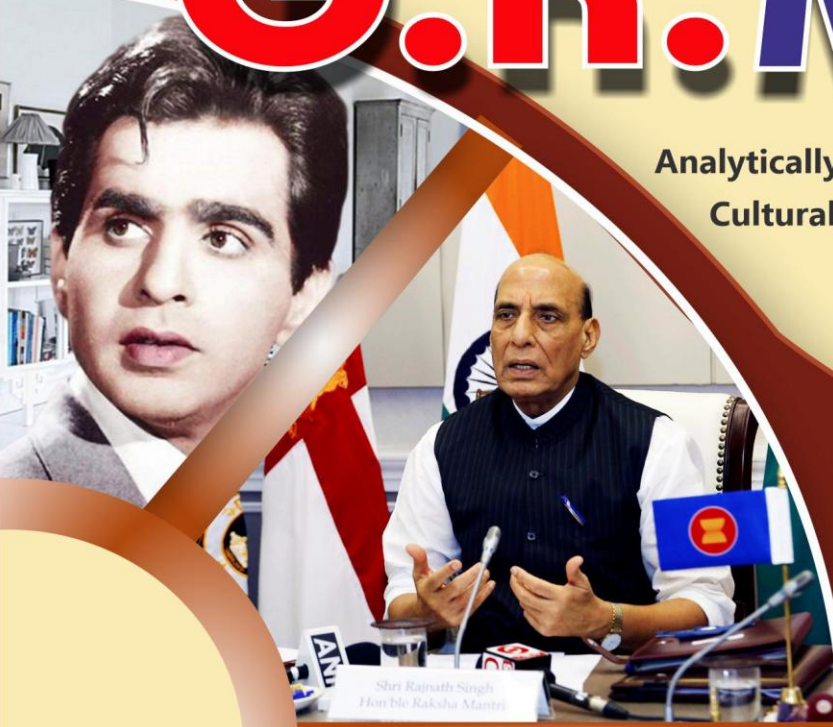


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NATIONAL NEWS

6th BRICS Culture Ministers Meeting 2021 held virtually under Chairmanship of India



On 2nd July 2021, India virtually hosted the 6th BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) Culture Ministers meeting 2021 under the chairmanship of Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of State (I/C) for Culture and Tourism. The meeting saw the participation of the Minister of Culture from the BRICS member countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa). The meeting was conducted under the theme - "Bonding and Harmonizing Cultural Synergy"

Key Discussions:

- Increasing collaboration among the member countries in exchanging knowledge of Cultural experiences to protect various tangible & intangible cultural heritages.
- A proposal was made for the formation of the BRICS Alliance to conserve & preserve ancient manuscripts through digital means.
- Promoting the use of digital technologies to conserve cultural heritage by conducting online cultural activities like - Virtual Museums, Arts, Theatres etc.

Commerce Ministry's Logistic Division unveiled Plan for 'Freight Smart Cities' during Consultative Meeting chaired by HS Puri

On July 2, 2021, a consultative meeting on freight smart cities was held which was chaired by Minister of State (MoS)

Hardeep Singh (HS) Puri, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI). During the meeting, the Logistics Division, MoCI unveiled a plan for 'Freight Smart Cities' to improve the efficiency of urban freight and to reduce the logistics costs.

The MoS also launched the website on 'Freight Smart Cities' along with the release of a handbook outlining 14 measures that can be taken to improve urban freight with low-cost, and low effort initiatives through relevant PPP (Public Private Partnership).

Role of Women in Leading Scientific Research increases by 4 %: DST Report

According to the 'Directory of Extramural Research & Development Projects 2018-19 released by the Centre for Human and Organizational Resource Development (CHORD), a division of the Department of Science & Technology (DST) - Women Principal Investigators (PIs) participation in research that received Extramural Research (EMR) support (support received through peer-reviewed competitive grant mechanism) stood at 28 % during 2018-19, compared to 24 %

during 2016-17. The Research & Development (R&D) support through peer-reviewed competitive grant mechanisms by the Central government stood at INR 2091.04 crore in 2018-19, an increase of 54.72 crore compared to 2017-18. 22 Indian Institute of Technologies (IITs) combined received the highest number of projects (822) & highest funding support (INR 449.25 crore)

Among the Government Agencies / Departments, Department of Science & Technology (DST) contributed the most to extramural R&D funding in India - INR 1392.21 crore (67 % of total funding)

Overview of Ministry of Commerce and Industry's Achievements in Q1 of 2021-22

Union Minister for Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal stated the achievements of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Q1 (April - June) of 2021-22.

Key Points:

- Merchandise exports of USD 95 billion was achieved in Q1 of 2021-22, which is the highest in the history of India.

- India's exports growth during April 2021 was higher than other major advanced economies like European Union, Japan, USA, South Korea & UK.
- India received the highest ever FDI inflow in 2020-21 of USD 81.72 billion.
- Target - India has set a target of USD 400 billion Merchandise exports for 2021-22.

Indrajaal: Grene Robotics developed India's 1st Indigenous Drone Defence Dome



India's first indigenous Autonomous Drone Defence Dome (AD3) namely 'Indrajaal' has been developed by Grene Robotics, a Hyderabad (Telangana) based company into building autonomous technologies. This Anti-Drone Dome provides a 24*7 protection to a large area / city of 1,000-2,000 sq km against threats such as Unmanned Aerial

Vehicles (UAVs), incoming weapons (missiles), loitering munitions and Low-Radar Cross Section (RCS) targets autonomously. It also provides real time situation updates.

Education Minister releases Report on UDISE+ 2019-20 for School Education

Union Minister for Education Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' released the report on 'United District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2019-20' for School Education in India. It is the official statistics system of the Ministry of Education (MoE).

Key Points from the Report

- Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) has improved at all levels of school education in 2019-20 compared to 2018-19. Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) has also increased at all levels of school education.
- Enrolment of girls from primary to higher secondary is more than 12.08 crore, an increase of 14.08 lakh compared to 2018-19.
- The Gender Parity Index (GPI) at both Secondary and Higher Secondary levels have improved.

- Total Students in school education from pre-primary to higher secondary has crossed 26.45 crore in 2019-20, which is an increase of 42.3lakh compared to 2018-19.
- Only 39 % of schools in India had computers, while only 22 % had an internet connection in 2019-20.

FIEO signs MoU with Aramex India to support MSME Exporters in India

In order to support Indian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) exporters with access to cost-efficient, seamless and reliable logistics solutions, the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Aramex India. As part of the MoU, Aramex will provide preferential pricing and online services for cross-border express shipments to FIEO members. On the other hand, this MoU will aid FIEO to reach cottage industries, artisans, housewives, youths, MSMEs and clusters and raise awareness about adapting the export scenario.

AJNIFM Partners with Microsoft to build Centre of Excellence with AI Emerging Tech

On July 01, 2021, Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM) made a strategic partnership and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Microsoft to build a Centre of Excellence at AJNIFM, enabled with AI (Artificial Intelligence) and emerging technologies. The partnership mainly intends to transform the public finance management, expenditure management in India and prevent revenue leakages and money laundering by exploring the role of cloud, AI, and emerging technologies. Centre of Excellence: To develop a Centre of Excellence at AJNIFM to incorporate the ideas of AI in finance management across key associated ministries of AJNIFM. It will serve as a central body for research (AI-based) and tech-led innovation. They will organize strategic knowledge-sharing workshops and develop research papers along with industry experts to analyze the role of cloud, data and AI to reform public finance management.,

Prakash Javadekar e-inaugurated Asia's longest and World's 5th largest HST in Pithampur, Indore (MP)



On the lines of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Initiative, Union Minister Prakash Kehav Javadekar, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Enterprises (MoHI&PE) virtually inaugurated Asia's longest and world's 5th largest 11.3 km NATRAX (National Automotive Test Tracks) High-Speed Track (HST) in India's Pithampur district of Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The project NATRAX was built under NATRiP (National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project) of MoHI&PE. NATRiP is a 100 % Government funded project worth Rs. 3727.30 crore. HST will be used for measuring the maximum speed capabilities of high-performance two-wheelers, premium luxury cars and heaviest tractor trailers and other categories of vehicles.

Digital India completes 6 years



Indian Government's Flagship Programme 'Digital India' completed 6 years on July 1, 2021. To commemorate this, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology organised a programme in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with the beneficiaries.

-Digital India (DI)

The programme was launched on July 1, 2015 with a funding of INR 1,13,000 crore. The main objective of DI is to ensure that Government's services are made available to citizens electronically by improved online infrastructure and making India digitally empowered in the field of technology. It also aims to connect rural areas with high-speed internet networks. The programme is centered on 3 key vision areas- Digital Infrastructure as a Core Utility to Every Citizen, Governance & Services on Demand, and Digital Empowerment of Citizens.

Govt Revised MSMEs Guidelines; Includes Retail and Wholesale Trades

On July 1, 2021, the Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) and Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has announced the Central Government's revision of MSMEs guidelines and the inclusion of Retail and Wholesale trades as MSMEs. Earlier in the definition of MSME has only the manufacturing and service enterprises and it has not mentioned the retail and wholesale trade (Now added).

GIFT City collaborated with BRTSIF to enhance Fintech Innovation

Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) has collaborated with BIL Ryerson Technology Startups Incubator Foundation (BRTSIF) to enhance fintech innovation. In this regard, Zone Startups India, a part of BRTSIF, will pursue ways to set up and promote a fintech hub in GIFT-SEZ (Special Economic Zone). This partnership will also support the Government of India's vision for entrepreneurship development and innovation at GIFT.

Two new species of Snails discovered in Western Ghats

Two different discoveries conducted by separate groups of researchers have identified 2-endemic species of snails from the West Ghats region. A species of nocturnal semi slug called as "Varadiaamboliensis", which is new to science world. The "Snail of Sahyadri" which is compared to tiger due to its unique carnivore characters was discovered for the 1st time in Maharashtra's Western Ghats region

Cabinet Approvals on June 30, 2021

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi accorded approval for several initiatives.

They are :-

- Extension of last date of registration till 31st March, 2022 for AtmaNirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY).
- Revised Implementation Strategy of BharatNet through PPP Model - The estimated maximum viability gap funding is INR 19,041 crores.
- Loan Guarantee Scheme for Covid Affected Sectors (LGSCAS) and to

enhance the Target Credit Line for Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)

- Approval for 'Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme' - The scheme will be available till 2025-26 and is worth INR 3.03 Lakh crore (Central Fund 97,000 crore).
- MoU between India & Myanmar in the field of health research
- MoU between India & Nepal in the field of health research
- MoU between India & Gambia for overhauling Personnel Administration and Governance Reforms.

India, Russia begin Construction of Units 5 & 6 of Kudankulam Nuclear Plant, Tamil Nadu

Rosatom, a Russian state-run Nuclear Energy Corporation & Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) have started the construction work on Units 5 & 6 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP) in Tamil Nadu. Kudankulam is India's largest nuclear power station. The starting of works was virtually launched by Atomic Energy

Commission chairman and DAE secretary K N Vyas in the presence of Alexey Likhachev, Director General, Rosatom Global and CMD of NPCIL S K Sharma. Rosatom & NPCIL have been building 6 power reactors of 1,000 MW each at Kudankulam. Units 1 and 2 have already been commissioned, while work on unit 3 & 4 is in advanced stage and is expected to be completed by 2026-27. The construction of KNPP began on 31st March, 2002. The nuclear plant is a result of the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) signed on 20th November 1988 between the then Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi and the Soviet head of state, Mikhail Gorbachev.

Indian Navy inked MoU with BEL Ltd to develop Emerging Technologies

On June 29, 2021, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Indian Navy and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) at Integrated Headquarters, Ministry of Defence (Navy), New Delhi to create a joint Technology Incubation Forum (TIF). The reason behind this MoU is to foster development of Emerging Technologies.

Government Retained the Interest Rate of Small Savings Schemes for Q2 of FY22

The Ministry of Finance, Government of India (GoI) had retained the Interest Rate of Small Savings Scheme for the 2nd quarter(Q2) for the Financial Year 2021-22 (FY22) same as Q1 FY22 due to COVID-19. It is the 5th consecutive quarter that GoI had unchanged the Interest Rates of the small saving schemes (unchanged since April 1, 2020). The small savings schemes consist of 12 schemes including the National Saving Certificate (NSC), Public Provident Fund (PPF), Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) and Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme, etc. The annual interest rate on NSC was unchanged at 6.8 percent and interest rate of PPF too unchanged at 7.1 percent. The interest rate on the 5-year Senior Citizens Savings Scheme Account (SCSS) also retained at 7.4 percent.

MoD initiates projects to create 1st of its kind Cyber Museum on War Heroes

As part of the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence, the Ministry of Defence has initiated a project to create the 1st of

its kind cyber museum which will honour the war heroes of India. It will be an interactive virtual museum of India's Gallantry award winners and will be hosted by the Gallantry awards portal. The project will be implemented in partnership with Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).

J & K launches 'Hausla' Scheme to promote Women Entrepreneurship



In June 2021, Lt Governor (LG) of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Manoj Sinha launched a Women Entrepreneurship scheme called "HAUSLA - Inspiring her Growth" in the Union Territory (UT). Hausla is a comprehensive program on promoting entrepreneurship among women, which will be implemented by the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization

(JKTPO). Objective - JKTPO in collaboration with various industrial stakeholders will provide training, mentorship to women entrepreneurs with various marketing strategies to promote their business. JKTPO in collaboration with India SME Forum will start the 5-month long "HAUSLA" program in July 2021, with a 1st batch of 100 women entrepreneurs.

National Chartered Accountants Day 2021- July 1



The National Chartered Accountants'(CA) Day is annually observed across India on July 1st to commemorate the establishment of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) by the Parliament under the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949. The day highlights the importance of Chartered Accountants in bringing transparency to

the economy. The year 2021 marks the celebration of the 73rd National Chartered Accountants' Day.

Goods and Service Tax Day 2021- July 1



The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Day is annually observed across India on 1st July. The day marks the commemoration of the unprecedented reform of Indian taxation - Goods and Services Tax (GST). The day is observed by the Central Board of Indirect Tax and Customs (CBIC) across India. The year 2021 marks the observance of the 4th GST Day.

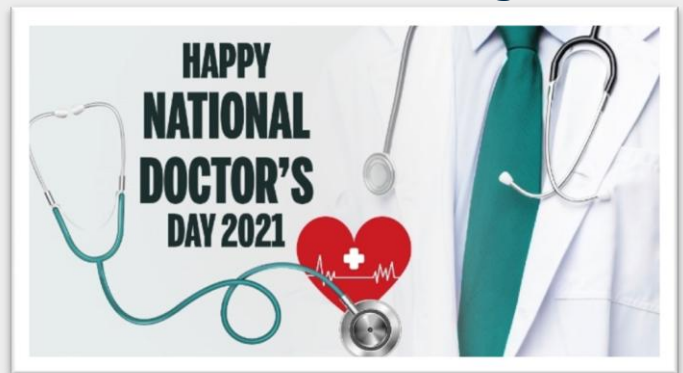
World Bank Approved USD 500 Million Loan to Support India's Informal Working Class

On June 30, 2021, the World Bank (WB) Board of Executive Directors approved a USD 500 million (Rs 3,726.30 crore) loan

programme to support India's informal working class to overcome the COVID- 19 distress and to support the states to manage the current pandemic, future climate and disaster shock. Out of the USD 500 million loan, USD 112.50 million will be financed by the International Development Association (IDA) and the remaining USD 387.50 million will be provided as a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).

- **Maturity:** The loan has a maturity period of 18.5 years with a grace period of 5 years.
- The loan programme was named - 'Creating a Coordinated and Responsive Indian Social Protection System' (CCRISP), it was built on the USD 1.15 billion 'Accelerating India's COVID-19 Social Protection Response Program' which was approved to support schemes under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY).

National Doctors Day 2021



The National Doctors Day is annually observed across India on 1st July to recognise the efforts and contributions of the doctor's community to society and the commitment of the doctors towards their profession. The day also marks the birth and death anniversary of Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy, who served as the Chief Minister (CM) of West Bengal (WB) from 1948 to 1962. The Indian Medical Association (IMA) celebrates National Doctors Day across India. The headquarters of IMA has declared "Save the Saviours" as the theme of National Doctors Day 2021.

States. UTs to Implement One Nation One Ration Card by July 31, 2021: Supreme Court Order

On June 29, 2021, The Supreme Court (SC) directed States and Union Territories (UT) to extend the implementation of the

'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme (ONORC) till July 31, 2021, to ensure food security, cash transfers and other welfare measures for migrant workers under COVID-19. The bench of justices Ashok Bhushan and M R Shah mentioned the difficulties faced by 38 crore migrant workers around India, who form one-fourth of the country's population during the second wave of COVID-19 due to lack of ration cards. It also directed that the process of registration of the unorganized labourers / migrant workers be completed at the earliest, but not later than December 31, 2021.

Glacial Lake Atlas of Ganga River Basin Released; NHP-Bhuvan Portal of NRSC also launched

On June 29, 2021, the Glacial Lake Atlas of Ganga River Basin was virtually released by Pankaj Kumar, Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti. This atlas mapped 4707 glacial lakes in the Ganga River basin with a total lake water spread area of 20,685 ha and will provide information on their type,

hydrological, topographical, and associated glaciers.

Bollywood Actor Dilip Kumar Passed Away at 98



Veteran Bollywood Actor and Padma Awardee Dilip Kumar, popularly known as the 'Tragedy King of Bollywood', passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was born as Mohammed Yusuf Khan in Peshawar, British India (now in Pakistan) on 11th December 1922.

About Dilip Kumar:

Dilip Kumar debuted as an Actor in the 1944 film "JwarBhata". He has starred in more than 65 films which include films like Devdas(1955), Mughal-e-Azam(1960), Ganga Jamuna(1961), Ram Aur Shyam(1967), Naya Daur(1957), Madhumati(1958), Kranti(1981), Vidhaata(1982), Shakti(1982) and

Mashaal(1984).He was the inaugural recipient of the Filmfare Best Actor Award (1954), He won the award for his film "Daag" (1953).

Honours :

- The government of India honoured him with the Padma Bhushan in 1991 and Padma Vibhushan in 2015.
- The government of Pakistan honoured him with its highest civilian honour the "Nishan-e-Imtiaz" in 1998. He is the only Indian to be honoured with this.
- In 1994, He won the Dadasaheb Phalke award for his cinematic excellence.

NITI Aayog's Study on 'Not for Profit' Hospital Model released by VK Paul

As India's policies and programmes are aimed at achieving Universal Health Coverage by 2030, NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog released the Study on Not-For-Profit Hospital Model in India-Web providing insight into their operation model. As of June 2018, these hospitals account for only 1.1% of treated ailments.The report

was released by Dr. Vinod Kumar Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog.A Not-for-Profit Hospital Sector provides affordable and accessible healthcare.

Proposals:

- The study proposed a short-term and long-term policy interventions for these hospitals, such as 100% exemption for donations under section 80 , development of directory of these hospitals, ranking them through a performance index, and promoting top hospitals for practising philanthropy, etc.
- It is also proposed to provide working capital loans with lower interest rates to these hospitals. [Click here for Full Study](#)

SERB-DST Intel India launch 'FIRE',1st of its Initiative to Advance Deep Tech Research in India

Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a statutory body under Department of Science & Technology (DST) in partnership with Intel India has launched the 1st of its kind research initiative called 'Fund for Industrial Research Engagement (FIRE)' to advance deep tech-based research in India.It will

help the Indian research community to pursue industry-relevant research opportunities in areas of deep technologies (like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Language (ML), cloud, edge, and security) which are novel, transformative and have a ground-breaking impact on a national & global scale. 'FIRE' is a joint government and industry initiative with a co-funding mechanism. Under the program, research projects which have breakthrough potential at a national or global level will be selected in every cycle (once or twice a year). Best researchers in academia will be supported with funding, mentoring, and industry connections.

PMFME Scheme Launched under AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan Completes 1 Year

The Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme, which was launched under the AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan completed one year of its launch on 29th June, 2021. PMFME is a centrally sponsored scheme, which aims to enhance the competitiveness of existing

individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry, promote formalization of the sector, and support Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Producers Cooperatives along their entire value chain. It was launched with an outlay of INR 10,000 crore over a period of 5 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25. Under the scheme, 2,00,000 micro food processing units will be directly assisted with credit linked subsidy.

PM inaugurated Zen Garden, Kaizen Academy at AMA, Ahmedabad



Narendra Modi, Prime Minister (PM) of India, virtually inaugurated a Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy at Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA) in

Ahmedabad, Gujarat to display the bond between India and Japan. The Zen Garden and the Kaizen Academy is a symbol of spontaneity and modernity of relation between Indian and Japan.

Office of Principal Scientific Adviser Launches 'Atmanirbhar Krishi App'

The Office of Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India launched the Atmanirbhar Krishi app under the KisanMitr initiative. The app aims to equip farmers with actionable agricultural insights and provide early weather alerts. The app collects Data related to soil type, soil health, moisture, weather, and water table and generates personalized insights related to crop selection, fertilizer requirements, and water needs for each farmer. It has been designed and built by the Tech Mahindra Makers Lab team, the Research & Development arm of Tech Mahindra. The data for the app is being provided by various Government departments like weather information from IMD, land surface information vegetation index and crop from ISRO.

NITI Aayog & UN hosted National Convention on Prevention of Obesity in New Delhi



On June 24, 2021, NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog and United Nations (UN) hosted a National Convention/Consultation on Prevention of Maternal, Adolescent and Childhood Obesity in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Dr. Vinod Kumar Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog and Co-chairmanship of Dr. R Hemalatha, Director, Nutrition Institute of India. During the meeting obesity was addressed as a silent epidemic.

Government announces Relief Package of 6,28,993 crore Relief Package to Support Indian Economy

Union Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman announced an 'Economic Relief from Pandemic' stimulus package worth INR 6,28,993 crore to support the

Indian Economy during the fight against COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 17 measures were announced. They can be classified into 3 broad categories Economic Relief from Pandemic, Strengthening Public Health & Impetus for Growth & Employment.

-Economic Relief from Pandemic

8 out of 17 announced schemes were aimed at providing economic relief to people and businesses affected by COVID-19 pandemic, with special focus on health, reviving travel, and tourism sectors.

-Strengthening Public Health

A new scheme for strengthening public health infrastructure and human resources has been announced with an outlay of INR 23,220 crore, the amount is to be spent in the current financial year itself (2021-22). Out of INR 23,220 crore, Central's share will be INR 15,000 crore. Impetus for Growth & Employment the Government has announced 8 schemes to provide impetus for growth and employment in India.

- Gist of Important schemes and their allocations

- Loan Guarantee Scheme for COVID Affected Sectors -Rs 1.10 lakh crore
- Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme-Additional Allocation of INR 1.5 lakh crore
- Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro Finance Institutions- INR 7,500 crore
- New Scheme for Public Health- INR 23,220 crore
- Loan Guarantee Scheme for tourist guides/stakeholders-INR 100 crore

3rd India-Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks held virtually

The 3rd Development Cooperation Talks between India & Bhutan took place virtually. The Indian side was led by Rahul Chhabra, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs while the Bhutan side was led by Kinga Singye, Foreign Secretary, Bhutan. During the meeting, both sides agreed to implement new projects in Bhutan in sectors like road infrastructure, water management and COVID-19 management. India has committed INR 4500 crores for the implementation of development projects and INR 400 crores

for the transitional Trade Support Facility under Bhutan's 12th Five Year Plan (2018-2023).

NTPC sets target to install 60 GW of RE Capacity by 2032

During the recently concluded Ministerial-level Thematic Forum for UN High level Dialogue on Energy 2021 (HLDE), India's largest Power Producer NTPC Ltd unveiled its target to install 60 GW of renewable energy capacity (wind and solar) by 2032, as part of its plans to reduce 10 % of its net energy intensity by 2032. With this, NTPC Ltd became India's 1st energy company to declare energy compact goals as part of HLDE 2021. NTPC plans to invest INR 1 trillion between 2019 and 2024 to become a 130 GW power producer by 2032. NTPC will form 2 international alliances to facilitate clean energy research and promote sustainability in the energy value chain by 2025.

"Enforcing Contracts Portal" launched by Department of Justice

On 28th June 2021, Barun Mitra, Secretary at Department of Justice launched the "Enforcing Contracts Portal" that is aimed at improving the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) in India. The Department of Justice under the Ministry of Law and Justice, is the nodal agency responsible for all policy reforms on "Enforcing Contracts" for improving the EoDB in India. Provides up to date information on all commercial cases in Dedicated Commercial Courts in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Kolkata. Note - India was ranked 63rd in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business 2020 index.

INS Tabar to participate in Joint Exercises with Friendly Navies of African and Europe

Indian Navy Ship (INS) Tabar has been deployed to participate in Russian Navy Day celebrations (from June 22-27, 2021) and joint exercises with friendly navies in Africa and Europe. INS Tabar started its journey on June 13, 2021 and will visit a

number of places till September, 2021. During the deployment, Tabar will move across the Gulf of Aden, Red Sea, Suez Canal, Mediterranean Sea and other ports. It is also set to participate in bilateral exercises like Exercise Konkan with the UK, Exercise Varuna with French Navy, and Exercise Indra with Russian Navy.

Prakash Javadekar Releases LiDAR Survey of Forest Areas for 10 States



Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) Prakash Javadekar virtually released the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) based survey of forest areas for 10 states. The survey is the 1st of its kind in India which uses LiDAR technology. The 10 states are Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh,

Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, and Tripura. It is the 1st time that Central funds have been utilized for surveying of forest areas at such a large scale. The LiDAR survey will help in increasing water and fodder in jungle areas thereby reducing human-animal conflict. It will also assist in identifying areas that need groundwater recharge, which will benefit the local communities. The survey was carried out by WAPCOS Ltd (formerly known as Water and Power Consultancy Services Ltd), a PSU under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment launches Website for NashaMukt Bharat Abhiyan

On occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26th June), Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Thawarchand Gehlot launched a website for the NashaMukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) scheme. To commemorate the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, MoSJE organized a 6-day NashaMukt Bharat Summit from June 21-26, 2021. The website for NMBA

contains detailed information about the scheme and its activities, it provides IEC (Information, Education & Communication) resource material and information on institutions set up by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE) with the aim of Drug Demand reduction. Several initiatives like special NashaMukt Bharat Summit Edition of Monthly newsletter, short film on NMBA depicting the activities undertaken for the Abhiyaan were also launched during the summit. MoSJE is the nodal ministry for Drug Demand Reduction. It implements various programmes for drug abuse prevention across India. NashaMukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA). NMBA or 'Drugs-Free India Campaign' was launched on 15th August, 2020 across 272 districts of India, which were found to be the most vulnerable districts in India for drug usage.

