

Top Current Affairs of the Week (18 -25th July 2021)

Nelson Mandela International Day: 18th July

- **Nelson Mandela International Day** is observed every year on **18th July** in honour of Nelson Mandela's birthday.
- The day was officially declared by **United Nations** in **November 2009** and the day was held for first time on 18 July 2010.
- Theme 2021: **One Hand Can Feed Another**
- UN General Assembly introduced **Nelson Mandela Prize** in **2014**, which is given once every five year on 18th July to recognize the achievements of those who dedicated their lives to the service of humanity.

LA Polo makes a Documentary on Traditional Polo Game of Ladakh

- **LA Polo Delhi** with **Himalayan sports and cultural development organization** and **Polo Promotion Committee Kargil** are working on a promotional documentary in Ladakh.
- For this, they are shooting different aspects of the Game in context with Ladakh particularly related to traditional natural game of Polo in Drass and Kargil
- Polo is the traditional Game in Kargil Ladakh which has a great potential in future.

Former Pakistan President Mamnoon Hussain passes away

- Former President of Pakistan **Mamnoon Hussain (80 years)** passed away after a prolonged illness at a private hospital in Karachi
- He was the **senior Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader**
- He served as the **12th President of Pakistan** between September 2013 and September 2018
- He was also the **governor of Sindh** from **June to October 1999** when Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government was overthrown
- He was born in Agra in 1940 but migrated with his parents to Pakistan in 1947

Amazon forests now emitting more CO2 than it absorbs

- **Amazon forests in South America** have started **emitting more carbon dioxide (CO2)** in comparison of absorbing carbon emissions.
- Amazon forests are the largest tropical forests in the world
- A significant amount of deforestation in eastern and southeastern Brazil has turned the forest into a source of CO2 that has the ability to warm the planet.
- Not only the Amazon rainforests, some forests in Southeast Asia have also turned into carbon sources in the last few years

US Navy hands over first two MH-60R multi-role helicopters to Indian Navy

- Indian Navy received first two **MH-60R Multi Role Helicopters (MRH)** from US Navy at Naval Air Station in North Island, San Diego.



- 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 in February 2020
- It will begin the new era of defence collaboration and partnership between the US and India.

Zurich airport signs agreement with NIAL for development of Noida airport

- **Zurich Airport** has signed a shareholder agreement with **Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL)** for the development of the **Noida International Airport at Jewar**.
- As per the agreement, NIAL will hold one golden share in Yamuna International Airport Pvt Ltd (YIAPL) and the right to nominate two directors to the board.
- Two directors who will be part of the airport board are **Arun Vir Singh**, chief executive of NIAL, and **Vishak Iyer**, Director Civil Aviation, UP

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**.

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.

Cannes Film Festivals 2021: Winners List

- The Cannes film festival concluded in the south of France.
- Here is a list of the main winners:
- **Award : Winner**
- Palme d'Or: Julia Ducournau (Titane)
- Best director: Leos Carax "Annette"
- Best actress: Renate Reinsve (Worst Person in the World)
- Best actor: Caleb Landry Jones (Nitram)
- Best screenplay: Hamaguchi Ryusuke and Takamasa Oe (Drive My Car)
- Best first film: Antoneta Kusijanovic (Murina)
- Best short film: All The Crows In The World (Tang Yi)



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.

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.

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.

Danish Siddiqui: Indian photojournalist killed in Afghanistan

- Danish Siddiqui, an Indian photojournalist working for an international news agency, has been killed in Afghanistan's Kandahar.
- Siddiqui had been in Kandahar covering the situation in the region after the US forces pulled out of Afghanistan recently.
- Siddiqui was embedded with Afghan forces that came under attack by the Taliban in the Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province.
- Siddiqui was also awarded the prestigious Pulitzer Prize.

IAMAI appoints Google India MD Sanjay Gupta as Chairman

- Google India Vice President and Managing Director, Sanjay Gupta has been elected as its chairman of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) for the period 2021-23.
- IAMAI has also named Facebook India Vice President and MD Ajit Mohan as Vice Chairman of its association by succeeding Dhruv Shringi, Yatra.com co-founder and CEO.
- Harshil Mathur, CEO and Co-founder of Razorpay was elected as the Treasurer of IAMAI.

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.
- Mizoram capital: **Aizawl**.
- Chief Minister of Mizoram: **Zoramthanga**

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).

Common High Court of UT of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh renamed

- 'Common High Court of UT of Jammu and Kashmir and UT of Ladakh' has been renamed as '**High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh**'.
- The renaming has come to effect after President Ram Nath Kovind signed the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2021**, to effect the change.
- The name has been changed as the present nomenclature is found to be rather long-winding and cumbersome.
- CJ of Ladakh and J&K HC: **Pankaj Mithal**.

Google Cloud announces second 'Cloud Region' in India

- **Google Cloud** has launched its **new cloud region** in **Delhi-National Capital Region** to serve its customers in India and Asia-Pacific.
- This is the **second Google Cloud region in India after Mumbai** and the 10th in Asia-Pacific for capacity building, disaster recovery solutions and low latency.
- Apart from Delhi-NCR region, there are existing **25 Google Cloud regions** across the Americas, Europe and Asia-Pacific connected via Google's network.

