

Weekly Current Affairs 19th July to 24th July



19th July 2021

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**.

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Sports

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.

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Honours & Awards

3. 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)

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Defense

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.

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National Affairs

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.

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Banking & Finance

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.

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International Affairs

7. 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.

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- This development comes as the security situation in **Afghan** has been deteriorating following the withdrawal of **US military forces** from the country.

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Banking & Finance

8. 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**.

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Obituaries

9. 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**.

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National & International Appointments

10. IMAI 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 (IMAI)** for the period 2021-23.
- IMAI 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 IMAI.

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National & International Appointments

1. 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 Gawahati High Court Judge, **Justice Michael Zothankhuma**
- He succeeded **P.S Sreedharan Pillai**, who was appointed as the Governor of Goa
- Gawahati High Court has jurisdiction over the states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Mizoram.
- Mizoram capital: **Aizawl**.
- Chief Minister of Mizoram: **Zoramthanga**

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Books & Authors

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).

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State Affairs

3. 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**.

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National Affairs

4. 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.

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Honours & Awards

5. 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**.

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National Affairs

6. 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 Indra Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Delhi**.

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Honours & Awards

7. Two Indian organisations win UNDP Equator Prize 2021

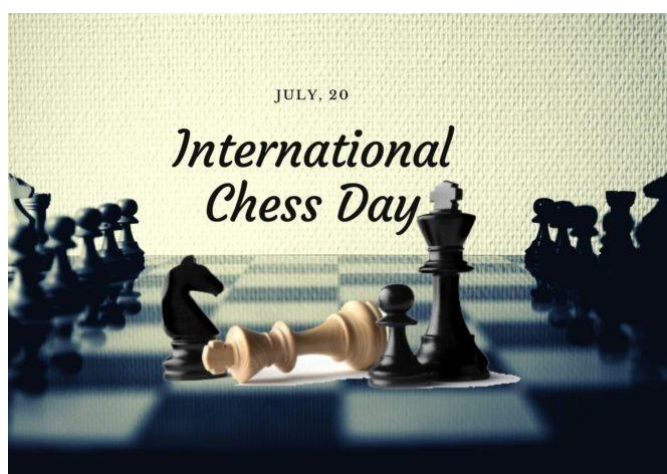


- **Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer (APP) Company** and **Snehakunja Trust** are the two Indian organization, who won the prestigious **United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) Equator Prize** for their work in the field of conservation and biodiversity
- They are among the 10 awardees
- **UNDP** gives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

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Important Dates

8. 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.**

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Important Dates

9. 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**

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Honours & Awards

10. 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**.

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Banking & Finance

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

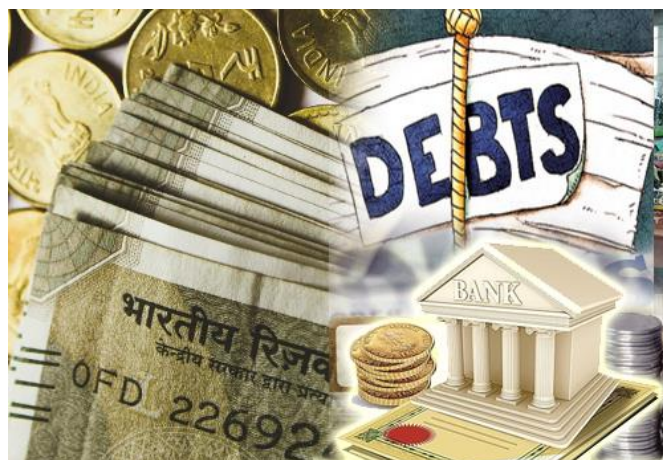


- **India** has emerged as the **World's 5th-largest foreign exchange reserves** holder after China, Japan, Switzerland and Russia.
- India's forex reserves stood at around **609 billion Dollars** on 25th June, 2021 and is comfortable in terms of import cover of more than 18 months and provides cushion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

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Banking & Finance

12. 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.

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Science & Technology

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



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- **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

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21st July 2021

Sports

1. 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.