National Statistics Day 2021- June 29

The National Statistics Day is annually observed on 29th June to popularize the use of Statistics in everyday life and

sensitize the public as to how Statistics helps in shaping and framing policies. The day also commemorates the birth anniversary of Padma Vibhushan Prof Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis (P C Mahalanobis) who was referred to as the "Father of Indian Statistics".

DRDO Test Fires 'Agni-P'- Advanced Variant of Agni Class of Missiles



The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired the nuclear capable, Surface-to-Surface Missile 'Agni-P (Prime)' from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam island, Balasore, Odisha. Agni-P is a new generation advanced variant of the Agni class of missiles. It is a canisterised missile and has a range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 kms. The missile has been designed and developed by the Defence Research

and Development Organisation (DRDO). Canisterisation of missiles (processing of putting firepower into metal containers) reduces the time required to launch the missile, while improving its storage and mobility.

Discovery of New Plant Subspecies-Rungia Longifolia Subsp

A team of researchers from JNTBRI & University of Kerala discovered a new plant subspecies from the Western Ghats named 'Rungia Longifolia Subsp. Keralensis', it belongs to the Rungia Longifolia herb species, endemic to Sri Lanka. The discovery has been published in 'Abrahamia', an International Journal of Plant Sciences. The subspecies has been classified under the Acanthaceae plant family.

MoHUA celebrates 6th Anniversary of Smart Cities Mission; ISAC-2020 Winners

On June 25, 2021, an online event was organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to mark the 6th anniversary of the launch of three transformative Urban Missions viz. Smart

Cities Mission (SCM), AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U). The event will be presided over by Minister of State (Independent Charge), Hardeep Singh Puri, MoHUA. During the event, MoHUA also announced the results of India Smart Cities Awards Contest (ISAC) 2020 which were given across 6 categories of Project Awards, City Leadership Award, State UT Award, Innovation Award, COVID Innovation Award, and City Award. Indore & Surat jointly won the Best City Award and Uttar Pradesh won Best State award under India Smart Cities Awards 2020.

India's 1st Indigenous Aircraft Carrier to be Commissioned by 2020

Union Minister for Defence Rajnath Singh has stated that India's 1st Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) will be commissioned into Indian Navy's Eastern Naval Command as 'INS Vikrant' by mid-2022. It is being built at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL). The commissioning of INS Vikrant will enhance the combat

capability, reach and versatility to India's defence. IAC contains nearly 75 % indigenous content and has been designed by Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design (DND). It is being built at a cost of INR 24,000 crore and was originally targeted to be commissioned by 2018. At present, India has only one Aircraft Carrier - the Russian-origin INS Vikramaditya.

Two Days Hemis Festival Celebrated in Ladakh

The two days grand Hemis festival was celebrated by the people of Ladakh and the Tibetan community on 20th and 21st of June 2021. It is celebrated at the sweeping courtyard of Hemis monastery, Ladakh.

Key Points:

- It is celebrated on the 10th day of the fifth month of Tibetan lunar calendar which is believed to be the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava popularly known as the second Buddha.
- It is a two-day grand festival that signifies the triumph of good over evil.
- The masked dances also known as 'Chham Dance' depict the triumph of

good over the bad are the highlights of the Hemis Festival of Ladakh.

Govt Extended the 'Fame Phase II' by 2 Years till March 2024 to Achieve Target

On June 25, 2021, the Department of Heavy Industries, Ministry of heavy industries and public enterprises (MoHI&PE), extended the government's (govt) flagship Electric Vehicles (EV) promotion scheme, 'FAME India Phase II' for 2 years till March 2024.

China became the 2nd Largest Export Destination of India in FY21; Replaced UAE

As per the Central government data, China replaced the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as the 2nd largest export destination for India in FY21. The United States (US) remained as India's top export partner. China's share in India's export rose to 7.29 percent in FY21 from 5.3 percent of FY20 (Whereas the imports from China declined marginally in FY21). Iron ore, organic chemicals, and petroleum were the top exports to China in FY21.

Jamsetji Tata: World's Top Philanthropist of Last Century

The founder of Tata Group, Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata has emerged as the biggest philanthropist globally in the last century (between 1901-1999) by donating \$ 102.4 billion, according to the list of top 50 givers prepared by the Hurun Report and EdelGive Foundation.

LIC Launched Web Portal for Group Business Operations- 'e-PGS'

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has launched a centralized web-enabled workflow-based IT platform for its group business operations named 'e-PGS'.

Features of e-PGS:

- The platform was designed to provide centralized collection and payment accounting with a high level of bank integration by connecting the innovative features of integrated banking with automatic reconciliations.
- The customer portals under the platform will provide comprehensive self servicing capabilities, through which the corporate customers could

view their data, initiate actionable processes, lodge, and track claims.

- This initiative was intended to change the ways of services and data transfer to customers on group business platforms through technology.

DRDO Test Fires Pinaka Rocket & Enhanced Range Version of 122 mm Caliber Rocket



The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired the Extended range version of indigenously developed Pinaka rocket & Enhanced range versions of indigenously developed 122 mm Caliber rocket from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha. Both rockets have been developed by Pune-based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) and the High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL).

Ravi Shankar Prasad Launched 'itat e-dwar' E-Filing Portal of ITAT

Union Minister for Law & Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad formally launched the e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) - 'itat e-dwar' from New Delhi. The portal developed by ITAT will enable parties to file their Appeals, Miscellaneous Applications, documents, paper books etc. electronically. It is expected to benefit lawyers & tax litigants. During the launch, the union minister stated that data of more than 18 crore cases were available in the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), and suggested that cases of ITAT should be integrated in NJDG.

IAF, Indian Navy conduct Passage Exercise with the US Navy in Indian Ocean Region

On June 23-24, 2021, Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Navy participated in the two days Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the United States (US) Navy during its asset transit through Indian Ocean Region (IOR). India was represented by Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kochi and INS Teg

along with P8I and MiG 29K aircraft. US was represented by the Carrier Strike Group (CSG) comprising Nimitz class aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan, Arleigh Burke class guided missile destroyer USS (United States Ship) Halsey and Ticonderoga class guided missile cruiser USS Shiloh.

Narendra Singh Tomar addressed 3rd CII Northern Region Food Processing Summit 2021 virtually



On June 24, 2021, the 3rd edition of the Northern Zone Food Processing Summit 2021 was virtually organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). It was addressed by Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).

Key Points:

- Government has launched a new production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the food processing industry, under which Rs 11,000 crore will be spent. It was launched as a part of the self-reliant India campaign.
- Centre has asked CII to conduct a comparative study on the available foodgrains and horticulture resources with their processing level. This study will aid the Centre in preparing strategy to fill the gaps.
- Emphasis was laid on the collaboration of government and industry in the area of fortification of processed food.

World Bank Approved \$125 Million Program to Support Kerala

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors has approved a \$125 million program under the 'Resilient Kerala Program' to support Kerala's preparedness against natural disasters, climate change impacts, and COVID-19. Resilient Kerala Program is a part of a programmatic series of World Bank

financed operations in the state. At the heavy monsoons of 2018, One-sixth of the state's population about 5.4 million people - were affected while 1.4 million were displaced, especially in the Pamba River Basin.

India Attracts FDI Inflow of USD 6.24 Billion During April 2021

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry on June 23, 2021, India has attracted a total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow of USD 6.24 billion during April 2021 which is 38% higher FDI inflow as compared to April, 2020.

PM Modi virtually interacts with participants of Toycathon 2021

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually interacted with the participants of the Toy Hackathon - 'Toycathon 2021', launched in January 2021, it is the 1st of its kind initiative in India which aims to crowd-source innovative toys and games ideas which are based on India's culture, civilization, history, mythology and ethos. Toycathon 2021 received 17000 ideas, out of which 1567 ideas were shortlisted for the Toycathon Grand

FinaleThe Grand Finale of Toycathon 2021 was virtually inaugurated by Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani & Minister of State for Education Sanjay Dhotre. It was held from June 22-24, 2021.

DRDO successfully test-fires Nuclear capable cruise missile 'Nirbhay'



Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully testfired the nuclear capable subsonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay' from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha. It is India's 1st indigenously developed cruise missile.'Nirbhay' is designed and developed in India by the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) which comes under DRDO.The Missile has a range of 1000 kms and is capable of reaching speeds of

0.6-0.7 Mach.It is capable of carrying multiple payloads and can engage several targets in a single flight.It can be launched from all 3 platforms - Land, Sea & Air.

World's First Genetically Modified Rubber Planted in Assam

World's first genetically modified (GM) rubber sapling was planted at the Rubber board's Sarutari research farm on the outskirts of Guwahati, Assam.It is developed by the Kerala-based Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII), under the Rubber Board through long years of research in its Biotechnology laboratory.The Rubber Board chairman and executive director KN Raghavan planted the sapling.

Key Points:

- The GM rubber plant, the first of its kind developed exclusively for the northeast, is expected to thrive in the climatic conditions of the region.
- The GM rubber plant is inserted with additional copies of the gene MnSOD (manganese-containing superoxide

dismutase) to tide over the severe cold conditions during winter which is a major factor affecting the growth of young rubber plants.

India virtually hosts BRICS Green Hydrogen Summit 2021

India hosted the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa) Green Hydrogen Summit 2021 which took place virtually from June 22-23, 2021. The event was anchored by NTPC Ltd, a Maharatna CPSU (Central Public Sector Undertaking) under the Ministry of Power. The summit aims to address the challenges facing Green Hydrogen in terms of technology, efficiency, financial viability and scaling up of the technology. Representatives from each country shared the initiatives taken by their countries on use of hydrogen and their future plans. They also discussed the relevance of different technologies developed on hydrogen. During the meeting, India called for common international standards for green hydrogen to ensure safe transportation and storage of the new age emission-free

fuel. Green Hydrogen, when produced by electrolysis using renewable energy is known as Green Hydrogen, it has no carbon footprint. It is set to play a major role and build on the rapid increase of renewable resources across the world.

Euphlyctis Kerala; New Species of Skittering Frog Discovered Around Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary

A team of researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Mount Carmel College (MCC) - Bengaluru, and National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), Bhubaneswar discovered Euphlyctis Kerala, a new species of genus Euphlyctis (skittering frog) from the surroundings of the Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary, Kothamangalam, Kerala. The research findings of the Euphlyctis Kerala are published in the international journal Zootaxa, published from New Zealand. The new species, Euphlyctis Kerala, is named in honour of the exceptional biodiversity of Kerala.

Bengaluru ranks as Most Liveable City in India: CSE's Ease of Living Index 2020



According to the 'Ease of Living Index 2020' released by Centre for Science & Environment (CSE) - Bengaluru (Karnataka) with a score of 66.7 has been ranked as India's most liveable capital city followed by Chennai, Tamil Nadu at No. 2, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh at No. 3. The Index is part of the report titled State of India's Environment 2021. Only 3 state capitals feature in the Top 10 most liveable cities list. This is the 2nd edition of Ease of Living Index 2020; the 1st edition was published in 2018. Parameters The Index is based on 4 Parameters - Quality of life, Economic ability, Sustainability & Citizens' perceptions. Based on which, Indian cities were rated out of 100. The Ease of

Living Index 2020 has included the parameter - citizen's perception for the first time.

Cabinet Approvals on June 23, 2021

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has granted approval to several initiatives. They are Allocation of additional food grains under PM-GKAY 2021 (Phase IV) for another 5 months i.e July to November, 2021. The total estimated expenditure of the additional allocation - INR 67,266.44 crore will be borne completely by the Central Government. The Cabinet has given approval to merge and transfer all assets, liabilities, rights and obligations of 'Central Railside Warehouse Company Limited (CRWC)', a Mini-Ratna Category-II Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) with its holding enterprise 'Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)'. Agreement signed between India and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for the Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to Taxes. It is the 1st agreement on Taxes between the two countries. The agreement proposes

to facilitate exchange of information between the two countries and to provide assistance to each other in collection of tax claims.

S&P cut India's FY22 GDP Growth Forecast to 9.5 %

In June 2021, S&P Global Ratings revised India's economic growth projection in FY22 to 9.5 percent from its earlier forecast of 11 percent. It projected the growth for FY23 at 7.8 percent. It lowered the growth outlook of India and stated the country's recovery to be 'less steep' by comparing with the bounce in late 2020 and early 2021. It reported permanent damage over the private and public sector balance sheet and it also mentioned the severe effect in the services sector compared with the manufacturing and exports that are less severely affected than that of 2020. It stated that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) would not make changes in the interest rate, due to a rise in inflation above 6 percent (the upper end of RBI's threshold).

Denmark signs framework agreement on ISA with India

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated that the Kingdom of Denmark has signed the framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA) and Instrument of Ratification with India. With this, Denmark became the 1st country to ratify ISA FA after the amendments to it entered into force on January 8, 2021. The signed copies of the agreement were received by an additional secretary (ER) as representative of MEA. MEA is the depositary of the ISA Framework Agreement.

WhatsApp and NSDC launch Digital Skill Championship Programme for Indian Youth

WhatsApp & National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) launched its 'Digital Skill Champions Programme'. The programme aims to train Indian youth on digital skills to make them employable and more productive in their work environment. The two entities have identified 2 broad areas of collaborations: WhatsApp Digital Skills Academy and ii)

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) & WhatsApp Business App Training sessions. Through this partnership, WhatsApp aims to enhance the digital skills of aspiring entrepreneurs and empower the youth of India to create a safe digital environment for all. As part of WhatsApp Digital Skills Academy, youth from Tier-III & Tier-IV cities will be trained on critical aspects of digital safety and online privacy. The initiative will be started on a pilot basis across 50 campuses in 5 states - Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The programme will be imparted through WhatsApp's project implementation partner - InfiSpark.

IFFCO, INAES and Cooperar signs MoU to Set Up Nano Urea Plant in Argentina

Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) Limited, a Multi-state cooperative society, is set to establish a nano urea liquid manufacturing plant in Argentina in partnership with Instituto Nacional de Asociativismo y Economía Social (INAES) and Confederación Cooperativa De La República Argentina

Ltda (Cooperar). The IFFCO, INAES and Cooperar have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a nano urea liquid plant. The MoU was signed by Ariel Guarco, President of Cooperar, Alexandre Roig President of INAES and Yogendra Kumar, Marketing Director of IFFCO during a virtual meeting.

MoD, GSL sign contract for construction 2 Pollution Control Vessels

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract with Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) for the construction of 2 Pollution Control Vessels (PCVs) for Indian Coast Guard (ICG) at a cost of about INR 583 crore. The ships will be indigenously designed, developed and built by GSL. The PCVs will help ICG to respond to oil spill disasters at sea and enhance Pollution Response (PR) efficiency. They will be used for pollution response requirements in Eastern and the ecologically sensitive Andaman & Nicobar Regions. The acquisition is taking place under 'Buy Indian - Indigenously Designed Developed & Manufactured (Buy Indian-IDDM)' category of Defence

Acquisition Procedure 2020 (DAP 2020) which is the highest priority category of defence capital procurements. The vessels will be delivered by November 2024 and May 2025 respectively.

India, Italy and Japan launch Trilateral partnership for stability in Indo-Pacific Region

India, Italy & Japan launched a Trilateral partnership to establish stability and a govern-based global order based on approval of all in the Indo-Pacific region. Experts from the 3 nations discussed various things like security issues, collaboration with third world countries, multilateralism and the socio-economic dimension. The Trilateral was inaugurated through a virtual meeting between the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Embassies of Italy in Tokyo and New Delhi and the Japanese foreign ministry besides ambassadors of the three countries' key stakeholders. The partnership was inaugurated by ambassadors of Italy in Japan and India, Mr. Giorgio Starace and Mr. Vincenzo de Luca respectively. It is India's 2nd Trilateral partnership with a European

power. The first one being the India, France & Australia Trilateral signed in 2020.

Odisha Govt Partners with UN WFP to Empower Women SHGs, Strengthen Livelihood

In June 2021, the government of Odisha and the United Nations World Food Programme (UN WFP) made a partnership to improve the household food and nutritional security in Odisha by strengthening the livelihood initiatives and working with thousands of state-supported Women's Self-Help Groups (WSHGs). The partnership which is intended to support WSHGs is effective till December 2023.

India-Fiji inked MoU for cooperation in Agriculture and Allied sectors

On June 22, 2021, India and Fiji signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and allied sectors during a virtual meeting. This MoU will be executed by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) from Indian side and the Ministry of Agriculture of Fiji. It was

signed by Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, MoA&FW from Indian side and Dr. Mahendra Reddy, Minister of Agriculture, Waterways & Environment of Fiji. There will also be setting up of a Joint Working Group (JWG) to set down procedures and plan and recommend programs of cooperation towards achieving its aims.

India to host 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable 2022

India has agreed to host the 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9) 2022 after a virtual meeting between International Energy Forum (IEF) Secretary-General Joseph McMonigle and India's Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Chief executive officers of Indian Oil Corp, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum Corp, in addition to senior officers from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, were also present at the meeting

Key-points:

- The decisions about global energy security in the age of change that were concluded in AMER8 in Abu

Dhabi in 2018 will be further enhanced in AMER9.

- It has to be noted that AMER8 was co-hosted by India along with Abu Dhabi.
- The dates for AMER9 will be announced later.

DBT issues special call to North East Region farmers under Biotech KISAN Programme

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under the Ministry of Science and Technology has issued a Special Call to Farmers of North East Region (NER) under its Mission Programme 'Biotech-Krishi Innovation Science Application Network (Biotech-KISAN)'. The objective is to understand the local problems of NER farmers and provide scientific solutions to solve them. Despite being a predominantly agrarian region (70 of workforce engaged in agriculture for livelihood), NER produces just 1.5 % of the country's food grains and remains a net importer of food grains. Through Biotech-KISAN, DBT aims to increase the income of farmers by promoting location specific crops, horticultural and

plantation crops, fisheries and livestock production. The Biotech-KISAN hubs in NER will collaborate with top scientific institutions of India, State Agriculture Universities (SAUs)/Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and other organizations for demonstration of technologies and training of farmers. The main targets of the scheme will be small & marginal farmers, and women farmers.

High-level Committee Formation for Consultations on Theatre Commands

A high-level committee consisting of representatives from the 3 services (Army, Air Force and Navy) and the Ministries concerned such as Department of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs and National Security Council Secretariat has been formed for the consultations on the creation of integrated tri-service theatre commands. The committee will examine all issues and find a way forward before a formal note on their creation is sent to the Cabinet Committee on Security. It also aims to bring the paramilitary forces,

which are under the Home Ministry, under the purview of the theatre commands. An integrated theatre command is a unified command of the three Services, under a single commander, for geographical theatres (areas) that are of strategic and security concern.

India ranked 2nd after Turkey in Central bank's surplus transfers share

As per the State of Economy report by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in June 2021, India ranked 2nd after Turkey in terms of the share of 'Surplus Transferred from Central Banks to Governments'. RBI has transferred 0.44 percent of GDP to the Government in FY21, in FY20 it took the 4th position with 0.29 percent.

Key Facts of the Report

- Due to the surplus transfer, RBI was characterized as 'free-ranging' and conducting independent monetary policy, i.e., independent of fiscal dominance.

- RBI reported India as the 5th largest reserve holding country in the world, the 12th largest foreign holder of US treasury securities and the 10th largest in terms of gold reserves.

Moody Projected India's Growth Forecast for 2021 to 9.6 %. 2022 at 7 %

As per the report of Moody's Investors Service, on June 24, 2021, titled "Macroeconomics India: Economic shocks from second COVID wave will not be as severe as last year's", India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for the calendar year 2021 was reduced to 9.6 percent from its earlier estimate of 13.9 percent. It also projected a 7 percent growth in 2022. It reported 10 states in India as hardest hit by the second wave of COVID19 and stated them as accountable for about 60 percent of the pre-pandemic level of India's GDP. The 4 states, viz, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka are mentioned as the largest shares contributor of GDP among all other states in FY20.

Assam Government & Survey of India sign MoU for implementation of SVAMITVA scheme in Assam

Assam Government & Survey of India (Sol), the National Mapping Agency (NMA) of India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for implementation of SVAMITVA scheme (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) in Assam. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Government of India & Department of Revenue and disaster management, Government of Assam will implement the scheme with support of the Panchayat & Rural Development of Assam. As Technology partner, Survey of India will take steps for survey of inhabited rural land by drone technology. The implementation of SVAMITVA scheme is aimed at reducing property related disputes and legal cases.

Andhra Pradesh tops new job creation under IBPS scheme: STPI

Andhra Pradesh has generated the highest employment in India under the IBPS Scheme (India Business Process Outsourcing Promotion Scheme) by

creating 12,234 new jobs. Tamil Nadu came 2nd by creating 9, 401 jobs, while the remaining jobs were spread across Punjab, Odisha, Maharashtra and others. Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh received the distinction for providing employment to a large number of youths under the IBPS scheme. The scheme has generated direct employment for more than 40,000 people residing in Tier-II and Tier-III cities, out of which 38 % are women.

NHSRCL & IGBC partners to frame World's 1st Green Rating System for High-Speed Rails

On 21st June 2021, the National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd. (NHSRCL) collaborated with Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) to formulate World's 1st Green Rating System for High-Speed Rails (HSR). Under this collaboration, MAHSR (Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail) corridor, which is currently under the control of NHSRC, will be included for the Green HSR Rating program of IGBC. Objective - IGBC will frame Green HSR Rating for railway stations that provides Environmental sustainability feature to

improve commuter experiences. NHSRCL is a special purpose vehicle that executes India's 1st Bullet train project between Ahmedabad and Mumbai.

QCI launches ICME Plus Scheme for Quality Certification of Medical Devices

Quality Council of India (QCI), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry virtually launched the 'Indian Certification of Medical Devices 13485 PLUS scheme (ICMED 13485 PLUS)' for undertaking verification of the quality, safety and effectiveness of medical devices in India. It is an upgraded version of the ICMED Scheme launched in 2016 for certification of medical devices. QCI & the Association of Indian Manufacturers of Medical Devices (AiMeD) have added new features to the ICMED scheme. ICMED Plus is the 1st scheme in the world in which Quality Management Systems along with Product Certification Standards are integrated with regulatory requirements. The scheme will be an end-to-end quality assurance scheme for the medical devices sector in India. It

provides the institutional mechanism needed for assuring product quality and safety. It will help in tackling challenges like counterfeit products, fake certification, and help in eliminating the circulation and use of sub-standard medical products or devices.

INS Sahyadri Adjudged as Best Ship of Eastern Fleet: Fleet Awards Function 2021



Indian Navy Ship (INS) Sahyadri was adjudged as the Best Ship of the Eastern Fleet at the Fleet Awards Function 2021, which was held to mark the culmination of the Operational Cycle of the Eastern Fleet and to recognize the achievements of the 'Sword Arm' of the Eastern Naval Command (ENC). The program was hosted by Rear Admiral Tarun Sobti, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet. The chief guest of the event was Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, Flag Officer

Commanding-in-Chief ENC. INS Kamorta was recognized as the most spirited ship. INS Kiltan and INS Khukri won the best corvette trophy among the corvettes and similar classes of ships.

Minority Affairs Minister launches a nationwide campaign "Jaanhai to Jahaanhai"

Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Union Minister for Minority Affairs, launched a nationwide "Jaan Hai To Jahaan Hai" campaign to create awareness about corona vaccination in rural and remote areas of India. The campaign was launched from the Primary Health Centre, Chamraua in Rampur, Uttar Pradesh.

Aim :

To eliminate the rumours and apprehensions related to the ongoing vaccination drive. The Ministry of Minority Affairs along with the various socio-educational organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and Women Self Help Groups have launched the nationwide awareness campaign. Under the Jaan Hai To Jahaan Hai campaign various leaders, prominent people from social, educational, cultural,

medical, science, and other fields spread the messages related to vaccination and street plays will be organized across India.

IIT Bombay hosts Conference of BRICS Network Universities



In June 2021, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay virtually hosted the 3 -day Conference of BRICS Network Universities, under the theme - "Electric Mobility". This conference is a part of the 13th BRICS Summit which is set to be held in 2021, under the Chairmanship of India.

All the 5 BRICS countries will discuss on various aspects of Electric Mobility (e-Mobility) like - Traffic Management, Hydrogen technology, Hybrid vehicles, Lithium-ion batteries to boost Electric Vehicles (e-Vehicles) usage. Note - Under

FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles) scheme, India targets to achieve 30% e-Vehicle penetration by 2030. Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, addressed the inaugural session of the conference, which saw the participation of over 100 students, researchers and faculty from the BRICS Network Universities of the 5-BRICS member countries.

Center Targets to Increase the Number of PMBJKs to 10,000 by March 2024

The government of India has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to 10000 by March 2024. Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State for Chemicals & Fertilizers virtually inaugurated the PMBJK in Pragpur at Kangra, Himachal Pradesh.

Note: As of 11th June 2021, the number of PMBJKs is 7836 and the state of Himachal Pradesh has around 66 Janaushadhi Kendras.

Lophopogonprasannae: New Grass Species Discovered in Nigidi Forest of Anantpur, AP

Dr Kothareddy Prasad, research scientist of Andhra Pradesh Biodiversity Board has discovered a new grass species named Lophopogonprasannae in the Nigidi forest of Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh (AP). The new species has been named after Dr PV Prasanna, a well-known botanist, Scientist G of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI). Dr Prasanna is a grass taxonomist and head of the office, Deccan Regional Centre, BSI.

WB CM relaunched 'Krishak-Bandhu' Scheme doubling farmers aid to Rs 10000

Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister (CM) of West Bengal (WB) relaunched the revised "KrishakBandhu" scheme, a financial scheme for the farmers of West Bengal.

Objective - Under the revised scheme the annual benefits have been doubled from Rs 5000 to Rs 10000 for farmers with one acre or more cultivable land.

Beneficiaries - Around 68.38 lakh small and marginal farmers will be benefited from the Scheme. **Background** - On 10th June 2021, The Cabinet of West Bengal approved the increase of aid under the KrishakBandhu scheme.

