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**National**

**Govt launches AI-based ASEEM digital platform**
- The Ministry of Skilled Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) on July 10 launched Aatamanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM) digital portal which will help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- The step will improve the information flow and will bridge the demand-supply gap in the skilled workforce market. The Artificial Intelligence (AI) based system apart from recruiting the skilled workforce will also help in exploring job opportunities.
- ASEEM is developed and managed by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in collaboration with the Bangalore based company, Betterplace which specializes in blue-collar employee management.

**Asia’s Largest and World’s Second Largest Data Centre Inaugurated In Mumbai**
- Union Minister for Communications, Electronics and IT, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad and Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray jointly inaugurated the second-largest Tier IV data centre of the world in Mumbai.
- The world-class ‘Yotta NM1 data centre’ building has been set up at Mumbai’s Panvel data center park, to cater to the needs of engineering and real estate businesses.
- It is the largest of its kind data centre in India and Asia, as well as the second largest in the world. The Yotta NM1 facility has been developed and owned by the Hiranandani Group through its fully owned subsidiary, the Yotta Infrastructure Group. The Yotta NM1 offers 7200 racks and 50MW of power with 48 hour backup.

**Banking and Economy**

**India’s GDP to contract by 3% in FY21: BofA**
- The US brokerage firm BofA Securities has projected the India’s GDP to contract by 3 percent in FY21 because of the C-19 C-19, assuming the economy is opened up fully from August 2020.
- The GDP is likely to grow at 9 percent in FY22, expects BofA, the multinational investment bank division under the auspices of Bank of America.

**Summits and Mou’s**

**15th meeting of the India-European Union Summit**
- The 15th meeting of the India-European Union Summit will be held in virtual mode. The summit will deliberate on India-EU cooperation by covering various aspects such as political and security relations, trade and investment and economic cooperation.
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President of European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, and President of European Council Charles Michel will co-chair the 15th meeting of
the India-European Union Summit to be held virtually.

**Science and Technology**

**ISRO to Launch Brazil’s Amazonia-1 Earth Observation Satellite on PSLV**
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch the Amazonia – 1 onboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) as a primary payload by August 2020. Amazonia -1 is Brazil’s first satellite for Earth observation – designed, assembled and tested in Brazil.
- Amazonia – 1 will help in observing and monitoring the deforestation in the region of Amazon through the satellite images.

**Obituary**

**Ivory Coast’s Prime Minister Amadou Gon Coulibaly passes away**
- The incumbent Prime Minister of Ivory Coast, Amadou Gon Coulibaly, passed away on 8th July 2020. He was 61.
- Coulibaly was a candidate for president in a coming election, to be held in October. He took over as the 10th PM of the country in January 2017.

**Legendary musician Charlie Daniels passes away**
- Country Music Hall of Fame musician, Charlie Daniels passed away. He was country music and southern rock icon who entertained fans for decades with songs like “Long-Haired Country Boy,” “In America,” and his signature fiddle tune “The Devil Went Down To Georgia”, who won his only Grammy Award in 1979.
- He was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2016.

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**National**

**UP Cabinet approves State Startup Policy 2020**
- Uttar Pradesh cabinet has approved the UP Startup Policy 2020 with an aim to invite new business ideas in the state. The policy aims to set up 100 incubators in all 75 districts.
- It is expected to generate over 1.5 lakh employment opportunities including around 50,000 direct jobs in the state. The cabinet meeting was chaired by CM Yogi Adityanath.

**Tamil Nadu tops market borrowings among States**
- According to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Tamil Nadu has raised Rs. 30,500 crores in the fiscal 2020-21 and has topped market borrowings among States in the country.
- Tamil Nadu, which has accounted for 17% of the borrowings done through the issue of bonds (known as state development loans), has been followed by Maharashtra Rs. 25,500 crores (14%), Andhra Pradesh Rs. 17,000 crores (9%) and Rajasthan Rs. 17,000 crores (9%).
International

Maldives & Sri Lanka eliminate measles & rubella, ahead of 2023 target
• According to the World Health Organisation's (WHO), South-East Asian Region (SEAR) office, Maldives and Sri Lanka were verified for having eliminated measles and rubella.
• Now, Maldives and Sri Lanka are the first two countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region to achieve measles and rubella elimination ahead of the 2023 target.
• The Maldives reported last endemic case of measles in 2009 and of rubella in October 2015, while Sri Lanka reported last endemic case of measles in May 2016 and of rubella in March 2017.