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Science & Technology

2. 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

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Science & Technology

3. 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.

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- 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**.

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State Affairs

4. 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 **'certicate_LegitDoc.zip'** digital file containing the original PDF diploma certificate and corresponding blockchain proof file.

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Sports

5. 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**

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State Affairs

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



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- **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**

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Agreement

7. 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

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Science & Technology

8. 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.

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Banking & Finance

9. 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.

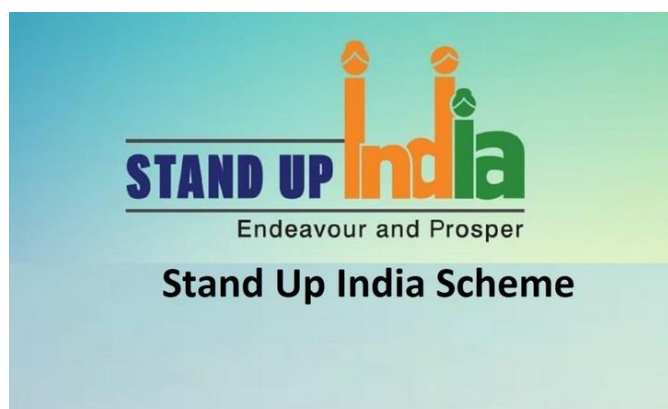
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- India's GDP growth recovered to 1.6% in the last quarter of fiscal year that ended on March 2021
- GDP for FY2022 (ending in March 2023) is upgraded from 7% to 7.5%
- GDP growth forecast for South Asia in 2021 is downgraded to 8.9%

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Schemes

10. 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.

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National & International Appointments

11. 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.**

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Science & Technology

12. 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.

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22nd July 2021

Sports

1. 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.**

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- 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**

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Science & Technology

2. 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**.

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National & International Appointments

3. 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**

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Science & Technology

4. 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.

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- **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**.

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National & International Appointments

5. 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.

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Summits & Conferences

6. 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**

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National Affairs

7. 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

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State Affairs

8. 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.

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National Affairs

9. 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**.

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National Affairs

10. 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.

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Defense

11. Russia to conduct military drills with Uzbekistan, Tajikistan near Afghanistan



- **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**

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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.

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Banking & Finance

12. 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**.

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23rd July 2021

Important Dates

1. National Broadcasting Day: 23rd July



**National
Broadcasting Day
23 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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National & International Appointments

2. 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

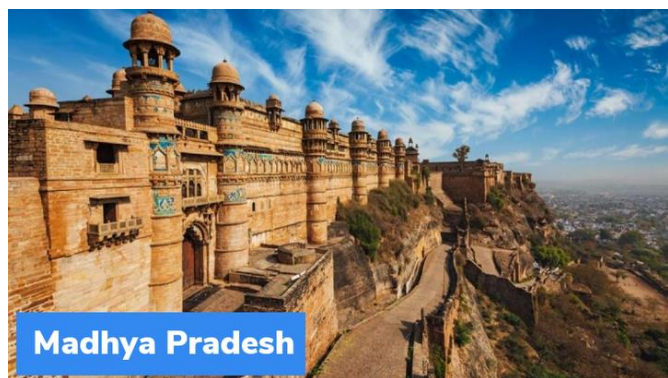
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- He will take oath as the President of Peru on 28 July.
- He secured **50.1%** of the votes to win the 2021 election.
- He is a Peruvian school teacher, union leader and politician, who attained prominence as a leading figure in 2017 teacher strike and ran in the election as the candidate of the left-wing Free Peru party.
- Peru's Capital: **Lima**.

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Arts & Culture

3. 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.

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Sports

4. 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.

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Banking & Finance

5. 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.