India spent Rs 2,386 crores on Oral Cancer Treatment in 2020: Tata Study

According to the 1st of its kind study on the 'cost of illness analysis of oral cancer' conducted by Tata Memorial Centre, India has spent INR 2,386 crore in 2020 on Oral Cancer Treatment paid for by insurance schemes, government and private sector, spending out of pocket payments and charitable donations or a combination of all.

Key Points

- Prevention & Early detection strategies must be key mitigation strategies. Early detection strategies can save up to almost INR 250 crore annually for the government.
- 50 % of oral cancer patients in India die within a year of diagnosis and are aged between 30-50 years, leading to a huge productivity loss for India. The

annual cost of treatment on oral cancer patients comes to more than INR 200 crore.

- Oral Cancer -In India, Oral Cavity cancer is most common among men. It accounted for almost a third of the global incidence in 2020.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik Launched Scheme for COVID-19 Orphan Children-Ashirbad

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched a scheme named 'Ashirbad' on Father's Day (June 20,2021) to provide monthly financial support to all orphan children who have lost one or both their parents during COVID-19 from April 2020

Objective: For in-situ rehabilitation and continuation of orphan children's lives in a similar family-based non-institutional socio-cultural environment. The beneficiaries of the scheme are divided into 3 categories viz, Children who have been orphaned, who have to move to welfare homes for want of a caretaker, and who have lost their earning parent.

Benefits of the Scheme Ashirbad :

- The state government plans to provide Rs 2,500 per month for every kid who

has been orphaned due to the loss of one or both parents.

- The amount will be transferred to the bank accounts of guardians or caretakers of the beneficiaries until they attain 18 years.
- An additional amount of Rs 1000 will be allotted every month for the children who have to shift to childcare institutions in the absence of a caretaker (till the child attains 18 years or till adoption).
- A child, who has lost one of the parents and continues to live with the remaining parent will get Rs 1,500 per month in the account of remaining parents or child concerned till he/she attains 18 years. If the child is surrendered or placed on adoption, the financial support will be discontinued.
- The mother of the child will be provided widow pension under Madhu Babu Pension Yojana while such a child will also avail benefit like coverage under state health assurance scheme, better education and food security schemes.

- The children could also avail of benefits under, state's Green Passage scheme - for Higher education, Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, national or state food security scheme for food and free medical services.
- The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) is taking steps for the protection of assets and other properties of such children. Note - The state made the scheme not applicable for kids who have been adopted.

StygarctusKeralensis: Newly Discovered Tardigrade Species Named After Kerala

Researchers have discovered a new Tardigrade species and named it as StygarctusKeralensis after Kerala since it was discovered from Vadakara in north Kerala. They are the eighth species named under genus Stygarctus. They are the first taxonomically described marine tardigrade from Indian waters. This species was discovered by a research team which consisted of Vishnudattan N.K., Jayachandran P.R., S. Bijoy Nandan, Cochin University of Science and

Technology and J.G. Hansen, Copenhagen University. Their findings have been published in Zootaxa.

India and Bhutan signs MoU to develop cooperation in areas of Environment

India & Bhutan signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for developing cooperation between the two countries in the area of environment. It will also enable bilateral cooperation in the area of climate change, waste management etc. The MoU was signed by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar from the Indian side and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairperson of the National Environment Commission Lyonpo Dr. Tandi Dorji from the Bhutanese side. MoU will strengthen technological, scientific and management capabilities and expand the areas of cooperation in the field of environment. Both sides will support, exchange best practices in areas like prevention of Air Pollution, Waste Management, Chemical Management, Climate Change and others.

India and US to launch Hydrogen Task Force



The United States Department of Energy (DoE), the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, and the US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) jointly launched the US-India Hydrogen Task Force, under the US-India Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP). The Task Force aims to promote focused public, private cooperation among the two countries which will help in rapid development & deployment of hydrogen energy technologies. It will help in decarbonizing high-polluting industrial sectors and achieve a greener, cleaner planet. Maithani, Adviser to MNRE will lead the Task Force as the India Co-Chair while Dr. Ken Vincent will be the Co-Chair from the American side. The

formation of the task force was announced by US Deputy Secretary of Energy, David M Turk in April 2021.

Union Cabinet approves Inland Vessels Bill 2021

Minister of State (I/C) for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Mansukh Mandaviya stated that the Union Cabinet has approved the Inland Vessels Bill, 2021. The Bill aims to streamline vessels/ships which run on the 4,000 Kilometers of operational Inland Waterways in India. The Inland Vessels Bill, 2021 will replace the Inland Vessels Act, 1917.

Features of the Bill :

- It regulates the safety, security and registration of inland vessels and introduces a unified law for entire India, instead of separate rules framed by the states.
- The certificate of registration granted under the proposed law will be valid in all States & UTs, eliminating the need for getting separate permissions from the States.
- It provides a central database for recording the details of vessel, vessel

registration, crew on an electronic portal. It also mandates all mechanically propelled vessels to be registered.

Wipro joins WEF's Partnership for New Work Standards Initiative



Wipro Limited joined the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Partnership for New Work Standards initiative to establish a healthy, resilient and equitable future of work. The initiative aims to build human-first work standards by co-creating new frameworks, and utilizing tools and technologies. Wipro is also undertaking initiatives to support its people with dedicated programmes for physical, social, financial and mental well-being.

India and Japan to conduct Bilateral Naval Exercise in Indian Ocean

An Indian Navy (IN) and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) conducted a joint naval exercise at the Indian Ocean under the motive 'Free and Open IndoPacific' (FOIP). The Indian side was represented by INS (Indian Naval Ship) Kulish (P63) while JS (Japanese Ship) Kashima (TV3508) and JS Setoyuki (TV3518) participated from the Japanese side.

26th National Reading Day observed on 19th June 2021

The National Reading Day is annually observed across India on 19th June to encourage reading among the students across India. The day also marks the death anniversary of Puthuvayil Narayana Panicker (P.N. Panicker), who was known as "Kerala's Father of Library Movement". 19th June 2021, marks the celebration of the 26th National Reading Day. The National Reading Day, Reading Week and Reading Month is observed by the PN Panicker Foundation, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Bihar CM launches 2 schemes to promote Entrepreneurship among youth and women

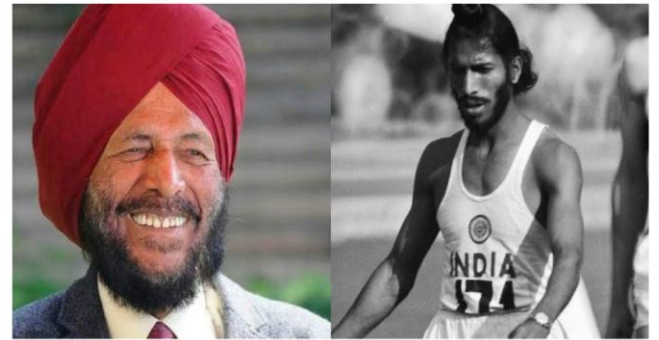


Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar virtually launched 2 new schemes namely 'Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyami Yojana (MMUY)' & 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Yojana (MYUY)' to promote entrepreneurship among women and youth of all sections under the state's 'Mukhya Mantri Udyami Yojana' scheme.

Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyami Yojana (MMUY) :

Unpaid MMUY, an unemployed woman will be provided a sum of INR 10 lakh for starting a new business or small industry. Out of INR 10 lakh, INR 5 lakh would be a subsidy amount which the woman does not need to return, while the remaining INR 5 lakh will be an interest-free loan.

Indian sprinter Padma Shri Milkha Singh Passed Away



Legendary Indian sprinter Padma Shri Milkha Singh, who is popularly known as 'Flying Sikh' in the athletic field, passed away at the age of 91 in Chandigarh. He was born on 20th November 1929 in Govindpura, Pakistan.

About Milkha Singh:

Milkha Singh represented India in the 1956 and 1964 Olympics and in the 1960 Olympic games held in Rome, Italy and completed 4th at the 400m race. This remained a national record for around 40 years which was surpassed by athlete Paramjeet Singh in 1998. He has won four Asian Golds and he also won India's first-ever Track and Field Commonwealth Games Gold in the 400 meters race at the Commonwealth Games held in 1958 in Cardiff. The Government of India honored him with the Padma Shri in 1959 for Sports.

SEBI issues Norms for MF's Participation over IRS; Framework for Supervisory Body of IAs

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued guidelines for the participation of Mutual Fund (MF) schemes in Interest Rate Swaps (IRS).

SEBI's Guidelines to MF:

SEBI allowed MFs to enter into plain vanilla IRS for hedging purposes, but the value of the notional principal in such cases must not exceed the value of respective existing assets being hedged by the scheme.

If the MF is entering into the IRS through counter transactions, the counterparty has to be an entity recognized as a market maker by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- SEBI's Framework for Supervisory Body of IAs:

On June 18, 2021, SEBI issued frameworks for the Investment Adviser Administration and Supervisory Body (IAASB). As per SEBI's norms, it may recognise anybody or body corporate for the purpose of regulating IAs. An entity

granted recognition under the investment advisers (IAs) rules by SEBI will be designated as - IAASB, and it will be allowed to administer and supervise the IAs.

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways notifies common format for issuance of PUC across India, Targets to reduce Road Accident Deaths by 50 % by 2024

On June 14, 2021, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) introduced a common PUC (Pollution Under Control) certificate format for all vehicles pan-India under Central Motor Vehicle Rules 1989. The PUC database will be linked with the National Register. The information listed in the certificate will be confidential, but only the last four digits will be visible. MoRTH has also extended the validity of motor vehicle documents under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 till 30th September 2021. MoRTH also sets a target to reduce road accident deaths by 50 % by the year 2024.

PM launches 'Customized Crash Course Programme for COVID-19 Frontline Workers'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched the 'Customized Crash Course programme for COVID-19 Frontline Workers'. The training programme will be conducted in 111 training centres spread over 26 states. Under the training programme, about 1 lakh youth will be trained in the next 2-3 months. The programme has been designed as a special programme under the Central Component of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana \$3.0\$ (PMKVY 3.0) of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). The programme consists of 6 courses and has been designed by top experts of India. It has been created as per the demands of the states and UTs. The programme aims to create skilled non-medical healthcare workers to fill the present and future needs of manpower in the health sector.

Labour Minister Signs Statement of Intent with UNICEF for Youth Empowerment

On June 17, 2021, the Union Minister of State, Santosh Gangwar, Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoL&E) signed a Statement of Intent with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to provide a platform for cooperation between them to implement solutions to tackle the employment and skilling challenges for adolescents and youth in India.

Focus : Vulnerable population including - young people with special needs, youth leaving care institutions, migrant youth, victims of child labour, violence, child marriage and trafficking, etc. The collaboration intends to empower the young generation of India to gain relevant skills and guidance, and enable them to contribute and shape the country's future. The govt is improving the employment outcomes of all youth as every 5th person in India is a youth (15-24 years) (According to Census 2011). The minister mentioned the

National Career Service (NCS), which was launched in 2015 to provide a variety of employment-related services to youth.

Ministry of Home Affairs operationalizes National Helpline, reporting platform to Prevent Cyber Fraud

On June 17, 2021, the Ministry of Home (MHA) operationalized the national helpline 155260 and reporting platform via Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System for preventing financial loss of individuals due to cyber fraud. These have been made operational by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under MHA, in cooperation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), all major banks, payment banks, wallets and online merchants.

Key Points:

- The Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System has been developed in-house by I4C to integrate law enforcement agencies and banks and financial intermediaries.

- The helpline was soft-launched on April 1, 2021, and since then more than Rs \$1.85\$ crore of defrauded money is saved from fraudsters.

MSME Ministry Extends Validity of EM Part-II & UAM to Dec 31, 2021, from March 31, 2021

In order to curb the situation of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) amid Covid-19 hardships, the Ministry of MSME extended the validity of Entrepreneurs Memorandum (EM) Part-II and Udyog Aadhaar Memorandums (UAMs) on June 17, 2021, from March 31, 2021, to December 31, 2021.

Aim Behind this Extension:

In June 2020, the Ministry of MSME changed the definition of MSMEs and introduced a new process for the registration of MSME i.e., Udyam Registration. At that time, it was announced that the existing MSME registration (Udyog Aadhaar Number (UAN) or EM would become invalid after March 31, 2021. But due to the adverse effects of COVID-19 these registrations got delayed. Now, to overcome this

scenario and to make available the benefits of various government schemes of MSMEs including Priority Sector Lending (PSL) to the holders of EM Part-II and UAMs, this extension has been made.

IIM Nagpur and CIRT Sign MoU for Industry-oriented Knowledge in Transport Management

The Indian Institute of Management Nagpur (IIMN) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT) to build competencies and generate industry-oriented knowledge in transport management. The MoU was signed in the presence of Nitin Gadkari (Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways; and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) CP Gurnani (Managing Director(MD) and Chief Executive officer(CEO), Tech Mahindra).

Key Points:

-Under this agreement, corporate and government professionals will be given executive training and other educational programmes.

-It provides for research collaboration and consultancy engagements between the two institutions.

Union Cabinet approves restructuring of OFB into 7 new corporate entities

The Union Cabinet approved a plan for the restructuring of the 246-year-old Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) which has 41 factories, into 7 fully government-owned corporate entities on the lines of Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSU). The move to replace OFB with 7 corporate entities will enable the companies to have more autonomy and also improve their accountability and efficiency. The 7 entities will produce ammunition and explosives, vehicles, weapons and equipment, troop comfort items, optoelectronics gear, parachutes and ancillary products. OFB is being restructured as part of India's vision to achieve self-reliance in the defence sector. In September 2020, an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) under the chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was set up to decide on matters related to the restructuring of OFB.

Indian IT to hit \$300-350 billion Revenues by 2025; Top 5 IT companies to add over 96000 employees in FY22: NASSCOM

On June 17, 2021, the IT (Information technology) industry body, the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) stated its perspective in the process of hiring and job creation over the IT - Business process management (BPM) sector. As per its forecast, the Indian IT industry is on track to meet its vision of 300-350 billion annual revenues by 2025. The top 5 IT services companies viz, TCS, Infosys, Wipro, HCL and Tech Mahindra are planning to add over 96,000 employees during FY22. The IT-BPM sector together employs over 5 million workers as of March 2021.

Indian Environment Organisation 'Familial Forestry' won UNCCD's 2021 Land for Life Award

Familial Forestry, the environment conservation concept of Rajasthan-based climate activist Shyam Sundar Jyani has won the United Nations Convention to

Combat Desertification's (UNCCD) Land for Life Award for 2021.

Key points:

- Theme: Healthy Land, Healthy Lives
- Focus: Individuals/Organizations that made an outstanding contribution to land degradation neutrality on a large scale for 25 years or longer and remarkable positive impacts on land, people, communities, and society.

Government to set up committee on Energy Efficiency and Low Carbon Technology: RK Singh

Minister of State (I/C) for Power, New and Renewable Energy R.K Singh stated that the Government will set up a committee/group for implementation of a roadmap on energy efficiency and low carbon technologies. It was stated during a high-level meeting held by the Ministry of Power to review the progress of energy efficiency programmes and preparedness for Climate Change Actions. The committee/Group on Energy Efficiency, Low Carbon Technology will consist of members from all relevant ministries.

-High-Level Meeting

The high-level meeting was held virtually to discuss activities in the field of energy efficiency across all sectors of the economy with the objective of reducing CO₂ emissions. Sectors like Transport, MSME (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) & Power plants needed more focus as they have high emissions intensity compared to other sectors. Power Finance Corporation, a CPSU under the Ministry of Power will be the nodal agency for facilitating Energy Efficiency Financing.

Cabinet Approvals on June 16, 2021

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi accorded approvals to the proposals of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) & Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers. They are,

- Proposal of the MoES for Deep Ocean Mission.
- Proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Phosphatic & Potassic (P&K) Fertilizers for the year 2021-22.

Fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy Rate for P&K for 2021-22.

The CCEA chaired by PM Modi has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy Rates (NBS) for P&K Fertilizers for the year 2021-22. The estimated additional subsidy would be around Rs 14,775 crore.

Ministry of Culture signs MoU with Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Highway for Cooperation in Development of NMHC at Lothal, Gujarat

The Ministry of Culture (MoC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) for Cooperation in Development of National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat. Prahlad Singh Patel, Union Minister of State (IC) for Culture and Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of State (IC) for Ports, Shipping and Waterways were present during the signing ceremony held in Transport Bhawan, New Delhi.

BEE's Programs - ROSHANEE & UNNATEE

BEE has developed two programs namely ROSHANEE (Roadmap of Sustainable and Holistic Approach to National Energy Efficiency) and UNNATEE (Unlocking National Energy Efficiency Potential), which lay down a Sector-wise action plan to address Climate change and CO2 emissions for the period 2021-2030.

CII Projects India's GDP growth for FY22 to 9.5 %

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has projected that India's Gross Domestic Product is set to increase at 9.5 % in the current financial year 2021-2022(FY22) which will be higher than the GDP of FY20.

ADI PRASHIKSHAN portal launched by Ministry of Tribal Affairs in collaboration with UNDP

On 16th June 2021, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda launched the "Adi Prashikshan" portal, a unique online portal to provide quality training to the Tribal population. The portal was jointly developed by the Ministry of Tribal

Affairs, Tribal Research Institute (TRI) - Odisha and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Objectives

- To provide quality skill development and capacity building programs to Tribal population across India, and improve their socioeconomic status. The portal includes all training programs conducted by the National Society for Education of Tribal Students (NESTS), Centre of Excellence (CoE's) funded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, TRIs across India and National Tribal Research Institute.
- Arjun Munda inaugurates 3-day long "Capacity Building Training of Master Trainers for ST PRI Members"
- Tribal Minister also launched a 3-day long training program on "Capacity Building Training of Master Trainers for ST PRI Members" from 16th-19th June 2021
- The program is conducted specially for the members of Scheduled Tribes (ST) Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI).

- The program was jointly organized by National Tribal Research Institute and the Madhya Pradesh government

Tribal Minister Arjun Munda launches 'Sankalp Se Siddhi-Mission Van Dhan' and several other initiatives

The union minister for Tribal Affairs launched the Tribal Livelihoods Initiative 'Sankalp Se Siddhi-Mission Van Dhan'. Along with the initiative, the union minister also launched 7 new Tribes India Outlets, Tribes India Coffee table book, Van Dhan website, software application, and new TRIFED Head Office in New Delhi. The initiatives were launched in hybrid mode i.e., both physically and virtually. All the initiatives are aimed at sustainable livelihoods for the tribal population.

-Sankalp Se Siddhi - Mission Van Dhan

Through this scheme, TRIFED aims to expand its operations through the convergence of various schemes of different Ministries and Departments and launch various tribal development programs in Mission Mode.

-Van Dhan Software Application

It is designed to receive and process the Van Dhan proposals online. It has GIS (Geographic Information System) Integration, can monitor Van Dhan Project implementation activities and generate related reports.

-Launch of Tribes India outlets

The union minister inaugurated 7 Tribes India outlets - 2 in Jagdalpur (Chhattisgarh), 3 in Ranchi (Jharkhand), 1 in Jamshedpur (Jharkhand) and 1 at Sarnath (heritage site), Uttar Pradesh. Sarnath outlet is the 1st successful collaboration with the Ministry of Culture at an ASI (Archaeological Survey of India) heritage site. With these outlets, the total number of Tribes India outlets have gone up to 141

Malaria No More, IMD & ICMR launch Expert Committee to eliminate Malaria in India

Malaria No More, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in partnership with the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) & the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) established an India

Interagency Expert Committee on Malaria and Climate (IEC) to explore and advance climate-based solutions for accelerating malaria elimination in India. India has set a target to eliminate Malaria by 2030. It is making steady progress to achieve it. Malaria & other mosquito-borne diseases are highly influenced by weather and weather events. IEC aims to use weather data and malaria data to aid Malaria controlling interventions, as it is a cost-effective method. IEC's launch is part of a global initiative 'Forecasting Healthy Futures' to develop weather data-informed strategies and policies to improve health outcomes and accelerate progress against malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases.

Ministry of Shipping and Civil Aviation Ministry signs MoU to develop Seaplane services in India

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) & Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the

development of Seaplane services in India. Agreement will help in the development of new water aerodromes & also the operationalization of new seaplane routes in India. The agreement was signed in the presence of the Minister of State (I/C) for MoPSW Mansukh Mandaviya and the Minister of State (I/C) for Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri.

Key Points

- A total of 28 seaplane routes and 14 water aerodromes across the country are currently in various stages of development at a cost of Rs 450 crore.
- The MoU provides for the development of Non-Scheduled/Scheduled operation of seaplane services within the territorial jurisdiction of India under the RCS-UDAN (Regional Connectivity Scheme-UdeDesh ka Aam Naagrik) scheme.
- MoCA will provide funds/financial support in respect of water aerodromes awarded under the RCS-UDAN scheme

ESIC to Extend Benefits to Casual, Contractual Municipal Employees

Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) under the Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoLE) is set to extend its health insurance cover to all the casual and contractual workers at municipal corporations and councils. This will provide social security cover to the vulnerable segment of the workforce. The coverage is extended to all the casual and contractual employees, agencies or establishments which are within the implemented areas notified under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 (ESI Act).

IIT-K & YIC Developed Technique to Detect Cyclones before Weather Satellites

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur (West Bengal) and Yantai Institute of Coastal Zone Research (YIC) in China have developed a technique to detect the formation of cyclones in the North Indian Ocean region at least 90 hours before the weather satellites. The study is

published in the journal Atmospheric Research. The study is conducted under the Climate Change Program with support from the Centre's Department of Science and Technology. After analyzing the post-monsoon severe cyclones and pre-monsoon cyclones that developed over the North Indian Ocean, the team set out a parameter namely Okubo-Weiss Zeta. When the parameter crosses the threshold value, it will indicate the formation of a cyclone.

Madhya Pradesh Launched "Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan"



The Government of Madhya Pradesh has launched 'Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan' to create awareness among

people on the covid-19 pandemic. Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan means "free from corona with the help of youth power campaign".

Rajnath Singh Inaugurated Two Centres of Excellence of BRO

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated two centres of excellence (CoE) established by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at Seema Sadak Bhawan in New Delhi.

The 2 CoE's are,

- The Centre of Excellence for Road Safety and Awareness (CoERSA)
- The Centre of Excellence for Roads, Bridges, Air Fields and Tunnels (CoERBAT)

The main objective of these CoE is to achieve excellence in road safety and to foster growth in the construction of roads, airfields, tunnels and bridges. The first-ever solo woman motorcycle expedition by Kanchan Ugursandi to Umling La Pass in Ladakh was also flagged off on the occasion by Rajnath Singh.

India extends 4th LOC of \$108.28 million to Eswatini

On June 15, 2021, the Government of India (GoI) has extended its 4th Line of Credit (LOC) worth USD 108.28 million to Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) for the construction of their new Parliament building. With this, the total value extended to Eswatini as a soft loan has reached USD 176.58 million. These LOCs are being utilized towards the projects of information technology, disaster management, agriculture, and construction. The agreement for the same was inked by Nirmitha, General Manager, Exim Bank, and Neal H. Rijkenberg, Finance Minister of Eswatini.

Odisha Welcomes Agricultural Year through 'Raja Parba' Festival

A 3-day long annual festival welcoming the agricultural year in Odisha namely 'Raja Parba' aka 'Mithuna Sankranti' is being celebrated in the state from June 14, 2021, to June 16, 2021. Many programmes and events are conducted by the Odisha Tourism Development Corporation to observe the celebrations.

The day was observed, To greet the agricultural year through biological symbolism in mid-June. To highlight the end of the summer season and the arrival of the monsoon making the soil ready for cultivation and productivity.

GST Cut for Medicines, Oxygen, Tests; Vaccines GST unchanged at 5 %: 44th GST Council Meet

The 44th Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council met virtually under the Chairmanship of Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. As per the group of ministers (GoM) recommendations, the Council has reduced the GST rates on the specified items that are being used in COVID-19 relief and management till September 30, 2021.

Govt Launched "Project O2 for India" To Meet The Demand of Medical Oxygen

The Government of India launched "Project O2 for India" to increase the ability of India to meet the increasing demand for medical oxygen and hospital beds following the 2nd wave of COVID-19. It is an initiative of the office of

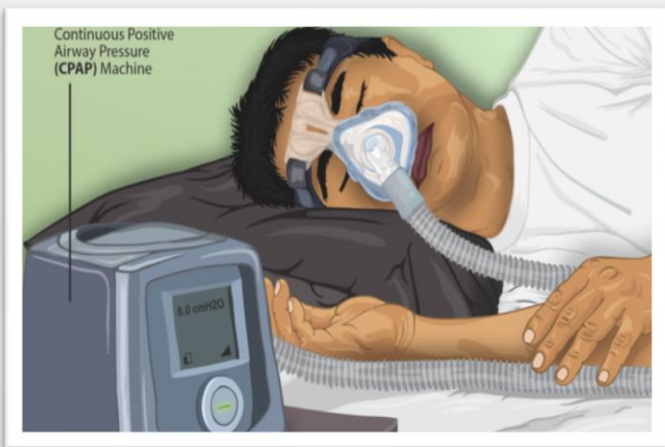
Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India (GoI). Under 'Project O2 for India', a National Consortium of Oxygen is enabling the national level supply of critical raw materials, setting up small oxygen plants, oxygen plants, concentrators, and ventilators.

RBI Issued Norms for FATF Non-Compliant Jurisdictions Investments in PSOs; Released Consultative Document on Regulation of Microfinance

On June 14, 2021, under Section 18 read with Section 10(2) of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued regulations for investments in Payment Systems Operators (PSOs) by new entities from Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Non-compliant Jurisdictions (Countries). Restrictions imposed by RBI: RBI has not permitted new investors from or through non-compliant FATF jurisdictions to acquire, directly or indirectly, 'significant influence' in PSOs (existing PSOs/ entities seeking authorization as PSOs). Fresh investments (directly or indirectly) from those non-

compliant FATF jurisdictions, in aggregate, should account for less than 20 per cent of the voting power (including potential voting power) of the PSO.

IIT Ropar developed “Jivan Vayu” India’s first power free CPAP device



Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar (Punjab) developed a device named “Jivan Vayu”, India’s first Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) device that can function without electricity. Jivan Vayu can be used as a substitute for the CPAP machine. Dr Khushboo Rakha, Assistant Professor, Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, developed the device at the Advanced Materials and Design Lab of IIT Ropar.