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.

Govt to set up 'Indian Institute of Heritage' at Noida

- Govt has decided to set up 'Indian Institute of Heritage' at Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar
- It is being set up as Deemed to be University by integrating Institute of Archaeology, School of Archival Studies under National Archives of India, Delhi, National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property, Lucknow, National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology and Academic Wing of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Delhi.

Two Indian organisations win UNDP Equator Prize 2021

- Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer (APP) Company and Snehakunja Trust are the two Indian organization, who won the prestigious United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) Equator Prize for their work in the field of conservation and biodiversity
- They are among the 10 awardees
- UNDP gives biennial award to recognize community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

International Chess Day: 20th July

- International Chess Day is observed annually on July 20 to mark the foundation of International Chess Federation (FIDE) that was founded in 1924
- The day celebrate one of the most ancient and most popular games in history that promotes fairness, equality, mutual respect and understanding among nations.
- It was first observed in 1966, as proposed by UNESCO.
- FIDE's Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland.

Science Exploration Day: 20 July

- Science Exploration Day (Moon Day) is observed every year on 20 July.
- In 1969, on this day Neil Armstrong and Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin became the first humans to land on the Moon's surface.
- The duo spent 21.5 hours on the surface of the moon out of which they spent 2.5 hours outside of their capsules.
- Neil Armstrong was the first man to set foot on the moon's surface.
- The day was first observed in 1984 by then US President, Ronald Reagan

Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus receives Olympic Laurel

- Bangladeshi Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus has been chosen to receive Olympic Laurel at Tokyo Games 2021
- He will be awarded the prize for his extensive work in sport for development, including founding the Yunus Sports Hub.
- Olympic Laurel award was created in 2016 to recognise endeavours in culture, education, peace and development through sport
- It was given for the first time at the 2016 Rio Games to Kenyan former Olympian Kip Keino.

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.

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.

IIT Madras develops AI-based algorithm to help identify cancer cell

- **IIT Madras** has developed an **Artificial Intelligence-based mathematical model** to identify **cancer-causing alterations in cells**
- It will help to pinpoint genetic alterations responsible for cancer progression, which is difficult using present methodologies.
- It will make use of a relatively **unexplored technique of leveraging DNA composition**.
- It will help in identifying the most appropriate treatment strategy for a patient through precision oncology and tailoring treatments

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.

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

IIT Ropar develops first-of-its-kind Oxygen rationing device 'AMLEX'



- IIT Ropar has developed first-of-its-kind Oxygen Rationing Device named as 'AMLEX' to increase the life of medical oxygen cylinders three fold.
- It supplies a required volume of oxygen to the patient during inhalation and trips when the patient exhales CO₂.
- This device can operate on both **portable power supply (battery)** as well as **line supply (220V-50Hz)**
- It has been developed by PhD students of Biomedical Engineering Dept under **Ashish Sahani**.

Maharashtra to issue educational documents using blockchain technology

- **Maharashtra Govt** will become the first state to issue **educational documents to students 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.

Mongolia, Tajikistan and Switzerland inducted as Associate Members of ICC

- **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has inducted **Mongolia, Tajikistan** and **Switzerland** as its newest member countries at the ICC's 78th Annual virtual General Meeting
- With this, ICC now comprise of **total 106 Members including 94 Associates**.
- These three newly inducted nations are now among ICC's 94 Associate Members
- **Mongolia** and **Tajikistan** have been inducted as 22nd and 23rd Members from Asia region while **Switzerland** is **35th Member** from Europe region.
- ICC HQs: **Dubai, UAE**

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**

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

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.

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%**

Centre extends 'Stand Up India Scheme' up to 2025

- **Central Govt** has extended the duration of '**Stand Up India Scheme**' till 2025 to facilitate loans to SC, ST and women borrowers promoting entrepreneurship among them.
- The scheme was launched in **2016** and loans under this are extended by **Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)** between Rs. 10 lakh and Rs.1 Crore.
- The scheme encourage the beneficiaries in setting up a green field enterprise, outside of the farm sector, that is in manufacturing, services or trading sector.

B K Sinha appointed as Press Attache of India's Olympic contingent

- Retired IPS officer **B K Sinha** has been appointed as the **Press Attache of India's Olympic contingent at the Tokyo Games**
- He will perform the dual role of Security as well as Press Attache
- He is a former Haryana DGP and also a recipient of the President's Police Medal.
- India will be represented by 228-strong contingent, including 119 athletes, at the Tokyo Olympics, which is to begin from 23rd July
- Indian Olympic Association President: **Narinder Batra**.

Jeff Bezos and Blue Origin completed successful spaceflight

- **Jeff Bezos** streaked into space on a thrilling 10-minute up-and-down flight in the first crewed flight of his rocket ship, **New Shepard**
- He was accompanied by **Mark Bezos, his brother, Wally Funk**, pioneer of the space race, and an **18-year-old student**.
- They travelled in a capsule with the biggest windows flown in space, offering stunning views of the Earth.
- **New Shepard** is built by Bezos' Blue Origin and is designed to serve the burgeoning market for space tourism.



