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**WEEKLY CAPSULE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK OF JULY**

**(8<sup>th</sup> –15<sup>th</sup> JULY)**

## **Content**

<u>Economy.....</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>International.....</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Polity.....</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Events.....</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Sports.....</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Appointment.....</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Science &amp; Technology.....</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>State.....</u>	<u>20</u>



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**WEEKLY CAPSULE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK OF JULY**

**(8<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> JULY)**

## **Economy**

### **Global Investors are adopting 'wait and watch' approach on India: Kroll**

- According to US based risk management firm Kroll, global investors are slowly adopting a 'wait and watch' approach on India. As per its report, since last year number of frauds increased significantly in number.
- Firm proposed India is the fastest growing economy in the world but poor governance, lack of transparency and fraud risk are the factors affecting the sentiments of foreign investors towards India.

Foreign portfolio investors have pulled out more than USD 6.6 billion from Indian equity market since last year, whereas they made net investment in 2017.

**Foreign portfolio investment is the entry of funds into a country where foreigners deposit money in a country's bank or make purchases in the country's stock and bond market.**

#### **About Kroll**

- It is a corporate management and risk consulting firm.
- Based in New York
- Founded in 1972

### **DIPP released state rankings of ease of doing business**

- Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) released the final rankings of States in Ease of Doing Business in New Delhi in which top rankers are Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Haryana. Jharkhand and Gujarat stood fourth and fifth respectively.
- DIPP in collaboration with the World Bank conducted an annual reform exercise for all States and UTs under the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) with an aim - improvement in delivery of various Central Government regulatory functions and services in an efficient, effective and transparent manner.
- The reform plan has expanded from 285 to 372 action points till 2017.

The current assessment under the BRAP 2017 is based on a combined score consisting of Reform evidence score that is based on evidences uploaded by the States and UTs and Feedback score that is based on the feedback garnered from the actual users of the services provided to the businesses.

**It is for the first time that DIPP has introduced taking feedback to ensure that the reforms have actually reached ground level.**



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**WEEKLY CAPSULE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK OF JULY**

**(8<sup>th</sup> –15<sup>th</sup> JULY)**

### **ADB approved 503 million US dollar project of lining of son canal in Bihar**

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved 503-million US Dollar lining project of the Son canal in Shahabad-Bhojpur region of Bihar which would benefit the agriculture sector immensely in the region. The estimated cost of the project is 503 million dollars out of which 352 million dollars is being provided by ADB.

#### **About Asian Development Bank**

- Founded on 19 December, 1966
- Headquarter – Manila, Philippines
- President – Takehiko Nakao

### **India becomes world's 6th largest economy: World Bank study**

- India has become world's 6th largest economy pushing France at 7th place according to updated World Bank figures for 2017. India's GDP is amounted to \$2.597 trillion against \$2.582 of France at the end of last year.

India with a population of around 1.34 billion is poised to become the world's most populous nation whereas the French population stands at 67 million. This means that India's per capita income GDP continues to amount to just a fraction to that of France which is roughly 20 times higher.

#### **About World Bank**

- Formed in 1945.
- Headquarters – Washington DC

### **RBI made it compulsory to incorporate purchaser's name on the face of payment instrumentalities**

- To prevent money laundering, the Reserve Bank has now made it compulsory to incorporate the purchaser's name on the face of demand draft, pay order, banker's cheques and other instruments. This directive will come into effect from 15th of September this year.

#### **About RBI**

- Established on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935 and nationalised on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1949.
- Governor - Urjit Patel
- Headquarters – Mumbai
- Recent bank rate – 6.5%



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**WEEKLY CAPSULE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK OF JULY**

**(8<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> JULY)**

**Industrial production growth slips to 3.2% in May**

- Industrial production growth slipped to a seven-month low of 3.2 per cent in May due to sluggish performance of manufacturing and power sectors and other reasons.
- The manufacturing sector constitutes 77.63 per cent of the index, it grew by just 2.8 per cent in May marginally up from 2.6 per cent in the corresponding period last year.
- The mining sector output recorded a growth of 5.7 per cent in May as against 0.3 per cent in May last year.
- The FMCG sector was the worst performer among the user based goods segment.