RBI has released the Consultative Document on Regulation of Microfinance

RBI has released the Consultative Document on Regulation of Microfinance for feedback from all stakeholders. It intends to address the over-indebtedness of microfinance borrowers and enable a market mechanism to bring down interest rates by empowering the borrowers to make an informed decision. It suggests a common definition of microfinance loans that is uniformly applicable to all regulated entities to ensure certainty, irrespective of the type of lenders.

Telangana AI Mission Launched Accelerator Program for AI startups-Revv Up

On June 14, 2021, Telangana Artificial Intelligence Mission (T-AIM) launched an accelerator programme named ‘Revv Up’ to empower Artificial Intelligence (AI) startups. T-AIM was launched by the Telangana government as a part of its ‘2020 Year of AI initiative’ along with the IT industry body, the National Association of Software and Service

Companies (NASSCOM).The 1st edition of the programme Revv Up will be started in July 2021 and intends to make Telangana and Hyderabad a global destination for AI by providing innovative AI ideas under T-AIM.NASSCOM will execute the strategy of T-AIM to promote innovative and impactful AI solutions.

MOHI&PE Modified Phase II FAME India Scheme

The Ministry of heavy industries and public enterprises (MoHI&PE) made partial modifications over the 'Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles in India Phase II' (FAME India Phase II) scheme, which began on 1 April 2019. The FAME scheme was administered by the department of heavy industries (DHI)MoHI&PE has decided for the aggregation of electric three-wheelers and electric buses component of the scheme via state-run Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL), to bring down the cost of electric 3 Wheelers to that of ICE-3 Wheelers.For Electric Buses, EESL will generate demand in 9 cities with over 4 million-plus population like Delhi, Mumbai,

Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Chennai, Surat and Pune.

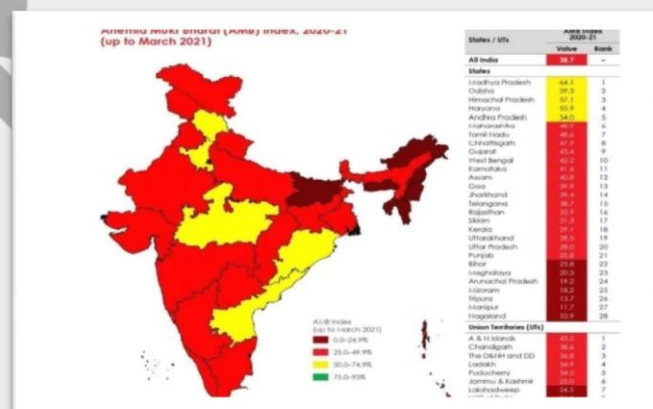
Extension of FAME India Phase II:

-The phase II of FAME began in 2019 which was approved by the government with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 Crore for a period of 3 years up to 31 March 2022.

-Only 5 per cent, or Rs 492 crore is spent out of the Rs 10,000 crore (budgetary allocated) till March 2021, hence the scheme is likely to be extended till 2024

Note - Phase I of the scheme was started in the financial year 2016-2017.

Madhya Pradesh ranked 1st in Anemia Muk Bharat Index 2020-21



Madhya Pradesh with a score of 64.1 has been ranked 1st in the Anemia Muk Bharat Index 2020-21. Odisha (59.3) came 2nd followed by Himachal Pradesh (57.1) in the 3rd position.The scorecard

and rankings in Anemia Mukta Bharat Index are based on parameters like coverage of Iron-Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation across beneficiaries to support assessment of progress and performance of the programme.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approves Budgetary Support for Defence Innovation and Policy for declassification of War Records

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved INR 498.8 Crore budgetary support to Innovations for Defence Excellence-Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO) for the next 5 years for boosting Defence Innovation in India. Through this budgetary support, financial support (grants, funding) will be provided to nearly 300 start-ups/MSMEs (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises)/Individual Innovators, Research & Development (R&D) institutes & academics & 20 partner incubators under the DIO framework. Grants/Funding and other support to carry out R&D development will be provided for the beneficiaries. The

scheme is in line with the Government's decision to cut imports of military hardware and weapons and make India a hub for defence manufacturing.

Rajnath Singh approves policy on de-classification of war / operations histories

Rajnath Singh gave approval to a policy on declassification of military history. According to the policy, each organisation under the Ministry of Defence will transfer records to the History Division for upkeep, archival and writing histories. It mandates that war records should be declassified in 25 years. It mandates the constitution of a committee headed by the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence which consists of representatives of the Services, Ministry of External Affairs, Home Ministry and other organisations for compilation of war/operation histories. The responsibility for declassification of records rests with the respective organisations as specified in the Public Record Act 1993 and Public Record Rules 1997, as amended from time to time.

India's Forex Reserve Crossed Record \$600 billion-mark for 1st time

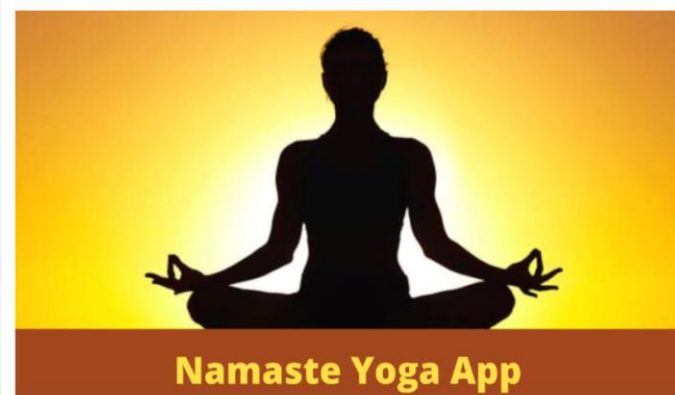
According to the weekly statistical data of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's total foreign exchange (forex) reserves crossed the USD 600 billion mark for the 1st time after increasing by USD 6.842billion (44 lakh crore) in the week ended June 4, 2021. It was due to a rise in foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves.

Key Facts of Weekly Forex Reserve as of June 4, 2021:

- FCA: It is increased by USD 7.362 billion to USD 560.890 billion. Whereas in the previous week ended May 28, 2021, the reserves had increased by USD 5.271 billion to USD 598.165 billion. FCA includes the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the forex reserves.
- Gold reserves: It is declined by USD 502 million to USD \$37.604\$ billion
- The special drawing rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF): It was reduced by USD 1 million to USD 1.513 billion.

- The reserve position with the IMF: It also dropped by USD 16 million to USD 5 billion in the reporting week.

Ministry of AYUSH launches "Namaste Yoga" App at the 7th International Day of Yoga Curtain Raiser Event



Kiren Rijiju Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) formally launched the "Namaste Yoga" mobile application, dedicated to Yoga. The app was launched during the virtual curtain raiser event of the 7th International Day of Yoga (IDY 2021). IDY has been annually on 21st June since 2015. The event was organised by the Ministry of AYUSH in association with the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY).

ISRO to assist North-East in Development Projects

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will assist development projects in the North Eastern (NE) states by offering optimum utilization of satellite imaging and other space technology for the accomplishment of targets. It is the 1st of a kind in India, where ISRO is involved in an institutionalized involvement of ISRO in mapping and sharing of data for developmental projects. ISRO is already monitoring and geo-tagging around 67 projects at 221 sites in 8 NE states funded by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and North Eastern Council (NEC).

HAL Manufactured 3 ALH MK-III Helicopters Inducted into ICG

On June 12, 2021, Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar inducted the first 3 of 16 Indigenous Advanced Light Helicopters (ALHs) MK III into Indian Coast Guard (ICG) to assist in coastal surveillance, rescue operations, and further enhance coastal security. ALHs MK III were the state-of-the-art helicopters that are indigenously designed and manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

15-metre Tree of Coffee Family Discovered in Andaman & Nicobar Islands: PyrostraliaLalji

A 15-meter-tall tree, PyrostraliaLalji, the new species that belongs to the genus of the coffee family, was recently discovered from the Andaman Islands by a team of researchers from India and the Philippines. The discovery was published by M.C. Naik, Botanical Survey of India, M. Bheemalingappa, and Axel H. Arriola, Philippines. It is the 1st record of the genus Pyrostralia in India (Plants belonging to the genus Pyrostralia are usually found in Madagascar). PyrostraliaLalji has been assessed as 'Critically Endangered' based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List criteria. It is named after Lal Ji Singh, Joint Director and Head of Office, Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, Botanical Survey of India.

Flipkart to implement Medicine from the Sky Project in Telangana

Flipkart partnered with Telangana Government to implement the "Medicines from the Sky" project on a pilot basis in the state, to supply COVID-

19 vaccines & emergency medical supplies to the rural inaccessible areas using Drones. Flipkart will implement the project on a Pilot basis for 6-days using cutting edge technologies to supply medicines. Telangana government has partnered with World Economic Forum (WEF), NITI Aayog & HealthNet Global to receive technical support

31st Edition of India-Thailand CORPAT conducted in the Andaman Sea

The 31st Edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) (Bi-Annual) between the Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy was conducted from June 9-11, 2021 in the Andaman Sea. From the Indian side, INS Saryu, an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) took part in the exercise. From Thailand's side, His Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) Krabi, an OPV took part in the exercise. Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies took part in the exercise. The main purpose of the exercise is to keep the Indian Ocean safe and secure for

international trade. It aims to consolidate interoperability between the Indian Navy & the Royal Thai Navy.

SOFF and SIDM sign MoU to promote Bilateral Defence Industrial Relations

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and the Swedish Security and Defence Industry (SOFF) during the webinar on India-Sweden Defence Industry Cooperation.

-Objective

The MoU aims to boost the Bilateral Defence Industrial Relations between Indian & Sweden.

The Webinar held on the Theme - 'Capitalizing Opportunities for Growth', was organized by the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence through SIDM and SOFF.

Key Points

- As part of the MoU, a dedicated Joint Working Group will be set up to take forward mutual objectives.
- During the webinar, Rajnath Singh also released the 1st edition of the

'SIDM Members Directory 2020-21 – A 360-degree Overview of the Indian Defence and Aerospace Sector'.

- Rajnath Singh invited Swedish firms to invest in Defence Corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and stated that India and Sweden can collaborate in the shipbuilding industry for mutual benefit.

UNDP Report Lauds Aspirational Districts Programme of India

The Independent appraisal report 'Aspirational Districts Programme: An Appraisal' released by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India, has appreciated India's Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) as 'a very successful model of local area development' and stated that it can be a best practice for other parts of the world, where regional disparities in development status exist. The UNDP has appreciated ADP after analyzing its 49 Indicators across 5 key sectors of ADP - health and nutrition; education; agriculture and water resources; basic infrastructure; and skill development and

financial inclusion. The report is based on quantitative analysis of publicly available data, interviews with stakeholders (such as district magistrates, central prabhari officers and others). The report was handed over by UNDP India Resident Representative Shoko Noda to NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar & CEO Amitabh Kant.

MoRTH Appointed Project Management Consultancy for Mussoorie Tunnel Project

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has approved the appointment of the Project Management Consultancy (PMC) for the proposed 2.74 kilometres long Mussoorie Tunnel project which will be built on the National Highway (NH) 707A with a budget of Rs 700 crore. The PMC will analyze the area, draft a DPR and need to do the process for obtaining the environment and other required clearances and the process is set to take up to 1 year. The tunnel will offer easy and congestion-free connectivity to Mussoorie town, Mall Road, and Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of

Administration (LBSSNA), an IAS Academy. The MoRTH has also approved the preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the 2 lane Mussoorie tunnel.

EESL partners with MECON to implement Energy Efficient Solution in Steel Industry

Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL), under the Ministry of Power, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Metallurgical & Engineering Consultants (MECON) Ltd, under the Ministry of Steel, to implement Energy Efficient & Clean energy solutions in the Steel & Mining Industries.

RBI Allows Banks to Hike ATM Withdrawal and Customer Charges

As per the recommendations of the Committee on automated teller machines (ATM) Pricing headed by VG Kannan, under Section 10(2) read with Section 18 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (Act 51 of 2007), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made certain modifications over the

ATM interchange fee, Free transaction limit and Customer charges.

-RBI's Modifications in Brief:

Interchange Fee: RBI has increased the interchange fee that banks could charge on ATM per transaction from Rs 15 to Rs 17 for financial transactions, and from Rs 5 to Rs 6 for non-financial transactions in all centres. This could be effective from August 1, 2021.

RBI Extends Risk Based Internal Audit System to HFCs

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the Risk-Based Internal Audit (RBIA) system for all deposit-taking Housing Finance Companies (HFCs), irrespective of their size, and for non-deposit taking HFCs with asset size of Rs 5,000 crore and above to enhance the quality and effectiveness of their internal audit system. The HFCs are directed by RBI to implement the RBIA framework by June 30, 2022. The RBIA system was earlier imposed on Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs).

Key point :

The third line of defence: The internal audit function is an integral part of sound corporate governance and is considered the third line of defence.

Thus, the RBIA audit methodology will evaluate the risk management systems and control procedures in various areas of operations, in addition to transaction testing. It will also help in anticipating areas of potential risks and mitigating such risks.

NII Gets Trademark for India's First Indigenous Tumor Antigen SPAG9

A New Delhi-based National Institute of Immunology (NII), an Autonomous Institute of Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has received the ASPAGNIITM trademark for India's First Indigenous Tumor Antigen SPAG9. In 1998, The SPAG9 antigen was discovered by Dr Anil Suri who heads the Cancer Research Programme at the NII. At present, ASPAGNIITM is being used in dendritic cell (DC) based immunotherapy in cervical, ovarian cancer and it will also be used in breast cancer.

Indian SME firms selected for the R & D Project under India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment

Three Indian Science & Technology (S&T)-led Small-to-Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Start-ups have been selected to undertake joint R&D (Research & Development) and technology transfer projects under the India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment and Accelerate Commercialization Program. The 3 Indian firms are Prantae Solutions, Jayon Implants & Ananya Technologies. Prantae Solutions & Jayon Implants are being funded under joint R&D Projects, while the 3rd company, Ananya Technologies has been funded for technology adoption from Russia.

BSE set up Entity 'BASL' to Administer, Supervise Activities of SEBI-RIA

Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), Asia's 1st & the world's fastest Stock Exchange, has set up its wholly-owned subsidiary company named - 'BSE Administration & Supervision Ltd (BASL)' for carrying out the administration and supervision activities of all SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India)- Registered Investment Advisors (RIA).

Overview of India's Export Growth of Agriculture, Organic and Tea during 2020-21

India's export of agriculture and allied products (including marine and plantation products) increased by 17.34 per cent to USD 41.25 Billion during 2020-21 (in INR terms the increase was 22.62 per cent). Exports during 2020-21 amounted to INR 3.05 lakh crore compared to INR 2.49 lakh crore during 2019-20. India's Agricultural & Allied Imports for 2020-21 stood at USD 20.67 billion compared to USD 20.64 billion in 2019-20. India's export figures during 2019-20 stood at USD 35.16 billion. The export figures were stated by Dr Anup Wadhawan, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India during a meeting. Increase in Export of Spices During 2020-21, export of spices touched the highest ever level of around USD 4 billion during 2020-21. Organic exports register 50.94 % growth. The organic exports during 2020-21 were USD 1040 million compared to USD 689 million in 2019-20, which is a growth of 50.94 per cent. India's Tea Exports fell by 16.30 %

in 2020-21 India tea exports in 2020-21 fell in respect of both volume and value. Exports dropped to 202 million kg from 241.34 in 2019-20, which is a decline of 16.30 per cent.

INR 40,700 Crore for Waste Management in 2 Lakh villages under SBM-G

The Ministry of Jal Shakti under Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G) Phase 2 is set to support around 2 lakh villages to achieve Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) arrangements through an investment of INR 40, 700 Crore during the FY 2021-22.

Objectives

- SBM (G) Phase 2 aims to achieve comprehensive cleanliness in villages (also called Open Defecation Free Plus Status - ODF Plus Status) by focusing on ODF sustainability and ensuring SLWM arrangements in villages).
- Under SBM-G Phase 2, Around 50 Lakh Individual Household Toilets (IHHLs), 1 Lakh Community toilets, Plastic Waste Management Units in 2400 Blocks of India, Gobardhan

projects in 386 Districts, Faecal Sludge Management arrangements in over 250 districts are set to be constructed.

- NSSC approves Annual Implementation Plan of States/UTs The National Scheme Sanctioning Committee (NSSC) of SBM-G under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti approved the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) of States & UTs for sanitation. Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM).

All India Survey on Higher Education 2019-20 report released

Union Minister for Education Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' released the report of All India Survey on Higher Education 2019-20 (AISHE 2019-20). AISHE Report is released annually by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education. It provides key performance indicators on the current status of Higher Education (HE) in India. AISHE 2019-20 is the 10th edition in the series of AISHE reports. It is a web-based survey that calculates indicators of education

development such as Institution Density, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR), Gender Parity Index (GPI) and Per Student Expenditure are calculated from the data.

Key Findings : The report states that in the last five years from 2015-16 to 2019-20, there was a growth of 11.4 % in student enrolment. The rise in female enrolment in higher education during the period is 18.2%.

IIT Bombay to Launch KCDH; India's First Center for Digital Health

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has established the Koita Centre for Digital Health (KCDH), India's first of its kind Center for Digital Health with the contribution from the Koita Foundation. KCDH will collaborate with government organisations, healthcare technology companies and Healthcare NGO's Koita Centre for Digital Health (KCDH):

The KCDH is focused on driving academic programs, research and industry collaboration in Digital Health. The KCDH will offer minor, dual degrees, Masters and PhD programs in Healthcare

Informatics.KCDH is establishing a world-class advisory board of healthcare professionals, academics, healthcare technology and industry veterans. iv. The Academic and Research Focus Areas of KCDH are clinical applications (including electronic patient records and medical imaging), healthcare data management (including healthcare data privacy and security), healthcare analytics, healthcare Artificial Intelligence (AI) or Machine Learning (ML), consumer health, public health and public policy.

Panchayati Raj Minister Narendra Singh Tomar Released a Model Panchayat Citizens Charter



Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) prepared a 'Model Panchayat

Citizens Charter framework for delivery of the services across the 29 sectors, aligning actions with localized Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).The report was released by the Union Minister of Rural Development, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare & Panchayati Raj - Narendra Singh Tomar, virtually for the Panchayats to adopt & customize.

Objective:

- To provide services to the people in a time-bound manner, redressing their grievances and improving their lives.
- By 15th August 2021, Panchayats will be utilizing the framework to draw up a Citizens Charter and adopt it through a resolution of the Gram Sabha.

Citizens Charter and its benefits :

-With the due approval of Gram Sabha, Panchayats will draw up a Citizens Charter based on the framework, detailing - the different categories of services rendered to the citizen by the Panchayat, the conditions for such service, and the time limit for such services.

-The charter will help the citizens to get aware of their rights, and it will also make the Panchayats and their elected representatives directly accountable to the people. Note - NIRDPR is an autonomous organization under the Union Ministry of Rural Development.

Postage Stamp Released to mark 70th Anniversary of India-Germany Ties

Foreign Secretary Harsh V Shringla released a commemorative postage stamp to mark the 70th anniversary of India-Germany diplomatic relations. Walter J. Lindner, Ambassador of Germany and Vineet Pandey, Secretary, Department of Posts, Government of India were also present during the occasion

Key Points :

- India announced the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Federal Republic of Germany on 7 March 1951.
- India and Germany consult and cooperate closely in multilateral and international organizations related to

counter-terrorism, cyber-security, scientific research and climate change.

Note :

Earlier Germany released various stamps honouring Mahatma Gandhi in 1969 and displaying Indian miniature paintings in 1979. Indian has also released stamps honouring Beethoven in 1970, Max Mueller in 1974, Albert Einstein in 1979 and Robert Koch in 1982.

Indian Navy receives 1st Set of 3 MH-60 Romeo Helicopters from the US in July

Indian Navy is set to receive the first set of 3 MH-60 Romeo helicopters, a multi-role helicopter from the United States of America (USA) in July 2021. India and the US have signed a deal of over Rs 15,157 crore (2.13 billion USD) to procure 24 MH-60 Romeo helicopters from Lockheed Martin in 2020. The MH-60 Romeo helicopters are equipped with multi-mode radars and night-vision devices along with Hellfire missiles, torpedoes and precision-guided weaponry.

TOI-1231 b: Cooler Exoplanet with Water Clouds Discovered

A Team of International Astronomers discovered an exoplanet located 90 light-years away from Earth which has a Cooler atmosphere (57 Celsius) and has the possibility of having water clouds. The exoplanet called "TOI-1231 b, orbits an M-type, dwarf star in 24 days. TOI-1231 b, with almost the size of Neptune, was discovered using NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS).

I-Stem Portal to provide Free Access to COMSOL Multiphysics Software Suite

Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM), the national portal for sharing R&D facilities, and the COMSOL group have entered into a partnership for Indian academic users to access the COMSOL Multiphysics software suite using the I-STEM portal. It is the first of its kind in India. COMSOL software suite developed by COMSOL Group is used globally as a tool for a variety of computer simulations for R&D

and also for learning and instruction. The suite will be hosted on the cloud server to provide user-friendly access from anywhere in India. It will assist many students and researchers in India, especially those in remote and less-endowed institutions. Dr Arabinda Mitra, Scientific Secretary, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser launched the COMSOL Platform and the Library of Calibration Standards.

India to save Logistics Fuel Worth Rs 311 lakh crore between 2020-2025: Report by NITI Aayog, RMI and RMI India

NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India), RMI (Rocky Mountain Institute), and RMI India presented key opportunities for India to reduce its logistics costs through their new report, titled 'Fast Tracking Freight in India: A Roadmap for Clean and Cost-Effective Goods Transport'. Clay Stranger, Managing Director, RMI mentioned the need for the transformation of the freight sector as it will enable India to save logistics Fuel worth Rs 311 lakh crore between 2020 and 2050.

Key points of the report:

- The report stated about India's potential to,
- Reduce the country's logistics cost by 4 per cent of GDP (Gross Domestic Product).
- Achieve 10 gigatons of cumulative CO2 emissions savings between 2020 and 2050.
- Reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) and particulate matter (PM) emissions by 35 per cent and 28 per cent, respectively, until 2050.
- As per the report, currently, India is handling \$4.6\$ billion tonnes of goods each year, amounting to a total annual cost of Rs \$9.5\$ lakh crore (trillion).

Cabinet Policies: June 9 2021

On June 9, 2021, the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi granted approval to several new initiatives. They are

Allotment of 5 MHz spectrum in 700 MHz bands to Indian Railways

Extension of applicability of New Investment Policy (NIP)-2012

Approval of Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for Kharif Crops for marketing season 2021-22

Allotment of 5 MHz Spectrum in 700 MHz bands to Indian Railways

The allotment of 5 MHz (Megahertz) Spectrum in 700 MHz frequency band to Indian Railways (IR) under the 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat' mission will enhance public safety and security services at stations and in trains. Using this spectrum, IR has planned to provide LTE (Long Term Evolution) based Mobile Train Radio Communication on its route.

Extension of applicability of New Investment Policy (NIP)-2012

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by PM Modi has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for extension of the applicability of New Investment Policy (NIP)-2012 read with an amendment dated 7th October 2014 for the Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (RFCL). RFCL is reviving the Ramagundam Unit of FCIL in Telangana by setting up a new gas-based green field neem coated Urea Plant. The cost of this RFCL Urea Project is INR 6165.06 Crore and will add 12.7 LMTPA

indigenous urea production in India. It will become one of the largest fertilizer manufacturing units in South India.

Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for Kharif Crops for marketing season 2021-22

The CCEA chaired by PM Modi has approved the increase in Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all mandated Kharif crops for marketing season 2021-22. The highest absolute increase in MSP compared to 2020-21 was recommended for Sesamum (INR 452 per quintal) followed by Tur and Urad (INR 300 Per Quintal Each).

DIU and ICAR sign MOU to provide Demand-Based Tele Agriculture Advisors to farmers

On June 9, 2021, Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. The MoU aims to help farmers by providing location-specific

'Demand-Based Tele Agriculture Advisors'.

Objective :

To Integrate the existing Interactive Information Dissemination System (IIDS) platform of DIC with the proposed KisanSarathi program of ICAR and its implementation through the ICAR network to reach a large number of farmers across India.

Key Points :

- The two entities will collaborate to develop and deploy ICT (Information & Communication Technology) platforms to establish and operate a multi-media and multi-way advisory and communication system for supporting agricultural activities at the local level.
- To begin with, the Interactive Information Dissemination System (IIDS) will be deployed at ICAR. IIDS is a push-and-pull-based system using which farmers can access data and experts can access farmer's data.

New Species of Coffee Plant Discovered in Wagamon Hills of Kerala



Researchers from Kerala's Bishop Abraham Memorial College had discovered a new species of Coffee plant in Wagamon hills, a famous tourist destination of Kerala. The species belonging to the Rubiaceae (flowering plant) family was named "Argostemmaquarantena", to commemorate the lives lost in COVID-19. The findings are published in the Webbia journal of plant taxonomy and geography. It is a perennial herb that will grow up to a height of 7 cm and characterized by its unique white flowers.

Research Team :

Anoop P. Balan and A.J. Robi, faculty of the Department of Botany, Bishop

Abraham Memorial College, along with N. Sasidharan, former Chief Scientist, Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI). The new species is classified as Data Deficient under International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) standards, which means there is inadequate data on the risk of extinction based on the distribution or population status of the species.

India's 1st VSC based HVDC power transmission system commissioned by PGCIL

Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) fully commissioned Monopole-I of the 320 kV, 2000 MW, Pugalur (Tamil Nadu) - Thrissur (Kerala) Voltage Source Converter (VSC) based High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) System. It is India's 1st VSC based HVDC electricity transmission system. The Pugalur-Thrissur HVDC system built at a cost of INR 5070 Crore is part of the Raigarh Pugalur-Thrissur 6000 MW system; it enables the transfer of 2000 MW to Kerala through the VSC HVDC

station at Thrissur. It will strengthen the power system of the southern region of India. In February 2021, the Monopole-II of the project was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. With the commissioning of Monopole-I, the project has attained its full capacity.

VSC Technology

It reduces the land requirement compared to the conventional HVDC systems, it is suitable for areas, where land is scarce. It facilitates the development of a smart grid and improves system resilience under various operating conditions. Major HVDC's equipment was supplied by factories in India, giving a boost to Prime Minister's Make in India programme.

CBSE collaborates with Microsoft to introduce Coding & Data Science in schools

As mentioned in New Education policy 2020, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has collaborated with Microsoft to introduce Coding and Data Science in schools for classes 6 to 12. These new subjects will be introduced in the 2021-22 academic session.

