

## Top Current Affairs of the Week (25 July – 31 July 2021)

### **Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu wins silver at the Tokyo Olympics**

- India's weightlifter **Saikhom Mirabai Chanu (26 years)** has claimed silver medal in the **Women's 49kg category** at the **Tokyo 2020 Olympics**.
- This is the first medal for India at the ongoing Tokyo Olympics Game.
- She lifted a total of **202kg** (87kg in snatch and 115kg in clean and jerk).
- China's **Zhihui Hou** bagged gold after lifting a total of 210kg, creating a new Olympic Record.
- Indonesia's **Windy Cantika Aisah** won bronze with a total of 194kg.

### **'An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation' by Ashok Lavasa**

- **Ashok Lavasa** has come out with a book titled as **'An Ordinary Life: Portrait of an Indian Generation'**.
- In this book, he narrated about his father, **Udai Singh**, and his own experience on how his father's principles served as a moral compass in his life, and can in ours too.
- He resigned as election commissioner in 2020 to become vice-president of the Asian Development Bank
- He also served as the **Finance Secretary, MoEFCC Secretary** and **Civil Aviation Secretary of India**.

### **Amit Shah inaugurates Inter-State Bus Terminal at Shillong, Meghalaya**

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated **Inter-State Bus Terminal** at **Maviyang, Shillong, Meghalaya**.
- It is being built here with the help of **Govt of India and Meghalaya** at a cost of **Rs 50 crore**
- It will improve road connectivity of Northeast and will make of the region an economic hub
- He also inaugurated **Cryogenic Oxygen Plant** and **Paediatric Ward at Umsavali**
- Govt is planning to link the capitals of all the **Northeast states by rail, road and airways before 2023-24**

### **Environment Minister participates in G20 Environment Meeting 2021**

- Union Environment Minister of India, **Bhupender Yadav** participated in the two-day **G20 Environment Ministerial Meeting 2021** virtually, along with Minister of State for Environment Ashwini Choubey and senior officials.
- The host city of this meet was **Naples, Italy**.
- The meeting was held as part of **16th G20 Leaders' Summit**, scheduled to be held in October 2021, under the Presidency of Italy, with primary theme of **'People, Planet and Prosperity'**.

### **Liverpool removed from UNESCO World Heritage list**

- **Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City (UK)** has been removed from its **world heritage list** by **UNESCO World Heritage Committee**

- Liverpool waterfront has been stripped off as a historic heritage site due to irreversible loss of attributes conveying the outstanding universal value and substantial building interventions.
- **International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)** is responsible for recommending cultural sites and **World Conservation Union (IUCN)** selects natural sites.

## North-East India Traditional Fashion Week 2021 inaugurated

- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, **Virendra Kumar** has virtually inaugurated '**5th North-East India Traditional Fashion Week (NEIFW) 2021**'
- It promotes indigenous traditional skills across India including North-East and preserve the heritage of each community of North-East through divyangjan movement
- It is a part of **India@75 National Celebration**
- It is organized by **National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD), Dehradun**

## Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates various schemes in Guwahati

- Home Minister, Amit Shah has laid the foundation stone of **Tamulpur Medical College and Hospital** and distributed cheque of Rs 1 lakh each to the next of the kin of 100 selected COVID-19 victims under **State Govt's 'Prarthana Achoni'** at Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra, Guwahati.
- This is result of the **Bodo Accord**.
- Assam will be a hub for Cancer treatment and research.
- He also inaugurated a **new unit of Radio Therapy** at Guwahati Medical College and Hospital

## NITI AAYOG -TRIFED join hands for implementation of Van Dhan Yojana

- **TRIFED** is collaborating with **NITI Aayog** to successfully implement the **Van Dhan Yojana** in the districts that have been identified as aspirational districts by NITI Aayog
- This collaboration will completely transform tribal ecosystem across India
- **Van Dhan Yojana** is a component of **Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP)** through MSP & Development of Value Chain for MFP' and was launched on **14th April, 2018**.
- It is implemented by **TRIFED** as the nodal agency.

## 'Kargil Vijay Diwas 2021' being observed today

- **Kargil Vijay Diwas** is celebrated on 26<sup>th</sup> July in honor of the heroes of the Kargil war of **1999**.
- On this day in 1999, the **Indian Army** announced that Pakistani forces and intruders have been driven out from all occupied territories.
- To concur Kargil war '**Operation Vijay (II)**' was launched.
- 1st **Operation Vijay** was launched in 1961 that led to the capture of **Goa and Daman and Diu**.
- Indian Airforce along with Army also launched '**Operation White Sea**' during the **Kargil war**.