### **Index Industrial Production**

- It is an index for India which details out the growth of various sectors in an economy such as mineral mining, electricity and manufacturing.
- Compiled and published monthly by Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- Base year – 2011-12
- Eight Core Industries - Electricity, steel, refinery products, crude oil, coal, cement, natural gas and fertilisers - comprise nearly 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

### **India trade deficit widened to over 5 year high in June**

- India's trade deficit widened to its highest in more than five years in June to USD 16.6 billion from USD 14.62 billion in May.
- Merchandise exports rose 17.57 percent year-on-year in June.
- Oil imports rose 56.61 percent to \$12.73 billion.
- India's gold imports fell 2.8 percent year-on-year to \$2.39 billion in June

**India is the world's third biggest crude oil importer.**

### **India become regional head of Asia-Pacific at World Customs Organisation**

- India has become the vice-chair (regional head) of the Asia Pacific region of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) for a period of two years till June 2020, organisation has divided its membership into six regions. Each of the regions is represented by an elected vice-chairperson to the WCO council.
- **WCO represents 182 customs administrations across the globe that collectively process approximately 98 per cent of world trade.**



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**WEEKLY CAPSULE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK OF JULY**

**(8<sup>th</sup> –15<sup>th</sup> JULY)**

**International**

- The UK has launched new visas which will be open to overseas scientists and researchers, including Indians to encourage the growth of the country's research sector.
- Minister of State (I/C) MSME Giriraj Singh and Minister of SMEs and Start-ups of Republic of Korea, Hong Jong- hak inaugurated the India-Korea Technology Exchange Centre at the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) premises in New Delhi.
  - The purpose of the Centre is to create a platform for micro, small and medium enterprises of India and Korea.
  - At centre they can be assisted to identify and exchange latest technologies, share management expertise, product development and technology applications for product development.
  - The Technology Centre will also work towards building reliable alliances in Space, Solar Energy, Nano technologies and some other upcoming technologies.

On this occasion, MoU was signed between the Small Business Corporation (SBC) of Korea and the NSIC for cooperation in the field of MSME Sector.

- China successfully launched two remote sensing satellites for its “all-weather” ally Pakistan - PRSS-1 and PakTES-1A from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China using a Long March-2C rocket.
  - It will help the two countries to monitor progress in building of the strategic \$50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.
  - The PRSS-1 is China's first optical remote sensing satellite sold to Pakistan and it is the 17th satellite developed by the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST) for an overseas buyer.
  - It is also the first international commercial launch for a Long March-2C rocket within nearly two decades after it carried Motorola's Iridium satellites into orbit in 1999.

The PRSS-1 will be used for land and resources surveying, monitoring of natural disasters, agriculture research, urban construction and providing remote sensing information for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of the Chinese government.

**The \$50 billion CPEC is a network of infrastructure projects that are currently under construction throughout Pakistan that will connect China's Xinjiang province with the Gwadar port in Pakistan's Balochistan province, giving China an opening to the Arabian Sea.**

- India and China have reached an agreement on reduction of tariffs on Chinese imports of Indian medicines, particularly cancer drugs. Both countries negotiated in



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**WEEKLY CAPSULE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK OF JULY**

**(8<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> JULY)**

the 4th round of negotiations under Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), which also includes Bangladesh, Laos, South Korea and Sri Lanka.

Indian Drugs especially cancer medicines are in great demand in China as they are far cheaper than their western counterparts.

- In New Delhi, India and South Korea signed five MoUs in field of Science & technology
- 3 MoUs are Programme of Cooperation 2018 – 21, Establishment of Future Strategy Group and Cooperation in Bio-technology and Bio-economy.
- Two other MoUs were signed between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and South Korean National Research Council for Science and Technology and IIT Mumbai and Korea Institute of Science and Technology to further accelerate future-oriented cooperation.

Recently, South Korean President Moon Jae-in visited India and also along with PM Modi ji inaugurated world's largest mobile manufacturing centre in Noida.