ISRO Developed 3 Types of Ventilators & Set to Transfer Technology to Industry for Clinical Usage

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has developed 3 types of ventilators (PRANA, VaU and SVASTA). ISRO is set to transfer the technology to the industry for clinical usage during the 2nd wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. "PRANA" Programmable Respiratory Assistance for the Needy Aid a low-cost and portable critical care ventilator based on the automated compression of an AMBU (Artificial Manual Breathing Unit) bag. "VaU" Ventilation assist Unit is an ICU grade positive pressure mechanical ventilator. "SVASTA" Space Ventilator Aided System for Trauma Assistance is a Gas-powered ventilator.

India's first Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell (CAR-T) therapy was conducted at ACTREC, TMC in Mumbai

India's first Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell (CAR-T) therapy was conducted at the Bone Marrow Transplant unit at ACTREC, Tata Memorial Center (TMC) in

Mumbai, Maharashtra. The clinical trial is the joint effort of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay and Tata Memorial Centre. The clinical trial of CAR-T was supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) through the National Biopharma Mission (NBM)-Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC). The National Biopharma Mission-BIRAC of the government of India has approved Rs 19.15 crore to the team to conduct the first in the human phase-1/2 clinical trial of the CAR-T cells.

DehingPatkai becomes the 7th National Park of Assam

On 9th June 2021, the Assam government notified the 111.942 sq km DehingPatkai wildlife sanctuary (WLS) as its 7th National Park (NP). The WLS is a part of the larger DehingPatkai Elephant Reserve. DehingPatkai WLS, also known as the "Amazon of the East" or "Jeypore Rainforest" is located in the Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts of Assam. With 7 NP's Assam becomes the 2nd state to have the highest number of National Parks, while the 1st position is held by

Madhya Pradesh (11 NP). Overall, Assam is the 3rd, after the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar (9 NP's). Rare Species in the NP - Chinese pangolin, Assam macaque, Clouded Leopard, Flying Fox. Rare endangered "White Winged Wood Duck" are found in high concentration.

NITI Aayog and Piramal Foundation have launched COVID-19 Home Care in 112 Aspirational Districts

NITI Aayog and Piramal Foundation have launched 'Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaanin' in 112 Aspirational Districts to help district administrations to provide home care support to COVID-19 patients in 112 Aspirational Districts to help district administrations to provide home-care support to COVID-19 patients who are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms. It aims to provide long-term support to India's poorest communities in the Aspirational Districts by addressing the lasting impact of COVID-19. The initiative is part of the 'Aspirational Districts Collaborative', in which local leaders, civil societies and volunteers work with district

administrations for addressing emerging problems across key focus areas of the Aspirational Districts Programme. Most of the Aspirational districts (backward districts) are situated in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra. Implementation The initiative will be led by District Magistrates in partnership with over 1000 local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and volunteers. It will train around 1 Lakh

CII-IGBC signs MOU with IIA for Green Building Movement

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) - Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Architects (IIA) to strengthen the Green Building Movement and to promote sustainable development in the field of Architectural Design and planning. V Suresh, Chairman of IGBC and C R Raju, National President of IIA, exchanged the MOU over a virtual platform

Aim

-To set a new global benchmark in environmentally sensitive building design, resource conservation, energy and environmental management.

-Under this MoU, CII-IGBC will jointly work with IIA in research areas related to architectural design, handholding the projects, creating awareness and through outreach programmes

Government extends Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana till November 2021

The Central Government has announced the extension of the Scheme to distribute Free of cost - Wheat & Rice Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) to around 80 Crore people till November 2021. Earlier, the scheme was applicable for the months of May & June 2021 only. Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), the Central government is distributing 5 kg free food grains per person per month to 80 Crore beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). It was launched to support the vulnerable sections of the society and was implemented during April-November 2020. It was reintroduced for May-June 2021 to deal with the impact of the 2nd wave of the pandemic. The estimated cost for the

two months was around INR 25,332.92 Crore. Food Corporation of India (FCI) is the nodal agency for the procurement and distribution of food grains.

Anup Chandra Pandey appointed as Election Commissioner

The former UP-cadre bureaucrat, Anup Chandra Pandey, has been appointed as the Election Commissioner. He will be joining the poll panel as one of the two Election Commissioners. The position became vacant in April 2021, when Sunil Chandra was appointed as the Chief Election Commissioner.

Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State for Ayush, released the e-book titled "20 Medicinal Plants for 2021 for Covid-19 care"



Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State for Ayush, released the e-book titled "20 Medicinal

Plants for 2021 for Covid-19 care" to highlight the importance of medicinal plants and their therapeutic properties. The eBook was prepared by the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB).

Prakash Javadekar launched a 2-month Awareness Campaign on Single-Use Plastic (SUP)& India Plastic Challenge - Hackathon 2021



On Occasion of the World Oceans Day (June 8), Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Prakash Javadekar launched a 2-month Awareness Campaign on Single-Use Plastic (SUP)& India Plastic Challenge - Hackathon 2021. In 2019, the Government of India had set a target of phasing out SUP in India by 2022. The awareness campaign will focus on plastic

waste management and elimination of identified SUP items and aims to bring behavioural change in the people. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) & GIZ India (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH) will be the knowledge partners, while the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) will be the industry partner for the awareness campaign.

World Bank revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY22 to 8.3 per cent FY23 at 7.5 per cent Crisil cut India's GDP growth estimate for FY22 to 9.5 per cent

In its June 2021 Global Economic Prospects, World Bank revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY22 to 8.3 per cent from its earlier estimate of 10.1 per cent, (the forecast has been revised up by 2.9 percentage points). It has also projected India's growth in FY23 at 7.5 per cent due to the impact of COVID-19. WB estimated India's economy to have contracted by 7.3(-7.3) per cent in 2020. It also estimated India to grow at 7.5 per cent and 6.5 percent in calendar years 2023 and 2024.

Global Growth :

WB increased its global growth forecast in 2021 from 4.1 per cent (January 2021, forecast) to 5.6 per cent, the fastest post-recession pace in 80 years.

Crisil cut India's GDP growth estimate for FY22 to 9.5 per cent

Crisil cut its FY22 growth estimate for India to 9.5 per cent from the earlier 11 per cent, with a contraction of 7.3(-7.3) per cent in FY21 due to the hit to private consumption and investments following the second wave of COVID-19.

Sixth Batch of Rafale Fighter Aircraft Lands In India

The sixth batch containing three Rafale fighter aircraft have recently landed in India. These planes will be deployed in Hasimara, West Bengal. These aircraft were developed by the France-based Dassault Aviation. India has ordered 36 of these planes from France in 2016. With this recent arrival, two-third of the ordered planes have been received by India. They are expected to provide a strategic edge for ensuring enhanced border security.

RBI Extended the Banking License of Rupee Co-Operative Bank till August 31,2021

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the banking license of the Rupee Cooperative Bank, Pune, Maharashtra till August 31, 2021. During the last 5 years, the Bank has made a total recovery of Rs 263.93 crores and an aggregate operating profit of Rs ₹70.70\$ crores till March-2021. The Bank had paid Rs 366.54 crores to 92602 needy depositors under the Hardship Scheme till March-2021.

Income Tax Department launched its new e-filing portal

The Income Tax Department launched its new e-filing portal www.incometax.gov.in. The portal aims to provide a convenient, modern, and seamless experience to taxpayers.

- The mobile app is also set to be launched soon.
- The launch of the portal is an initiative by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to provide ease of compliance to taxpayers and other stakeholders.

Key Features of the New Portal

- The portal is integrated with the immediate processing of Income Tax Returns (ITRs) to issue quick refunds to taxpayers.
- New call centre for taxpayer assistance for prompt response to taxpayer queries.
- Functions like filing Income Tax Forms, add tax professionals, submit responses to Notices in Faceless Scrutiny or Appeals are also available.

Indian Oil Corporation Will Invest Rs 24000 core in Gujarat Refinery

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) has signed an MOU with Gujarat Government to invest around Rs 24000 crore in 6 projects at Gujarat Refinery in Koyali Vadodara District, Gujarat. The 6 projects include the 1st hydrogen dispensing station of India. These projects will expand the capacity of Gujarat Refinery to 18 million Metric Tonner Per Annum (MMTPA) from 13.7 MMTPA and provide 25000 direct as well as indirect jobs. The MOU was signed in the presence of the

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan and Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani. Also, a Petrochemical and Lube Integration (LuPech) Project and Acrylics/Oxo Alcohol project will also be set up at the Gujarat Refinery. By setting up the 1st Hydrogen Dispensing Facility, the facility will be used for fuel cell electric vehicle. It aims to fuel about 75 buses of Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation between Vadodara and Kevadia.

GMB to set up India's 1st International Maritime Cluster at GIFT City

Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) to set up India's 1st international maritime services cluster at GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City) in Ahmedabad, Gujarat to enhance the self-sufficiency as well as competitiveness in the maritime sector and provide a one-stop solution for the entire maritime group.

Significance of Maritime Cluster :

- The Maritime Cluster will be developed as a dedicated ecosystem consisting of ports, logistics services providers, shipping and other

important government regulators in the GIFT City.

- It will also have an Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) centre which will focus on maritime/shipping.
- It will enhance ease of doing business index and assure economic benefits to the maritime fraternity who is currently dependent on international arbitration centres

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released an E-Booklet '20 Reforms in 2020' on major reforms in the Ministry of Defence

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released '20 Reforms in 2020' and Ebook which will highlight the major reforms of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in 2020. This eBook provides an overview of the reforms in the Ministry of Defence to modernize the armed forces through policy changes, innovations as well as digital transformation. This reflects the resolve of the government led by PM Narendra Modi to strengthen our defence sector. Also, the reforms undertaken by the MoD will make India a global powerhouse in the defence sector.

Indus Best Mega Food Park, Chhattisgarh virtually Inaugurated by Narendra Singh Tomar

Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister for Food Processing Industries virtually inaugurated the Indus Best Mega Food Park in Raipur Chhattisgarh. This food park will also ensure value addition and support reducing wastage of agricultural produce

Key Points :

- The Indus Best Mega Food Park developed under the Mega Food Parks scheme and Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana.
- The Park has been set up in 63.8 acres of land at a project cost of over Rs 145.5 crore.
- The food park will ensure that there is a longer shelf life for farm produce, ensure value addition, better storage facilities, an alternate market for farmers and an excellent storage facility.

World Bank Approves a \$500 million program to support India's MSMEs

The World Bank's (WB) Board of Executive Directors has approved a \$500 million programme called "Raising and Accelerating Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Performance" (RAMP) so as to support the Government of India's nationwide initiative to strengthen the MSME sector which has been heavily disturbed due to COVID-19

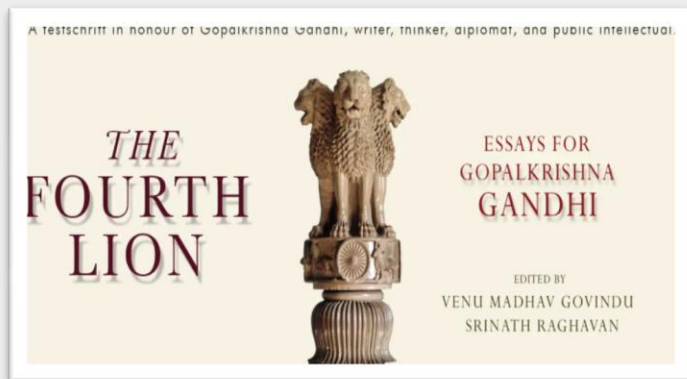
Maturity :

The \$500 million loans which will be provided by the international bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) which is an arm of the world bank group has a maturity of 5 years including a 5.5 grace period.

Targets of RAMP

The program RAMP targets to improve the performance of 555,000 MSME. It is expected to mobilize financing of \$15.5 billion as part of the government's \$3.4 billion MSME Competitiveness. 5 million MSME firms have accessed finance from the government's program to date.

Venu Madhav Govind and Srinath Raghavan Edited a New Book "The Fourth Lion: Essays by GopalKrishna Gandhi"



"The Fourth Lion: Essays for GopalKrishna Gandhi", a new book edited by Venu Madhav Govindu and Srinath Raghavan. The Fourth Lion is a festschrift (a collection of writings in honour of a scholar) published in honour of GopalKrishna Gandhi. It is a collection of 26 essays contributed by individuals drawn from across the globe. The book is published by the Aleph Book Company. About the Book:

The 26 essays in the book are organised into thematic sections like Literature and Culture, History, Environment, Politics and Public Affairs, and Memoirs.

GopalKrishna Gandhi:

GopalKrishna Gandhi has been an administrator, diplomat, author, and public intellectual of distinction for more

than 40 years. He has served as the 23rd Governor of West Bengal from 2004 to 2009. The writing of GopalKrishna Gandhi covers various genres that deal with the issues of politics, history, literature and culture.

NHPC forms Joint Venture with JKSPDC to set up 850 MW Ratle Hydroelectric Project in J & K

National Hydroelectric power corporation (NHPC) India's premier hydropower company under the Ministry of Power along with Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JSKPDCC) has formed a joint venture for the implementation of the 850 Mw Ratle Hydroelectric Project in Jammu and Kashmir. The joint venture company is called Ratle Hydroelectric Power corporation limited. NHPC and JKSPDC have equity shares of 51 % and 49 % respectively. The project is located on River Chenab, Kishtwar district of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The investment sanction for the project is at a cost of Rs 5281.94 crore which has been conveyed to the Ministry of

PowerNHPC also plans to develop other projects apart from Ratle such as PakalDul, Kiru and Kwar hydropower project

The 1st Workshop on Memory Studies Hosted by IIT Madras

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras hosted Asia 1st workshop on

International Memory Studies virtually and acknowledged the need to engage in memory studies. The workshop precedes the official launch of the Indian Network for Memory Studies (INMS), the first national network in the field in Asia under the aegis of the International Memory Studies Association, Amsterdam.

CAREER FLITE



India ranked 10th in Global Cybersecurity Index 2020, US Tops: ITU Report



Recently, the Global Cybersecurity Index 2020 (GCI 2020)-4th Edition was released by International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the UN agency for Information & Communication Technologies (ICT). India with a score of 97.5 has been ranked 10th (India was placed at the 47th spot in the last edition of GCI in 2018) in the Index. The US topped the Index, UK & Saudi Arabia shared the 2nd spot while Estonia took the 3rd rank. Among the Asia-Pacific nations, South Korea & Singapore topped the index, while India was ranked 4th.

India to add 26 GW Hydro Projects by 2030: IEA Report

According to the 'Hydropower Special Market Report - Analysis and forecast to 2030' released by International Energy Agency (IEA) - India is expected to add 26 GW (or 26,000 MW) of Hydropower projects by 2030.

- At present, the installed capacity of the 207 hydropower projects running in India is 46,209 MW. More than 9,000 MW of large hydro projects are under construction at present.
- The Global hydropower capacity is set to increase by 17 %, or 230 GW, between 2021 and 2030. China will remain the single largest hydropower market through 2030, accounting for 40% of the global capacity growth in the Hydropower sector.
- This is the 1st ever IEA market report dedicated exclusively to hydropower.

India joins G20-OECD Tax Framework Deal for Global Minimum Corporate Tax

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) stated that 130 countries including G20 members, India & China have joined the G20-OECD Tax Framework Deal for Global Minimum Corporate Tax. The Global Minimum Corporate Tax is set to come into force from 2023 mandates 15% Tax on globally operating companies (such as Google, Facebook). It is applicable for Global companies with global annual revenue of at least 20 billion Euros (USD 24 billion) and a profit margin of over 10%.

- The objective of introducing the tax is to prevent global companies from shifting to low-tax regions to secure extended profits.
- The 15 % tax is expected to generate an estimated USD 150 billion additional tax revenue each year.
- It was proposed by US President Joe Biden and was accepted by the G7 countries in June, 2021.
- OECD is coordinating the global campaign for the Tax.

Harsh Vardhan addresses 17th World Congress for Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan addressed the 17th World Congress of International Federation of Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy 2021 (IFCPC 2021) held virtually from July 1-5, 2021. It is being organized in Asia for the 1st time and is also the 1st virtual IFCPC World Congress. It was organized by Indian Society of Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (ISCCP) & Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Vardhman Mahavir Medical College & Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.

- Theme - 'Eliminating Cervical Cancer: Call for Action', the theme is aligned to the World Health Organisation (WHO) call for Elimination of Cervical Cancer by 2030.

Key Points from the Address :

- Cervical Cancer is the 4th most common cancer in women, affecting half a million women across the world each year and killing a quarter of a million. He highlighted the efforts taken by India to stop Cervical Cancer.

- India is one of the few developing countries which have formulated the national cancer control program.
- Government of India is offering intervention to end cancer through two wings of Ayushman Bharat Programme - Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) & Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs).

International Plastic Bag Free Day 2021- July 3



The International Plastic Bag Free Day is annually observed across the globe on 3rd July to create awareness about the issues of plastic pollution and to highlight the effects of plastic pollution on the natural environment ranging from land to marine. The day also promotes the use of paper bags and cloth bags and eliminate the use of single-use plastic.

WHO awarded a Malaria Free Certificate to China

On June 30, 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) awarded China a malaria free certification. This certification recognized China's 70-year effort to eradicate this disease. It reported zero cases for last the 4 years. China is the first country in the WHO Western Pacific Region to be awarded a malaria-free certification in more than 3 decades. Other countries in the region that have achieved this status include Australia (1981), Singapore (1982) and Brunei Darussalam (1987).

International Day of Cooperatives observed on July 3 (1st Saturday of July)

The UN International Day of Cooperatives (#CoopsDay) is observed annually on the First Saturday of July, which falls on July 3 in 2021. It is observed to increase awareness of cooperatives and highlight the contributions of the cooperative movement.

- It aims to strengthen and extend partnerships between the International cooperative movement

and other actors, including governments, local, national, and international levels.

- The Theme for International Day of Cooperatives is 'Rebuild better together'.

Virgin Orbit launches 7 satellites from 747 Plane

In July 2021, Richard Charles Nicholas Branson's rocket company, Virgin Orbit delivered 7 satellites from 3 countries viz, United States(US), Netherlands, and Poland into space using its modified Boeing 747 aircraft, making it the company's 1st commercial launch.

- LauncherOne, the 70 -foot-long (21-meter) two-stage rocket was carried by the aircraft and dropped from its left wing. The drop occurred at an altitude of about 37,000 feet (11,000 meters) over the Pacific near the Channel Islands.
- It is the company's 2nd successful rocket launch from a plane. The satellites are from the U.S. Defense Department, the Royal Netherlands Air Force, and Poland's SatRevolution company.

7th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium held at La Reunion concludes

The 7th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), took place from 28 June to July 1,2021 at La Reunion, an island in the Indian Ocean east of Madagascar, which is an overseas department of France. It was hosted by the French Navy, France had assumed the Chairmanship of IONS on 29 June 2021, for a 2-year tenure.

- From the Indian side - Admiral Karambir Singh, Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy virtually participated in the event.
- IONS is a series of biennial meetings between the Littoral States of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). It provides a forum to increase maritime security cooperation, discuss regional maritime issues, and promote friendly relationships among the member states.

International Migrant Labour rises to 169 million-ILO report

International Migrant Workforce increases to 169 million in 2019, a rise of 5 -million increase in total count or 3 % rise compared to the figures of 2017, as

per the "ILO Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers: Results and Methodology" report released by the United Nations International Labour Organisation (ILO).

3 new Asteroids discovered by Indian Teacher-Student duo in IASC Citizen Science Programme

3-new asteroids were discovered by Bala Bharathi, Principal of Bharathi Matriculation Higher Secondary School, and G. Aazhimukilan, B.Sc. Physics student from St. Joseph's College from Trichy, Tamil Nadu. The discovery was a part of the International Astronomical Search Collaboration (IASC) Citizen Science Programme, organised by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The 3 asteroids were temporarily named as BBM2101, BBM2102, and BBM2103.

OneWeb launched 36 Satellites into Orbit

36 Broadband Satellites of OneWeb (a venture backed by Bharti Airtel) were launched into orbit by a Soyuz rocket from Vostochny Cosmodrome in Siberia,

Russia. The launch of the satellites will enable it to provide commercial internet services in areas of the Northern Hemisphere (areas north of 50 th Degree Latitude) by the end of 2021. UK, Alaska, Northern Europe, Greenland, Iceland, Continental US, the Arctic Seas and Canada are the countries/regions which have been covered.

Overview of EAM Jaishankar's Visit to Greece and Italy

India's External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr S Jaishankar paid an official visit to two countries Greece from June 25-27, 2021 & Italy from June 28-29, 2021. EAM Jaishankar's visit to Greece is the 1st visit by an Indian foreign minister to Greece since 2003. He conveyed India's felicitations towards the 200th anniversary of Greek Independence.

During the visit, Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias signed and handed over the Agreement on the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to the Indian side. They exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest in the context of new geo-political and geo-economic realities, including the Indo-Pacific. EAM

visited Italy to participate in the G20 Foreign Affairs Ministers' Meeting 2021 followed by a joint session of Foreign Affairs and Development Ministers. The meetings took place from June 28-29, 2021 at Matera, Basilicata, Italy from June 28-29, 2021 and was hosted by Italy, which hosts the 2021 Presidency of G20.

World's 1st Report on Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare released by WHO



In June 2021, the World Health Organisation (WHO) released the World's 1st report on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the healthcare sector called, "Ethics and governance of artificial intelligence for health". WHO with inputs from various international experts prepared the report that can be used by countries to minimize the risk & maximize the benefits of AI.

Challenges in AI - Unethical collection & use of Health data; Biasing AI Algorithm; Unregulated use of AI to patient safety; Data Privacy and Security; Uninformed collection of patients data.

WHO proposed 6 principles to maximize the utility of AI on Public Interest Proposed Principles:

- Protecting human autonomy - Human to take medical decisions & protect patient's medical data
- Promoting human well-being and safety and the public interest
- Ensuring transparency, explainability and intelligibility
- Fostering responsibility and accountability
- Ensuring inclusiveness and equity
- Promoting AI that is responsive and sustainable

Amazon Web Services acquired Encrypted Messaging app Wickr

Amazon is all set to have its own messaging application as its cloud computing division, Amazon Web Services (AWS), has acquired encrypted messaging platform Wickr for an

undisclosed sum. The acquisition is on the lines of the company's strategy for government contract work. Notably, Wickr is a popular app with government agencies in the United States (US).

Indo-UK Free Trade Agreement can help in achieving AtmaNirbhar Bharat: UKIBC Report

According to the report 'Road to a UK-India Free Trade Agreement: Enhancing the Partnership and achieving Self-Reliance' released by UK India Business Council (UKIBC) - A Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India & United Kingdom (UK) will help in achieving India's vision of AtmaNirbhar Bharat. Both countries have agreed for an Enhanced Trade Partnership. They have agreed to start FTA negotiations by the end of 2021 with the goal of doubling trade by 2030. The report includes 5 recommendations to make the AtmaNirbhar campaign a success, which includes sharp focus on innovation and on digital and data sectors, India should remain open to free and fair trade.

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan becomes World's Most Expensive City, Mumbai Ranked 78th: Mercer Survey 2021

According to Mercer's 2021 Cost of Living City Rankings - Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan has become the world's most expensive city for foreign workers (Expatriates) followed by Hong Kong, Hong Kong (SAR) & Beirut, Lebanon. Mumbai, Maharashtra was ranked at 78, making it India's most expensive city for expatriates (a fall of 18 places compared to 60th rank in 2020 Mercer Survey).

India ranked 20th in Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021; US Tops

StartupBlink released the Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021, which ranks countries & cities depending on the Startup Environment. In the country-wise ranking, India with a score of 8.833 was ranked 20th out of 100 countries. The United States (US) topped the index followed by the United Kingdom (UK) & Israel. In the City-wise ranking - San Francisco Bay, USA topped the ranking

followed by New York, USA & Beijing, China. A total of 1000 cities were ranked in the index. Bengaluru, Karnataka was the highest ranked Indian City at 10 (up from 14 in 2020). Overall, 43 Indian cities featured in the list, out of which 9 were new. India was ranked 23rd in the Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2020.

Bengaluru ranked 6th among Top 10 Established Technology Submarkets in APAC, Beijing topped: Colliers Report

In accordance with the report by Colliers titled 'Growth engines of innovation: How Asia Pacific's technology hubs are reshaping regional real estate', Outer Ring Road of Bengaluru (Karnataka) has been ranked 6th in the top 10 established technology submarkets in APAC (Asia Pacific) for companies to set up operations.

- The HITEC (Hyderabad Information Technology and Engineering Consultancy) City of Hyderabad (Telangana) ranked grabbed the 10th
- The list has been topped by Beijing (China).

Key Points:

Bengaluru's Whitefield and North Bengaluru are ranked at 3rd and 4th respectively in top 10 upcoming technology submarkets in APAC.

- They were followed by Hyderabad's peripheral Business District at 5th place, and Delhi NCR's (National Capital Region) Noida expressway and Golf Course Extension Road (Gurugram) at 7th and 8th
- This list has been topped by Shanghai's Yangpu, China.

World Health, IP, Trade Bodies launch Platform to tackle COVID-19 Pandemic

The World Health Organization (WHO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and World Trade Organization (WTO) have launched a joint platform to tackle COVID-19 Pandemic.

Key Points:

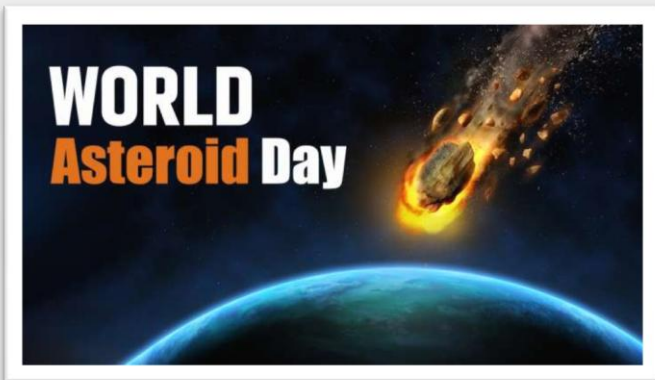
This platform has been jointly announced by the following heads of organizations

- Tedros Ghebreyesus - WHO
- Daren Tang - WIPO
- Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala – WTO

This platform will help countries plug the gaps in accessing Covid-19 vaccines, treatments and technologies.

Full range of expertise on access, intellectual property and trade matters will be available on this platform.