## Kakatiya Rudreswara temple inscribed by UNESCO as World Heritage Site

- **Kakatiya Rudreswara Temple** has been inscribed by **UNESCO as World Heritage Site (39<sup>th</sup> site in India)**.

- Also known as **Ramappa temple**, it is located in **Palampet** village in the newly formed **Mulugu** District in **Telangana**.
- The 13th-century temple is probably the only temple known by its chief sculptor, **Ramappa**.
- This is the first site that got heritage tag from **UNESCO** ever since **Telangana** state formed in **2014**.

## World's Largest Floating Solar Farm Proposed for Indonesia

- **Sunseap Group**, a solar energy system developer, owner, and operator in **Singapore** plans to build the **world's largest floating solar** farm in **Indonesia**.
- The floating photovoltaic system is expected to have a capacity of **2.2 GW**.
- It will cover 1600 hectares of the **Duriangkang Reservoir** on **Batam Island** and cost about \$2 billion to construct.
- An agreement between **Sunseap** and the **Batam Indonesia** free zone authority to move forward with the project was signed on **July 19**.

## Corteva Agriscience inks pact to promote sustainable rice production in UP

- **Corteva Agriscience** has signed a 3-year project with the **2030 Water Resources Group (2030 WRG)** hosted by the **World Bank**, to promote sustainable rice cultivation in **UP**.
- The project provides a framework for **Corteva**, **2030 WRG**, and a task force of multiple stakeholders to work towards transforming 40,000 acres of land from traditional methods of transplanting rice to the **Direct Seeded Rice** technique.
- This practice will reduce agricultural water consumption by **35-37%**.

## Arunachal Pradesh, IIM Shillong to collaborate as knowledge partners

- **Arunachal Pradesh govt** signed an MoU with **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam** Centre for Policy Research and **Analysis-IIM Shillong** for collaborating as a knowledge partner
- Aim: Capacity building of **State Govt** and to set up a satellite centre of **IIM-S** in the State and for necessary policy interventions
- The MoU aims at promoting mutual agreement b/w the **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research Analysis** of **IIM Shillong** and the **Finance Planning** and Investment Department of the state.

## D Subbarao Unveils the book titled 'Bank With A Soul: Equitas'

- **Duvvuri Subbarao**, Former Governor, RBI released **Dr. C K Garyali's** book, '**Bank with a Soul: Equitas**'.
- **C K Garyali** is a founder trustee of **EDIT (Equitas Development Initiative Trust)**
- The book chronicles the journey of **Equitas and EDIT** in transforming the lives of women with frequent social reform initiatives helping them set up micro-enterprises and pioneering financial inclusivity right from its inception.
- The foreword of the book has been written by **Duvvuri Subbarao**.

## Nasa selects SpaceX for Jupiter moon mission

- **NASA** selected **SpaceX** to launch its probe of **Jupiter's** moon **Europa**, which has liquid oceans that could **harbour life**.

- The **Europa Clipper** mission, scheduled to launch in **October 2024** on a **Falcon Heavy** rocket from the **Kennedy Space Center** in Florida, is worth **\$178 million**.
- **Europa Clipper** will conduct a detailed survey of the icy **Jupiter moon Europa** and use a **sophisticated** suite of science instruments to investigate whether the moon has conditions suitable for life.

## RBI to introduce digital currency in phased manner

- The **RBI** is considering a **“phased introduction”** of a **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)**.
- It was announced by Deputy Governor **T. Rabi Sankar**.
- It will need legal changes to be made in the nation’s foreign exchange rules and information-technology laws.
- A **CBDC** is a legal tender that would be issued by the central bank in a digital form.
- It is **exchangeable** one-to-one with fiat currency and it would appear as a liability on a **central bank’s** balance sheet.

## Priya Malik wins Gold at 2021 World Cadet Wrestling Championship

- Indian junior wrestler **Priya Malik** has won **Gold Medal at the 2021 World Cadet Wrestling Championship** in 73-kg category
- Championship was held in **Budapest, Hungary**
- She defeated **Kseniya Patapovich** by 5-0
- **Cadet World Championship** is a tournament where the best Greco-Roman, Freestyle and Women wrestlers below the age of 17 compete
- Indian team bagged as many as 13 medals, including 5 Golds at the Championship
- Priya had won gold at **Khelo India youth games in Pune in 2019**.

