

J U L Y 2 0 2 1

**MONTHLY UPDATES ON
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

WILEY

NATIONAL

- © The Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has expanded its council of ministers. The names in the cabinet reshuffle include several new entrants as well as existing ministers who will be reassigned. The swearing-in ceremony of 43 Ministers as held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on July 7, 2021. In total, 15 Ministers were inducted into the Union Cabinet and 28 Ministers were inducted as Ministers of State.



This is the first cabinet reshuffle since the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) retained power in 2019. There were 53 ministers in PM Modi's cabinet but a series of them, including Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, resigned hours before the names were announced. PM Modi will continue to head the following – Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; All important policy issues; and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.

- © President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind** has appointed new Governors for eight states. The new governors have been appointed for states including Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Tripura, Jharkhand, Mizoram and Himachal Pradesh. While some of the current governors have been transferred to new states, in some others new appointments have been made.



Complete list of new governors:

State	New Governor
Karnataka	Thawarchand Gehlot
Madhya Pradesh	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
Mizoram	Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati
Himachal Pradesh	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Goa	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
Tripura	Satyadev Narayan Arya
Jharkhand	Ramesh Bais
Haryana	Bandaru Dattatraya

- © **Kargil Vijay Diwas** is celebrated every year on **July 26** since the year 1999, to mark India's victory over Pakistan in the Kargil conflict. This year nation is celebrating the 22 years of victory in the Kargil war. This war was fought between May-July of 1999 (for 60 days) in the Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir along the Line of Control (LoC) in which India got the victory. On this date in 1999 Pakistan army taking advantage of the melting snow and betraying the bilateral understanding of both the nations (that the post would remain unattended during the winter season) took command of the high outposts of India.
- © A Harappan-era metropolis, **Dholavira** in Gujarat has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Now Gujarat has three world heritage sites, Champaner near Pavagadh, Rani ki Vav in Patan and the historic city of Ahmedabad. Dholavira is now the 40th treasure in India to be given. The ongoing 44th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO has already given India a new world heritage site in the form of the Rudreswara/ Ramappa Temple in Telangana, which dates back to the 13th century. This session of the World Heritage Committee is being chaired from Fuzhou in China.

- © From India, 14 tiger reserves have received the accreditation of the **Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS)**, on the occasion of **International Tiger Day** on July 29, 2021. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) recognized the 'BaghRakshaks' for their efforts in protecting Tigers and forests. The NTCA's quarterly newsletter STRIPES was also released during the event.

The 14 tiger reserves of India that have received prestigious global accreditation from CA|TS are:

- Mudumalai and Anamalai Tiger Reserves, Tamil Nadu
 - Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka
 - Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Kerala
 - Sunderbans Tiger Reserve, West Bengal
 - Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Uttar Pradesh
 - Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar
 - Pench Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra
 - Satpura, Kanha and Panna Tiger Reserves, Madhya Pradesh
- ⊙ The annual UN-FAO report titled **The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021** states that between 720 and 811 million people in the world faced hunger in 2020, which is around 161 million more than in 2019. The report was jointly produced by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

ECONOMY

- ⊙ **Reserve Bank of India (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 oldest commercial bank in the country, **State Bank of India (SBI)** is celebrating its 66th year on July 1. SBI descends from the Bank of Calcutta founded in 1806 through the Imperial Bank of India.
- ⊙ **ICICI Bank** has launched India's most comprehensive banking solutions for medical doctors. Titled as **Salute Doctors**, the solution offers customized banking as well as value-added services for every doctor, beginning from a medical student to a senior medical consultant to an owner of a hospital or a clinic.
- ⊙ HDFC Bank launched a **SalaamDilSe** initiative to show gratitude to doctors for their tireless service during the pandemic, to pay tribute to doctors across the country. SalaamDilSe encourages

one and all to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution of doctors and provides a platform to show their gratitude to doctors, who are bravely fighting the pandemic, at the risk of their own lives.