- The Sri Lankan Cabinet has unanimously approved a move to bring back capital punishment for drug-related crimes paving way for the resumption of death penalty after nearly 40 years. Executions have not been carried out in Sri Lanka as successive Presidents in office since 1978 have refused to issue death warrants.

Although capital punishment is in the statute, Sri Lanka had stopped hangings since 1976. Death row prisoners spend life terms in jail.

- Canada has announced that it will assume command of a new NATO training and capacity building mission in Iraq. Canadian troops will be deployed in the Baghdad region to help Iraq build a more effective national security structure and improve training for Iraqi security forces.

Canada as part of the US-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group is already contributing air power, medical support and help in training Iraqi forces since 2014.

- Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi opened a major conference with representatives of ethnic minority groups to try to move toward a lasting peace

Earlier meeting failed in resolving differences between the Government, the military and ethnic rebel groups seeking greater autonomy.



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**WEEKLY CAPSULE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK OF JULY**

**(8<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> JULY)**

- The UN member states finalized text of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. This move marked the first time gathering of member states together to negotiate an agreement covering all dimensions of international migration.

The agreement is a "significant achievement" that reflects shared understanding that "cross-border migration is, by its very nature, an international phenomenon and that effective management of this global reality requires international cooperation to enhance its positive impact for all."

**Currently over 250 million migrants worldwide account for 3% of the world's entire population and contribute to 10% of Global GDP.**

The process of developing the compact started in early 2017 as the implementation of a decision by the UN member states as they adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants in September 2016.

- India inaugurated its largest visa centre in the world in the Bangladeshi capital to reduce the waiting time for applicants replacing existing centre in Motijheel, Uttara, Gulshan and Mirpur Road in Dhaka in two phases.
- Bangladesh visitors constitutes one of the largest number of visitors from a single country to India.
- The new integrated state-of-the-art Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) spread in an 18,500 square feet commercial area at Jamuna Future Park in Dhaka.

**Last year, India the country issued 1.4 million visas to Bangladeshi nationals.**

- The United Nations General Assembly elected Iceland to serve on the Geneva-based global Human Rights body.

On 19 June, the US announced its decision to leave the Council.





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**WEEKLY CAPSULE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK OF JULY**

**(8<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> JULY)**

## Polity

### 51 lakh houses approved under PMAY in 3 yrs

- Government approved 51 lakh houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) in the three years of its implementation.
- Out of 51 lakh sanctioned houses, over 28 lakhs houses are already in various stages of construction and 8 lakh houses have been already completed.

### About Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

- It is an initiative by Government of India in which affordable housing will be provided to the urban poor with a target of building 20 million affordable houses by 31 March 2022.
- It was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2015.

### Commerce secretary chaired first meet of task force on e-commerce policy

- Commerce Secretary Rita Teotia chaired the first meeting of the task force on e-commerce in New Delhi, in meeting discussions were held on issues such as cross-border data flows, taxation, trade facilitation, logistics, FDI and competition issues.
- The task force has been set up to recommend a framework for comprehensive national policy on e-commerce.

The government in April had begun the exercise to frame a national policy on e-commerce. A think-tank was constituted on the issue under the chairmanship of Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu and the task force was further divided into nine sub-groups for preparing recommendations for country's national policy on e-commerce.

### Supreme Court: No namaz by non-locals at Taj Mahal

- Supreme Court refused to allow prayers by outsiders/non-locals at the mosque premises of the Taj Mahal saying the monument's preservation is paramount.
- Court said it is one of the seven wonders and it must be preserved.

Similar orders were issued by Archaeological survey of India in 2013 but not enforced properly.

**Govt. declared 6 educational 'Institutions of Eminence' – 3 from public sector and 3 from private sector**





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**WEEKLY CAPSULE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK OF JULY**

**(8<sup>th</sup> –15<sup>th</sup> JULY)**

- The Government's Empowered Expert Committee in its report has shortlisted Six Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) including 3 from Public Sector and 3 from Private Sector.
- Public sector institutions are Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai and Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.
- Private sector institutions are Jio Institute (Reliance Foundation), Pune under Green Field Category, Birla Institute of Technology & Sciences, Pilani, Rajasthan; and Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, Karnataka.
- Complete autonomy will be ensured to the selected institutions and facilitate them to grow more rapidly.