## Kandla becomes first Green SEZ with IGBC Platinum Rating

- **Kandla SEZ (KASEZ)** has been awarded with **IGBC Platinum Rating** and is the **First Green SEZ** to achieve **IGBC Green Cities Platinum Rating for Existing Cities**.
- KASEZ is the oldest export zone in the country and has become the first green industrial city in India to receive a platinum rating in the industrial cities category.
- **KASEZ** has increased to **3.5 lakh trees from 25,000 trees in 2019**.
- Most of these trees have been planted post 2019, using **Miyawaki forestation method**.

## Philippines became first country to approve Golden Rice for planting

- **Philippines** will become the first country in the world to cultivate Golden Rice to help reduce childhood malnutrition
- Golden Rice was developed by **Dept of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute (DA-PhilRice)** in partnership with **International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)** to contain additional levels of beta-carotene, which the body converts into vitamin A.
- It is genetically engineered to provide up to 50% of EAR for vitamin A of young children.

## Indian Naval Ship Talwar to participate in Exercise Cutlass Express 2021

- Indian Naval Ship **Talwar** is participating in annual maritime exercise titled as **Exercise Cutlass Express 2021**, which is being conducted from 26 July to 6 August 2021 along the **East Coast of Africa**.
- 2021 edition includes **12 Eastern African countries, US, UK, India** and **international organisations** like International Maritime Organisation, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Interpol, European Union Naval Force, Critical Maritime Routes Indian Ocean and EUCAP Somalia.

## I-STEM Phase II project launched

- **I-STEM project** has entered 2nd phase and accorded extension for **5 years**, until **2026**
- **Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM):**
  - It is a national web portal for sharing R&D facilities
  - Launched: **January 2020**
  - It is an initiative of Principal Scientific Adviser office under **PM Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) mission**.
- Under Phase II, it will host indigenous technology products listed through digital catalogue

## Web based portal pmcaresforchildren.in launched

- **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has launched web based portal named '**pmcaresforchildren.in**' to facilitate submission of applications, identification of children eligible to receive support under '**PM CARES for Children**' scheme.
- This portal will be regularly updated with necessary information.
- **PM CARES for Children scheme:** It was announced for supporting children who have lost both parents or surviving parent or legal guardian or adoptive parents due to COVID-19

## Govt to set up Centre for Bio-Resources & Sustainable Development

- **Ministry of Science and Technology** will set up **Centre for Bio-Resources and Sustainable Development** as a Centre of Excellence in the Northeast
- It was sanctioned by **Dept of Biotechnology**
- Location of the project: **Kimin, Papum Pare in Arunachal Pradesh**.
- It will facilitate the region to use organic food potential and help in exploring many vast areas and to find less-known new species
- It will improve the cultural, social and economic status of the people of North Eastern

## WCD Minister Smriti Zubin Irani to launch 24/7 helpline number

- WCD Minister, **Smriti Zubin Irani** will be launching **24/7 helpline number for women affected by violence**.
- **Aim:** To provide round the clock emergency and non-emergency complaints and counselling services to women affected by violence
- This helpline will link women's with appropriate authorities such as **police, hospitals, District Legal Service Authority, psychological services** through a single uniform number
- It will be **functional round-the-clock** to facilitate help to women.

## India placed among 10 Agricultural Produce Exporters of 2019: WTO Report

- **India** has been placed among the top 10 list of the countries exporting agricultural produce in 2019, according to **World Trade Organisation (WTO) report** on trends in world agricultural trade in recent 25 years.
- Last such WTO report was released in **1995**, in which India was not in top 10.
- India has outclassed **New Zealand** to be ranked at 9th spot.
- Top Three Nations in the List: **European Union (EU), US and Brazil**.

## Govt to set-up Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming

- Govt has decided to set up **National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics** for creating a world-class talent pool in India to cater to the Indian as well as global industry.
- It will be set up in collaboration with **IIT, Bombay**.
- **Satyajit Ray Film** and Television Institute and Film and Television Institute of India run courses on Animation and VFX to support skilled manpower in the animation and **VFX sector**

## Veteran actress Jayanthi passes away in Bengaluru

- Well-known southern actor **Jayanthi (76 years)** passed away due to age related ailments in **Bengaluru**
- She started her acting career in **1963** and had starred in over 500 films that span across five languages including **Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam** and **Hindi**.
- She was fondly known as **Abhinaya Sharadhe (Goddess of acting)** in Kannada industry.
- Awards: **Karnataka State Film Awards** and **Filmfare Awards**
- **Films:** Jenu Goodu, Chandavalliya Thota, Padagoti, Mugaraasi, Kanna Nalama

