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MY

Current Affairs

19th July 2021

Today's
Important News

Lewis Hamilton wins British
Grand Prix 2021



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. 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.

Foot Notes:

About USA:

Capital: Washington, D.C.

President: Joe Biden

Currency: United States Dollar

3. 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.



Foot Notes:

About Tripura:

Capital: Agartala

Chief Minister: Biplab Kumar Deb

Governor: Satyadev Narayan

4. 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.

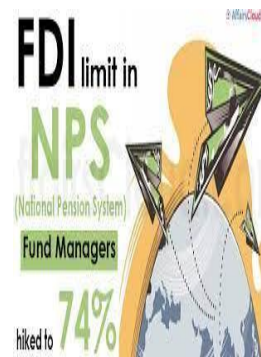
5. MeitY inked MoU with MapmyIndia to enable map services in UMANG App

- 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.



6. 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.



7. 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.



Foot Notes:

About Maharashtra:

Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Capital: Mumbai

Chief Minister: Uddhav Thackeray

8. 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.



9. 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.



10. 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.



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