Banking and Economy

AIIB provides USD 50 mn to L&T Infra Finance for renewable energy
• L&T Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (LTIFCL) has received USD 50 million from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), for funding Renewable Energy projects in the country.
• The loan amount is first tranche of the total USD 100-million ECB (External Commercial Borrowing) loan approved by Beijing-based AIIB.
• The fund will be used for on-lending large and mid-scale wind and solar power infrastructure projects in India. Also, this is the first loan by AIIB to a non-banking financial company (NBFC) in India.

Summits and Mou's

CBDT, SEBI signs MoU for data exchange between the organizations
• Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for data exchange between the two organizations.
• The MoU was signed by Smt. Anu J. Singh, Pr. DGIT (Systems), CBDT, and Smt. Madhabi Puri Buch, Whole Time Member, SEBI in the presence of senior officers from both the organizations via video conference.

BDL signs licence agreement & ToT with DRDO
• Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has signed License Agreement and Transfer of Technology (ToT) with Defence Research and Development Organisation–Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDO–DRDL) for Akash Missile Weapon System (Indian Army Variant).
• Akash Missile is the first medium-range Surface to Air missile produced in India which can engage multiple targets from multiple directions.

Awards

IOC receives EU Green Building Leadership Award 2020
• The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has announced that its new headquarters in Lausanne has been awarded the European 2020 US Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership Award.
• Olympic House, which also holds the rigorous LEED Platinum certification, is one of the
most sustainable buildings in the world.
- The Olympic House is the first international headquarters and the second building overall
to obtain the highest (Platinum) level of the Swiss Sustainable Construction Standard
(SNBS).

Science and Technology

Google Rebrands its Social Networking App Google+ as Google Currents
- Internet search giant Google has officially relaunched its former social networking platform
Google+ as Google Currents on 7th July 2020. The new app is targeted more towards
businesses and enterprise users.
- The company launched Google Plus as a social network platform to compete with the likes
of Facebook. However due to low usage and some security bugs that were recently
discovered, Google+ was shut down in April 2019.
- The latest version of the app is available for download on Android and iOS system.
However, the URL plus.google.com will continue to function and automatically redirect
users to currents.google.com.

Books and Authors

A Book Titled ‘Mahaveer 'The Soldier Who Never Died’
- The book, titled ‘Mahaveer: The Soldier who never died’ is authored by award winning
author A.K. Srikumar and his wife, Rupa Srikumar.
- The book is a patriotic story about the courage and selfless love of Jaswant Singh Rawat
who is one of the legendary Garhwali soldiers fought in Indo-Chinese battle of Nuranang in
1962.
- The book is published by Rupa Publications and represented by The Book Bakers.

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National

India Global Week 2020 to start from 9 July
- PM Narendra Modi will be addressing the audience worldwide on July 9 to mark the start of
India Global Week 2020. The event will be held for three days during July 9 - July 11 with
main focus on Trade and Investment prospects in India.
- The event will be held virtually and is expected to be attended by 5000 people.

Prakash Javadekar Participated in 4th edition of the Ministerial on Climate Action
- The 4th edition of international meeting named “Ministerial on Climate Action (MoCA)” was
held on July 7, 2020, which was co-chaired by European Union (EU), China and Canada.
From India, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar
participated in the meet.
- This meet was held virtually for the first time in view of the ongoing C-19. MoCA is held
annually since 2017.Developed nations’ Target of USD 1m funding by 2020 for developing
nations is not achieved yet.
International

The US formally announced its withdrawal from the World Health Organization

- The United States has formalized to withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO). The actual project of disentangling the U.S. from WHO began on July 6, 2020, with a letter signed by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. It will take one year to go into effect.
- In April, the US stopped funding to WHO as the Trump administration reviewed the ties.

Banking and Economy

Fino Payments Bank launches ‘Bhavishya’ Savings Account for minor children

- Fino Payments Bank Limited (FPBL) has launched a savings bank account ‘Bhavishya’ for minor children aged between 10 and 18 years on 7th July 2020 to make children banking ready from early age and inculcate a savings habit among them.
- Bhavishya is an annual subscription-based savings account, which can be opened with just Rs. 349 (inclusive of GST).
- Initially, the bank is introducing the Bhavishya Savings Account in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh and gradually it will launch in other states.