## Marathi Poet Satish Kalsekar passes away in Maharashtra

- Bangladesh's legendary folk and pop singer **Fakir Alamgir (71 years)** passed away due to complications from COVID-19
- After the **Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971**, he emerged as a Gono Sangeet singer
- He was a key member of cultural organisations '**Kranti Shilpi Gosthi**' and '**Gana Shilpi Gosthi**' and played an important role during Bangladesh's 1969 uprising.
- He joined the '**Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra**'
- He also founded the cultural organization '**Wrishiz Shilpi Gosthi**' in **1976**

## Basavaraj Bommai elected as 23rd Chief Minister of Karnataka

- **Basavaraj S Bommai (61 years)** has been unanimously elected as the **new Chief Minister of Karnataka**.
- He will succeed **BS Yediyurappa**, who resigned on July 26, 2021.
- Prior to this, he was the **Home Minister in the BSY government**.
- He is a 3-time member of Karnataka Legislative Assembly from Shiggaon since 2008.
- He was a member of Karnataka Legislative Council between 1998 and 2008.
- He previously served as **Minister for Water Resources and Cooperation** between **2008 to 2013**.

## Dholavira inscribed as India's 40th UNESCO World Heritage Site

- **Dholavira**, Harappan City in Gujarat's Rann of Kutch has been inscribed as **40th UNESCO World Heritage Site of India** with effect from July 27, 2021.
- The historic of 'Dholavira' was on the **UNESCO's tentative list since 2014**.
- **Dholavira**: a Harappan city' is one of the very few well preserved urban settlements in South Asia dating from the 3rd to mid-2nd millennium BCE.
- With this, India has entered the Super-40 club for World Heritage Site inscriptions.

## Indo-Russia Joint Military Drill 'Exercise INDRA 2021'

- Indo-Russia Joint Military Drill '**Exercise INDRA 2021**' is to be held in August 2021 at **Volgograd, Russia**
- It is the **12th Edition of Indo-Russia joint military exercise** that will be held from 1 to 13 August 2021.
- 250 personnel from both the nations will form part of this exercise that will involve conduct of counter terror operations against **international terror groups, under UN mandate**.
- It will strengthen mutual confidence and interoperability between both armies.

## World Hepatitis Day: 28 July

- **World Hepatitis Day** is observed every year on **28 July** to raise global awareness of the burden of viral hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver that causes a range of health problems, including liver cancer.
- 28 July was chosen for World Hepatitis Day as it is the **birthday of Nobel-prize winning scientist Dr Baruch Blumberg**, who discovered hepatitis B virus (HBV).
- Theme of World Hepatitis Day 2021: '**Hepatitis Can't Wait**'.

## Japan's Yuto Horigome wins Olympics' First Gold for Skateboarding

- **Yuto Horigome** (22 years) of Japan has won the **first ever skateboarding competition at the Tokyo Olympic Games**.
- He scored 37.18 points to win the first ever Olympic Gold medal for skateboarding in the men's street skating competition, held at Ariake Urban Sports Center, Tokyo
- **Kelvin Hoefler of Brazil** won silver and **Jagger Eaton of United States** clinched the bronze.
- **Skateboarding's** inclusion into the Olympics marks a turning point for the sport, that was originated in US

## Puri becomes India's first city to provide quality drinking tap water

- **Puri (Odisha)** became **first Indian city where people can avail high quality drinking water directly** from the tap on 24-hour
- Due to this, people will need not have to store or filter drinking water.
- No metropolitan city in India has such facility till now.
- Similar facilities are available only in cities like **London, New York** and **Singapore**.
- Puri would no more be burdened with 400 metric tonne of plastic waste. Water fountains have been developed at 400 locations in Puri.

## ISRO gears to launch its Merchandise Programme

- **ISRO** has come up with the **customised-themed merchandise programme** in partnership with multiple companies to create awareness and kindling interest of students, children and the public in the domain of space and technology
- So far, eight companies have registered with ISRO on a non-exclusive basis with registration fee regarding customised ISRO-theme-based articles/models and it includes **Indic Inspirations (Pune)**, **1947IND (Bengaluru)** and **Ankur Hobby Centre (Ahmedabad)**.