- ⊙ **Axis Bank** has inked a multi-year deal with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to power the digital transformation programme of the country's third largest private sector bank. As part of the agreement, Axis Bank with help of AWS will build a portfolio of new digital financial services to bring advanced banking experiences to customers, including online accounts that can be opened in 6 min & instant digital payment. This will help the bank increase customer satisfaction by 35 per cent and lower costs by 24 per cent.
- ⊙ The Reserve Bank of India imposed a penalty of ₹25 lakh on Punjab and Sind Bank for noncompliance with certain provisions of directions on **Cyber Security Framework** in Banks.
- ⊙ **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** has become the second most-valued listed public sector bank (PSB) with a market capitalisation of over ₹50,000 crore. As Street discounts privatisation of the state-owned lender, its shares have appreciated nearly 80 per cent on the BSE in the past one month. IOB stood with an m-cap of ₹51,887 crore, pushing PNB (₹46,411 crore) and BOB (₹44,112 crore) to third and fourth position, respectively, as per data available on BSE.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- ⊙ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has given its nod to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education to provide technical assistance for satellite TV classrooms in the country to bridge the learning gap due to COVID induced lockdown. ISRO scientists have appeared before the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Education and made a detailed presentation about the proposed satellite TV classroom for students.
- ⊙ India-origin woman **Sirisha Bandla** will travel to the edge of the space aboard 'VSS Unity' of Virgin Galactic, which is scheduled to fly off on July 11 from New Mexico.



This is significant as she will be the third woman of Indian origin to go to space after Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams.

- © Hyderabad-based pharma player **Laurus Labs** has received a licence from the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) for manufacturing and marketing Covid-19 drug 2- Deoxy-D-Glucose (2-DG) in India. The licence to Laurus Labs has been granted by DRDO as part of efforts to make the drug affordable and accessible to patients.
- © **Google Cloud** has announced the launch of its new Cloud Region in Delhi NCR, for customers and the public sector in India and across the Asia Pacific. With the new region, the customers operating in the country will benefit from lower latency and higher performance of their cloud-based workloads and data.
- © Billionaire **Jeff Bezos** has made a short journey to space, in the first crewed flight of his rocket ship, New Shepard. He was accompanied by Mark Bezos, his brother, Wally Funk, an 82-year-old 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. On this flight was the oldest person who has been to space, Wally Funk and the youngest, student Oliver Daemen.

SPORTS

- © England Left-arm spinner **Sophie Ecclestone** has been named as ICC Women Player of the Month for June. She is the second English female to win the title after **Tammy Beaumont**, who was awarded the title in February 2021.



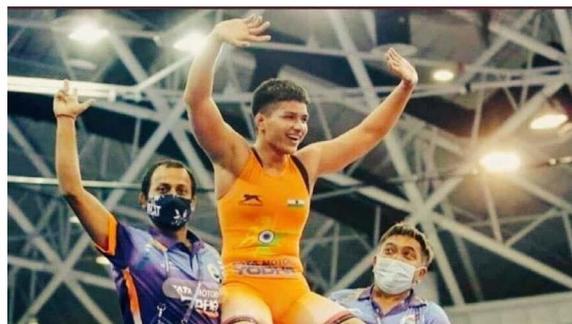
In Men's category, New Zealand opener **Devon Conway** has bagged ICC Player of the Month for June. He became the first New Zealand player to win the award after an astounding first month in Test cricket.

- © Delhi youngster **Vantika Agarwal** has won the National women online chess title. From 11 rounds she scored 9.5 points.



With 9 points **Arpita Mukherjee** of West Bengal took the second spot. Tamil Nadu's **Sreeja Seshadri** with 8.5 points took the third spot in this competition. Maharashtra's **Soumya Swaminathan** and Tamil Nadu's **R Vaishali** of finished fourth and fifth respectively.

- © **Priya Malik** of India has won the gold medal in wrestling at the World Cadet Wrestling Championships which was being held in Hungary.



She won the medal in the women's 73 kg weight category. She defeated **Kseniya Patapovich** of Hungary to clinch the gold medal in the final of the women's 73 kg category. In the Khelo India games held in Pune in the year 2019, she had also won the gold medal and then later she went on to win the gold medal at the 17th School Games which was held in Delhi.

- ⊙ 13 years old Japanese skateboarder **Momiji Nishiya** won the gold medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.



She became one of the youngest gold medalists ever at the Olympic Games. Nishiya won the gold on 26th July, 2021 in the women's street competition which debuted for the first time in Tokyo 2020 Olympics. **Yuto Horigome** of Japan won the men's competition on 25th July, 2021. This makes Japan the gold medal holder in both the categories.

