

Current Affairs: 21.07.2021

35% of tiger ranges in India are outside protected areas: WWF-UNEP report

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have jointly developed a report titled 'A Future for All – A need for Human-Wildlife Coexistence'.

Key highlights of the report



This new report states that **35 percent of tiger ranges in India** are outside protected areas, leading to frequent human-animal conflict, which in turn affects over 75 percent of the world's wild cat species. The marine and terrestrial protected areas cover 9.67 percent globally. Apart from India's tigers, 40 percent of the African lion range and 70 percent of the African and Asian elephant ranges also fall outside protected areas.

'Common High Court of UT of J&K and Ladakh' renamed as 'High Court of J&K and Ladakh'

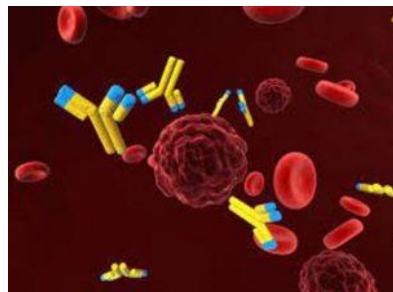


The Ministry of Law and Justice has informed that the name of the 'Common High Court of UT of Jammu and Kashmir and UT of Ladakh' has officially been changed to 'High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh'. To bring this change, President Ram Nath Kovind has signed the **Jammu and**

Kashmir Reorganisation (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2021.

The decision for renaming has been taken because the present nomenclature was rather long-winding and cumbersome. On the other hand, the new nomenclature is quite convenient as well as in consonance with the name pattern followed in other common HCs.

IIT Madras Develops AI-based algorithm to help identify cancer-causing cell alterations



Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** have developed an **Artificial Intelligence-based mathematical model to identify cancer-causing alterations in cells.**

The new algorithm will help to pinpoint genetic alterations responsible for cancer progression, which is difficult using present methodologies. It will make use

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of a relatively unexplored technique of leveraging DNA composition. The model will help in identifying the most appropriate treatment strategy for a patient through an approach known as “precision oncology” and “tailoring treatments” not only to a specific illness but also to a person’s genetic make-up is challenging and requires extensive cataloguing of the ‘driver’ variants of interest.

US, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan agrees to form new quadrilateral grouping



The **United States, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan** have agreed in principle to establish a new quadrilateral diplomatic platform, focused on enhancing regional connectivity. Through this new platform, the parties intend to cooperate to expand trade, build transit links, and strengthen business-to-business ties.

2021 Cannes Film Festival Awards Winners



The **2021 Cannes Film Festival** was the **74th edition of the annual film festival**. It took place from 6 to 17 July 2021 in the south of France. The **Palme d’Or**, which is the highest prize awarded at the Cannes Film Festival, went to **Titane**, directed by Julia Ducournau.

List of Awards

- **Palme d’Or: Julia Ducournau for “Titane” (France)**
- Grand Prix: Shared by Ashgar Farhadi for “A Hero” (Iran) and Juho Kuosmanen for “Compartment No.6” (Finland)
- Best Director: Leos Carax “Annette” (France)
- Best Actress: Renate Reinsve for “Worst Person in the World” (Norway)
- Best Actor: Caleb Landry Jones for “Nitram” (US)
- Best Screenplay: Hamaguchi Ryusuke and Takamasa Oe for “Drive My Car” (Japan)
- Jury prize: Shared by Nadav Lapid for “Ahed’s Knee” (Israel) and Apichatpong Weerasethakul for “Memoria” (Thailand)
- Best first film: Antoneta Kusijanovic for “Murina” (Croatia)
- Best short film: Hong Kong’s “All The Crows In The World” Tang Yi

Bangladesh Nobel Peace Laureate Muhammad Yunus second recipient of Olympic Laurel

Bangladeshi Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus has been chosen to receive the **Olympic Laurel** at the upcoming Tokyo Games on 23 July 2021, becoming the second recipient of the award.

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Professor Yunus will be awarded the prize for “his extensive work in sport for development, including founding the Yunus Sports Hub, a global social business network”. The Olympic Laurel award was created in 2016 to recognise endeavours in culture, education, peace and development through sport and will be awarded at the Opening Ceremony of each Summer Games. It was given for the first time at the 2016 Rio Games to Kenyan former Olympian Kip Keino. Muhammad Yunus is a Bangladeshi social entrepreneur, banker, economist, and civil society leader who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006, for founding the Grameen Bank and pioneering the concepts of microcredit and microfinance.

Two Indian organisations win UNDP Equator Prize 2021

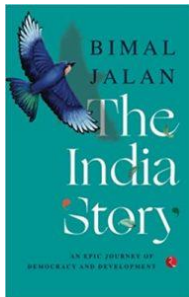


Two communities from India namely **Aadhimalai Pazhangudiyinar Producer Company Limited and Snehakunja Trust**, have won the prestigious **UNDP Equator Prize for 2021**. It is the 12th edition of the award. They are among the **10 awardees** from around the world who have been presented the biennial Equator

Prize for 2021, for their work in the field of conservation and biodiversity.

The **UN Development Programme (UNDP)** gives the Equator Prize to recognize community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The winners received a prize of **US\$10,000**.

Former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan Pen's 'The India Story'



Former RBI governor **Bimal Jalan** has written a new book titled '**The India Story**', which focuses on India's economic history and aims to provide lessons for the future of India's political economy. The book is published by Rupa Publications India, and will be released on 21 July, 2021.

Lewis Hamilton wins British Grand Prix 2021



Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain), won the **British Grand Prix 2021**, for a record-extending eighth time. The event was held on July 18, 2021 at the Silverstone Circuit in the United Kingdom. This is the **99th career win** of seven times world champion Hamilton and the fourth win of the current season after 10 races. Monaco based Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) stood second. Hamilton's team mate Valtteri Bottas from Finland, finished third.

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International Chess Day: 20 July



The **International Chess Day** is celebrated annually on **July 20**, since 1966, to celebrate one of the most ancient and most popular games in history that promotes fairness, equality, mutual respect and understanding among nations.

It was on this day that the International Chess Federation (FIDE) was founded, in 1924. The idea to celebrate the day as the international chess day was proposed by UNESCO.

Science Exploration Day: 20 July



The **Science Exploration Day** (also called Moon Day) is marked every year on **20 July**. It was on this day in 1969 that Neil Armstrong and Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin became the first humans to land on the Moon's surface. Neil Armstrong was the first man to set foot on the moon's surface. The Armstrong-Aldrin duo spent 21.5 hours on the surface of the

moon out of which they spent 2.5 hours outside of their capsules. To commemorate their achievement, the day was declared a holiday in 1984 by the then President of the United States, Ronald Reagan.

Centre extends 'Stand Up India Scheme' up to 2025

The Government of India has extended the duration of '**Stand Up India Scheme**' up to the year **2025**. The scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on **05 April, 2016** to facilitate loans to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and women borrowers, to promote entrepreneurship among them. The scheme offers bank loans to women and SC & ST communities for to encourage them in setting up a green field enterprise, outside of the farm sector, that is in manufacturing, services or trading sector. A total of 1,16,266 loans amounting to Rs. 26204.49 crore has been extended under the Scheme since its inception.

The loan under Stand Up India Scheme are extended by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) between Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 Crore.

IOC to set up first 'green hydrogen' plant at Mathura

State-owned **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)**, India's largest oil firm, will build the first 'green hydrogen' plant of the country at its **Mathura** refinery, to meet the growing demand for both oil and cleaner forms of energy. For this, the company will make use of **250 MW** of electricity which it produces from renewable sources like solar power, to produce absolutely green hydrogen through electrolysis.

Maharashtra set to become first state to issue educational documents using blockchain technology

The Government of **Maharashtra** has decided to issue educational documents to students of educational institutions using **blockchain technology**. With this Maharashtra will become the first state in the country and world's largest user of Blockchain for educational certificates.

Currently only Singapore, Malta and Bahrain are the only other countries using this technology. Each student will receive a **“certificate_LegitDoc.zip”** digital file containing the original PDF diploma certificate and its corresponding blockchain proof file. It can be verified within 10 seconds from anywhere around the world and does not require human intervention.

First-ever elections of Balika Panchayat successfully held at Kunariya village of Gujarat

In **Gujarat**, the **Kunariya village of Kutch district** has formed a first-of-its-kind, **Balika Panchayat**, that will work towards addressing female adolescents' issues, of the girls, by the girls, for the girls! Young females from the village, aged between 10 and 21 years will contest elections for this unique panchayat.

The first-ever elections of this Balika Panchayat was successfully held on July 19, 2021. Balika Panchayat is inspired by the famous TV series, Balika Vadhu, and aims to develop leadership qualities in the girls for Future Panchayat polls.

This initiative is in line with PM Modi's vision of enhancing young women's participation in the political process.

India's economic growth forecast projected at 10% in FY22 and 7.5% in FY23: ADB

The Manila-based **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has downgraded India's economic growth forecast for the financial year 2021-22 (FY22) to 10 percent, in its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) Supplement for July. Earlier this was estimated at 11%. The multilateral funding agency, has lowered the GDP growth forecast on account of the adverse impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Further, ADB has projected the GDP growth rate for FY2022 (2022-23) to 7.5 percent from earlier projection of 7 percent.

Russia successfully test-fires S-500 missile system

Russia successfully test-fired its new **S-500 air defence missile systems**, from a southern training range, Kapustin Yar, on July 20, 2021. It hit a high-speed ballistic target as planned. The **S-500**, also known as **Prometey** or **55R6M “Triumfator-M”**, is a Russian surface-to-air missile/anti-ballistic missile system which is the most advanced anti-missile system in the world and is

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capable of countering attacks from space. The S-500 missile system is under development by the Almaz-Antey Air Defence Concern.

It has a maximum firing range of **600 kilometres**.

Mongolia, Tajikistan and Switzerland inducted as new Associate Members of ICC

The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has inducted **Mongolia, Tajikistan and Switzerland** as its newest member countries on July 18, 2021 at the ICC's 78th Annual General Meeting, which was held virtually. With this, ICC now comprise of total **106 Members including 94 Associates**. The three newly inducted countries are now among ICC's 94 Associate Members

Viswanathan Anand Defeats Vladimir Kramnik to win Sparkassen Trophy

Former World Chess Champion **Viswanathan Anand** defeated Vladimir Kramnik of Russia, to win the **Sparkassen Trophy** at Dortmund in Germany on July 18, 2021. It is a brand new format of four-game chess match. The Chennai Chess maestro Anand needed only a draw in the final of **No-Castling Chess** event and finally settled for a draw in 40 moves, to win the match 2.5-1.5.