## Carissa Moore becomes Olympic women's surf champion

- U. S. surfer Carissa Moore is the **first woman to ever win a Gold medal at the Olympics women's surf champion**.
- She defeated **Bianca Buitendag of South Africa** and registered a score of 14.93.
- Italo Ferreira of Brazil has defeated Kanoa Igarashi of Japan with massive lead in men's surfing event and secured gold medal
- Surfing made its Olympic debut during three days of competition at **Tsurigasaki Beach**, in Chiba province, 40 miles from Tokyo.

## World Nature Conservation Day: 28th July

- **World Nature Conservation Day** is observed on **July 28** every year to raise awareness to protect **Mother Earth**.
- **Aim:** To conserve the animals and trees that are on the verge of going extinct from the natural environment of the Earth.
- **Conservation** is the principle of resource use, allocation, and protection of the health of the natural world, which is important for both **renewable** and **non-renewable energy**.

## Central & South Asia connectivity conference 2021 held

- **Uzbekistan** hosted high-level International Conference titled as '**Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity. Challenges and Opportunities**' at Tashkent.
- The conference was an initiative of the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev.
- Delegates from over 40 countries and about 30 international organizations, and heads of think tanks participated in the conference.
- Minister of External Affairs of India Dr. **S. Jaishankar** also participated in the conference.

## Sunseap to build world's largest floating solar farm in Indonesia

- **Sunseap Group in Singapore** has planned to spend \$2 billion for building the world's largest floating solar farm and the energy storage system in **Duriangkang Reservoir, Batam Island, Indonesian**.
- It will double **renewable power generation capacity of Indonesia**.
- It will be the largest solar floating farm in the world, spanning around 1,600 hectares
- Construction of the ambitious project is due to begin in 2022 and is planned for completion in 2024.

## International Tiger Day: 29th July

- **International Tiger Day (Global Tiger Day)** is observed every year on **July 29** to raise awareness for tiger conservation
- The day was introduced in **2010** at the **Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia** to put in place a global system for protecting the natural habitats of tigers
- During the Summit, 13 tiger range countries came together to create **Tx2** to double the wild tigers by 2022.

- Theme/Slogan for 2021 International Tiger Day celebration: **Their Survival is in our hands**

## Brazil garden Sitio Burle Marx receives UNESCO World Heritage status

- Landscape garden in Brazil's Rio de Janeiro, **Sitio Burle Marx site** has been added to **UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites**
- The garden features more than **3,500 species of plants native to Rio** and is considered a laboratory for botanical and landscape experimentation
- It has been named after **Burle Marx**, Brazilian landscape architect whose designs of parks and gardens made him world-famous
- It is the 23rd Brazilian location recognized on UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites

## Indore selected for International Clean Air Catalyst Programme

- **Indore (Madhya Pradesh)** or the cleanest city of India has become the **only city from India to be selected for International Clean Air Catalyst Programme**
- Tenure: **5 Years**
- **Aim:** to purify the air in the city with the cooperation of Indore Municipal Corporation and Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board.
- Clean Air Catalyst: Flagship programme launched by **US Agency for International Development (USAID)** and led by **World Resources Institute** and **Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)**

## Arjuna Award-winning Badminton Legend Nandu Natekar passes away

- Legendary Indian badminton player **Nandu Natekar (88 years)** passed away in Pune due to age-related ailments.
- He won over 100 national and international titles for India in his career spanning 15 years.
- He was the **recipient of first Arjuna Award, instituted in 1961.**
- He won the **Men's Singles title in the Selangor International Tournament in Kuala Lumpur** to win the first international title by an Indian badminton player in 1956.

## Amit Shah inaugurates Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme in Meghalaya

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** along with Meghalaya CM **Conrad K. Sangma** has inaugurated **Greater Sohra Water Supply Scheme** at Sohra in Meghalaya
- Sohra is also known as **Cherrapunji.**
- Under this, pure drinking water will be provided through taps to Sohra Town and 12 other habitations close to Sohra in East Khasi Hills.
- For this, govt will tap the stream sources of **Wah Lyngksiar waterfall** and **Law Sanlait spring.**
- Apart from this, he also launched '**Sohra Afforestation Project**'

## Madhya Pradesh announces Ayush scheme named 'Devaranya Yojana'

- **Madhya Pradesh Govt** has prepared Ayush-based economic up-gradation scheme named as **Devaranya Yojana** to bring together AYUSH and tourism to boost employment opportunities in tribal areas.
- This scheme is launched for **maximizing Ayurveda benefits in the scheduled tribal areas, increasing employment and livelihood opportunities in tribal-dominated areas.**
- Under this, medicinal and aromatic plants will be cultivated in the tribal-dominated areas, and industries.