- ⊙ Four new sports have been introduced in the Tokyo Olympics. These are karate, skateboarding, surfing and sport climbing.
 - **Karate** is a martial art which has been a candidate for Olympic inclusion but the organizers never agreed to accept this sport until the Tokyo Games presented the perfect opportunity to showcase this sport from its homeland.
 - **Skateboard's** debut was done by the organizers to attract the young audiences. The audiences will be able to see high-flying stunts and tricks. The competitors are between 12 to 47 years.

- Since the year 1995, the **International Surfing Association** has been lobbying for the inclusion of this sport, and it makes a debut in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
- In recent years **climbing** has reached new heights and hence it makes its debut in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic. In the lead discipline, Climbers scale a 15-meter wall which is filled with variety of holds.

- ⊙ Australia's **Brisbane** will be the host of the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics after receiving approval from the executive board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Brisbane becomes the third Australian city to host the Games after **Sydney** in 2000 and **Melbourne** in 1956. The city's selection means Australia becomes the second country after the United States, to stage summer Olympic Games in three different cities.
- ⊙ Annually, on 20th July **International Chess Day** is celebrated. This day also marks the date of establishment of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in the year 1924. In the fifth century Chess was invented in India and was named **Chaturanga**. Chess is one of the oldest games and it is a very popular game which is played globally. Chess helps in developing skills such as strategy, tactics as well as visual memory.

PERSONS IN NEWS

- ⊙ Singer **Ananya Birla** has teamed up with music maestro **AR Rahman** to launch a cheer song for Indian sports personalities as they gear up for Tokyo Olympics.

Titled **Hindustani Way**, the song has been sung by Ananya and composed by Rahman. Minister of Information and Broadcasting, **Anurag Thakur** also present in the launch of the song. The video of the song follows a family from 1996 to the present day as they cheer for Indian sports personalities across different Olympic seasons.
- ⊙ Vice Admiral **S.N. Ghormade** took over as Deputy Chief of Naval Staff from Vice Admiral **G Ashok Kumar** on Saturday, who retired after 39 years of service.



Vice-Admiral Ghormade was appointed to the Navy on January 1, 1984 and is an expert in navigation and direction specialist. He was awarded the **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM)** by the President in 2017 and the **Nausena Medal** in 2007 by commendation of then Chief of the Naval Staff.

- ⊙ BJP leader **Basavaraj S Bommai** has been selected as the 23rd chief minister of Karnataka and will take his oath on July 28, 2021. He was selected by the BJP as BS Yediyurappa's successor who had resigned from the post on Monday. Basavaraj Bommai was BS Yediyurappa's home minister and was among the top contenders for post of the state's chief minister.
- ⊙ IPS officer **Rakesh Asthana** has been appointed as the Commissioner of Delhi Police. Rakesh Asthana was due to retire on as Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF) on July 31. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has extended his service for a one year period beyond the date of Asthana's superannuation.
- ⊙ **Mansukh Mandaviya**, Rajya Sabha member from Gujarat, has been appointed as new Health Minister of India in a major cabinet reshuffle. Mandaviya has replaced Dr. Harsh Vardhan who was in charge of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Ministry of Science & Technology and Ministry of Earth Sciences since 2019. Mandaviya will also be the in charge of Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

PLANS AND POLICIES

- ⊙ The central government has set up a 25-member development council for the cement industry under Dalmia Bharat Group CMD, **Puneet Dalmia**. The council will suggest ways to eliminate waste,

obtain maximum production, improve quality, reduce costs and promote standardization of products. Dalmia is the chairman of the council. Its members include Shree Cement Ltd MD HM Bangur, The India Cements Ltd Executive President Rakesh Singh; Birla Corporation Limited CEO Pracheta Majumdar; J.K. Cement Ltd Deputy Managing Director Madhavkrishna Singhanian, and JSW Cement Ltd CEO Nilesh Narwekar.

- ⊙ The Central Government has formed a nine member panel for the development of an **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**, designed to curb digital monopolies. This ONDC project is initiated by the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and will be implemented by the Quality Council of India (QCI).
- ⊙ The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has formed a seven-member working group, to look into the compensation package for the domestic players and the other aspects of domestic cricket. The main focus of the group will be the remuneration of domestic players for the previous season wherein tournaments were cancelled, due to COVID-19.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

- ⊙ In the men category, **Novak Djokovic** defeated **Matteo Berrettini** in the Wimbledon final, 6-7(4-7), 6-4, 6-4, 6-3, to win his sixth Wimbledon title and 20th Grand Slam trophy. With this win, he has equaled his total major men's singles titles record with **Roger Federer** and **Rafael Nadal**, with each of them winning 20 titles.