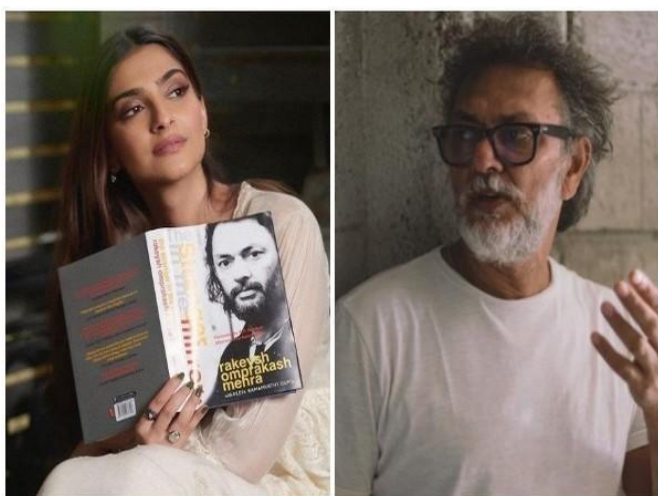
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- Under this, **Paisalo Digital** shall extend its services and its reach to the general public including its existing and new customers.
- **Paisalo**: Systemically Important Non-Deposit taking NBFC registered with RBI.
- It was incorporated in **1992** as a Private Company and converted in Public Ltd Company in **1995**.

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Books & Authors

6. 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**.

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National Affairs

7. Union Cabinet approves PLI Scheme for Specialty Steel

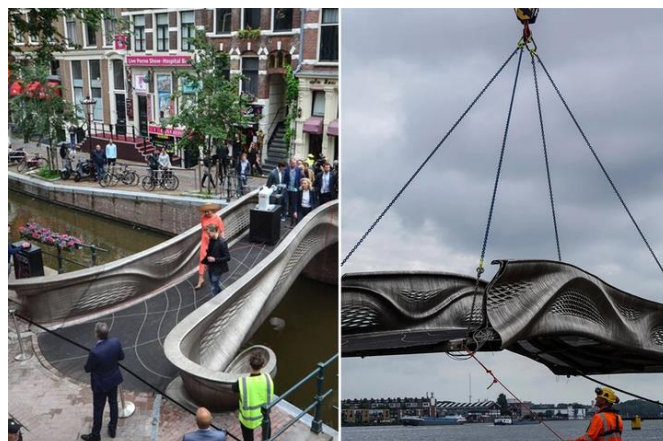


- **Union Cabinet** has approved **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme** for specialty steel with budgetary outlay of **₹6322 crores**
- Duration of the scheme: **5 years from 2023-24 to 2027-28**
- It is expected to bring in investment of approximately **₹40,000 crores** and capacity addition of **25 MT** for specialty 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**.

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International Affairs

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



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- **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

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Banking & Finance

9. Indian Navy signs MoU with Kotak Mahindra Bank for salary accounts



- **Indian Navy** has signed MoU with **Kotak Mahindra Bank** for **salary accounts of all its personnel (both serving and retired)**.
- Under the MoU, Kotak Mahindra Bank will offer special salary account benefits to the Indian Navy like enhanced complimentary personal accident insurance, special education benefit, additional girl child benefit, zero processing fees on personal loans, home loans and car loans.
- MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra: **Uday Kotak**.

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Banking & Finance

10. 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.

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Agreement

11. APEDA collaborates with Ladakh officials for agricultural produce



- **APEDA** has collaborated with officials of horticulture, agriculture, commerce and industry departments of Ladakh and **Defence Institute of High-Altitude Research (DIHAR)** to frame a comprehensive plan for

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giving boost to exports of agricultural produce from Ladakh

- The plan will enhance farmers' as well as entrepreneurs' income by enhancing production of fruits with medicinal values and introduction of the traceability system.