## Assam CM lays foundation stone of Bamboo Industrial Park in Dima Hasao

- Assam Chief Minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma** has laid the foundation stone of the first-ever **Bamboo Industrial Park of the Northeast** at Manderdisa in Dima Hasao, Assam
- Bamboo Industrial project will be implemented by **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region** at an estimated cost at **Rs. 50 crores**, over an area covering **75 hectares**.
- Once completed, it will contribute to the overall economic development of the State apart from developing the bamboo-based industries.

## Parliament passes Juvenile Justice Amendment Bill 2021

- Parliament has passed **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill 2021** to amend the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015**.
- The amendments include:
  - Authorizing District Magistrate including Additional District Magistrate to issue adoption orders to ensure speedy disposal of cases and accountability.
  - Defining eligibility parameters for Child Welfare Committee members and categorizing undefined offences as serious offences

## China's Yang Qian & Yang Haoran win gold in 1st mixed team 10m air rifle

- People's Republic of China team comprising **Yang Qian** and **Yang Haoran** have won gold in the **first mixed team 10m air rifle final**, after defeating **USA's Mary Tucker and Lucas Kozeniesky** at Tokyo Olympics.
- This is the second gold for Yang Qian, who won the first gold of Tokyo Olympics in the women's individual event
- The teams were locked at 9-9 after 10 series, but the Chinese pulled away outscoring the Americans in three straight series and four of the last five.

## ODF Plus Manuals under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase 2 released

- Jal Shakti Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** has released **ODF Plus Manuals** under **Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase 2** in New Delhi
- Manuals pertain to key components of ODF Plus like **Grey Water Management, Plastic Waste Management, Faecal Sludge Management** and **Biodegradable Waste Management**
- It has been developed by **Dept of Drinking Water and Sanitation**
- Phase 2 of Swachh Bharat mission was launched last year, for sustainability and Solid and Liquid Waste Management

## Govt proposes to set up NRF to strengthen the research ecosystem

- Govt has proposes to set up a **National Research Foundation (NRF)** to strengthen the research ecosystem in India
- NRF is being envisaged as an umbrella structure that will improve linkages between Research and Development, academia, and industry.
- **Total proposed outlay of NRF:** Rs 50,000 crore for 5 years.
- **Aim:** To seed, grow and facilitate research at academic institutions, particularly at universities and colleges, where research capacity is currently in a nascent stage.

## Clarisse Agbegnenou of France wins gold medal in Women's judo

- **Clarisse Agbegnenou (28 years)** of France has won Gold medal in 63kg category in women's judo in Toyko Olympics Games, defeating Slovenian Tina Trstenjak.
- She is one of the greatest champions in the history of judo and defeated the reigning Olympic title holder
- **Italy's Maria Centracchio and Catherine Beauchemin-Pinard of Canada** were awarded bronze medals.

## Satpura Tiger Reserve wins NatWest Group Earth Heroes Award

- **Satpura Tiger Reserve** of Madhya Pradesh has received '**Natwest Group Earth Heroes Award**' in the Earth Guardian category for best management
- **About Satpura Tiger Reserve:**
  - It is in Hoshangabad district and is spread over an area of 2130 square km.
  - It is part of **Deccan Bio-Geographic Region**
  - It is the oldest forest wealth of the country with 26 species of Himalayan region and 42 species of Nilgiri
  - It is also named as the Northern Ghats with 17% of India's tiger population

## Polina Guryeva secures first-ever Olympics medal for Turkmenistan

- Weightlifter **Polina Guryeva (21 years)** has secured **first Olympic medal for Turkmenistan since independence** from the Soviet Union.
- She won silver medal for the Central Asian nation at the Tokyo Games.
- She lifted a total **217 kilograms in the 59-kilogram category**, edging Mikiko Andoh of Japan for second place.
- **Kuo Hsing-Chun of Taiwan** has won gold by lifting 236kg in weightlifting.
- **Turkmenistan** is a country in **Central Asia** with **Ashgabat** as capital.