International Asteroid Day 2021- June 30



United Nations (UN)'s International Asteroid Day or Asteroid Day is a global awareness campaign annually celebrated across the globe on 30th June to create awareness and engage and educate the general public about the asteroid's opportunities and risks.

Aim:

- To create awareness about the hazards of asteroid impacts.
- To educate the public on the crisis communication actions which should be taken at the global level in case of Near-Earth Object (NEO) threat.

International Day of Parliamentarism 2021- June 30

The United Nations (UN)'s International Day of Parliamentarism is annually observed across the globe on 30th June to recognise the importance of parliaments in national plans and strategies. The day also highlights the importance of parliaments in ensuring transparency and accountability at national and global levels. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and its Member Parliaments mark the International Day of Parliamentarism 2021 by organising various events focusing on youth empowerment. This follows the launch of the IPU campaign "I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!".

China launched 2 units of its World's Largest Baihetan Hydropower Station

On June 28, 2021, China launched two units of its world's largest Baihetan hydropower station worth USD 34 billion. The units, currently under construction, are located on the Jinsha River, the upper section of the Yangtze River, and straddle the southwestern provinces of Yunnan and Sichuan. This

launch came ahead of the centenary celebrations of the ruling Communist Party on July 1, 2021. It is equipped with 16 hydro-generating units, each with a capacity of one million kilowatts i.e. total installed capacity is 16 million kilowatts. It is the largest single-unit capacity in the world.

UNEP and Massive Earth Foundation partners to launch Low Carbon.Earth Challenge in Asia-Pacific

In a bid to boost start-up for producing sustainable goods and services by adopting Low Carbon Lifestyle, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in collaboration with Massive Earth Foundation (MEF) has launched 4-month long program namely LowCarbon.Earth (<https://lowcarbon.earth>) for Asia Pacific region. This is a first of its kind unique initiative of Industry - Academia Partnership. It is an Asia Pacific Low Carbon Lifestyle Accelerator acting as a challenge under which Startups will be supported for market expansion, growth & fund raising from globally renowned investors.

Japan to provide approx. \$9.3 mn to build Cold Chain Facilities for Vaccine in India

In order to contain COVID-19, Japan is all set to provide approximately US \$9.3 million assistance from its Emergency Grant Aid scheme to India for the building of cold chain facilities for safe storage of vaccines. In this regard, India will also get cold chain equipment including medical equipment. Japan through its Emergency Grant Aid schemes aim to provide 'Last One Mile Support' for ensuring vaccination to each and every person of developing countries, through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

US Announced \$41 Million Additional COVID-19 Assistance to India

On June 28, 2021, the US (United States) Agency for International Development (USAID) announced an additional \$41 million assistance to help India to confront COVID-19, and strengthen India's preparedness for future health emergencies.

- The additional fund was provided as a support for COVID-19 testing, pandemic-related mental health services, timely referrals to medical services, and access to healthcare in remote areas.

Santosh Gangwar Addresses G20 Labour and Employment Ministers Meeting 2021



Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment, Santosh Gangwar delivered the Ministerial Address on 'Declaration and Employment Working Group Priorities' at G20 Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting 2021, which was held in Hybrid mode from Catania, Italy. The meeting was hosted by Italy (2021 G20 Presidency). The participants discussed current labour market trends across the world, employment and social challenges, women employment, social security and

remote working. The Labor and Employment Ministers' Meeting 2021 is one of the ministerial meetings organized as part of the G20 Leaders' Summit 2021, set to be hosted by Italy in October 2021.

Key Points from the Minister's Address :

Santosh Gangwar highlighted initiatives taken by India to address the issues of women, self-employed & people working in the unorganised sector.

- Code on Wages, 2019 to reduce gender gaps in labour force participation.
- Code on Social Security, 2020 brings self-employed and all other classes of workforce under social security coverage.
- Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM), a voluntary and contributory pension scheme introduced in 2019 for the unorganised sector workers provides a minimum assured pension after the age of 60 years.

Efforts taken by G20 to reduce Gender Gap

In 2014, G20 Leaders took a pledge in Brisbane, Australia to reduce the gap in labour force participation rates between men and women by 25% by 2025.

US's COVID-19 Assistances to India:

-From the beginning of COVID-19, USAID has contributed more than \$200 million for India's COVID-19 relief and response efforts, including more than \$50 million in emergency supplies.

- It has also provided training for more than 214,000 frontline health workers on infection prevention and control, benefitting more than 42 million Indians.
- American Rescue Plan Act: More than \$300 million has been allocated by the US under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 in March 2021 to provide emergency assistance to the hardest-hit countries in South Asia, including India and Nepal.

International Day of the Tropics 2021- 29 June

The United Nations (UN)'s International Day of the Tropics is annually observed across the globe on 29th June to celebrate the diversity of the tropical region and to highlight the challenges and opportunities faced by the nations of the tropic.

9th Moscow Conference on International Security 2021 in Russia; Defence Secretary Represented India



On June 22-24, 2021, a 3-day 9th Moscow Conference on International Security (MCIS-2021) organised by the Russian Ministry of Defence was held in Moscow, Russia with a participation of 600 attendees. The opening session was addressed by President of Russian, Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin. India was represented by Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar. He addressed the plenary session on the topic 'Role of Military Agencies in fighting against COVID-19'. More than 600 participants attended the conference.

Key Points:

On the sidelines of the conference, Russian Defence Minister General of the Army Sergei Shoigu held bilateral

meetings with heads of defence departments of other countries. India is set to hold, India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military-Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC) meeting later this year which will be attended by Sergei Shoigu. Russia will support India in the co-development and production of high technology defence items under 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership' between the two countries.

Pakistan retained on the FATF “Grey List”

Pakistan has been retained on the 'Grey List' or list of countries under 'increased monitoring' by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a global terror financing watchdog. It has been retained due to its inability to prosecute the top leadership of UN Security Council-designated Terror groups.

- FATF also placed Malta, a member of European Union, on the 'Grey List' along with countries like Haiti, Philippines and South Sudan.
- It was announced during the 4th Plenary session of FATF held under the German Presidency of Dr. Marcus Pleyer from June 21-25, 2021.

Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day 2021- 27 June

The United Nations (UN)'s Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day (MSME Day) is annually observed across the globe on 27th June to create awareness about the contributions of the MSME sector towards sustainable development and the global economy. The theme of MSME Day 2021 is "MSME 2021: Key to an inclusive and sustainable recovery".

World Allergy Week-13-19 June 2021

The World Allergy Week 2021 is observed across the globe from 13th to 19th June 2021 to create awareness about the allergic disease and related disorders. The day also advocates the provisions of training and resources in diagnosis, management, and prevention of these diseases and asthma. The World Allergy Week is an annual initiative of the World Allergy Organization (WAO). The theme of the World Allergy Week 2021 is "Anaphylaxis: Be Aware. Be prepared. Save lives".

National Insurance Awareness Day 2021-28 June

National Insurance Awareness Day is annually observed on 28th June to create awareness about the importance of insurance and to encourage people to review their insurance policies.

Aim : To spread knowledge about insurance and its benefits.

Summary of Ministerial-level Thematic Forum for UN High level Dialogue on Energy 2021

The Ministerial-level Thematic Forum for UN High Level Dialogue on Energy 2021 (HLDE 2021) was held virtually from June 21-25, 2021. It is an initiative of United Nations-Energy (UN Energy). The main aim of HLDE 2021 is to promote the implementation of the energy-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Forums in HLDE 2021 held discussions around 5 themes - Energy access; Energy transition; Enabling Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through inclusive, just energy transitions; Innovation, technology and data; Finance and investment. The Ministerial

Thematic Forums are being held in preparation for the High-level Dialogue on Energy during the 76th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2021 in New York, USA.

Key Takeaways :

India co-hosted the Ministerial Thematic Forum for Energy Transition along with 9 other countries. These 10 countries were designated as Global Champions for the theme 'Energy Transition'. In the sidelines of the Ministerial-level meeting of HLDE 2021, India hosted the 'Accelerating Citizen Centric Energy Transition'. It was organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of India (PMI) to the United Nations and the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW).

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2021-26 June

The United Nations (UN)'s International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is annually observed across the globe on 26th June to create awareness about the major problem that

illicit drugs represent to society. The theme of the 2021 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is "Share Facts on Drugs, Save Lives". The 2021 theme aims to combat misinformation about drugs and to promote the sharing of facts on drugs.

Over 19,300 children suffered grave violations in 2020: UN Report

According to the 'Annual report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC)' released by Office of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG CAAC)- More than 19,300 boys and girls affected by war in 2020 were victims of grave violations like abduction, recruitment or sexual violence. Around 26,425 grave violations were committed against children in 2020, which included attacks on schools and hospitals. The Grave violations against children in conflict remained 'alarmingly high'. The report further states that one in four children affected by grave violations were girls. The report

is titled 'A Stolen Childhood and a Future to Repair: Vulnerability of Girls & Boys in Armed Conflict Exacerbated by COVID-19 Pandemic'.

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture 2021-June 26

The United Nations (UN)'s International Day in Support of Victims of Torture is annually observed across the Globe on 26th June to create awareness about the sufferings of the victims of torture and to support and honour the victims and survivors across the globe. Various organizations like the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) and Amnesty International, plays a major role in promoting the day through organizing various events across the globe.

NSO Ajit Doval attends 16th Meeting of Security Council Secretaries of SCO

India's National Security Advisor (NSA) attended the 16th meeting of Security Council Secretaries of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) held at

Dushanbe, Capital of Tajikistan. The meeting was held from June 23-24, 2021 and was chaired by Tajikistan (Chairmanship of SCO in 2021). National Security officials of the 8 member nations of SCO attended the meeting. The National Security officials discussed key regional security issues and also about the current situation in Afghanistan.

Key Points :

- India proposed an action plan against Pakistan-based Terrorist groups as part of the SCO Framework.
- NSA Doval urged the member states to look at the possibility of signing an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to counter terror financing.
- On the sidelines of the SCO meeting, NSA Ajit Doval held a meeting with Nikolai Patrushev, Secretary of the Security Council of Russia. They exchanged views on the situation in Afghanistan, and the Asia-Pacific region.

QS EMBA Rankings 2021: IIM Bangalore Ranked Best in India



The Post Graduate Programme in Enterprise Management (PGPEM) of the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) ranked the best in India in the 'QS Executive MBA Rankings 2021 of Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).

Key Facts :

- Globally, it holds the 39th spot, became the only Indian institute to feature in the list of the top 100 . In the Asia-Pacific category, IIMB holds the 10 th spot, leading the B-school brigade from India.
- The QS EMBA Rankings' evaluation considers - career outcomes, diversity, employer reputation, executive profile, and thought leadership. In the 2021 edition, 176 global EMBA programmes from all over the world were evaluated.

- IIM Bangalore secured the top rank in India with a score of 61.8% and it has been ranked in the top 22.2 percent of universities worldwide.
- Globally, France's HEC Paris tops the rankings and the Wharton School has claimed the 2nd position while Spain's IESE Business School stands at 3rd place.

Sanjay Dhotre represented India at G20 Education Ministers and at Labour and Employment Meet 2021



Minister of State for Education Sanjay Dhotre virtually represented India in two G20 meetings - G20 Education Ministers meet 2021 & G20 Ministers for Labour & Employment meet 2021. Minister of Public Education of Italy, Patrizio Bianchi chaired the G20 Education Ministers Meet 2021.

- Both meetings were held under the Chairmanship of Italy (G20 Presidency for 2021) at Catania, Italy, in a hybrid format.
- G20 Education Ministers meet 2021 is one of ministerial meetings arranged as part of the G20 Leaders' Summit 2021, which will be hosted by Italy in October 2021.
- During the Education Ministers meet 2021, the leaders reaffirmed the role of education for inclusive economic growth, equity, equality, human dignity, social inclusion, and wellbeing.
- During the Labour & Employment meet 2021, the leaders agreed to address the transition from education to work, a central issue for a sustainable and inclusive economic and social recovery.

Day of the Seafarer 2021-25th June

The United Nations (UN)'s Day of the Seafarer is annually observed across the globe on 25th June to recognise the contribution of the seafarers towards the global trade and economy. Objective -

The Day aims to create awareness and educate the public about the danger faced by seafarers during sea travel. The day is celebrated by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), a specialised agency of the UN responsible for regulating shipping.

World Vitiligo Day 2021-25th June

The World Vitiligo Day (WVD) also known as the Vitiligo Awareness Day is annually observed across the globe on 25th June to create awareness about Vitiligo, a rare skin disease that affects around 1 to 2% of the global population. The day also marks the death anniversary of American singer Michael Jackson, "King of Pop", who was also diagnosed with vitiligo. Michael Jackson passed away on 25th June 2009. The year 2021 marks the observance of the 11th WVD.

275mn People used Drugs Worldwide in 2020 : UNODC Report

On June 24, 2021, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) released a World Drug Report 2021 which states that around 275 million

people used drugs worldwide in 2020 of which 36.3 million people or 13% suffered from drug use disorders. The report referred a term drug as a substance controlled under international drug control conventions, and their non-medical use. Opioids contribute to the largest burden of disease due to drug use.

Tax Inspectors Without Borders Launched in Bhutan in partnership with India

On June 23, 2021, Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) virtually launched its programme in Bhutan in partnership with India where the latter acts as its Partner Jurisdiction. As a result, India will provide its Tax Experts to the programme.

Duration of programme : 24 months

Focus of programme : International Taxation and Transfer Pricing

ISRO, NOAA-led Multinational Project Endorsed by UNESCO: CEOS COAST

A multinational project, Committee on Earth Observation Satellites-Coastal Observations, Applications, Services, and

Tools (CEOS COAST) which is co-led by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), United States, was endorsed by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) for its use of innovative technology, and for fostering trust and collaboration among scientists.

Wealth of India's Super-rich decreased by 4.4 % in 2020: Credit Suisse Report

According to the Interim Edition of 'Global Wealth Report 2020 released by Credit Suisse - the overall wealth of India's super-rich decreased by 4.4 % to USD 12.83 trillion in 2020 due to fall in Rupee value. The fall in value of Rupee has caused Number of dollar millionaires in India to fall from 7,64,000 in 2019 to 6,98,000 in 2020. Decline in cumulative wealth of India's super-rich to USD 12.833 trillion in 2020, down by USD 594 billion or 4.4 % compared to 2019. Currently, India is home to 1 % of the global rich list. At the global level,

Global Wealth grew by 7.4 % in 2020 to USD 418.3 trillion in 2020. The number of millionaires increased by \$5.2\$ million to \$56.1\$ million in 2020.

Goa Institute of Management Ranked as Pioneering B-school in Positive Impact Rating 2021

The Goa Institute of Management (GIM) has been ranked as a Pioneering Business School (B-school) in the second edition of the Positive Impact Rating (PIR) 2021. 4 business schools were ranked globally in the list of PIR 2021 as the 'Pioneering B-schools (Level 5)', in which 3 were of the Indian business schools. The results of the 2nd edition of the PIR 2021 were announced at the World Economic Forum in Lucerne - Burgenstock, Switzerland.

India remains 2nd Largest source of FDI for UK in 2020: UK Report

According to the Inward Investment Statistics for 2020-21 released by the Department for International Trade (DIT), the Government of the United Kingdom (UK) - India retained its position as the 2nd largest source of Foreign

Direct Investment (FDI) for the UK in 2020.

The United States (US) took the top spot.

- Indian companies have invested in 99 projects and created 4, 830 jobs in the UK.
- Foreign investment has created 55,319 new jobs across the UK in 2020.
- The US, which is the top source of FDI for the UK, has invested in 389 projects and created 19,301 new jobs in 2020-21, which is low compared to 2019(462 projects & 20,131 jobs).

Israel successfully tests Laser Weapon that can shoot down drones mid-air

On June 21,2021, the military of Israel successfully tested an airborne high power laser weapon that can shoot down drones. It was developed by Elbit Systems. The test was conducted over the Mediterranean Sea by mounting the weapon on a civilian plane and resulted in successful shot down of several drones within a range of about 1 kilometer (0.6 mile).

-Technology used in Laser Weapon:

The weapon used a technology similar to C-Music, developed by Elbit Systems. C-Music is a defence system fitted to aircraft which uses a laser to blind the incoming missiles. This weapon uses the tracking feature of C-Music but will destroy targets by heating them up.

Key Points :

- The country is planning to deploy this technology by 2025.
- With this success, Israel has become the one of the first countries who have tried and succeeded in such inception.
- Israel is also planning to develop a laser weapon for ground-based systems with a range of 8-10 kilometers (5-6 miles) that can intercept rockets, mortar rounds and drones.

UN Public Service Day 2021 observed on June 23

The United Nations Public Service Day is annually observed across the globe on 23rd June to recognize the contribution of the people associated with the public service and to encourage the youngsters

to take up a career in the public sector. The day highlights the importance of public service and its role in development.

- The Division of Public Institutions and Digital Government of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), which collaborates with the Government of the UAE, will host the virtual event of the United Nations Public Service Day 2021.
- The Virtual Celebration of United Nations Public Service Day 2021 is celebrated under the theme "Innovating the Future Public Service: New Government Models for a New Era to Reach the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)".

Upasana Kamieni named 'Ambassador of Forest Frontline Heroes' by WWF India

The Managing Director of Apollo Life (Lifetime Wellness Rx International Limited), Upasana KamineniKondinela, has been named as an 'Ambassador of Forest Frontline Heroes' by WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) India. Her

appointment was made to recognize the efforts of frontline workers or field level forest staff protecting wildlife and habitats.

PM Modi addresses 5th edition of Viva Technology 2021



Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually delivered the keynote address at the 5th Edition of Viva Technology 2021, which was held from June 16-19, 2021 at Paris, France. He was invited as a Guest of Honour to the event, which is one of the largest digital and startup events in Europe. It is jointly organized by Publicis Groupe - a advertising and marketing company Les Echos, a leading French media group. The event brings together stakeholders in technology innovation

and the startup ecosystem. It has been held annually since 2016. Other prominent speakers in the event were Emmanuel Macron, President of France; Pedro Sanchez, Prime Minister of Spain; Tim Cook, CEO of Apple; Mark Zuckerberg, Chairman & CEO of Facebook and many others.

Key Points from PM's Address :

PM Modi highlighted the emerging cooperation between India & France in areas like technology & digital. He highlighted the role of Infosys in providing technical support for the 2021 French Open Tennis Tournament. He invited the world to invest in India based on 5 pillars of Talent, Market, Capital, Eco-system and, Culture of openness.

Armenian PM Nikol Pashinyan wins General Election

In June 2021, Civil Contract - a political party led by Nikol Pashinyan, the serving Prime Minister of Armenia won the country's Parliamentary election with 53.97 % of the votes polled. While the opposition Armenia Alliance led by former Armenian President Robert Kocharyan trailed on 21.06 % votes. The 46-year-old Nikol Pashinyan is serving as

the Prime Minister of Armenia since 2018. He was facing various political criticisms for ceding territories to Azerbaijan. This election comes after the "Six Week War" between Armenia & Azerbaijan that took place in the Nagorno-Karabakh region in November-December 2020 .

British Lawyer Karim Khan Sworn as the ICC's Chief Prosecutor

British human rights lawyer Karim Khan has been elected as the new chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) by its member countries. He is elected for a period of 9-years from June, 2021. He succeeded Fatou Bensouda of Gambia, as he completed his nine-year term.

About Karim Khan:

Karim Khan has previously served as a prosecutor, investigator and defense attorney in international courts. He is very much known for the UN investigations made into the crimes by the Islamic State. He has defended many famous persons including former Liberian President Charles Taylor and Kenya's Deputy President William Ruto at International courts

World Music Day celebrated on 21 June



Every year World Music Day is celebrated on June. The first World Music Day was celebrated in 1982. It is also known as 'Fete de la Musique' in French and Make Music Day as well. It is observed as an open music festival where each and every one can participate. On the occasion of World Music Day, music events are organized worldwide. It is celebrated to encourage professional musicians to perform in the streets. It was started by French composer Maurice Fleuret, who was also the Minister of Culture in the French government.

UNCTAD Report: India 5th Largest recipient of FDI inflows, US Tops

According to the 'World Investment Report 2021' released by the UN Conference on Trade and Development

(UNCTAD) - India received Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows worth USD 64 billion in 2020 making it the 5th largest recipient of inflows in the world. The US with 156 billion was the top destination for FDI in 2020 followed by China (USD 149 billion) & Hong Kong, China (USD 119 billion). Global FDI inflows declined to USD 1 Trillion in 2020 (35 % decline) compared to USD 1.5 trillion in 2019 due to pandemic. India's FDI inflow has increased to USD 64 billion in 2020 from USD 51 billion in 2019 (37 % increase) due to acquisition in the Information & Communication Technology (ICT) industry. India was ranked 8th in the UNCTAD's 2020 Report based on its FDI Inflows.

World's Tallest Sandcastle Build in Blokhus, Denmark

The sandcastle created by the Dutch Designers team led by Wilfred Stijger, which stands around 69 feet tall (more than 21 meters) becomes the world's tallest sandcastle. The sandcastle made of around 5000 tons of sand was created as a part of the sandcastle festival in Blokhus, Denmark.

- The sandcastle has broken the previous record held by the 17.658 metres sandcastle built by Skulptura Projects GmbH in 2019 in Germany by around 3.5metres.
- The Blokhuis sandcastle, with a replica of the coronavirus at the top, represents the power the coronavirus has held over the world.

International Day of Yoga observed on June 21



United Nations (UN) International Day of Yoga (IDY) is annually celebrated on June 21 all over the world. This year 2021 marks 7th International Day of Yoga. The day aims to raise awareness and promote the benefits of practicing yoga worldwide. The theme of IDY 2021 is 'Yoga for well-being'. The 1st IDY was celebrated on 21st June 2015.

Key Events :

- PM Modi launched the M-Yoga app in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). It will show videos on yoga training based on a common protocol in different languages for people across the world.
- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan addressed the inaugural ceremony of Global Yoga Conference 2021 organized by 'MokshayatanYogSansthan' with the Ministry of AYUSH & Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- For the 1st time, India Post issued a special pictorial cancellation stamp to mark the 7th International Day of Yoga. A cancellation stamp is defined as a postal marking which is used to deface a stamp to prevent its reuse.

Iranian Chief Justice Ebrahim Raisi Won Iran Presidential Election

Iranian Chief justice Ebrahim Raisi became the President-elect of Iran, after winning the 2021 Iranian presidential

election. He will succeed Hassan Rouhani. This election appeared to see the lowest turnout in the Islamic Republic's history. Ebrahim Raisi won 17.9 million votes overall, nearly 62 % of the total 28.9 million casted.

International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice 2021- 21 June

The United Nations (UN)'s International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice is annually observed across the globe on 21st June to create awareness about solstices and equinoxes and to highlight their significance in various religions and ethnic cultures. June 21 is also known as "Summer Solstice".

World Hydrography Day 2021 – Observed on 21 June

World Hydrography Day is annually observed across the globe on 21st June to highlight the importance of hydrography and its relevance. World Hydrography Day annually celebrates the works and contribution of the Hydrographers. The year 2021 also marks the 100th anniversary of the formation

of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). The theme of World Hydrography Day 2021 is "One Hundred Years of International Cooperation In Hydrography".

Narendra Singh Tomar addresses 42nd Session of FAO Conference

Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar addressed the 42nd session of Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Conference which took place virtually from June 14-18, 2021. All the 193 members of the FAO plus the European Union endorsed the new Strategic Framework 2022-2031 which will support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The conference elected Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen, the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to UN Organizations in Rome, as the new Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) for the next two years (2021-23). He succeeds Khalid Mehboob of Pakistan. India thanked FAO for endorsing its proposal to declare 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

Health Minister virtually addressed WHO Global TB Programme

Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan participated in the high-level event on 'Global Drive to Scale up TB Prevention' virtually organized by WHO Global Tuberculosis Programme. Purpose - Discussed on action taken globally to prevent Tuberculosis (TB) and achieving the 2022 United Nations High-Level Meeting (UNHLM) target on TB preventive treatment Target -

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) targets to end TB globally by 2030.
- India targets to increase TB preventive treatment by 2022, develop TB Vaccine by 2023 and reach the goal of "End TB in India" by 2025.

Key Outcomes :

- India called for global community to devise TB Vaccine by 2023
- Launch of a multi-agency 'call to action' to scale up TB prevention & case finding.

Key Delegates - Tedros Adhanom, WHO Director-General; Tereza Kasaeva, Director, WHO Global TB Programme and Ariel Pablos Mendes, Chair, Strategic & Technical Advisory Group for TB (STAG-TB)

Indian-American Sumita Mitra Won European Inventor Award 2021



Indian-American chemist, Sumita Mitra won the European Patent Office's (EPO) European Inventor Award 2021 under the Non-EPO countries category for her innovative dental filling invention using Nanotechnology. The 2021 European Inventor Award ceremony was held digitally.

-Sumita Mitra's Invention:

She was the 1st one to have successfully integrated nanotechnology into dental materials, and has invented stronger, durable & aesthetically pleasing dental

fillings. The filling is developed by Mitra along with her team using a technique for creating linked clusters of nanoparticles or 'nanoclusters'.

World Sickle Cell Day observed on 19th June

World Sickle Cell Day, also known as World Sickle Cells Awareness Day, is annually observed across the globe on 19th June to raise awareness about sickle cell disorders, the most frequent genetic disease across the globe. The World Sickle Cell Day 2021 will be jointly organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Congo Assistance Foundation, the Permanent Delegation of Congo to UNESCO and the Sickle Cell Disease International Organisation (SCDIO). The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/63/237 on 22 December 2008 and recognised sickle cell anemia as a public health problem. Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is a group of inherited red blood cell disorders. The people with SCD have sticky red blood cells which look like a C-shaped farm tool called a "sickle".

Antonio Guterres re-elected as UN Secretary General for 2nd 5-year term stating Jan 1, 2022

On June 18, 2021, Antonio Manuel de Oliveira Guterres (72) aka Antonio Guterres, was re-elected as the Secretary General of United Nations (UN) for a 2nd 5-year term from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2026. His appointment was made by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on the recommendation of the 15-nation UN Security Council (UNSC) and announced by the President of the 75th session of the UNGA, Volkan Bozkir. It should be noted that as per UN Charter, the Secretary-General is appointed by the UNGA on the recommendation of the UNSC.