**Accordingly, the Government / UGC approved the scheme of providing Regulatory Architecture for setting up / upgrading of 20 Institutions (10 from public sector & 10 from private sector) as world class teaching and research institutions called as 'Institutions of Eminence'.**

**Each public Institution selected as 'Institution of Eminence' will get financial assistance up to Rs. 1000 Crore over the period of five years under this scheme.**

#### **4th National Conclave on Mines and Minerals in Indore**

- The 4th National Conclave on Mines & Minerals held on 13th July, 2018 at Indore for showcasing blocks which will be auctioned by the states in FY 2018-19 to the potential investors.
- The agencies concerned with pre-auction preparations such as Exploration agencies (GSI & MECL), transaction advisors (SBICAP, CRISIL, KPMG), DGPS survey agency (MECON), etc would also put up their Stalls.

A webpage on the Ministry of Mines website, "NCMM July, 2018" has been created about the Conclave.

**The Ministry of Mines organized the 1st National Conclave on Mines & Minerals on 4-5 July, 2016 at Raipur, 2nd National Conclave on Mines & Minerals on 15th Feb, 2017 at New Delhi and 3rd National Conclave on Mines & Minerals on 20th March, 2018 at New Delhi.**

#### **Shri Venkaiah Naidu becomes first chairman of Rajya Sabha to sign a MoU**

- For the first time in 76 years since Rajya Sabha came into being, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a foreign counterpart for promoting inter-parliamentary dialogue.
- Shri Venkaiah Naidu has become the first Chairman of Rajya Sabha to sign such an agreement when he inked an MOU with the visiting President of the Senate of the Republic of Rwanda, Mr. Bernard Makuza.



[www.ixambee.com](http://www.ixambee.com)

**WEEKLY CAPSULE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK OF JULY**

**(8<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> JULY)**

The MOU with 6 articles of cooperation seeks to promote Inter-Parliamentary dialogue, Capacity building of parliamentary staff, Organisation of conferences, forums, seminars, staff attachment programmes, workshops and exchanges, Collaboration in mutual interest in regional and international multilateral parliamentary bodies in furtherance of bilateral relations and friendship between the two countries.

#### **Govt. raised threshold limit for filing appeals relating to tax cases to Rs20 Lakh**

- Government raised threshold limit for filing appeals in tax cases, tax department can now file appeals in ITAT / CESTAT only if the tax amount involved is 20 lakh rupees or more, earlier it was 10 lakh rupees or more.
- Appeals in High Courts would be filed if the tax amount involved in litigation is 50 lakh rupees.
- For appeals in Supreme Court, the threshold limit has been hiked to one crore rupees.

Stating above limits Union Finance Minister said that this step has been taken to bring down litigation by 41 per cent and this move is to create trust in the tax administration and give relief to honest, small and mid-sized taxpayers.

#### **NITI Aayog proposed 15-point action plan to combat air pollution in ten most polluted cities**

- Niti Aayog has proposed a 15-point action plan to combat air pollution in ten most polluted cities in the country including Delhi, Kanpur and Varanasi. The draft action plan is titled as 'Breathe India'.
- Plan includes encouraging electric vehicles, phasing out private diesel vehicle and development of crop residue utilisation policy and it also includes expediting strategic decommissioning of old and inefficient power plants and implementation of a large scale feebate programme from 2020 onwards.

According to a recent WHO database (2018), Kanpur, Faridabad, Gaya, Varanasi, Agra, Gurgaon, Muzaffarpur, Lucknow and Patna are the top ten most polluted cities in India.

#### **Govt. launched Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018**

- Government launched Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 in New Delhi which is a month-long survey that will begin on 1st of next month.
- The ranking will be based on a comprehensive set of cleanliness parameters like availability of toilets, usage of toilets, hygiene of toilets, status of littering and status of stagnant water.