## India's 14 Tiger Reserves get Global CA/TS recognition

- Fourteen out of India's 51 tiger reserves have received '**Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CATS)**' accreditation for meeting a set of standards for effective conservation of big cats
- **CATS:** Globally accepted conservation tool that sets best practices and standards to manage tigers and assessments to benchmark progress. It is being implemented across 125 sites, including 94 in India.
- Implementation partner for CATS assessment in India: **GTF, WWF India, NTCA.**

## PM Modi launches SAFAL Assessment Framework for CBSE Students

- PM Modi has launched '**SAFAL initiative**' for **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** on the first anniversary of National Education Policy (NEP)
- **SAFAL** stands for **Structured Assessment For Analysing Learning**.
- SAFAL is a competency-based assessment programme for grades 3, 5 and 8 introduced by CBSE to assess the progress of foundational skills and basic learning outcomes
- It will be conducted on pilot basis in CBSE schools during the academic year 2021-22.

## Prakash Javadekar inaugurates India's longest high-speed track

- Former Union Minister **Prakash Javadekar** has inaugurated **India's longest high-speed track in Pithampur, Indore**
- It is spread over **1,000 acres** and has been developed by **National Automotive Test Tracks (Natrax)**.
- It will be world's fifth-longest high-speed track and is 11.3 kilometres long and 16 metres wide.
- This four-lane high-speed testing track is oval in shape.
- It can handle a maximum speed of **375 kmph** on the curves and has been intended for neutral speeds of **250 kmph**.

## Karnataka becomes first State to provide 1% reservation for Transgender

- **Karnataka** has become 1st Indian state to provide **1% horizontal reservation in public employment for transgender persons**.
- For this, govt has amended '**Karnataka Civil Services (General Recruitment) Rules, 1977**'.
- This amendment is made to **Rule 9** by inserting Sub Rule (1D) to provide for 1% of vacancies which needs to be filled in any service or post by the state government from among the transgender candidates in each category (SC, ST and OBC)

## WHO releases report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic 2021

- **WHO** has released report on the **Global Tobacco Epidemic 2021** showing the progress made by countries in tobacco control since 2008
- It presents data on electronic nicotine delivery systems, such as 'e-cigarettes' for the first time.
- More than 5.3 billion people with 69% of the world's population are covered by at least one MPOWER policy measure at the highest level.
- WHO's Headquarters: **Geneva, Switzerland**.

## RBI imposes Rs 5 crore penalty on Axis Bank for non-compliance of rules

- **RBI** has imposed **monetary penalty of Rs 5 crore on Axis Bank** for non-compliance with certain provisions of the norms of central bank.
- Penalty has been imposed for contravention of certain provisions of directions issued on '**Strengthening Controls of Payment Ecosystem between Sponsor Banks and SCBs/UCBs as a Corporate Customer, Cyber Security Framework in Banks, RBI (Financial Services provided by Banks) Directions 2016 Financial Inclusion**

- AXIS Bank CEO: **Amitabh Chaudhry**

## Alphabet launches new Robotics Software company 'Intrinsic'

- Google's parent company, **Alphabet** has announced to launch a new company, known as **Intrinsic**, which will focus on building industrial robots software.
- It will focus on releasing new robotic software and projects related to artificial intelligence that will develop delivery drones, self-driving cars.
- The motive is to add flexibility to smaller businesses performing USB connection task
- It will help the manufacturing industry to ensure that user's demands are kept in mind.

## Vaidehi Dongre from Michigan crowned Miss India USA 2021

- **Vaidehi Dongre** from Michigan, has been crowned as the **Miss India USA 2021**.
- **Arshi Lalani from Georgia** was declared the first runner-up of the beauty pageant while **Mira Kasari from North Carolina** was the second runner-up.
- She also won the '**Miss Talented**' title when she gave a flawless performance of Indian classical dance form Kathak.
- Miss India USA was started by **New York-based Indian Americans Dharmatma and Neelam Saran** under Worldwide Pageants

## Geo-imaging satellite "EOS-03" is scheduled for launch in 2021

- **ISRO** is scheduled to launch geo-imaging satellite for earth observation '**EOS-03**' in the third quarter of 2021.
- The satellite will enable near real-time monitoring of natural disasters like floods and cyclones.
- In addition to **natural disasters**, it will also **enable monitoring of water bodies, crops, vegetation condition, forest cover changes**.
- It is capable of imaging the whole country four-five times daily.

## JP Nadda launches National Health Volunteers Campaign

- BJP National President **JP Nadda** has launched **National Health Volunteers Campaign** from BJP Headquarters in New Delhi.
- Under this campaign, around **4 lakh volunteers** will be trained who would work on grassroots level on COVID for around **2 lakh villages**.
- Training of the workers should not only be structural but the volunteer should also have a feeling of service
- It will become the **world's largest health program**.

