 2023-24 to 2027-28
- It is expected to bring in investment of approximately ₹40,000 crores and capacity addition of 25 MT for speciality steel.
- It will give direct and indirect employment to 5,25,000 people.
- Export of specialty steel will become around 5.5 million tonnes, getting FOREX of Rs 33,000 crore.

19. World's first 3D-printed stainless-steel bridge opens in Amsterdam

- World's first 3D-printed stainless steel bridge has been inaugurated in Amsterdam, The Netherlands for pedestrians and cyclist over the Oudezijds Achterburgwal canal
- It is 12-metre long and is designed by Joris Laarman Lab and built by Dutch robotics company MX3D
- It is fabricated from stainless steel rods by 6-axis robotic arms equipped with welding gear
- It is fitted with a network of sensors that allows the bridge to monitor strain, movement, vibration and temperature: 23rd July.

BOOKS AND AWARDS

1. Mumbai-based film-maker Payal Kapadia wins Best Documentary Award at Cannes

- Mumbai-based filmmaker Payal Kapadia has bagged the Oeil d'or (Golden Eye) award for Best Documentary for her film 'A Night of Knowing Nothing' at Cannes Film Festival.
- 'A Night of Knowing Nothing' has emerged the winner in a list of 28 documentaries submitted from around the world.

2. Former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan pen's book titled 'The India Story'

- Former RBI governor Bimal Jalan has come up with a book titled as 'The India Story', which will be released on 21st July, 2021.
- The book focuses on India's economic history and aims to provide lessons for the future of India's political economy.
- The India Story is published by Rupa Publications India.
- He has previously written three books namely 'India Then and Now' (2020), 'India Ahead' (2018) and 'Politics Trumps Economics' (2012).

3. Government launches National Logistics Excellence Awards

- Government has launched National Logistics Excellence Awards to turn the spotlight on the logistics sector.
- The awards are in two categories: logistics infrastructure/service providers and user industries.

- This award will highlight best practices including consolidation, process standardisation, technological upgrade, digital transformations, and sustainable practices.
- Indian logistics sector has been growing at a CAGR of 10.5%, with USD 215 billion in value in 2020.

SPORTS

1. Lewis Hamilton wins British Grand Prix 2021

- Mercedes's Lewis Hamilton (UK) won the British Grand Prix 2021 (record 8th time).
- The win was the 99th of seven-times world champion Hamilton's Formula One career, fourth of the current campaign.
- The event was held at the Silverstone Circuit in the United Kingdom.
- Monaco-based Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc finished at second.
- Hamilton's teammate Valtteri Bottas (Finland) finished third after being told to let Hamilton through to chase Leclerc.

2. Viswanathan Anand won the Sparkassen Trophy

- Viswanathan Anand won the Sparkassen Trophy held in Dortmund, Germany.
- He defeated Vladimir Kramnik of Russia in his 4th and final round.
- Playing white in a Tarrasch variation, Anand settled for a draw in 40 moves, to win the match 2.5-1.5.
- The event was played as part of the "No-Castling" Chess devised by the Russian GM.
- Castling is a special move to protect the king and activate the rook. It is the only time in chess a player can move two pieces in one move.

3. Mithali Raj bagged top position in ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings

- Indian skipper Mithali Raj has reclaimed her spot as the number one batting player on the MRF Tyres ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings.
- This is the ninth time that Mithali has reached the number one spot among batting players since first occupying the spot more than 16 years ago.
- She is followed by Lizelle Lee (South Africa), Alyssa Healy (Australia), Tamsin Beaumont (England) and Stafanie Taylor (West Indies).
- Shafali Verma is the top batting player in T20 category.

4. Mongolia, Tajikistan and Switzerland inducted as new Associate Members of ICC

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has inducted Mongolia, Tajikistan and Switzerland as its newest member countries on July 18, 2021 at the ICC's 78th Annual General Meeting, which was held virtually.
- With this, ICC now comprise of total 106 Members including 94 Associates. The three newly inducted countries are now among ICC's 94 Associate Members.
- Region-wise, Mongolia and Tajikistan have been inducted as the 22nd and 23rd Members from the Asia region while Switzerland is 35th Member from Europe region.

5. Australia's Brisbane to host 2032 Summer Olympic Games

- International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that Australian city of Brisbane will be the host city for 2032 Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games.
- Brisbane will be the third Australian city to host the Olympic Games after Melbourne in 1956 and Sydney in 2000.
- With this, Australia will also become second country in the world, after US, to stage summer Olympic Games in three different cities.

6. Hockey India launches 'Heroes Connect' web platform

- Hockey India has launched its own player-oriented web-based engagement 'Heroes Connect'.
- It has been designed to encourage former and current Indian hockey players to initiate constructive discussions around the sport.
- All the former and current hockey players who have played for India can register their profiles (name, matches played, career duration, photographs, awards, memorable moment, etc) on the platform verified by the national federation.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. Nelson Mandela International Day 2021 : 18 July

- Nelson Mandela International Day (also Mandela Day) is held every year on July 18 globally to honour the legacy of the late President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela.
- The day 18 July marks the birth anniversary of the great South African leader, who was born in 1918.
- United Nations officially declared July 18 as UN Mandela Day in November 2009.
- The first UN Mandela Day was held on 18 July 2010.