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**WEEKLY CAPSULE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK OF JULY**

**(8<sup>th</sup> –15<sup>th</sup> JULY)**

## **Events**

- Satyarup Siddhanta has become the second Indian mountaineer after Malli Mastan Babu to climb Mt Ojos del Salado which is also the highest volcano in the world, in Andes Mountain on the border of Argentina Chile Border.
- He is also the first Indian to climb Mt. Sidley – the highest volcano of Antarctica.

**The Andes is the longest mountain chain in the world.**

- Human Resource Development Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the 17th World Sanskrit Conference which was held at Vancouver, Canada from 9th July to 13th July, 2018.
- Discussion in the conference were on dozen topics like; History & Education of Women in Vedic Literature; Sanskrit Buddhist Manuscripts; Mimamsa Beyond the Yagasala; The Yuktidipika Forging a Place for Sankhya; Introducing Bhagavata Purana Commentaries; Research on the Gargiyajyotisa.

The Delhi International Sanskrit Conference of 1972 is considered to be the first World Sanskrit Conference.

- Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ram Vilas Paswan attended the UNCTAD meeting of third inter-governmental group of experts on consumer protection on July 9-10 in Geneva.
- The two-day session focussed on consumer protection in financial services, capacity building and technical assistance on consumer protection law, dispute resolution and redress.
- Under the guidelines of Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Finance, Corporate Affairs, Railways and Coal Indian Railways has introduced Double Stack Dwarf Container Services.
- This freight train was flagged off on 7th July, 2018 from Western Railway's Rajkot railway station on its maiden commercial run.
- This train was booked from the Reliance Rail Siding at Kanalus to Rewari in the state of Haryana.
- Train was loaded with 82 containers Polypropylene Granules and due to its service Indian Railways has received increased revenue of Rs. 18.50 lakhs.
- The holding capacity of a dwarf container is 30,500 Kg.

Currently, 'Low Density Products', such as plastic granules, PVC polyester fabric, white goods, FMCG products, polyethylene, auto car, etc. are being transported mostly by road,



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**WEEKLY CAPSULE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK OF JULY**

**(8<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> JULY)**

but due to the low cost of transportation in dwarf containers, railways can now offers a viable transport.

- Tourism Ministry in partnership with the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH) and with the support of State /UT Governments will organize the **'first ever'** India Tourism Mart (ITM) from 16th to 18th September, 2018 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The objective of the event is to create an annual Global Tourism Mart for India in line with major international travel marts being held in countries across the world.

ITM will be the best platform for the States to showcase their products to international buyers, opinion makers and bloggers and attract more tourists to their respective states.

- "The English Patient" - the wartime love story by Michael Ondaatje won the Golden Man Booker Prize. The English Patient is a compelling work of fiction — both poetic and philosophical.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean President Moon Jae-in jointly inaugurated Samsung's 35-acre plant in Noida which is expected to manufacture around 12 crore phones a year.
- The Samsung's new unit is also expected to create employment for more than 5000 people.

Samsung has two manufacturing plants -- in Noida and in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu -- five R&D centres, and one design centre in Noida, employing over 70,000 people and expanding its network to over 1.5 lakh retail outlets.

- The Global Innovation Index (GII) has ranked India as the 57th most innovative nation in the world with improvement in its ranking from 60th position last year.
- China improved its ranking from 22 in 2017 to 17 this year.
- Since 2011, Switzerland has been ranked at the top every year, this year, Netherlands follows at second place and Sweden at third.
- India is ranked at fifth position in the lower middle-income group.

In the indicators capturing the quality of innovation inputs and outputs, India is ranked second after China in the lower and upper middle-income group combined.