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Sports

12. Aman Gulia and Sagar Jaglan emerged as India's new World Cadet champions



- Young wrestlers **Aman Gulia** and **Sagar Jaglan** emerged as the new world champions in their respective categories as India dished out an impressive show on the **Cadet World Championship**.
- Aman Gulia defeated America's Luke Joseph Lilledahl in 48kg by 5-2 and Sagar Jaglan defeated James Mockler Rowley by 4-0 in 80kg
- Apart from them, **Tannu** and **Priya** became Cadet World Championship in women's category defeating **Valeryia Mikitsich** and **Kseniya Patapovich** respectively

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24th July 2021

Sports

1. Sandesh Jhingan named AIFF men's Footballer of Year



- Senior India defender **Sandesh Jhingan** was named the **AIFF men's Footballer of the Year**,
- While midfielder **Suresh Singh Wangjam** won the **Emerging Player award for 2020-21**.
- It is the 1st time that the defender has received the **AIFF Player of the Year award**, having won the **Emerging Player of the Year Award in 2014**.
- The award winners were chosen on the basis of votes from the Indian **Super League** and **I-League** club coaches.
- Jhingan made his senior national team debut in **2015**

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Science & Technology

2. IIT-K launches technology innovation hub



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- IIT-Kanpur launched the 1st technology innovation hub to find cybersecurity solutions for anti-drones technologies, intrusion detection systems, block-chain, and cyber-physical systems.
- As many as 13 start-ups and 25 research and development principal investigators were selected after a rigorous application process.
- C3i hub of IIT Kanpur will focus on safeguarding cyberspace which will also include critical infrastructure.

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Banking & Finance

3. RBI raises limit for loan to other banks' directors up to Rs 5 crore



- The **RBI** has overhauled rules for extending loans to directors of other banks and relatives of directors.
- As per the amendments, the **central bank** has allowed banks to extend personal loans up to **₹5 crores** to **directors** of other banks and directors' relatives other than spouses without board approval.
- The earlier limit for such loans was **₹25 lakh**.
- The regulations apply to directors, including the **Chairman/Managing Director**, of other banks.

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Banking & Finance

4. 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.

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Banking & Finance

5. IMF board approves policy reforms to support recovery of low-income nations



- The **IMF** has approved a set of policy reforms to the concessional lending facilities to better support the recovery of **low-income countries** from **Covid-19**

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- These reforms are set to ensure that the Fund has the capacity to respond flexibly to **LICs' needs** over the medium term while continuing to provide concessional loans at zero interest rates.
- The **IMF** executive board also approved a two-stage funding strategy to cover the cost of pandemic-related concessional lending.

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National Affairs

6. 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**

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International Affairs

7. 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**

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International Affairs

8. 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

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- cooperation in areas of innovation, technology, and climate change.
- **ISA** was founded in **2015** during the **UNFCCC (COP-21)**
- Headquarter: **Gurugram**

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Banking & Finance

9. RBI allows IDFC to exit as promoter of IDFC First Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** allowed **IDFC** to exit as the promoter of **IDFC First Bank** after the expiry of the lock-in period of **5 years**.
- The **IDFC Bank** was created by the demerger of the infrastructure lending business of IDFC to IDFC Bank in **2015**.
- The above clarification could potentially lead to a reverse merger, which would be beneficial to **IDFC Limited** shareholders by increasing shareholder value.
- Bank HQ: **Mumbai**
- MD and CEO: **V Vaidyanathan**

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Banking & Finance

10. Max Bupa rebrands itself as Niva Bupa



- Health insurer **Max Bupa Health Insurance** has rebranded itself to **Niva Bupa Health Insurance**.
- The company is backed by private equity firms **True North** and **Bupa**.
- **Max India**, which owned **51 percent** of the insurer sold its stake to **True North**.

- **True North** now owns 55 percent, while **Bupa owns 44 percent** in the new legal entity **Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Ltd.**
- MD and CEO: **Krishnan Ramachandran**

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Banking & Finance

11. Indian Bank signs MOU with IIT Guwahati TIC to fund start-ups

- **Indian Bank** signed an **MoU** with **IIT Guwahati Technology Incubation Centre** for funding eligible Startups under the “**IND SpringBoard**” scheme of the Bank.
- **Indian Bank** supports start-ups by extending credit facilities up to **Rs 50 crore** for working capital requirements.
- **IITG-TIC** is a space for new-age entrepreneurs and young minds to transform their innovative ideas into viable business propositions.
- It is one of its kind in the **North-Eastern** part of **India**.

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