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.
- Headquarters of IOC: **Lausanne, Switzerland**

DRDO successfully test-flights 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.
- DRDO's Chairman: **G Satheesh Reddy**.

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.
- Capital: **Port-au-Prince**

DRDO successfully flight-tests MPATGM for minimum range

- DRDO has successfully flight-tested indigenously developed third generation **Man Portable Antitank Guided Missile (MPATGM)** for its minimum range.
- **MPATGM:** It is a low weight, fire and forget missile, incorporated with state-of-the-art **Miniaturized Infrared Imaging Seeker** along with advanced avionics.
- It has already been flight tested for the maximum range.
- It is being developed to strengthen the combat capabilities of the **Indian Army**.

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.

VP Venkaiah Naidu addresses World Universities Summit 2021



- Vice President **Venkaiah Naidu** addressed 'World Universities Summit 2021', organised 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**

Government sets up Dairy Investment Accelerator

- **Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD)** has setup **Dairy Investment Accelerator** under its **Investment Facilitation Cell** to provide dedicated focus towards promoting & facilitating investments in **Indian Dairy sector**
- **Its functions are as follows:**
 - Offering specific inputs for evaluation of investment opportunities
 - Addressing queries about application to govt schemes
 - Connecting with strategic partners
 - Providing on-ground assistance with state departments

UP 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.

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.**

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.

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.

LIC launches new health insurance plan called Arogya Rakshak

- **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** has launched new health insurance plan titled as **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**.

National Broadcasting Day: 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.

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.

Sports

Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra to release 'The Stranger In The Mirror'

- **Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra** is coming up with his autobiography titled as '**The Stranger In The Mirror**'
- It is published by **Rupa Publications** and will hit the stands on July 27.
- It features first-person accounts of noted personalities from cinema and advertising world like **A R Rahman, Bajpayee, Abhishek Bachchan**, etc
- He is known for helming movies like **Rang De Basanti, Delhi-6, Bhaag Milkha Bhaag** and **Toofan**
- He has co-written the book with noted author **Reeta Ramamurthy Gupta**.

Export of specialty steel will become around 5.5 million tonnes, getting FOREX of Rs 33,000 crore.

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

RBI plans digital currency on a pilot basis soon

- RBI is planning to introduce **digital monetary asset** in a phase-wise implementation strategy
- The move indicates moving towards bringing in **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)**.
- CBDC is being introduced in lieu of other private digital assets like cryptocurrency.
- CBDC is essentially a **legal tender** issued by the central bank and has the same functional capabilities as a **fiat currency** and is considered exchangeable in nature with said fiat currency in a one-to-one form.

India flight tests new generation surface-to-air Akash missile

- India successfully flight-tested the **New Generation Akash (Akash-NG)** missile from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the Odisha coast.
- The test was carried out by **DRDO** against a high-speed unmanned aerial target which was successfully intercepted by the missile.
- Production agencies **Bharat Electronics Limited** and **Bharat Dynamics Limited** also participated in the trials.
- The missile system has been developed by RDL, Hyderabad, in collaboration with other **DRDO** lab

UNESCAP's Global Survey on Digital & Sustainable Trade Facilitation

- India has scored **90.32%** in UNESCAP's latest Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation.
- The survey hails this as a remarkable jump from 78.49% in 2019.
- India has achieved a **100% score** for the **Transparency** index and 66% in the **Women** in trade component.
- The survey notes that India is the best-performing country when compared to the **South and South West Asia** region and **Asia Pacific** region.
- This survey is conducted every two years by UNESCAP.

Last blast of Sela Tunnel's escape tube conducted by DG Border Roads

- **Director General Border Roads (DGBR)** Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry conducted the last blast of the escape tube of the under-construction **Sela Tunnel** in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The first blast of the 1555 meters long escape tube was initiated by **DGBR** in **January 2021**.
- PM Narendra Modi initiated the **Sela Tunnel** in 2019.
- The tunnel is being constructed by the **BRO** under **Project Vartak** using the **New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM)**
- This will increase connectivity in the entire **Northeast**



UNCDF launches initiative to address challenges faced by smallholder farmer

- The **United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)** in partnership with **Atal Innovation Mission, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and Rabo Foundation** has launched the **Agritech Challenge 2021**.
- Aim: to help address challenges faced by **smallholder farmers** across **Asia** and **Africa**
- Through this challenge, **UNCDF** will also enable cross-border collaborations among emerging markets across **India, Indonesia, Malawi, Malaysia, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia** among others
- **UNCDF Hq: New York**

Sweden Joins The International Solar Alliance

- **Sweden** has ratified the framework agreement for the **International Solar Alliance**.
- ISA is an initiative of India aimed at promoting renewable energy and sustainable development.
- Sweden's ratification of the ISA came over four months after **PM Narendra Modi** and Swedish premier **Stefan Lofven** held a virtual summit focusing on boosting cooperation in areas of innovation, technology, and climate change.
- **ISA** was founded in **2015** during the **UNFCCC (COP-21)**
- Headquarter: **Gurugram**

gradeup