**The GI is being developed jointly by Cornell University, the Paris-based business school Insead and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in Geneva.**



[www.ixambee.com](http://www.ixambee.com)

**WEEKLY CAPSULE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK OF JULY**

**(8<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> JULY)**

**GII ranks 126 economies based on 80 indicators.**

- Communications Minister Manoj Sinha launched Internet Telephony service of BSNL at a function in New Delhi which will enable mobile users to use landline network of BSNL for all their internet-based mobile operations, including video conferencing, video calling and all other activities.
- The World Population Day is a United Nations' initiative celebrated on the 11th of July every year, which is aimed at spreading awareness about the exploding world population and the importance of reproductive health.

**Theme** - "Family planning is a human right."

**For the first time, this day was celebrated in the year 1989.**

- Government has approved the Idea Cellular and Vodafone India merger but the companies need to complete some formalities for the final closure of the deal.
- The combined operations of Idea and Vodafone will create the country's largest telecom operator worth over 1.5 lakh crore rupees with a 35 per cent market share and a subscriber base of around 430 million.
- A workshop on stress management for Officers/staff of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Central Statistics Office and National Sample Survey Office posted in Delhi/NCR was organized on 13th July, 2018 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.
- It held under the guidance of Hon'ble Minister of State, Shri Vijay Goel.
- In the city with Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL), India's first exquisite air-conditioned bed space dormitory at MG Road Metro station is opened. It will be managed and operated by Peters Inn.
- Indian-origin technology executives Jayshree Ullal and Neerja Sethi have made it to the Forbes' list of America's 60 richest self-made women. Ullal is ranked 18th in the list of 60 self-made women having a net worth of \$1.3 billion.
- Sethi is ranked 21st with a net worth of \$1 billion.



[www.ixambee.com](http://www.ixambee.com)

**WEEKLY CAPSULE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK OF JULY**

**(8<sup>th</sup> –15<sup>th</sup> JULY)**

- The richest billionaire is Anastasia Soare.

**The combined net worth of the 60 women on the list is a record \$71 billion, 15 per cent more than in 2017.**

- Spiritual leader Dada J P Vaswani at the age of 99 passed away at old age-related ailments. He was head of the Sadhu Vaswani Mission
- India has the world's fifth largest cultivated area under genetically modified (GM) crops at 11.4 million hectares (mh) in 2017. The country with the highest area under transgenic crops is the United States.
- ISAAA's 'Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/ GM Crops in 2017' report shows farmers across the world to have planted 189.8 mh under transgenic crops last year.

According to the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA), the 75 mh GM acreage comprised 34.05 mh soyabean, 33.84 mh maize (corn), 4.58 mh cotton, 1.22 mh alfalfa, 0.876 mh canola, 0.458 mh sugar-beet, 3,000 hectares potato and around 1,000 hectares each of apples, squash and papaya.

- Assam chief minister announced that Hima will be the state's brand ambassador for sports.
- The Assam Athletics Association announced Rs2 lakh as cash prize.
- She was dubbed as 'Dhing Express' by state's local media.

**Hima become first Indian athlete who had clinched the gold in 400m race in the IAAF World Under-20 Athletics Championships at Finland.**

- The 2nd National Tourism Conclave was organised in Jaipur Rajasthan.
- Swati B Baruah become the first transgender judge in Assam, she has been appointed as a judge to mediate cases in a Lok Adalat. These will set landmark to accept transgenders as part of society.





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**WEEKLY CAPSULE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK OF JULY**

**(8<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> JULY)**

### **Sports**

- Pakistan win over Australia in the final of the Twenty20 tri-series at Harare Sports Club by six-wicket. Opener Fakhar Zaman hit a career-best 91 in the match.

Harare Sports Club is in Zimbabwe.

Teams in T20 tri-series Australia, Pakistan and Zimbabwe.

- Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar clinched a gold medal in the vault event of FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Challenge Cup at Mersin in Turkey. She scored 14.150.

She has been included in the 10-member Indian gymnastics team for the upcoming Asian Games.

- India defeated England in the third T20I to win the three-match series 2-1 and register their sixth successive T20I series victory. The match witnessed MS Dhoni become the first-ever wicketkeeper to take 5 catches in a T20I.