Indo-French Researchers Developed New Way of Imaging through Fog

A team of Indo-French researchers from various Indian institutions including Raman Research Institute (RRI - Bengaluru) and ISRO's Space Applications Center (SAC) in Ahmedabad, and Université Paris-Saclay, Centre National

de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), France has developed a new improved imaging method to make a clear image of objects in foggy weather conditions.

Rajnath Singh addresses 8th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus 2021



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressed the 8th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus 2021, which was held virtually on June 16, 2021. Brunei is the Chair of the ADMM Plus forum in 2021. ADMM Plus is an annual meeting of the Defence Ministers of 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries and 8 dialogue partner countries - Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia & the US.

Key Points from the address:

- Rajnath Singh called for an open and inclusive order in the Indo-Pacific based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations.
- He reaffirmed India's support to freedom of navigation, over-flight and unrestricted commerce for all in international waters in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- As a member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), he said India remains committed to combating financing terrorism.

International Day for Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict 2021

The United Nations (UN)'s International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is annually observed across the globe on 19th June to create awareness about the needs to end the conflict-related sexual violence, to honour the victims and survivors of sexual violence around the world. The day also pays tribute to the people who have contributed their lives to eradicate

conflict-related sexual violence.2021 marks the 7th observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict.

India ranked 51st in terms of Money Deposited in Swiss Banks, UK tops: SNB Statistics 2020

According to 'Annual Bank Statistics of 2020 released by Swiss National Bank (SNB), the Central Bank of Switzerland - India with Swiss Francs (CHF) 2.55 billion (INR 20, 706 Crore) has been placed at 51st place in the list of foreign clients' money in Swiss Banks during 2020. The United Kingdom (UK) topped the list with CHF 377 billion, followed by the US (152 billion).

The CHF 2.55 billion (includes deposits made by Indian individuals, firms, deposits made in India-based branches of Swiss Banks and other financial institutions) has increased from 899 million CHF (INR 6,625 Crore) in 2019. This reverses a two-year declining trend and takes the aggregate fund to the highest level since 2006(6.5 billion

CHF).The increase in aggregate funds of Indian clients in 2020 is due to an increase in holdings via securities and similar instruments.In the 'Annual banking statistics, 2019 India was placed at the 77th position.

India ranked 120 in Sustainable Development Report 2021, Finland Tops

According to the 6th Edition of 'Sustainable Development Report 2021 (SDR 2021) released by Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), India with a score of 60.1 has been placed at 120th rank out of 165 countries. Finland topped the Index followed by Sweden & Denmark.For the 1st time since 2015, all countries have shown a reversal in progress in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) due to the COVID-19 pandemic.SDR 2021 has been written by a group of authors led by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, President of the SDSN and has been published by Cambridge University Press.

Global Peace Index 2021: India ranks 135, Iceland Tops



According to the 15th Edition of Global Peace Index 2021 (GPI 2021) released by the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP), India with a score of 2.553 has been ranked 135 out of 163 countries, which specifies 'Low State of Peace'. Iceland topped the GPI 2021 Index followed by New Zealand & Denmark. The average level of global peacefulness decreased by \$0.07\$ per cent in the 2021 Global Peace Index. It has deteriorated for the 9th time in the last 13 years. The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region remained the world's least peaceful region, while Europe remained the most peaceful region in the world. 8 of the 10 most peaceful countries are from Europe. In the 2020 GPI, India was ranked 139th.

PASIPHAE, an International Collaborative Sky Survey Led by an Indian Astronomer

Polar-Areas Stellar-Imaging in Polarisation High-Accuracy Experiment (PASIPHAE) is an instrument used in sky surveys to study stars and is being led by an Indian astronomer.

Objective :

To study the polarisation in the light coming from millions of stars.

Members:

The Institute of Astrophysics, Greece is the leader. Other members include the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), India; the University of Oslo and many more are the members.

Key Points

- The project has been funded with \$1 million (Rs. 7.39 crore) each by,
- The Infosys Foundation, India,
- Stavros Niarchos Foundation Greece USA's National Science Foundation combined with contributions from the European Research Council and the National Research Foundation in South Africa. The instrument will survey the night sky in the southern and northern hemisphere using high-

quality optical polarimeters. The instrument will put more focus on faint polarisation that takes place in the light coming from far away stars, which are not yet properly studied. Measurements are obtained from the GAIA satellite. The project will help to understand the mysteries surrounding the origin of the universe. Emerging polarised light signals present in high galactic latitudes will be detected through the Wide Area Linear Optical Polarimeter (WALOP) that is fixed on optical telescopes.

Sustainable Gastronomy Day 2021-June 18

The United Nations (UN)'s Sustainable Gastronomy Day is annually observed across the globe on 18th June to acknowledge gastronomy as a cultural expression related to the natural and cultural diversity of the world. The day is observed to create public awareness of its contribution to sustainable development. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) observe the Sustainable Gastronomy Day.

India, China and Pakistan expanding Nuclear Arsenals says SIPRI Report

The 'SIPRI Yearbook 2021 (52nd Edition)' released by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) states that India, Pakistan & China are expanding their nuclear arsenals. At the start of 2021, India with 156 Nuclear warheads (at the start of 2021) is behind Pakistan (165 Nuclear warheads) & China (350 warheads). The 9 nuclear-armed states in the world (US, Russia, UK, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea) possessed an estimated 13,080 Nuclear warheads at the start of 2021, a decrease compared to the 2020 stockpile - 13400. Russia & the US together possess around 90 % of the global nuclear weapons, they have extensive and expensive modernization programmes. Saudi Arabia, India, Egypt, Australia and China were the five largest importers of major arms in the world between 2016 and 2020.

India ranked 43 in World Competitiveness Index 2021; Switzerland tops

In the recently released World Competitiveness Index 2021 released by the Institute for Management Development's (IMD) World Competitiveness Center, India retained its 43rd rank out of 64 nations (for the 3rd consecutive year). Switzerland topped the Index followed by Sweden in the 2nd spot & Denmark in the 3rd spot. India's ranking in the 4 parameters is - Government Efficiency 46 (from 50 in 2020), the ranking in other 3 parameters remained unchanged compared to 2020 - Economic performance- 37, business efficiency -32, infrastructure - 49. Botswana (61st) was added to the ranking this year 2021.

31st NATO Summit 2021 held in Brussels, Belgium

On June 14, 2021, 31st North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit happened in Brussels in Belgium, the leaders of NATO's 30 member countries have participated in the summit. NATO is a defensive Alliance and will continue to

strive for peace, security, and stability in the whole of the Euro-Atlantic area. NATO is an alliance of European and North American countries formed after World War II as a bulwark against Russian aggression. NATO 2030 agenda sets a higher level of ambition for NATO. It provides clear guidelines for further adaptation to address existing, new and future threats and challenges, building on the ongoing political and military adaptation of the Alliance.

India Extends 100 million USD LoC to support Sri Lanka's Solar Power Coverage

India has signed an agreement to extend a 100 million USD Line of Credit (LOC) to Sri Lanka for projects in the Solar Energy Sector. The agreement was signed between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Export-Import Bank of India.

- The agreement was exchanged between Gopal Baglay High Commissioner of India and S.R. Attygalle, Secretary to the Treasury, Government of Sri Lanka and in the presence of Gotabaya Rajapaksa, President of Sri Lanka.

- India became the first country to partner with Sri Lanka to ensure that 70% of Sri Lanka's national power requirements are fulfilled by renewable energy sources by 2030.

India's GERD ON Research unsatisfactory: UNESCO Science Report 2021

The 'UNESCO Science Report 2021: The race against time for smarter development' released by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) states that India's Investment in Research remains unsatisfactory. India's Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research \ & Development (GERD) remained at 0.7 % of the GDP for several years. India has one of the lowest GERD/GDP ratios among the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) nations.

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2021-June 17

The United Nations (UN)'s World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is annually observed across the globe on 17th June to create and raise awareness

regarding the prevention of desertification of the soil in arid, semi-arid, and dry subhumid areas caused due to climate change and human activities. The theme of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2021 is **"Restoration.Land.Recovery:** We build back better with healthy land".

Piyush Goyal represents India at UN Trade Forum 2021

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal represented India at the UN Trade Forum 2021 which took place virtually from June 14-15,2021.

-The theme of the Forum - 'Towards a green and inclusive recovery'

-UN Trade Forum is a high-level political forum of the UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development).

Shenzhou-12: China to launch the first human spaceflight since 2016

China is all set to blast off its first human spaceflight since 2016 namely 'Shenzhou-12' which means 'Divine Vessel'. It will be launched from Gobi Desert on a Long March rocket in the coming days with three men on

board. The crew will stay there for 3 months until September 2021 and will engage in practising spacewalks, conduct repairs along with scientific operations. This duration will succeed the 33-day record set by Shenzhou-11 in 2016. Notably, this will be the third of 11 missions needed to complete China's space station by 2022. Among them, four will be missions with people on board, covering 12 Chinese astronauts into space. This is also China's 7th crewed mission overall.

New Zealand to launch Finland designed World's First Wooden Satellite

In an introductory move, the European Space Agency (ESA) will launch the world's first wooden satellite, WISA Woodsat, designed and built-in Finland, on Earth's orbit by the end of 2021. It will be launched on a Rocket Lab's Electron rocket from the Mahia Peninsula launch complex in New Zealand. It is a brainchild of Jari Mäkinen, co-founder of Arctic Astronautics, a satellite replicas making company. The sending work satellite is

being done by this company. WISA Woodsat is equipped with sensors that have been developed by ESA.

Rocket Lab to Design 2 Photon Spacecraft for NASA's ESCAPE Mars mission

Rocket Lab was awarded a contract to design 2 of its Photon spacecraft for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) potential - Escape and Plasma Acceleration and Dynamics Explorers (ESCAPE) mission to Mars in 2024. ESCAPE mission is a part of NASA's Small Innovative Missions for Planetary Exploration (SIMPLEX) program. The spacecraft will orbit around Mars to understand the structure, composition, variability, and dynamics of Mars' unique hybrid magnetosphere.

Rocket Lab's Photon spacecraft :

Rocket Lab's Photon spacecraft represents a low-cost method of conducting an interplanetary mission, which often cost hundreds of millions of dollars or more (Photon is the core of Rocket Lab's space systems business). It is a flexible satellite bus designed to carry

more than 440 lbs. \$(200\$ kilograms) to low Earth orbit and more than 88 lbs. (40 kg) on interplanetary missions. Rocket Lab has already launched two test versions of Photon to Earth orbit.

WHO releases handbook "Estimating the burden of foodborne diseases: A practical handbook for countries"?

To address the problem of foodborne illnesses worldwide, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched a handbook titled 'Estimating the burden of foodborne diseases: A practical handbook for countries'. It is prepared by the WHO Team of Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference Group (FERG), Multisectoral Action in Food Systems, and Nutrition and Food Safety. There will be a webinar on June 29, 2021, by WHO for a detailed discussion on the handbook.

Purpose of Handbook :

- To provide detailed guidance to countries for measuring their foodborne disease burden caused by microbiological agents.

- To protect people's health at the national level.
- To guide countries towards the need for food safety systems and identification of data gaps.

PM Modi addresses UN 'High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually delivered his keynote and highlighted India's commitment to restore the Degraded land at the UN 'High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land degradation and Drought (DDLDD)'. He is the president of the 14th Session of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The meeting aims to maintain momentum on addressing DLDD-related challenges. It was attended by Executive Secretary of UNCCD Ibrahim Thiaw and leaders of various global organizations.

Key Points from the Address :

In the last decade alone around 3 million hectares of forest cover were added in India. This has increased the combined

forest cover to almost one-fourth of India's total area.

- Restoration of 26 million hectares of degraded land aimed by 2030 to achieve an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.
- Centre of Excellence to be set up in India to promote a scientific approach towards land degradation issues.
- Globally, one-fifth of Earth's land area - more than 2 billion hectares are degraded, including more than half of all agricultural land. Land degradation affects 3.2 billion people across the world.

International Day of Family Remittances 2021-June 16

The United Nations (UN)'s International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) is annually observed across the globe on 16th June to recognize more than 200 million migrant workers across the globe who provide financial support to around 800 million family members. The day highlights the resolve of the migrant workers in facing economic insecurity,

environmental and climate-related tragedies, and a worldwide pandemic.

Background : The first celebration of the International Day of Family Remittances observed in 2015 aimed at recognizing and raising awareness of the critical contribution and support that migrant provides for their families back home

ASEAN Dengue Day 2021-June 15

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) annually celebrates the ASEAN Dengue Day on 15th June to create awareness on dengue prevention and control at the regional and national level. The day allows the ASEAN Members to promote the dengue prevention and control measures, in coordination with the World Health Organization (WHO).

-The theme of the ASEAN Dengue Day is "ASEAN Unite Against Dengue Amidst the Pandemic".

Background : The 10th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting held in 2010 declared the 15th June of every year as the "ASEAN Dengue Day". The first official ASEAN Dengue Day was observed on 15th June 2011.

India 14th Most Charitable Country, Indonesia tops: World Giving Index 2021 Report

The World Giving Index 2021 (WGI 2021) report released by Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) has ranked India as the 14th most charitable country in the world with a score of 44 % out of 114 countries. Indonesia topped the Index followed by Kenya & Nigeria. The WGI 2021 is based on the year 2020 and highlights the impact of lockdowns on charitable giving. The WGI is an annual report, it uses data gathered by Gallup's World view World Poll. The 1st edition of the report was released in 2010.

Overview of External Affairs Minister's visit to Kuwait and Kenya

India's External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar paid a three-day visit to Kuwait from June 9 to 11, 2021 & Kenya from June 12 to 14, 2021.

Kuwait visit

It was Jaishankar's 1st visit to Kuwait as EAM. During the visit, he held high-level meetings and addressed the Indian community in Kuwait. India & Kuwait

have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which will bring Indian domestic workers in Kuwait under the ambit of a legal framework. It will help in streamlining the recruitment and providing the workers with the protection of the law.

Kenya Visit :

EAM Jaishankar paid a three-day visit to Kenya. The visit was aimed at exploring ways to broaden ties between the two countries. During the visit, EAM Jaishankar co-chaired the 3rd India-Kenya Joint Commission meeting along with Raychelle Omamo, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Kenya. EAM inaugurated the renovated Mahatma Gandhi Library at the University of Nairobi in Kenya. India had provided financial support for the renovation of the library.

European Space Agency's EnVision mission to Venus in 2030

European Space Agency (ESA) has announced the launching of its probe called 'EnVision' to study Venus. It will probably be launched in early 2030.

Objective :

To study the planet's atmosphere and surface, monitor trace gases in the atmosphere and analyse its surface composition.

-About EnVision:

EnVision is an ESA led mission with contributions from NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) It will be launched on an Ariane 6 rocket; the spacecraft will take about 15 months to reach Venus and will take 16 more months to achieve orbit circularization. It will provide a holistic view of Venus from its inner core to the upper atmosphere. iv. It will determine how and why Venus and Earth evolved so differently while being in the habitable zone of the Sun.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2021-June 15

The United Nations (UN)'s World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is annually observed across the globe on 15th June to create awareness about physical, mental, sexual, financial and social abuse faced by the elders. The theme of the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2021 is "Access to Justice".

Zimbabwean Novelist Tsitsi Dangaremba Wins 2021 Pen Pinter Prize

Noted Zimbabwean novelist Tsitsi Dangaremba has been declared as the winner of the 2021 Pen Pinter Prize for charting the development of Zimbabwe from a British colony to an autocratic and troubled free state through her writing career of 30 -years. She will receive the award at a ceremony hosted by British Library and English PEN in October 2021.

47th G7 Leaders' Summit 2021 Summary

The 47th G7 Leaders' Summit 2021 (Outreach Session of the G7 meeting) took place in a Hybrid format from June 11-13, 2021 at Cornwall, United Kingdom (UK). It was hosted by the United Kingdom (UK) as it holds the Presidency of G7 for 2021. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually participated in the meeting.

-The theme for the Summit - 'Building Back Better.

The UK invited Australia, India, South Korea and South Africa (jointly called 'Democracy 11) as Guest Countries to the

2021 summit. The 47th G7 Leaders' Summit has been called the 1st ever net-zero G7 as all have committed to reaching net-zero emissions by 2050.

Key Points :

- The G7 countries & the Guest countries signed the 'Open Societies Statement' which supports 'Human rights for all, both online and offline and Freedom of Expression.
- The G7 leaders issued the Carbis Bay Declaration.
- As part of the declaration, the UK will set up an Animal Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Centre at Pirbright Institute in Surrey, England which is aimed at stopping viruses from jumping into the human population.
- During the summit, the G7 leaders launched the 'Build Back Better World (B3W)' Project to counter China's Belt and Road Infrastructure (BRI) initiative. UK's Prime Minister Boris Johnson launched the 500-million-pound Blue Planet Fund.

- US President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson signed the New Atlantic Charter agreement.

Rebeca Grynspan Appointed as 1st Woman Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Former Vice President of Costa Rica and Economist Rebeca Grynspan became the first woman secretary-general of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). She was nominated by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. She is the first woman and Central American to be appointed as UNCTAD's secretary-general. and will succeed Mukhisa Kituyi of Kenya

Naftali Bennett Appointed as the 13th Prime Minister of Israel

On 13th June 2021, Naftali Bennett was sworn in as the 13th Prime Minister of Israel. He succeeds Benjamin Netanyahu who has been serving as the PM of Israel for the past 12 years. Israeli parliament Knesset elected him as the Prime Minister by a 60-59 vote of confidence in the 120-member house.

Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)- Elected to UN Security Council for 2022-23

Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were elected by the 75th session of the General Assembly as the non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the 2022-23 term. The elected 5 non-permanent members will take their seats on the 15-member body of the UNSC.

World Blood Donor Day 2021- June 14



World Blood Donor Day is annually observed across the globe on 14th June to create awareness about the need for safe blood and blood products for transfusion and of the critical contribution voluntary, unpaid blood donors make to national health systems.

UNGA approves declaration to end AIDS by 2030

During the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High-Level Meeting (HLM) on HIV/AIDS (Human Immunodeficiency Virus Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome), the assembly approved a declaration to end AIDS by 2030. The Assembly stated that COVID-19 has increased inequalities and pushed access to AIDS medicines, treatments and diagnosis off track.

The declaration also committed the assembly's 193 member countries to implement

- Reduce annual new HIV infections to under 3,70,000 and annual AIDS-related deaths to under 2,50,000 by 2025.
- To eliminate all forms of HIV-related stigma and discrimination and for urgent work towards an HIV vaccine and a cure for AIDS.

India Slips 12 Spots to 55th Rank in Global Home Price Index

India was ranked 55th in the Global Home Price Index for the 1st Quarter (Q1) i.e.; January to March 2021, which is

12 spots lower than its Q1 ranking of 43rd in 2020. Global Home Price Index is prepared by the London-based Knight Frank, which monitors housing prices in 56 countries. The ranking was topped by Turkey with 32 % year-on-year (YoY) growth, followed by New Zealand and Luxembourg. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, India fell to the 56th spot in the October-December quarter of 2020. In January 2021, PM Narendra Modi laid foundation stones for 6 Light House Projects (LHPs), as part of the Global Housing Technology Challenge India (GHTC-India) initiative.

Highlights of the Report:

- With a 13.2 % YoY annual growth rate, the United States of America saw the highest price change.
- The average Mainstream residential price of the 56 countries, recorded the highest growth of 7.3 % in Q1 of 2021.

China launches 4 Satellites into Planned Orbits

China launched 4 satellites into planned orbits aboard the Long March-2D rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Northern Shanxi Province. The

satellites will be used for ecological environment monitoring, asteroid resource exploration, disaster prevention and mitigation among others.

- The 4 satellites are Beijing-3 (BJ-3), HISEA-2 (HS-2), Yangwang-1 (YW-1) and Tianjin (TJ).
- It was the 373rd flight mission of the Long March rocket series.

1st Gen Meteorological Satellite

On June 3, 2021, China successfully launched the 1st of a new generation meteorological satellite 'FY-4B' into the planned orbit. China National Space Administration (CNSA) stated that FY-4B will strengthen China's observation and response capability of small and medium scale disaster events.

World's Longest undersea cable Firmina to be built by Google

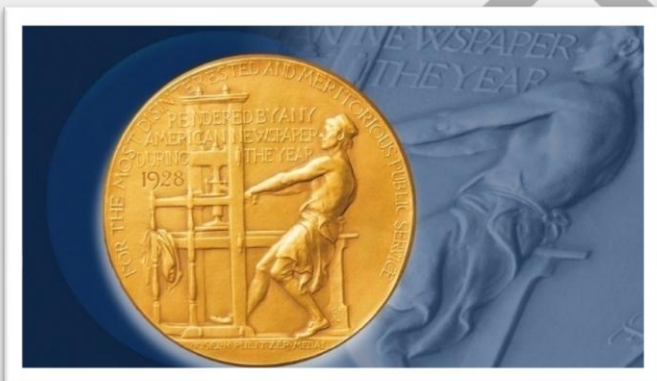
Google announced its plan of connecting the United States of America (USA) with South American countries by constructing an Open subsea cable. The subsea cable was named "Firmina"

honouring Brazil's 1st poet 'Maria Firmina dos Reis'. It is the World's longest subsea cable, which is capable of fully operating through a single power source, in case if other power sources become temporarily unavailable. Firmina will be connecting the East Coast of the USA with Las Toninas, Argentina, and additional landings in Praia Grande, Brazil, and Punta del Este, Uruguay.

Henri Marie Dondra Appointed as Prime Minister of Central African Republic

Former finance minister Henri Marie Dondra has been appointed as Prime Minister of the Central African Republic (CAR). He will succeed Firmin Ngrebada.

Winners of 2021 Pulitzer Prizes Announced



The winners of the 2021 Pulitzer Prizes for Journalism, Books, Drama and Music were announced over a virtual

ceremony. The winners of the 2021 Pulitzer Prize constitute the 105th class of Pulitzer Prize winners. Aminda (Mindy) Marqués González and Stephen Engelberg were the co-chair of the Pulitzer Prize board.

Highlights :

- Darnella Frazier, who recorded the murder of Floyd by police officer Derek Chauvin, received a special citation from the Pulitzer Prize Board.
- The New York Times won the Public Service Pulitzers for its extensive coronavirus coverage that exposed racial and economic inequities, government failures in the United States and beyond.
- Louise Erdrich won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize under the fiction category for his book titled "The Night Watchman".
- Late Les Payne and Tamara Payne won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize under the Biography category for the book titled "The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X"

UNGA President-elect Appointed Indian Diplomat K Nagaraj Naidu as Chef de Cabinet

Abdulla Shahid, Foreign Minister of Maldives and the president-elect of the 76th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) appointed Indian Diplomat Kakanur Nagaraj Naidu, India's Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative of Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations (UN) as his Chef de Cabinet.

Small Island States Experienced 9% fall in GDP in 2020 according to UNCTAD Report

According to the 2021 edition of UNCTAD's (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) 'Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures report, Due to pandemic, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) experienced an estimated fall in GDP of 9 % in 2020, compared with a 3.3 % decline in other developing countries (Based on IMF data). The report has been published ahead of UNCTAD's 15th Quadrennial ministerial conference to be held virtually from October 3-7, 2021. It will be hosted by Barbados. SIDS are

already facing extreme risk from global warming. COVID-19 has affected all spheres of life in SIDS including health, the economy and trade. One of the severely hit sectors is the services exports, which is heavily reliant on tourism and contributes on average 25 per cent to SIDS' GDP.

1st Meeting of India-Australia JWG on Cyber Security Cooperation

At the 1st meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Cyber Security Cooperation, held virtually on June 10, 2021, India and Australia agreed to broad-base cooperation in the areas of the digital economy and cyber-enabled critical technologies. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) reported about the meeting. The Indian delegation at the meeting was led by Paulomi Tripathi, Director (Oceania), Ministry of External Affairs of India, and Rachel James, Special Advisor, Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology at Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, led the Australian delegation.

Key points of the Meeting:

- To enhance the security of critical information infrastructures such as 5 G telecom networks and IoT (internet of things) devices both countries have decided to enhance the cooperation with the private sector and academia and to work together in skill and knowledge development.
- In the meeting, both agreed to strengthen cooperation in the multilateral fora and shared their cybersecurity threat assessments as well as information on legislation and national cyber strategies.
- They also noted the progress made in bilateral relations after the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) held virtually on June 4, 2020, at the Leaders' Virtual Summit between the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi and Australian PM Scott Morrison.
- MEA reported about both countries' next bilateral cyber policy dialogue and an early convening of the inaugural JWG meeting on information and communication technologies.

World Food Price Index of May 2021 highest since 2011 - FAO

As per the data released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Price Index (WFPI) reached 127.1 points in May 2021, reaching the highest level since September 2021. WFPI measures the monthly changes in the price of a basket of cereals, oilseeds, dairy products, meat and sugar. FAO released the 1st ever forecast of World Cereal Production in 2021, which predicts a record output cereal production of 2.821 billion tones.

Switzerland Tops in Coursera's Global Skills Report 2021: India Ranked 67th

As per the 'Global Skills Report 2021' released by Coursera, India has been ranked 67th overall globally. Switzerland topped the rankings followed by Luxembourg & Austria. India has been ranked number 55 in business and at number 66 in both technology and data science categories. At the Asia level, Japan has topped the rankings (Global Rank - 4). India has been ranked 16th in

the Asian region ahead of the Philippines & Thailand. The report is based on performance data of about 77 million learners (from across 100 countries) on the platform collected since the onset of the pandemic. It benchmarks skills proficiency across 3 categories - Business, Technology and data science.

World Day Against Child Labour: 12 June (Remove 2020 year from bottom)



World Day Against Child Labour is celebrated every year on 12 June. It was started by the International Labour Organization in 2002. This year's World Day Against Child Labour focuses on action taken for the 2021 International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. It aims to spread awareness about the harmful mental and physical problems faced by children forced into child labour. On the occasion of this day, a

"Week of Action" is being organized from 10-17 June 2021. According to ILO, one in ten children are working as child labour worldwide.

Child Labor Increases to 160 million worldwide for the first time in two decades

According to the 'Child Labour Global Estimates 2020, trends and roads forward' released by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) & International Labour Organization (ILO), for the 1st time in two decades, 160 million children (63 million girls and 97 million boys) were in child labour globally at the beginning of 2020, accounting for almost 1 in 10 of all children worldwide. Child Labor (60 million) registered an increase of 8.4 million over 4 years (2017-20). The number of children put to work fell by 94 million during 2000 and 2016.