Summits and Mou’s

Microsoft partners NSDC to provide digital skills

- Microsoft has partnered with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to offer digital skills to India’s youth in the next 12 months.
- This partnership will help in creating a digital skills ecosystem which will prepare India’s workforce for jobs of the future.
- As a part of the partnership, “Microsoft Learn” a learning resource center of Microsoft will be integrated with the eSkill India digital platform and offer access to personalized learning paths and resources that are required in today’s economy and expected to continue to grow in the future. e-skilling events, webinars and virtual sessions would be co-hosted across the country by eSkill India and Microsoft in order to support students, training partners and higher-education trainees enrolled under NSDC’s skill training programs.

Obituary

Veteran bollywood actor Jagdeep passes away

- Veteran Bollywood actor-comedian, Jagdeep passed away. He was born as Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Jafri, the legendary actor was popularly known as Jagdeep, his stage name.
- He was best known for his roles in films such as Sholay, Purana Mandir and Andaz Apna Apna.

Appointments and Resignations

UKIBC appoints Jayant Krishna as Group CEO

- The UK India Business Council (UKIBC) has appointed Jayant Krishna as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the group. Jayant will replace the current Group CEO, Richard Heald.
- Prior to this, Jayant Krishna has served as the CEO of Prime Minister’s Skill India mission as well as the Executive Director & Chief Operating Officer of the National Skill Development
Corporation (NSDC).

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National
Himachal Pradesh becomes first state with LPG connections in all households
- Himachal Pradesh has become the first state where all the households have LPG gas connections. The announcement regarding this was made by HP Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur.
- The gas connections were provided for free to women in the state. Over 1.35 lakh families have been benefitted under Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana in the state.

Banking and Economy
World Bank approves $400 mn for rejuvenation of river Ganga
- The World Bank has signed a loan agreement of $400 million with Government of India to enhance support for the Namami Gange programme. The loan agreement aims to make the Ganga a clean and healthy river.
- The loan amount of $400 million comprises a loan of $381 million and a proposed Guarantee of up to $19 million.
- The new project will aim to stem the pollution levels in the iconic river and work towards strengthening the management of the river basin which is home to more than 500 million people.

Summits and Mou’s
India, Indonesia Coast Guards sign MoU to boost maritime relations
- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Bakamla RI (Indonesian Coast Guard) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on ‘Maritime Safety and Security’ to boost maritime relations.
- India and Indonesia are historically connected through the Indian Ocean and it has been the resolve of both nations to ensure safe and secure sea passage for all seafarers in the region.

Science and Technology
ISRO to release Space policy, Space Activities Bill soon
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman K Sivan announced recently that the space policy and space activities bill are in the final stages. A dedicated space policy was in making for some time now for legislation of space activities.
- The policy was fast-tracked after the government announced major reforms in the space sector, allowing the private sector to use ISRO’s services to carry out space activities such as building rockets and satellites.
- The space policy and the Space Activities Bill will help address legal issues in the space sector. A new navigation policy is also being proposed along with necessary changes in the Remote Sensing Data Policy and SATCOM policy.
Sports

Akash Become India’s 66th Grandmaster

- The 23-year-old G. Akash from Chennai, Tamil Nadu becomes the country’s 66th Grandmaster with rating of 2495. The title was confirmed at the recent meeting of International Chess Federation (FIDE) Council
- M Pranesh, from Chennai, Tamil Nadu and Ameya Audi, from Goa earned International Master Titles.

Ranking

India Ranked 31st in INFORM Risk Index 2020 for Humanitarian crises & C-19s

- In accordance with the “INFORM Report 2020: Shared evidence for managing crises and C-19s” released by research centre INFORM, operating under European Commission (EU), India has ranked at 31st place with an inform risk of 5.4, means risk of humanitarian crises and C-19s.
- The report ranked the countries based on “INFORM Risk Index” which has been topped by Somalia with an inform risk of 8.9.
- The report has analyzed 191 countries. This report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA).

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National

PM Modi to launch Asia's largest Solar Power Plant

- PM Narendra Modi will on July 10, 2020 inaugurate the Asia's largest solar power plant at Rewa district in Madhya Pradesh. PM Modi will dedicate 750 MW plant to the nation through the means of video conferencing.
- The plant is spread over 1,590 acres of land and is one of Asia's largest single-site solar power plant.

India's 1st NPNT compliant Drone flight successfully completed

- India’s First No-Permission No-Takeoff (NPNT) compliant drone flight on the A200 Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) has been completed successfully by Quidich Innovation Labs and Asteria Aerospace.
- This NPNT drone flight is under the Ministry of Civil Aviation MoCA& DGCA comprehensive policy on the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), which came into effect on 1st Dec 2018.
- Quidich, in collaboration with the Drone Federation of India (DFI), has extended its services to Police Departments across multiple states, providing drones for crowd monitoring and surveillance operations.