**Team India opener Rohit Sharma has become the second Indian batsman after Virat Kohli and overall fifth batsman to reach 2,000 runs in T20I cricket.**

- India have bagged four medals in the Asia Cup World Archery Ranking Tournament Stage 3 in Taipei. The feat comprised 3 silver medals and a bronze.
  - India ended their campaign behind toppers Korea and Chinese Taipei.
  - Korea topped the tally with 14 medals, 8 of them being gold. Taipei bagged 5 medals, two of them being gold.

### **Host - Chinese Taipei**

- Indian shuttler Ajay Jayaram finished runners-up at the White Nights International Challenge after losing in the finals against top seed Pablo Abian of Spain in Gatchina, Russia.





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**WEEKLY CAPSULE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK OF JULY**

**(8<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> JULY)**

Meanwhile, men's doubles pair of Tarun Kona and Saurabh Sharma lost 21-18, 13-21, 17-21 to German combo of Bjarne Geiss and Jan Colin Völker in the semi-finals.

- Manny Pacquiao stunned defending champion Lucas Matthysse with a seventh-round knockout to claim the WBA welterweight title in Kuala Lumpur.

**A brutal uppercut earned him his first win inside the distance since 2009**

- MS Dhoni became the fourth Indian after Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid to score 10,000 ODI runs against England at Lord's.
  - He needed 33 to get to the milestone before the first ODI of the three-match series between England and India.
- Hima Das created history by becoming the first Indian woman to win a gold at the IAAF World Under- 20 Athletics Championships in Tampere, Finland
  - She clinched the top spot in the women's 400 meters final race, clocked 51.46 seconds to win the gold.
- France defeated Croatia in the FIFA World Cup final 2018 by 4-2. It's been 20 years since the French were crowned the champions.
- Novak Djokovic defeated Kevin Anderson in straight sets to clinch his fourth men's singles title at Wimbledon. It is his 13th career Grand Slam crown.



[www.ixambee.com](http://www.ixambee.com)

**WEEKLY CAPSULE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK OF JULY**

**(8<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> JULY)**

### **Appointment**

- Mercedes-Benz India has appointed Martin Schwenk as its new managing director and CEO effective from 1 November 2018 replacing Roland Folger.
- British Prime Minister Theresa May appointed Dominic Raab as the new Brexit Secretary.
- Uday Kumar Varma has been appointed as a member of the Broadcasting Content Complaints Council, a self-regulatory body for general entertainment channels replacing former information commissioner Wajahat Habibullah.

The 13-member council is chaired by former Supreme Court judge Justice Vikramajit Sen, has actor Sharmila Tagore, theatre person Arundhati Nag and JNU professor Ira Bhaskar as some of its members, besides representatives of the National Commission for Women, National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights and the National Commission for Minorities, among others.

- US President Donald Trump has nominated conservative Brett Kavanaugh as the Supreme Court Judge to succeed Justice Anthony Kennedy. He is currently a judge in the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.
- The Vice President of India and the President of ICWA, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has appointed Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan as the Director General, ex officio Member-Secretary of the Council, ICWA.
- Bhushan Steel Ltd, acquired by Tata Steel, board of directors has approved the appointment of T V Narendran as chairman and non-executive additional director of the company.



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**WEEKLY CAPSULE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK OF JULY**

**(8<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> JULY)**

**In May, Tata Steel had won the bid for Bhushan Steel in an insolvency process and completed the acquisition of 72.65 per cent stake in the debt-laden firm.**

- Scientist R A Mashelkar, head of National Innovation Foundation under the Department of Science and Technology has been chosen to lead the Reliance Foundation's proposed Jio Institute as Chancellor. He was also the chief of Reliance Innovation Council.

**The yet to be established 'Jio Institute' by Reliance Foundation is already in the fray to becoming an 'Institution of Eminence' (IoE) along with IISc, IIT-Delhi, IIT-Bombay, and others.**

- The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited announced the appointment of Amitabh Malhotra as the head of investment banking for HSBC India.



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**WEEKLY CAPSULE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK OF JULY**

**(8<sup>th</sup> –15<sup>th</sup> JULY)**

### **Science & Technology**

- Scientists in South Africa together constructed gigantic telescope – MeerKAT, which is most sensitive telescope of its kind in the world with an array of 64 dishes, each 13.5 metres in diameter.

