

An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road that curves through a dense, lush green forest. Several cars are visible on the road, including a white car, a blue car, and a white van. The road has white dashed lines for lane markings. The overall scene is captured from a high angle, looking down on the road and the surrounding trees.

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# DAILY NEWS DECODE

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# Digital India completed six years



*Digital India*  
Power To Empower

- Digital India initiative has completed its six years on 1 July 2021. Digital India is a government's flagship scheme to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.
- It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1 July 2015. In the past 6 years, the government has launched many digital initiatives like Direct Benet Transfer, Common Services Centres, DigiLocker and mobile-based UMANG services.
- With the help of Aadhaar, Government has provided digital identity to 129 crore people of India.
- Jandhan bank Accounts, mobile phones, and Aadhaar (JAM) helped the government in providing benefits of the different schemes through digital platforms.
- The Digital India programme is centred on three key vision areas:

- **Digital Infrastructure as a Core Utility to Every Citizen**
- **Governance & Services on Demand**
- **Digital Empowerment of Citizens**

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# Researchers discovered Black-bellied Coral snake in forests of Uttarakhand



- Researchers have discovered Black-bellied Coral snakes in the forests of Uttarakhand for the first time in history.
- The snake is related to the Elapidae family and Sinomicrurus genus.
- Its scientific name is *S. nigriventer*
- It was found in the Bhadraj Block of Benog Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS) in the Mussoorie Forest Division.
- There are currently 107 species of coral snakes in the world.
- In India, only seven coral snake species are found.
- As per the report of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on the management of snakebite, there are more than 2000 species of snakes in the world.
- About 300 of these species are found in India, of which 52 are venomous. India's venomous snakes belong to three families 'Elapidae', 'Viperidae' and Hydrophidae' (sea snakes).

- **All snakes are protected by the law. Cobra, Rat snakes, and Checkered keelback are protected in Schedule II of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and the rest are protected by Schedule IV.**
- **Snakes are important for medical reasons and ecological regions. They keep the food web in balance and their venoms are used to make antivenoms..**

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# **Indian Navy warship conducted military drill with South Korean vessel**



- **Indian Navy warship conducted military drill with South Korean vessel in the East China Sea.**
- **The Navy partnership exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability and facilitating the exchange of best practices with partner navies in the maritime domain.**
- **Indian Navy's indigenous ASW Corvette INS Kiltan undertook the exercise with Republic of Korea's Ship ROKS Gyeongnam, a Daegu-class frigate, on June 28.**

# World UFO Day: 02 July



- The World UFO Day (WUD) is held on July 2 every year globally.
- It is a day dedicated to the existence of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) by the World UFO Day Organization (WUFODO).
- WUD aims to raise awareness about the existence of UFOs and encouraging people to think about the possibility of us not being alone in the Universe.
- Initially, the day was observed on June 24. Later, WUFODO established on July 2 to commemorate the day.

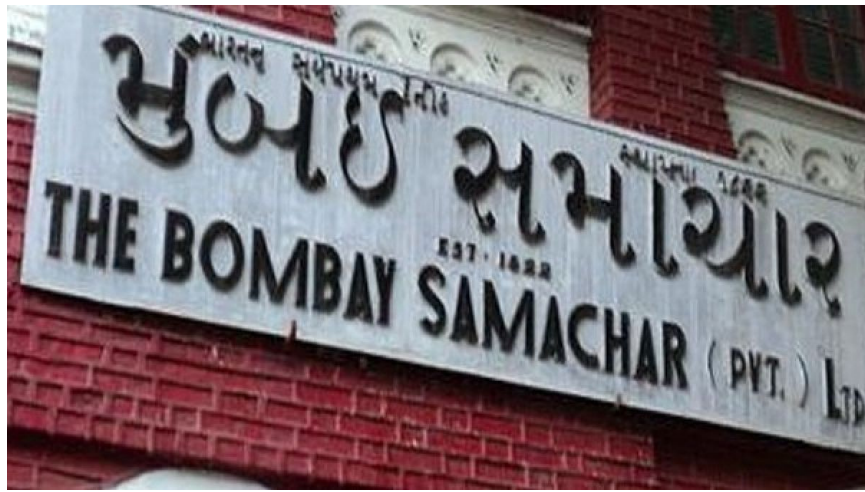
# **India ranked 20th in Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021**