Odisha Govt launches ‘Balaram Yojana’ to provide crop loan

- Odisha government has launched ‘Balaram Yojana’ to provide crop loans to landless farmers. Under the new scheme, the landless cultivators will get loans through joint liability
This is a first-of-its type scheme in India, targeting landless farmers of the country. The scheme will provide agriculture credit worth Rs 1,040 crore to landless farmers of the state in the next two years.

The scheme has been designed in collaboration with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

**International**

**Jean Castex appointed as Prime Minister of France**
- Jean Castex has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of France. The appointment of Jean Castex as the new French PM was made by the French President Emmanuel Macron.
- He replaced the former French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe who resigned from the post ahead of a government reshuffle.

**Israel launches a new spy satellite**
- Israel’s Defence Ministry announced on July 6, 2020 that it has successfully launched a new spy satellite. The satellite is expected to serve as an additional tool to keep tabs on many threats across the region.
  - The spy satellite, “Ofek 16” will join other Israeli spy satellites that have been launched in the past two decades.
  - The satellites are being used to monitor any threats on the state of Israel, including arch-enemy Iran.

**Banking and Economy**

**SBM Bank India, Mastercard to facilitate cross border transactions, remittances**
- SBM Bank India (promoted by Government of Mauritius) and Mastercard have joined hands to facilitate cross-border payments and remittances services by using ‘Mastercard Send’.
- Mastercard Send is a secured and innovative solution – crafted to modernize domestic and cross-border payments and remittances.
- SBM Bank India is the first bank to receive universal banking licence from the RBI to set up and operate as a scheduled commercial bank through the wholly-owned subsidiary mode.

**Sports**

**Valtteri Bottas wins Austrian Grand Prix 2020**
- Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) has won the Austrian Grand Prix 2020.
  - This was the first race of 2020 Formula One season and was held on 5th July 2020.
  - Charles Leclerc finished second for Ferrari while McLaren’s Lando Norris came third.

**Appointments and Resignations**

**Injeti Srinivas appointed as chairman of IFSCA**
- Injeti Srinivas has been appointed as the Chairman of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA). His appointment is for a period of three years.
- Srinivas is a 1983 batch IAS officer from the Odisha cadre, who has previously served at the Corporate Affairs Ministry. He retired as the Corporate Affairs Secretary on May 31.
The IFSCA was established on April 27 this year. It is a unified body to regulate all financial services in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in the country.

**World Chocolate Day**
- World Chocolate Day (also known as International Chocolate Day) is an annual observance taking place globally on 7th July.
- The day is said to be chosen to celebrate the introduction of chocolate to Europe in 1550.

**Books and Authors**

**Former RBI governor U. Patel pens book ‘Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver’**
- Former RBI Governor, Urjit Patel, has written a book titled ‘Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver’ which focuses on the non-performing assets (NPAs) issue that has afflicted Indian banking in recent years, its causes and Patel’s efforts as the RBI Governor in dealing with it.
- The book is likely to be released on 31 July 2020. It has been published by HarperCollins India.

**Getting Competitive: A Practitioner’s Guide for India” authored by R C Bhargava**
- The Chairman of Maruti Suzuki, RC Bhargava has authored the book “Getting Competitive: A Practitioner’s Guide for India” from his experience as a policymaker and a leading industrialist.
- The book published by HarperCollins India.

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**National**

**Elyments: Vice President launches first Indian social media super app**
- Honorable Vice President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu, launched an indigenous social media app ‘Elyments’ on 5th July 2020, through video conferencing.
- Elyments is a first Made-in-India social media super-app, developed by Bengaluru-based software company, Sumeru Software Solutions Pvt Ltd, in close competition with similar platforms like Facebook, Whatsapp and Instagram.
- India has more than 500 million social media users, but most of these social media platforms are owned by companies outside India, which creates doubt regarding the privacy of data and data ownership.