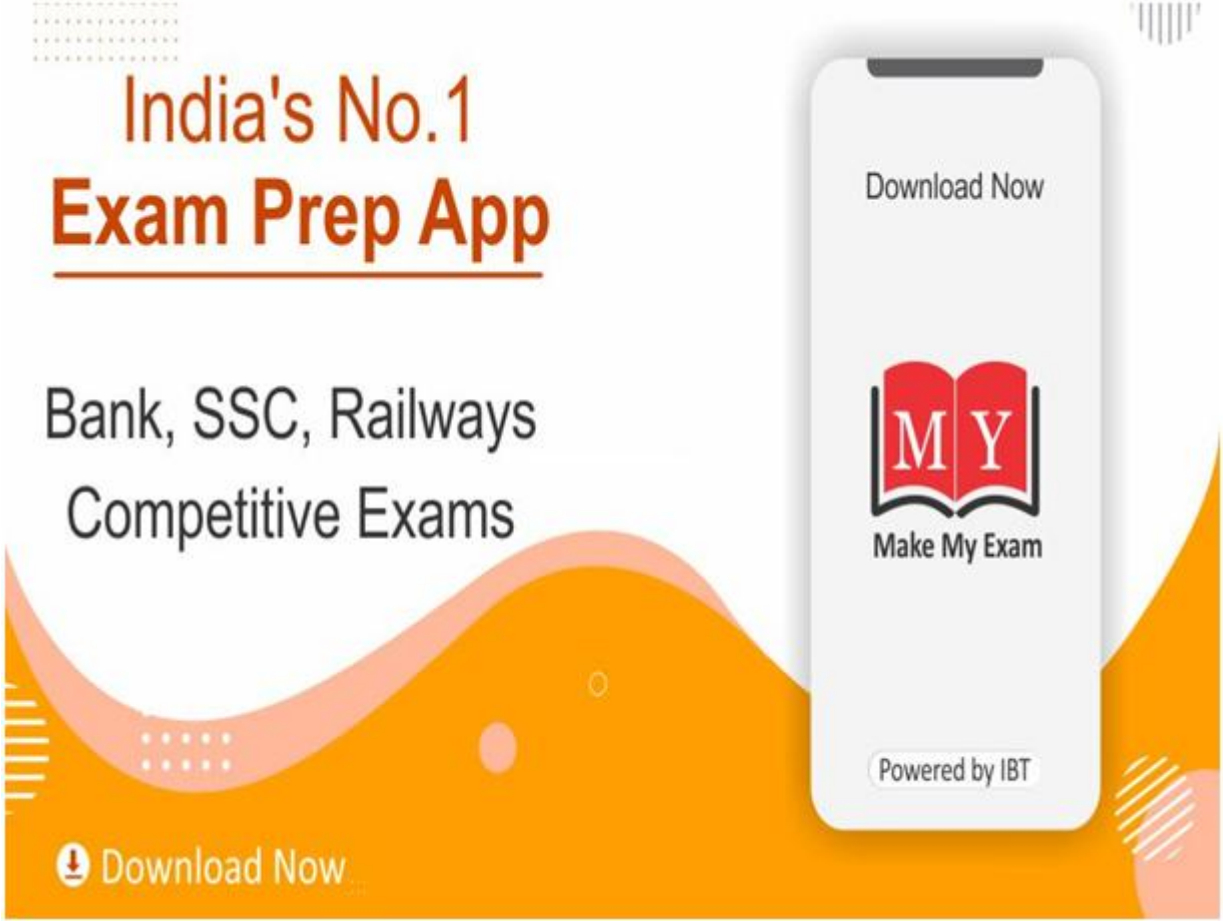
2. Science Exploration Day 2021: 20 July

- The Science Exploration Day (also called Moon Day) is marked every year on 20 July.
- It was on this day in 1969 that Neil Armstrong and Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin became the first humans to land on the Moon's surface.
- Neil Armstrong was the first man to set foot on the moon's surface.
- The Armstrong- Aldrin duo spent 21.5 hours on the surface of the moon out of which they spent 2.5 hours outside of their capsules.
- To commemorate their achievement, the day was declared a holiday in 1984 by the then President of the United States, Ronald Reagan.

3. National Broadcasting Day 2021: 23rd July

- National Broadcasting Day is observed every year on July 23 across the country
- On this day in 1927, Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) started organising radio broadcasting from Bombay station.

- On 8th June 1936, Indian State Broadcasting Service became All India Radio (AIR).
- AIR is one of the largest broadcasting organisations in the world in terms of the number of languages of broadcast, the spectrum of socio-economic and cultural diversity it serves.



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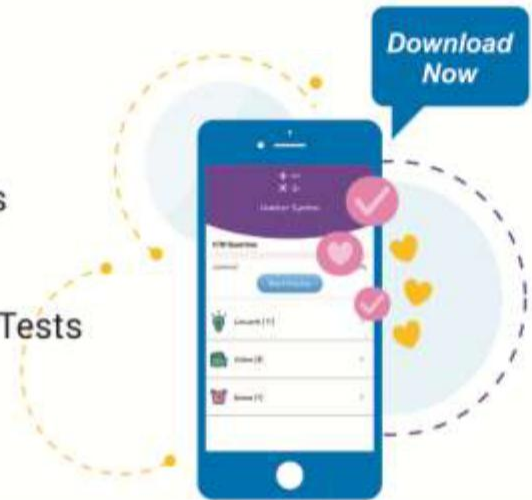
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