

## Daily Current Affairs: 15.06.2021

### 47th G7 Leaders' Summit 2021

#### Why in the News?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 47th G7 Leaders' Summit 2021.
- The 47th G7 summit was held on 11–13 June 2021 in **Cornwall in the United Kingdom** while it held the presidency of the G7.
- Apart from India, South Korea, South Africa, and Australia were also invited to participate in the proceedings of the summit as “**Guest Countries**”.
- **Note:** Earlier, the Finance Ministers from the G7 reached a landmark accord setting a **Global Minimum Corporate Tax Rate**.

# G7

United Kingdom 2021



#### Key Points

##### Build Back Better World (B3W) Project:

- **B3W Project** will collectively catalyse hundreds of billions of infrastructure investment for low- and middle-income countries (in Asia and Africa) and offer a values-driven, high-standard and transparent partnership with G7.

##### Democracies 11:

- Signed off on a joint statement (Democracies 11) by G7 and Guest Countries on “open societies” that reaffirms and encourages the values of freedom of expression, both online and offline, as a freedom that safeguards democracy.
- The statement also refers to politically motivated internet shutdowns as one of the threats to freedom and democracy.

##### Carbis Bay Declaration:

- The G7 signed the Carbis Bay Declaration. It is aimed at preventing future pandemics.
- The G7 also pledged over 1 billion coronavirus vaccine doses for poorer nations with half of that coming from the United States and 100 million from Britain.

##### Climate Change:

- Pledged to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

##### India's Stand:

- India is a natural ally for the G7 countries in defending the shared values from a host of threats stemming from authoritarianism, terrorism and violent extremism, disinformation, and economic coercion.
- It sought the support of the grouping to lift patent protections for COVID-19 vaccines.
- Planet's atmosphere, biodiversity and oceans cannot be protected by countries acting in



- silos, and called for collective action on climate change.
- India is the only G-20 country on track to meet its Paris commitments.



### Facts about G7:

- It is an intergovernmental organisation.
- Founded:** 1975
- Members:** United Kingdom, United States, Japan, France, Germany, Canada and Italy

**Source:** Indian Express

## Defence innovation through iDEX – DIO

### Why in the News?

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the budgetary support of Rs **498.8 crore** to **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) - Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO)** for the next five years.
- Earlier, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released an E-booklet titled '**20 Reforms in 2020**', highlighting the major reforms undertaken by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in 2020.



### Key Points

- The scheme, with budgetary support of Rs 498.8 crore for the next five years, is aimed at providing financial support to nearly 300 start-ups/MSMEs/individual innovators and 20 partner incubators under the DIO framework.
- The **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)** was launched by the Prime Minister in April 2018.
- The creation of the **iDEX** framework and establishment of the **DIO** by the **Department of Defence Production (DDP)** is aimed at creating an ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in defence and aerospace by engaging Industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, Research & Development institutes & academia.
- Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC)** is launched with Problem Statements (PS) from Armed Forces and OFB/DPSUs for resolution by innovators.

### Other Channels for procuring innovative technologies:

- Technology Development Fund scheme
- Indigenous Development by Services

### Other Related Initiatives:

- Defence Industrial Corridors
- Artificial Intelligence in Defence
- Strategic Partnership Model

**Source: PIB**

## Proposals for construction of nearly 3.61 Lakh houses approved under PMAY-U

### Why in the News?

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has approved 708 proposals for construction of 3.61 lakh houses under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U)**.
- The decision was taken at the 54th Meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC) under PMAY-U held in New Delhi.
- In addition, **'PMAY- U Awards 2021 - 100 Days Challenge'** was also launched by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.



### Key Points

#### About 'PMAY- U Awards 2021 - 100 Days Challenge':

- The awards are given to recognize and celebrate the outstanding contribution and performances by States, Union Territories (UTs), Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and beneficiaries for successful implementation of the Mission and create a healthy competition.
- With this, as on date, the total number of sanctioned houses under PMAY-U is now 112.4 lakh and so far 82.5 lakh have been grounded for construction of which 48.31 lakh have been completed/delivered.
- Total investment under the Mission is Rs 7.35 Lakh Crore which has Central assistance of Rs 1.81. Lakh Crore of which Rs 96,067 Crore of funds have been released.

**About Six Light House Projects (LHPs):** The foundation stones of LHPs were laid by the Prime Minister in January 2021.

- The LHPs are being constructed at Agartala, Chennai, Lucknow, Ranchi, Rajkot and Indore.
- An **E-Module on Technograhi** comprising learning tools on innovative construction technologies shortlisted under Global Housing Technology Challenge – India and being used in six LHPs was also launched at the event.

- Secretary, MoHUA, also inaugurated a newly constructed **Demonstration Housing Project in Panchkula, Haryana** which will be used as a working women hostel on rental basis.
- Under the Technology sub mission of PMAY-U, 6 Demonstration Housing Projects (DHPs) have been completed so far and 7 are being constructed in different parts of the country.

#### **About Demonstration Housing Projects (DHPs):**

- DHPs are model housing projects built with new/alternate technology that not only showcase field level application of the technology but also used as platform to impart on-site orientation & training to practitioners & students in the housing sector on the application and use of such technology.

#### **About Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY):**

- It is an initiative by the Government of India in which affordable housing will be provided to the urban poor with a target of building 2 crore (20 million) affordable houses by 31 March 2022.
- It has two components: **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) (PMAY-U)** for the urban poor and **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) (PMAY-G)** for the rural poor.

**Source: PIB**

## **Naftali Bennett as Israel's new Prime Minister**

### **Why in the News?**

- Naftali Bennett, leader of the right-wing Yamina party, was sworn in as Israel's new Prime Minister.



### **Key Points**

- Naftali Bennett succeeds Benjamin Netanyahu, who was forced out of office after 12 years.
- Bennett will be Prime Minister until September 2023 as part of a power-sharing deal.
- He will then hand power over to Yair Lapid, head of the centrist Yesh Atid party, for a further two years.

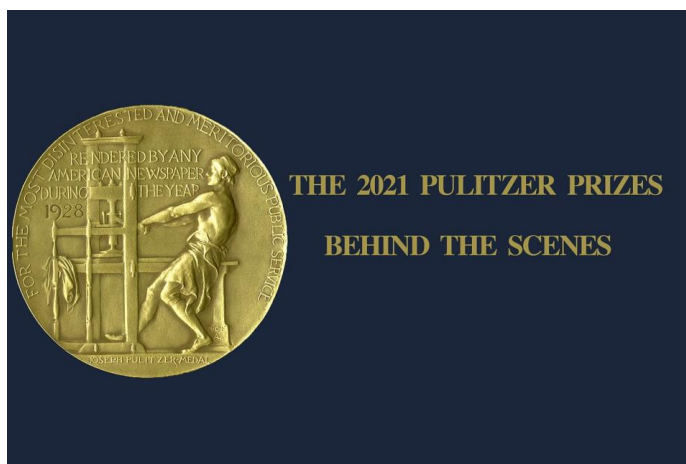
**Source: Indian Express**

## **2021 Pulitzer Prizes**

### **Why in the News?**

- The 2021 Pulitzer Prizes were awarded by the Pulitzer Prize Board for work during the 2020 calendar year on June 11, 2021.
- The 105th class of 2021 Pulitzer Prize winners in Journalism, Books, Drama and Music were announced.





### Key Points

- The awards highlighted coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic, racial unrest, and other major stories in the U.S. that year.
- Several publications, including The Atlantic and BuzzFeed News, received their first Pulitzers.
- **Indian-origin journalist Megha Rajagopalan** from BuzzFeed News won the Pulitzer Prize for exposing China's vast infrastructure for detaining Muslims.