**Hardeep Singh Puri launched the 6th edition of the annual cleanliness survey of urban India 2021 Swachh Survekshan**
- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Shri Hardeep Singh Puri launched the sixth edition of the annual cleanliness survey of urban India, the toolkit for Swachh Survekshan 2021.
- The survey was conducted by MoHUA.
Maharashtra Government and UKIBC signs MoU

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed virtually on 4th July 2020 between the non-profit organization UKIBC- UK India Business Council and the MIDC-Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation. MIDC is the Maharashtra Government’s premier agency for industrial infrastructure development.
- The MoU will help in strengthening the collaboration of Maharashtra Government with the businesses in the United Kingdom (UK), also it will proactively improve the business environment in the state.

Summits and Mou’s

CBSE tie-up with Facebook to introduce curriculum on digital safety

- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has partnered with social media giant Facebook to launch free and comprehensive training program in virtual mode for teachers and students of its affiliated schools. Schools have to online nominate their teachers and students for the training programs.
- The first phase of the training program is scheduled from August 2020 to November 2020. The registration process for the first phase of the training program will be held from 6th to 20th July 2020.

Science and Technology

Reliance launches unlimited free conferencing app Jio Meet

- Billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries has launched a video conferencing app, Jio Meet, with unlimited free calling facility. It is a close competitor of US-owned Zoom app. The Jio Meet video conferencing app is available to work across Android, iOS, Windows, macOS and web since July 2 after beta testing.
- Jio Meet supports HD audio and video call quality and allows up to 100 participants at a time. It offers features like screen sharing, meeting schedule feature and more.
- Unlike Zoom, it does not impose a 40-minute time limit. Calls can go on for as long as 24 hours, and all meetings are encrypted and password-protected.

Obituary

Hollywood comedy legend Carl Reiner passes away

- Writer, director, actor and comedy legend Carl Reiner passed away of natural causes at an age of 98.
- Reiner was a recipient of nine Emmy awards, five of which were for ‘The Dick Van Dyke Show’.
- Some of his most popular films as a director are ‘Oh God,’ ‘The Jerk,’ and ‘All of Me.’

Appointments and Resignations

GoI extends tenure of Sukhbir Singh Sandhu as NHAI Chairman

- The extension of Sukhbir Singh Sandhu’s tenure as the chairman of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has been approved by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- His tenure has been extended for a period of six months beyond 21st of July 2020 to 21st of
PM Modi launches Atmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 4 launched the ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge’ to help the local developers to create indigenous apps.
- The innovation challenge aims at encouraging tech & startup communities to create world-class Made in India Apps. Under the challenge, innovators are invited to develop apps in eight categories.
- The App innovation challenge has been launched in the combined partnership of the Ministry of Electronics & IT and Atal Innovation Mission-Niti Aayog.

IIT Kanpur develops virtual classroom teaching setup 'Mobile Masterjee'
- A team of engineers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur has developed an innovative classroom-to-home teaching setup titled 'Mobile Masterjee’, to overcome the disruption in normal classroom teaching caused due to C-19,
- The device is targeted at helping the rural schools to overcome the teaching and learning challenges posed by the C-19.
- This virtual classroom system has been designed to record the lectures/instructions by the teachers using smartphones.

Union HRD Minister launches “Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020”
- “Drug Discovery Hackathon” has been launched by the Union Minister for Human Resource Development Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ and Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Science and Technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan.
- The hackathon is a joint initiative of MHRD, AICTE and CSIR, and supported by partners such as CDAC, MyGov, Schrodinger and ChemAxon.

Banking and Economy
ADB becomes “Observer” for Network for Greening the Financial System
- The Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) has been joined by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as an observer.
- ADB has joined the network to fulfill its corporate strategy “the Strategy 2030” goals such as building climate and C-19 resilience, enhancing environmental sustainability, fostering regional cooperation and integration, tackling climate change, and strengthening governance and institutional capacity.
- With this, ADB has joined the ranks of the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, World Bank and the International Finance Corporation as NGFS observers.
Sports
Two-time Olympic badminton champion Lin Dan retires
- Former world number one badminton player and the two-times Olympic badminton champion from China, Lin Dan has announced his retirement from the sport.
- During his 20-year glorious national team career, he won the Olympics singles titles in Beijing in 2008 and the 2012 London Games.

Days
Dhamma Chakra Day
- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated Dhamma Chakra Day 2020 celebrations on 4th July 2020.
- The day is celebrated to mark Buddha’s First Sermon to his first 5 ascetic disciples at the Deer Park, Rsiapatana in the present-day Sarnath near Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- Dhamma Chakra Day is celebrated by Buddhists across the world as the day of Dharma Chakra Parvattana or “Turning of the Wheel of Dharma”.
- It is celebrated by the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture.