

## Current Affairs: 15.07.2021

### Cabinet approves increase in Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief from 17% to 28% w.e.f July 2021



The Union Cabinet headed by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has approved an increase in the **Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief to pensioners to 28 percent**. This hike represents an increase of **11 percent** over the existing rate of **17 percent of the basic pay/pension**. The increased DA and DR rates will be effective from **July 1, 2021**. It must be noted that, both Dearness allowance and dearness relief was put on hold from January 2020, in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, the DA and DR installments are due for four periods including January 1, 2020, July 1, 2020, January 1, 2021, and July 1, 2021. However, the rate of DA/DR for the period between January 2020 to June 2021 shall remain at 17%

### Cabinet approves continuation of centrally sponsored scheme National AYUSH Mission for 5 years from FY 2021-2026



The Union Cabinet chaired by the **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has approved the continuation of **Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'National AYUSH Mission (NAM)'** for another five years. The scheme will now be implemented from April 01, 2021 to March 31, 2026. Centre has allocated **Rs. 4607.30 crore** (Rs 3,000 crore as Central Share and Rs. 1607.30 crore as State Share) for the scheme to be invested over five years. The NAM Mission was first launched on 15 September, 2014. The National AYUSH Mission is being implemented by Ministry of AYUSH.

### HM Amit Shah inaugurates research-based center of excellence at National Forensic Science University in Gandhinagar



The Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the **Centre of Excellence for Research and Analysis of Narcotics, Drugs and Psychotropic Substances at National Forensic Science University** at Gandhinagar in Gujarat on July 12, 2021.



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## Piyush Goyal succeeds Thawarchand Gehlot to be appointed as Leader of House in Rajya Sabha



**Union Minister Piyush Goyal** has been appointed as the **Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha**. His appointment is effective from July 06, 2021.

He will succeed **Thawar Chand Gahlot**, who has taken charge as the Governor of Karnataka. Mr. Goyal, a two-time Rajya Sabha MP, is currently the

deputy leader of the NDA as well as the Union Minister in the Cabinet. He is serving as the Union Minister of Textiles, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. The Leader of the House is responsible for organizing government meetings and business in the House.

## Sher Bahadur Deuba Takes Charge as Prime Minister of Nepal for 5th time



In **Nepal**, **Sher Bahadur Deuba** took oath as the **Prime Minister** of the country on July 13, 2021. He was administered the oath of office by President Bidya Devi Bhandari. This is the fifth time that 74-year-old Deuba has been sworn in as the Prime Minister of Nepal. The president of the Nepali Congress, Deuba replaces K P Sharma Oli. Prior to this, Deuba has served as Nepal's Prime Minister four times, from June 2017–February 2018, June

2004–February 2005, July 2001–October 2002 and September 1995–March 1997.

## NTPC gets go-ahead to construct India's largest solar power park in Kutch



**NTPC Ltd.**, India's largest power generator is set to construct country's **single-largest solar photovoltaic project at Rann of Kutch** region in Khavada, Gujarat. The solar power park will have a capacity of **4.75 Gigawatt (Gw)/4750 MW**. The project will be constructed through **NTPC's renewable energy arm, NTPC Renewable Energy (NTPC-REL)** The project

is a part of NTPC's plan to transform itself into a green energy major. It aims to build 60 GW Renewable Energy Capacity by 2032. NTPC REL also plans to generate green hydrogen on a commercial scale from this park. Hydrogen produced from renewable sources is called green hydrogen.



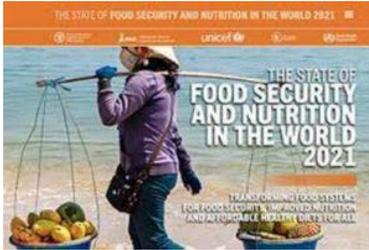
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## The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021 Report: UN-FAO



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 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).

### • **Key facts and figures**

- Number of hungry people in 2020 in the:
  - World: between 720 and 811
  - Asia: 418 million (More than half of world hunger population)
  - Africa: 282 million (One-third)
  - Latin America and the Caribbean: 60 million
- Nearly 2.37 billion people did not have access to adequate food in 2020, an increase of 320 million people over 2019.
- Children under 5 affected by stunting (low height-for-age): 22.0 percent (149.2 million)
- Children under 5 affected by wasting (low weight-for-height): , 6.7 percent (45.4 million)
- Children under 5 who are overweight (high weight-for-height): 5.7 percent (38.9 million)
- Percentage of women of reproductive age affected by anaemia: 29.9%
- Percentage of infants aged below 6 months who were exclusively breastfed: 44%

## India to host BWF Badminton World Championship in 2026

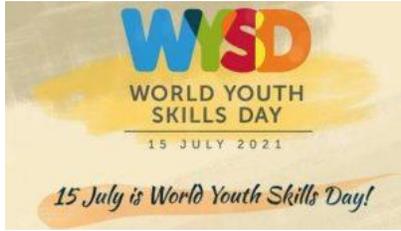


The **Badminton World Federation (BWF)** has informed that India will host the **BWF World Championships in 2026**. Earlier, India was scheduled to organise the **Sudirman Cup** in 2023, but BWF decided to award the 2023 hosting rights to China. The Sudirman Cup is the world mixed team badminton championship which takes place every two years. As a result, Suzhou will now stage the 2023 edition of the BWF World Mixed Team Championships, while India has been given the opportunity to host the BWF World Championships in 2026.

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## World Youth Skills Day: 15 July



The **World Youth Skills Day (WYSD)** is observed every year on **July 15** as a day to recognize the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship, and to highlight the crucial role of skilled youth in addressing current and future global challenges. The United Nations General Assembly declared 15 July as World Youth Skills Day in November 2014. The theme for 2021 is **“Reimagining Youth Skills Post-Pandemic”**