In women's category, **Ashleigh Barty** of Australia beat **Karolina Pliskova** (Czech Republic), 6-3, 6-7(4/7), 6-3, to win her first Wimbledon women's singles title on July 10, 2021. The 25-year-old Barty is the first Australian woman to win the Wimbledon singles title in 41 years since Evonne Goolagong, who claimed her second All England Club title in 1980.

Here is the Complete List of Winners in Different Categories:



Category	Winner	Runner Up
Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Matteo Berrettini
Women's Singles	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)	Karolína Plíšková (Czech Republic)
Men's Doubles	Nikola Pietrangeli and Mate Pavić	Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos
Women's Doubles	Hsieh Su-wei and Elise Mertens	Veronika Kudermetova and Elena Vesnina
Mixed Doubles	Neal Skupski and Desirae Krawczyk	Joe Salisbury and Harriet Dart

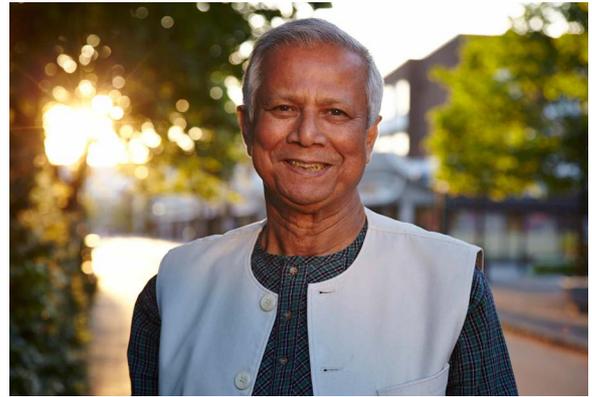
© The **Cannes Film Festival 2021** concluded on July 17, 2021. The jury, presided by **Spide Lee**, presented the awards at the Closing Ceremony. **Julia Ducournau** won the Cannes' top prize, the Palme d'Or, for her film **Titane**, making her the second woman ever to win the award. The first was **Jane Campion** in 1993. This year's Cannes had a wide range of films, from Wes Anderson *The French Dispatch* to Julia Ducournau's *Titane*, and Leos Carax' *Annette*. Jodie Foster and Marco Bellocchio won the Honorary Palme d'Or.

Here is the list of Cannes 2021 winners in key categories:

- Palme d'Or: Julia Ducournau for *Titane* (France)
- Grand Prix (TIE): 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 (TIE): 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
- Short Film Palme d'Or: Tian Xia Wu Ya by Tang Yi
- Special Jury Mention for Short Film: *Ceu de Agosto* by Jasmin Tenucci

© Bangladeshi Nobel Peace Prize winner, **Muhammad Yunus** will receive the Olympic Laurel at the Tokyo Games, the second time the

trophy will be awarded.



The Olympic Laurel was created five years ago to recognise endeavours in culture, education, peace and development through sport. Yunus, whose pioneering micro-lender has been hailed for cutting poverty across the globe, will be honoured for his extensive work in sport for development. The 81-year-old economist-turned-globe-trotting celebrity speaker won the Nobel in 2006. He will be given the award at the Tokyo 2020 opening ceremony on July 23.

© The founder of the Serum Institute of India (SII) in Pune, businessman **Cyrus Poonawalla** has been named the winner of the prestigious **National Lokmanya Tilak Award 2021**.



He will be commended for his work during the COVID-19 pandemic and how his company helped save many lives by creating the Covishield vaccine and then making provided the medicine to the citizens of the country at an affordable price.

- © Odia poet, **Dr Rajendra Kishore Panda**, has been awarded **Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar 2020**.



Name of Dr Panda was finalized by a three-member committee under the chairmanship of **Prof. Hampa Nagarajaiah**. Other members of the committee include Bengali author **Shyamal Bhattacharya**, Kannada poet **Dr. H.S. Shivaprakash** & **Agrahara Krishnamurthy**, former secretary of Central Sahitya Academy.