### Main 2021 Pulitzer Prize winners:

Category	Winner
<b>Journalism</b>	
Public Service	<b>The New York Times</b>
Breaking News Reporting	Staff of the Star Tribune, Minneapolis, Minn.
Investigative Reporting	Matt Rocheleau, Vernal Coleman, Laura Crimaldi, Evan Allen and Brendan McCarthy of The Boston Globe
Explanatory Reporting	Andrew Chung, Lawrence Hurley, Andrea Januta, Jaimi Dowdell and Jackie Botts of Reuters
Local Reporting	Kathleen McGrory and Neil Bedi of the Tampa Bay Times
National Reporting	Staffs of The Marshall Project; AL.com, Birmingham; IndyStar, Indianapolis; and the Invisible Institute, Chicago
International Reporting	<b>Megha Rajagopalan</b> , Alison Killing and Christo Buschek of BuzzFeed News
Criticism	Wesley Morris of The New York Times



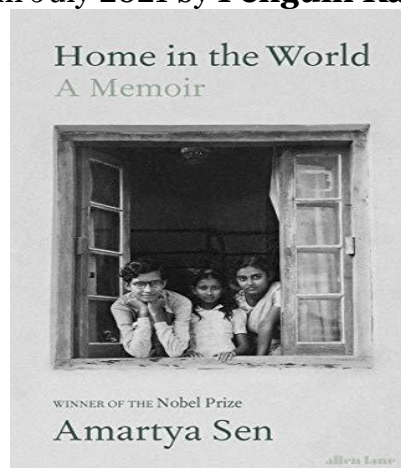
Editorial writing	Robert Greene of the Los Angeles Times
Breaking News Photography	Photography Staff of Associated Press
<b>Books, Drama and Music</b>	
Fiction	The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich
Drama	The Hot Wing King by Katori Hall
History	Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America by Marcia Chatelain
Poetry	Postcolonial Love Poem by Natalie Diaz
Special Citation	<b>Darnella Frazier</b> , The teenager who recorded the killing of George Floyd
Music	Stride, by Tania León

Source: [Pulitzer.org](https://www.pulitzer.org)

## 'Home in the World': Amartya Sen's memoir

### Why in the News?

- **Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen** has penned his memoir titled 'Home in the World'.
- The book will be published in July 2021 by **Penguin Random House**.



### Key Points

- In 'Home in the World', Sen shares details from his life and explores the idea of 'home'.
- He was awarded the **Nobel Prize in Economics** in 1998 and **Bharat Ratna** in 1999.

Source: TOI

### Padma Shri awardee Dr Ashok Panagariya passes away

- Prominent neurologist and Padma Shri recipient Dr Ashok Panagariya passed away at 71.
- One of India's leading neurologists, Ashok Panagariya was a recipient of the Padma Shri and the BC Roy Award.



- **Note:** Ashok Panagariya's publisher announced that his memoir, "**Monk in a Merc**" will be released on June 28, 2021.

Source: Indian Express

### Daily Quiz

1. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the G7 Leaders' Summit 2021?
  - i. It was the 47th G7 Leaders' Summit.
  - ii. It was held at Cornwall in the United Kingdom.
  - iii. China was invited to participate in the proceedings of the summit as "Guest Countries".

A. iii only  
B. ii only  
C. ii and iii only  
D. i and ii only

Answer: D

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U).
  - i. The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs recently approved 708 proposals for construction of 3.61 lakh houses under PMAY-U.
  - ii. 'PMAY- U Awards 2021 - 300 Days Challenge' was also launched by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. i only  
B. ii only  
C. Both i and ii  
D. Neither i nor ii

Answer: A



3. **Which Indian-origin journalist won Pulitzer Prize 2021 for exposing China's vast infrastructure for detaining Muslims?**

- A. Riya Winona
- B. **Megha Rajagopalan**
- C. Aiyana Kirtan
- D. Yogita Nimaya

**Answer: B**

4. **Who has become the new Prime Minister of Israel?**

- A. Reuven Rivlin
- B. Naftali Bennett
- C. Isaac Herzog
- D. Benjamin Netanyahu

**Answer: B**

5. **Recently, the Defence Minister has approved the budgetary support of Rs 498.8 crore to iDEX for the next five years. What does iDEX stand for?**

- A. Innovations for Defence Excellence
- B. Innovations for Defence Exercise
- C. Information for Defence Excellence
- D. Initiative for Defence Excellence

**Answer: A**

6. **Who is the author of the book 'Home in the World'?**

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. Sanjaya Baru
- C. Amitav Ghosh
- D. Amartya Sen

**Answer: D**

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