- **India stands at the 20th spot among the top 100 countries that have been ranked in the Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021 by Startup Blink.**
- **The country was in the 17th spot in 2019, after which it slid six spots down and stood at 23 in 2020.**
- **According to the report, India needs to better its infrastructure and Internet speed in order to further strengthen its start-up ecosystem**
- **India currently has 43 of its cities listed in the top 1000, globally, with Bengaluru(10th), New Delhi (14th) and Mumbai (16th) in the top 20.**



# India's oldest running newspaper, Mumbai Samachar, turned 200



- The Gujarati newspaper, with its office located in an iconic red building at Horniman Circle in Mumbai's Fort area, was first published in 1822.
- It was founded by a Parsi scholar Fardoonji Murazban, who had experimented with various other publishing options before landing on this successful print run.
- Formerly called Bombay Samachar, in Gujarati, the paper has always run as Mumbai na Samachar.
- It started as a weekly edition, primarily covering the movement of goods across the sea and other business news, such as the sale of property, and passed through several hands until bankruptcy turned it over to the Cama family in 1933.

# **Commerce Ministry's Logistics Division unveils plans for 'Freight Smart Cities'**



- Under the Freight Smart Cities initiative, city-level logistics committees would be formed.
- These committees would have related government departments and agencies at the local level, state and from the related central ministries and agencies.
- These would also include private sector from the logistics services and also users of logistics services.
- These committees would co-create City Logistics Plans to implement performance improvement measures locally.
- On the Freight smart city initiatives, the Logistics Division is working closely with GIZ (Germany) under Indo-German Development Cooperation, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and RMI India.
- A challenge is expected to be announced to encourage the participation of cities in this initiative.

- **From the ten cities to be identified on immediate basis, it is planned to expand the list to 75 cities in the next phase before scaling up throughout the country including all state capitals and cities that have more than one million population.**

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# **India joins OECD, G20 Inclusive Framework tax deal of global corporate tax**



- According to a Finance Ministry press release, the members OECD and G20 countries adopted a high-level statement containing an outline of a consensus solution to address the tax challenges arising from the digitalisation of the economy.
- The proposed solution consists of two components- reallocation of additional share of profit to the market jurisdictions and minimum tax subject to tax rules.
- However, the technical details of the proposal will be worked out in the coming months and a consensus agreement is expected by October.
- Initially, the global corporate tax was proposed by the United States as Global Minimum Tax (GMT).
- Yesterday, the tax deal was adopted in the OECD and G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

- **BEPS refers to tax-avoiding strategies used by big multinational companies that exploit the gaps and mismatches in tax rules across the globe.**
- **Around 130 countries, representing more than 90 percent of global GDP, adopted the global corporate tax rate of at least 15 percent.**
- **The countries also agreed on a fairer distribution of 'profits and taxing rights' with respect to multinationals including digital giants such as Amazon and Google.**
- **However, Hungary and Ireland were part of a small group of countries that did not agree on the tax rate on multinationals.**

# **Hottest ever day recorded in Antarctica at 18.3°C in February 2020, confirms WMO**



- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has confirmed that the hottest ever day in Antarctica was recorded on February 6, 2020 when the temperatures hit 18.3°C.
- The previous record for the continent was 17.5°C recorded at Esperanza station on March 24, 2015.
- "Antarctic Peninsula is among the fastest-warming regions of the planet...almost 3°C over the last 50 years," WMO added.

# **Railways' 1st movable freshwater tunnel aquarium opens at B'luru station**



- **Indian Railways' first movable freshwater tunnel aquarium has been opened at Bengaluru's KSR Railway Station on Thursday.**
- **It was opened by Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) along with HNi Aquatic Kingdom and will charge a nominal entry fee of ₹25/passenger.**
- **"The 12-feet-long aquatic kingdom is...Railways' first paludarium housing myriad flora and fauna", IRSDC said.**