**MeerKAT uses a technique called interferometry in which many dishes or antennas together act as a single telescope. Each dish collects the relatively weak radio signals from space, which must be combined, filtered and turned into data that is useful to astronomers.**

- An Israeli organisation SpaceIL announced plans to launch the country's first spacecraft to the moon in December.
- The unmanned spacecraft is shaped like a pod and weighing some 585 kilogrammes (1,300 pounds) at launch.
- It will land on the moon on February 13, 2019 if all goes according to plan
- The vessel will be launched via a rocket from American entrepreneur Elon Musk's SpaceX firm and its mission will include research on the moon's magnetic field.

**However its task will be to plant an Israeli flag on the moon.**

The project began as part of the Google Lunar XPrize, which in 2010 offered \$30 million (25 million euros) in awards to encourage scientists and entrepreneurs to come up with relatively low-cost moon missions.

Three young Israeli scientists, Yariv Bash, Kfir Damari and Yonatan Winetraub, decided to join the fray. The trio formed SpaceIL and partnered with state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries, envisioning a very small craft they believed could land on the moon by 2013.



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**WEEKLY CAPSULE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK OF JULY**

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### **State**

- The Andhra Pradesh government launched 60 'Anna Canteens' in various parts of the state and Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated one of those canteen in Vijayawada to mark the launch of the programme. The Akshaya Patra Foundation will run these canteens.

In March 2016, the first 'Anna Canteen' named after TDP founder-president N T Rama Rao, was opened on a pilot basis close to the Government Transitional Headquarters at Velgapudi in Amaravati.

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has given in-principle approval for the 39-crore rupees 'Seema Darshan' project for developing more infrastructure facilities from T-Junction to Zero Point at Nadabet near Suigam in Banaskantha district, a unique Gujarat initiative for border tourism. The project is being developed on Wagah Border pattern, entails an exhibition hall, a parade ground with amphitheatre for 5,000 people.

The phase-1 of the project worth 22-crore was launched on December 24, 2016.

Nearly one lakh tourists-youth have already participated in watching the border in an atmosphere surcharged with excitement at Seema Darshan

The project will encourage local economic activity in the Rann region alongside visit to adjoining flamingo and wild ass sanctuaries.

- The Haryana government is developing a global city over 1,000 acres area in Gurugram district which is poised to serve as an important node to Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) sub-region of Haryana and carries an investment potential of \$15 billion. The project would be funded by Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) and has been included in the JICA RoI.

As a DMIC project initiative, the Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) between Gurgaon-Manesar-Bawal, over a length of about 82 km, would be implemented as joint venture participation between Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (DMICDC) and Haryana State Industrial Infrastructural Development Corporation (HSIIDC) with an investment of about Rs 17,328 crore.

- The state govt will appoint girls as a district Brand Ambassador who have recorded significant achievements in any field under the Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao scheme.



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**WEEKLY CAPSULE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> WEEK OF JULY**

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### **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme**

- It is a campaign of the Government of India that aims to generate awareness and improve the efficiency of welfare services intended for girls. It mainly targets the clusters in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Bihar and Delhi.
- The scheme was launched with an initial funding of ₹100 crore (US\$15 million) on 22nd January 2015.
- With the launch of cost-effective innovative water project, Bihar will soon provide the cheapest drinking water in the world. The first of such a water project was launched in Bihar's Darbhanga district by Sulabh International.
- The water purification process has a capacity to purify 8,000 litres of water per day at nominal cost.
- The total cost of installing this project would cost around Rs 20 lakhs.
- The Haryana Education Department has launched "I am not afraid of English" initiative to promote English language right from Class 1 in the state's primary schools.
- It is aimed at capacity building of teachers to enable them to help the students to learn, read, write and speak English.

**To start with, a booklet containing 1,000 sentences/phrases has been prepared.**

**It contains 200 sentences per grade for all the five grades at the primary level of schooling.**