## Guido Bellido named as new Prime Minister of Peru

- The newly sworn-in President of Peru, **Pedro Castillo** had appointed **Guido Bellido**, as the new prime minister of the country.
- Mr Bellido is a member of the Marxist-Leninist Free Peru party, with which Castillo won the presidency.
- Bellido's swearing-in was held in the **Southern Andean city** of Ayacucho.
- Peru is the **world's No. 2 copper** producer.
- Capital: Lima

## PM Modi addressed IPS probationers at SVPNPA

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed and interacted virtually with the **IPS probationers** at **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA)** in **Hyderabad**.
- Mr Modi asked them to keep national interest in mind while taking any decision at the ground level and remember the Mantra of '**Nation First-Always First**'.
- The **Indian Police Service (IPS)** is a civil service under the All India Services.
- Minister Responsible: **Amit Shah** (Home Minister)

## World Ranger Day: 31st July

- **World Ranger Day** is celebrated every year on **31st July** to commemorate the Rangers killed or injured while on duty and to celebrate the work that Rangers do to protect the world's natural and cultural heritage.
- It was on this day in 1992 that **International Ranger Federation (IRF)** was founded.
- A Ranger is a person tasked with preserving and protecting parklands and natural protected areas. A Ranger typically refers to a forest ranger or a park ranger.

## Rajasthan Government launches 'Mission Niriyatak Bano'

- The **Rajasthan government's** industries department and the **Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO)** launched the '**Mission Niriyatak Bano**' campaign to promote aspiring exporters in the state.
- The campaign will cover assistance of **local traders** from training, securing necessary documentation, registration in **Rajasthan Export Promotion Council** and even support in exports and trade operations.
- Governor: **Kalraj Mishra**
- Capital: **Jaipur**

## First Goods train on Haldibari-Chilahati route leaving for Bangladesh

- The first goods train to carry stone chips to Bangladesh through the revived Haldibari -Chilahati rail link left from **Damdin station** of **Alipurduar Division** in North Frontier Railway.
- This route will provide a shorter route for the transit of goods into Bangladesh from Assam, West Bengal, Nepal and Bhutan.
- At present, **five rail routes** connect Bangladesh and India namely Petrapole-Benapole, Gede-Darshana, Singhabad-Rohanpur, Radhikapur-Birol and Haldibari-Chilahati.

## Shri Hardeep Singh Puri launches DSF Bid Round-III

- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs **Hardeep Singh Puri** has launched the **Discovered Small Field (DSF)** Bid Round-III.
- Under the bid round, **75 discoveries** across 32 Contract areas in 11 basins/locations are being offered.
- Estimated Hydrocarbon in place of approximately **232 MMTOE** of oil and oil equivalent gas are on offer.
- In the earlier two rounds, 54 contracts were awarded to **27 companies** including 12 new entrants.

## Bhoot Jolokia chillies exported to London

- Bhut Jolokia, one of the **hottest chillies** in the world, was exported from Nagaland to London for the first time.
- India sent a 250kg consignment of Bhut Jolokia to London, UK.
- It is a hybrid of Capsicum Chinese and Capsicum frutescens and is closely related to the Naga Morich.
- Bhut Jolokia got its GI certification in 2008.

## Tokyo Olympics: PV Sindhu loses against Tai Tzu-Ying

- **PV Sindhu** has lost her semi-final clash against China's Taipei Tai Tzu-Ying at the ongoing Tokyo Olympics.
- **Tai** defeated Sindhu 21-18 and 21-12 to enter the final.
- Now, Sindhu will face China's He Bingjiao in the Bronze medal match tomorrow.

## Former England seamer Mike Hendrick passes away

- Former England and Derbyshire fast bowler **Mike Hendrick** (72-years) has passed away.
- Mike Hendrick made his debut for England in 1973 against West Indies while his last match in international cricket came in 1981.

## Graphic artist Anand Radhakrishnan wins prestigious Eisner award

- Mumbai-based graphic artist **Anand Radhakrishnan** (32-years) has won the prestigious **Will Eisner Award** for his work on Ram V's authored novel- Blue In Green.
- Anand shared the award with another UK-based colourist **John Pearson**.
- He won the prestigious Eisner award for Best Painter/Multimedia Artist (interior art).
- The graphics novel was published in October 2020 by Image Comics.