The report highlights the significant rise of children working between the ages of \$5-11\$. This age group accounts for just over half of the total global figure (160 million). Due to COVID-19, globally 9 million additional children are at risk of being pushed into child labour by the

end of 2022. Sub-Saharan region had the highest prevalence of child labour rate with 24% and the largest number of children in child labour of around 87 million. Agriculture Sector accounts for 70 % of children in child labour, followed by 20 % in Services and 10 % in Industry.

1st Edition of Arab-India Energy Forum Virtually Held

The 1st Edition of the Arab-India Energy Forum (AIEF) was held virtually from June 8-9, 2021. It was held under the co-chairmanship of India & the Kingdom of Morocco.

- During the forum, a range of issues on boosting two-way energy cooperation and intraregional power trading was discussed.
- Participants from various public and private sector institutions from India & LAS (League of Arab States) members participated in the event

Key Points :

-The forum witnessed the exchange of knowledge, expertise and best practices in the fields of energy efficiency programmes for different economic sectors, accelerated development of new

& renewable energy, fostering regional power-sharing arrangements, enhanced oil recovery, tight gas extraction, and safe nuclear power generation etc.

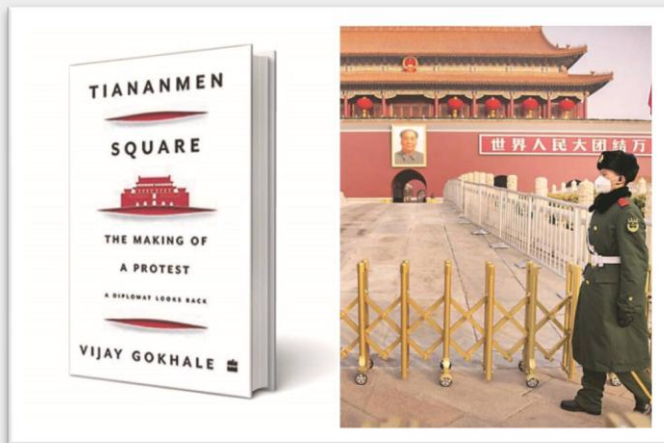
-It was agreed to hold the 2nd edition of AIEF in India during 2023.

New Zealand's Auckland has been named as the World's Most Liveable City: EIU Report 2021

According to the Global Liveability Index 2021 released by the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), New Zealand's Auckland has been named as the World's Most Liveable City due to its ability to control the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic faster and lift restrictions earlier than other cities in the world even though the city had more COVID-19 cases. Osaka (Japan), and Adelaide (Australia) came 2nd and 3rd respectively. Auckland has replaced Vienna (Austrian Capital) as the most liveable city. Vienna had topped the list since 2018. The Index is based on a survey conducted between February 22-March 21, 2021 and ranks 140 cities. Globally, the average liveability score has fallen by 7 points compared to the average pre-pandemic score. The

Liveability Index is a bi-annual index and ranks cities based on 5 Indicators stability, healthcare, education, culture and environment, and infrastructure. Syrian Capital, Damascus remained the least liveable city at Rank 140.

Vijay Gokhale Authored a Book titled 'Tiananmen Square: The Making of a Protest'



A book titled 'Tiananmen Square: The Making of a Protest' authored by Former Indian foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale was launched. This book is published by HarperCollins Publishers.

World Accreditation Day 2021

World Accreditation Day (WAD) is annually observed across the globe on 9th June by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF)

to promote the value of accreditation. The day is a global initiative of ILAC and IAF celebrated to create awareness about the importance of accreditation among the stakeholders. The theme of WAD 2021 is "**Accreditation: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**".

Ex-Mongolian PM Ukhnaa-Khurelsukh became 6th President of Mongolia

Former Mongolian Prime Minister Ukhnaa Khurelsukh has become the 6th democratically elected President of Mongolia. He was the Presidential candidate of the Mongolian People's Party. He will be replacing the incumbent President Khaltmaa Battulga. Ukhnaa Khurelsukh was forced to resign as the Prime Minister following the protest in January 2021.

The 2nd UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference will be held in Beijing

The Second United Nations (UN) Global Sustainable Transport Conference will take place from 14 to 16 October 2021 in Beijing, China. The conference under the theme "sustainable transport, sustain-

able development" will highlight the importance of sustainable transport towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change

- The conference will focus on the opportunities, challenges and solutions towards achieving sustainable transport worldwide.
- The 1st Global Sustainable Transport Conference was held in 2016 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

18th Edition of QS World University Rankings 2022: MIT, USA ranked World's Best University, IIT Bombay ranked Top Indian University

According to the 18th Edition of QS World University Rankings 2022 released by QS (Quacquarelli Symonds), the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the USA was ranked as the World's No. 1 University (for the 10th consecutive time) followed by University of Oxford (UK) while Stanford University (USA) & Cambridge University (UK) shared the 3rd spot.

- Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) was the top-ranked

Indian University at 177 (score of 46.4) Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru (IISc Bengaluru) was ranked as the World's top research university in accordance with quotas per faculty indicator

- IISc Bengaluru received a score of 100 out of 100 for quotes per metric faculty (CPF).
- Around 1300 Universities in 2022 rankings. They were ranked based on 6 Indicators -academic reputation, employer reputation, citations per faculty, faculty/student ratio, international faculty ratio and international student ratio.

El Salvador becomes the first country to declare bitcoin as legal tender

El Salvador became the first country to adopt bitcoin as a legal tender. The proposal of adopting bitcoin as a legal tender has been approved by the Congress of El Salvador. El Salvador's President, Bukele believed that bitcoin will create jobs and promote financial inclusion in the country. Bitcoin is already used by the people of El Salvador for transactions.

ChoguelKokallaMaiga appointed as the New PM of Mali

AssimiGoita, the transitional president of Mali named ChoguelKokallaMaiga, as the transitional Prime Minister (PM) of Mali. He is the president of the Strategic Committee of the Movement of June 5-Rally of Patriotic Forces (M5-RFP). ChoguelKokallaMaiga succeeds Moctar Ouane, the previous PM of Mali who was arrested by the Military on 24th May 2021. MoctarOuane was released after three days but resigned from the post of Prime Minister due to political pressure.

India elected to UN Economic and Social Council for term 2022-24

India with the 17 countries has been elected to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the 2022-24 term beginning from January 1 2022. India was elected in the Asia Pacific States category along with Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Oman.

ECOSOC is one of the 6 main organs of the UN. It is the coordinating body for the social and economic work of UN agencies and funds. ECOSOC's 54 members are elected for a three-year

term by the General Assembly. The African states which got elected are Ivory Coast, Eswatini, Mauritius, Tunisia and Tanzania. From the eastern European states Croatia, Czech Republic were elected. From the Latin American and Caribbean states Belize, Chile and Peru were elected.

I-Familia a Global Database Launched by Interpol to Identify Missing Person

The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) has launched a new global database named "I-Familia" so as to identify missing persons through family DNA. The I-Familia will support the police to solve various cases of the member countries

Global Wind Workforce Outlook 2021-2025 report released by GWEC

Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) released the report "Global Wind Workforce Outlook 2021-2025" with a focus on the job market and workforce needs in the wind energy sector. The report highlights the increase of job

opportunities across the supply chain with the increase in the global wind industry. The report is the global forecast for the training needs of 10 countries; Brazil, India, Vietnam, Japan, USA, China, South Africa, Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Morocco.

China's 'Artificial Sun' sets new world record of running at 120 million degrees Celsius

China's 'Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) project or known as 'Artificial Sun' to set a new record by running at 216 million degrees Fahrenheit or 120 million degrees Celsius for 101 seconds. For another 20 seconds, the artificial sun also achieved a peak temperature of 288 million degrees Fahrenheit which is over 10 times hotter than the sun. The device replicates the nuclear fusion process carried out by the sun. These processes leave no nuclear

waste. This project was conducted by the Institute of Plasma Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (ASIPP), in Hefei, China. The EAST experiment creates nuclear fusion like the sun using deuterium present in the sea. Several countries like South Korea, Japan, Russia, India and the USA are part of this project. It became operational in 2006 and will become the world's largest nuclear fusion reactor when it becomes operational in 2035.

Heidelberg Cement Plans World's First CO₂- Neutral Plant by 2030 in Sweden

Heidelberg Cement, the world's largest integrated manufacturers of building material and solutions plans to transform its factory on the Swedish island of Gotland into the world's first CO₂ neutral cement plant by 2030 with the help of carbon capture technology.



Indian Cricketer Mithali Raj became leading Scorer in All forms of Women's International Cricket



Indian cricketer and women's ODI Captain Mithali Raj (38 years old) became the leading scorer in women's international cricket in all three formats. She overtook former England's batter Charlotte Edward's tally of 10273 runs during the 3rd and final One-Day Internationals(ODI) between England and India held in Worcester, Massachusetts, United States.

Mithali Raj has scored a total of 10277 runs in 317 matches. She is the only

Indian cricketer and 2nd international cricketer to score more than 10000 runs in Women's International Cricket. Mithali Raj tops the ICC ODI women's Batting Rankings for the 8th time. She achieved the feat for the first time in April 2005. She has represented India in more than 200 ODI and has scored 6974 runs. She also holds the record of the most runs in Women's ODIs.

Barbora Krejcikova wins both Women's Singles & Doubles Title of French Open

Barbora Krejcikova (Czech Republic) defeated Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (Russia) to win the Women's Singles Title of the French Open. It is her maiden Grand Slam Title; she became the 1st woman from the Czech Republic to clinch the French Open Singles title since Hana Mandikolikova in 1981.

Overview of 125th Edition of French Open 2021

The 125th Edition of French Open 2021 (also known as Roland Garros) took place from May 30-June 13, 2021 at Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France. It is the 2nd Grand Slam of 2021 and is a Clay-Court. It is organized by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

Sports Ministry Launches Central Athlete Injury Management System to support Athletes

In June 2021, Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, Kiren Rijiju, launched a 1st of-its-kind Centralised Athlete injury management system called Central Athlete Injury Management System (CAIMS). Under CAIMS, Medical and rehabilitation support will be provided at the athlete's Geographical location within India.

-Aim - To provide injury management & rehabilitation support for athletes at their geographical location to achieve timely restoration from injury

-Targeted Athletes - Athletes who are part of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) development group expected to participate in Olympic games in 2024 and beyond

-CAIMS Experts Committee - Dr SKS Marya, Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala, Dr BV Srinivas and Shrikant Iyengar.

India 2nd Largest Cricket Stadium to be built at Jaipur, Rajasthan



India's 2nd Largest Cricket Stadium & World's 3rd Largest Cricket Stadium is set to be constructed in Jaipur (also known as Pink City), Rajasthan. The construction of the stadium will cost an estimated INR 290 crore. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has given a financial grant of INR 100 crore to the Rajasthan Cricket Association for the construction of the Stadium which will have a capacity of 75,000. The world's largest Cricket Stadium is Narendra Modi Stadium, Motera, Ahmedabad, Gujarat with a capacity of 1,32,000 and the 2nd largest is Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) situated in Melbourne, Australia. While the World's 3rd largest &

India's 2nd largest cricket stadium is Eden Garden cricket ground situated in Kolkata, West Bengal.

Indian Cricketer Shafali Verma became the 1st Women Cricketer to hit 3 sixes in Test Match



Indian women cricketer Shafali Verma (17 years old), became the first women's cricketer to hit 3 sixes in a test match. She achieved the feat during the one-off test match between India and England held in Bristol, England.

Mumbai and Pune to host 2022's AFC Women's Asia Cup Football Tournament

Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has changed the host cities of 2022 Women's Asia Cup tournament from the previously selected Bhubaneswar & Ahmedabad to newer venues at Mumbai & Pune both

from Maharashtra. This move was taken by AFC to minimise the travel time and maintain an optimum biosecure bubble for the players.

The tournament set to take place from 20th January to 6th February, 2022 will be held at 3 Football Stadiums:

- Andheri Sports Complex - Mumbai
- D Y Patil Stadium - Navi Mumbai
- Chhatrapati Sports Complex – Pune

Novak Djokovic wins his 2nd French Open Title



Novak Djokovic (Serbia) defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece) to win the Men's Singles Title French Open 2021. It is Djokovic's 2nd French Open Title & 19th Grand Slam Title. Djokovic became the 1st player in the Open Era to win all 4 Major Grand Slams twice (which is called a double career Grand Slam)



Current Affairs

1. Who has been appointed as the governor of Karnataka?
(a) Hari Babu Kambhampati
(b) Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel
(c) Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
(d) Thawarchand Gehlot
2. Satyadev Narayan Arya has been appointed as the governor of which state?
(a) Goa
(b) Uttarakhand
(c) West Bengal
(d) Tripura
3. Valmiki National Park, which was seen in the news recently, is the only National Park of which state?
(a) Uttar Pradesh
(b) Bihar
(c) Uttarakhand
(d) Jharkhand
4. Who becomes "Brand Ambassador" of Khadi Prakritik Paint?
(a) Kumar Sanu
(b) Baba Ramdev
(c) Narendra Modi
(d) Nitin Gadkari
5. Which of the following payment app has announced the launch of Postpaid Mini to provide small-ticket instant loans?
(a) MobiKwik
(b) Phonepe
(c) Paytm
(d) Airtel Payment Bank

6. Who has inaugurated and addressed the CoWin Global Conclave, virtually?
(a) Rajnath Singh (b) Amit Shah
(c) Narendra Modi (d) Ramnath Kovind
7. Bandaru Dattatraya has been appointed the governor of ?
(a) Haryana (b) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Mizoram (d) Uttar Pradesh
8. When is International Fruit Day observed?
(a) 1st July (b) 2nd July
(c) 4th July (d) 5th July
9. Atal Innovation Mission was launched by?
(a) PMO
(b) Niti Aayog
(c) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
(d) None of the above
10. International Day of Cooperatives is observed on?
(a) July 3 (b) July 2
(c) July 1 (d) July 4
11. International Plastic Bag Free Day 2021 is observed on?
(a) July 3 (b) July 1
(c) June 30 (d) July 2
12. The National Postal Worker Day 2021 is observed on?
(a) 10th July (b) 1st July
(c) 2nd July (d) 7th July

- 13.** Government announces Relief Package of _____ crore relief package to support Indian economy?
(a) 6,30,500 (b) 6,21,500
(c) 6,28,993 (d) 7,00,000
- 14.** Who among the following has been appointed as the Special Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)?
(a) Rakesh Asthana (b) Praveen Sinha
(c) Saroj Sharma (d) Lata Manral
- 15.** Which day is marked as the National Doctor's Day
(a) 30th June (b) 1st July
(c) 2nd July (d) 3rd August
- 16.** The 1st Report on Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare is released by?
(a) WHO (b) WIPO
(c) UNCTAD (d) None of the above
- 17.** Which Indian state has topped the India Smart Cities Awards Contest (ISAC) 2020?
(a) Maharashtra (b) Gujarat
(c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Uttar Pradesh
- 18.** Goods and Service Tax Day 2021 is observed on?
(a) July 1st (b) June 30th
(c) July 10th (d) July 31st
- 19.** Name the author of the book 'Fiercely Female: The Dutee Chand Story'.
(a) Swati Sharm (b) Vinesh Gupta
(c) Sundeep Mishra (d) Sanjeev Bisht

- 20.** Which Indian state is the first to become rabies free?
(a) Goa (b) Maharashtra
(c) Punjab (d) Uttar Pradesh
- 21.** _____ ranked as the Most Liveable City in India?
(a) Hyderabad (b) Indore
(c) Mumbai (d) Bengaluru
- 22.** Which country holds the 2021 chairmanship for G20 nations
(a) Italy (b) India
(c) China (d) Russia
- 23.** What is the theme of International Olympic Day 2021?
(a) Stay healthy, stay strong, stay active with the #Olympic Day workout on 23 June
(b) Move, learn and discover
(c) United by Sport
(d) Stronger Together
- 24.** Name the app which has been unveiled by Prime Minister on the seventh International Yoga Day?
(a) mYoga (b) nYoga
(c) pYoga (d) qYoga
- 25.** India is the _____ largest recipient of FDI inflows?
(a) 4th (b) 3rd
(c) 5th (d) 6th
- 26.** Who among the following has won the French Grand Prix 2021?
(a) Lewis Hamilton (b) Max Verstappen
(c) Daniel Ricciardo (d) Charles Leclerc

- 27.** Legendary Milkha Singh has passed away due to coronavirus disease. He was a/an_____.
- (a) Sprinter (b) Environmentalist
(c) Economist (d) Socialist
- 28.** India and _____ sign a MoU for cooperation on Environment recently?
- (a) Bhutan (b) Nepal
(c) Sri-Lanka (d) Bangladesh
- 29.** India has ranked _____ in the Global Peace Index 2021
- (a) 135 (b) 90
(c) 114 (d) 131
- 30.** Which among the following are not among the top 5 IT companies to hire more than 96000 employees in 2022?
- (a) Wipro (b) TCS
(c) UPL (d) Infosys
- 31.** Ministry of Home Affairs operationalizes National Helpline, reporting platform to prevent?
- (a) Cyber Fraud (b) Sexual Harassment of women
(c) Money Laundering (d) None of the above
- 32.** PM launches 'Customized Crash Course Programme for?
- (a) COVID-19 workers
(b) Primary school and econdary school teachers
(c) Civil Servants
(d) None of the above

- 33.** Who among the following has been appointed as the new chairman of Microsoft?
(a) Judson Althoff (b) Satya Nadella
(c) Steve Ballmer (d) John W. Thompson
- 34.** Which state has launched “Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan”?
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Rajasthan
(c) Kerala (d) Jharkhand
- 35.** Which institution developed “Jivan Vayu” India’s first power free CPAP device?
(a) IIT Ropar (b) IIT Bombay
(c) IIT Madras (d) IIT Kharagpur
- 36.** Which states ranked 1st in Anemia Mukta Bharat Index 2020-21?
(a) Odisha (b) Andhra Pradesh
(c) Punjab (d) Madhya Pradesh
- 37.** Who has been appointed as the new Secretary-General of the UNCTAD?
(a) Enrique Iglesias (b) Arnaldo Lopez Echandi
(c) Maria Eugenia Casar (d) Rebeca Grynspan
- 38.** The Pulitzer Prizes are awarded for?
(a) Excellence in newspaper journalism, literary achievements and musical composition
(b) Discovering and achieving excellence in the field of applied science
(c) In the field of Medicine
(d) None of the above

- 39.** World's Longest undersea cable Firmina to be built by?
(a) Microsoft (b) Google
(c) Space X (d) Amazon
- 40.** China launched 4 satellites into planned orbits via?
(a) Long March 2A (b) Long March 2D
(c) Long March 2E (d) Long March 4A
- 41.** Abdulla Shahid, President-elect of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly, is from which country?
(a) Israel (b) Maldives
(c) Peru (d) Argentina
- 42.** Who has been appointed as the chairperson of the Grievance Redressal Board of Digital Publisher Content Grievances Council (DPCGC)?
(a) Ranjan Gogoi (b) Arjan Kumar Sikri
(c) Karnan (d) MarkandeyKatju
- 43.** Name the newly appointed cabinet minister for Health and Family Welfare?
(a) SarbanandaSonowal (b) Narayan Rane
(c) Piyush Goyal (d) Mansukh Mandaviya
- 44.** Who has been awarded the Humboldt Research Award for Economics?
(a) Amartya Sen (b) Kaushik Basu
(c) Raghuram Rajan (d) Jagdish Bhagwati
- 45.** Name the new cabinet minister for Information and Broadcasting.
(a) Mahendra Nath Pandey
(b) ParshottamRupala
(c) G. Kishan Reddy
(d) Anurag Singh Thakur

46. Amazon Inc has launched its first Digital Kendra in India in which city?
(a) Hyderabad (b) Agra
(c) New Delhi (d) Surat
47. Indian Naval Ship _____ recently participated in military exercises with the frontline frigate of the Italian Navy.
(a) Mysore (b) Rajput
(c) Jalashwa (d) Tabar
48. Which of the following has launched newsletter platform "Bulletin"?
(a) Microsoft (b) Twitter
(c) Amazon (d) Facebook
49. Which of the following two cities of India ready to host Women's Asian Cup 2022?
(a) Mumbai and Pune
(b) Bhubaneswar and Ahemdabad
(c) Chandigarh and Gandhinagar
(d) Mumbai and Delhi
50. Which of the following portfolio is associated with the union minister Kiren Rijju?
(a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries
(b) Ministry of Law and Justice
(c) Ministry of Steel
(d) Ministry of MSME



ANSWERS



1.(d) Thawarchand Gehlot

Exp. : Thaawar Chand Gehlot is an Indian politician who is the current and 19th Governor of Karnataka from 6 July 2021.

2.(d) Tripura

Exp. : Satyadev Narayan Arya is the current and 19th Governor of Tripura.

3.(b) Bihar

Exp. : Valmiki National Park and Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary is located at the India-Nepal border in Bihar, on the bank of river Gandak. It is the only National Park in the state of Bihar.

The Authorities of the Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) have identified 150 vultures in different ranges of the protected area. A proposed plan for vulture conservation is sent to the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH).

4.(d) Nitin Gadkari

Exp. : The union minister for Road Transport and Highways & MSME, Nitin Gadkari, virtually inaugurated India's first and only paint made from cow dung, under the brand name 'Khadi Prakritk Paint'.

5.(c) Paytm

Exp. : Richard Donner passing away, and instantly flashed back to the great entertainers that he had made. The 91-year-old filmmaker was at the forefront of some of the most popular genres in the history of mainstream cinema: the superhero movie, the horror flick, the buddy cop romps.

6.(c) Narendra Modi

Exp. : The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi inaugurated and addressed the CoWin Global Conclave, virtually. The global meet was participated by representatives from 142 countries.

7.(a) Haryana

Exp. : BandaruDattatraya has been appointed as governor of Haryana. President Ram Nath Kovind appointed new Governors for 8 States.

- Article 155 of the Indian Constitution states that the Governor of a State shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.
- As per Article 159, The Chief Justice of the concerned State High Court administers the oath of office to the Governor.

8.(a) 1st July

Exp. : The International Fruit Day is annually observed across the globe on 1st July to share fruits in sympathy and joy with family, friends or needy people. The day also addresses the people who create and preserve positive living conditions. The motto of the International Fruit Day was "Create Change Together" and the Fruit of The Year 2021 is Watermelon. Watermelon won the Fruit of the Year vote with around 27 %.

9. (b) Niti Aayog

Exp. : A first fintech cohort of AIM-iLEAP (Innovative leadership for entrepreneurial agility and profitability) was concluded recently which was organized by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog in collaboration with Startup Réseau and Visa through a series of thematic virtual demo.

It is an initiative for start-ups to provide them access to industry, markets and investors thereby enhancing the innovation ecosystem.

10.(c) July 1

Exp. : The UN International Day of Cooperatives (#CoopsDay) is observed annually on the First Saturday of July, which falls on July 3 in 2021. It is observed to increase awareness of cooperatives and highlight the contributions of the cooperative movement.

- It aims to strengthen and extend partnerships between the International cooperative movement and other actors, including governments, local, national, and international levels.
- The Theme for International Day of Cooperatives is 'Rebuild better together'.

11.(a) July 3

Exp. : The International Plastic Bag Free Day is annually observed across the globe on 3rd July to create awareness about the issues of plastic pollution and to highlight the effects of plastic pollution on the natural environment ranging from land to marine.

The day also promotes the use of paper bags and cloth bags and eliminate the use of single-use plastic. Background:

The Plastic Bag Free Day is a global initiative of Zero Waste Europe that aims to eliminate the usage of single-use plastic bags in the world.

12.(a) 1st July

Exp. : The National Postal Worker Day is annually observed on 1st July to recognize the work of the postal workers who work hard to deliver the mail and delivery on time. The day encourages the general public to appreciate the work of postal workers amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The Seattle-area postal carrier proclaimed July 1st was proclaimed as the Nation Postal Worker Day in 1997 to honour their fellow employees.

13.(c) 6,28,993

Exp. : Union Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman announced an 'Economic Relief from Pandemic' stimulus package worth INR 6,28,993 crore to support the Indian Economy during the fight against COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 17 measures were announced. They can be classified into 3 broad categories Economic Relief from Pandemic, Strengthening Public Health & Impetus for Growth & Employment.

14.(b) Praveen Sinha

Exp. : The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Praveen Sinha as the Special Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Special Director is the second senior-most position in the agency after the Director.

15.(b) 1st July

Exp. : The National Doctors Day is annually observed across India on 1st July to recognise the efforts and contributions of the doctor's community to society and the commitment of the doctors towards their profession.

- The day also marks the birth and death anniversary of Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy, who served as the Chief Minister (CM) of West Bengal (WB) from 1948 to 1962.
- The Indian Medical Association (IMA) celebrates National Doctors Day across India.

16.(a) WHO

Exp. : In June 2021, the World Health Organisation (WHO) released the World's 1st report on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the healthcare sector called, "Ethics and governance of artificial intelligence for health". WHO with inputs from various international experts prepared the report that can be used by countries to minimize the risk & maximize the benefits of AI.

Challenges in AI - Unethical collection & use of Health data; Biasing AI Algorithm; Unregulated use of AI to patient safety; Data Privacy and Security; Uninformed collection of patients data.

17.(d) Uttar Pradesh

Exp. : Uttar Pradesh has emerged as top performer among all Indian states. It is followed by Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu under the Smart City award, 2020.

18.(a) July 1st

Exp. : The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Day is annually observed across India on 1st July. The day marks the commemoration of the unprecedented reform of Indian taxation - Goods and Services Tax (GST). The day is observed by the Central Board of Indirect Tax and Customs (CBIC) across India. The year 2021 marks the observance of the 4th GST Day.

19.(c) Sundeep Mishra

Exp. : Journalist Sundeep Mishra's book titled 'Fiercely Female: The Dutee Chand Story' chronicles Chand's journey with a detailed narrative of the gender-identity controversy that made her an iconic figure in Indian sport

20.(a) Goa

Exp. : Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant announced that Goa became the First Rabies-Free State in India as it has not reported a single rabies case in the last three years.

21.(d) Bengaluru

Exp. : According to the 'Ease of Living Index 2020' released by Centre for Science & Environment (CSE) - Bengaluru (Karnataka) with a score of 66.7 has been ranked as India's most liveable capital city followed by Chennai, Tamil Nadu at

No. 2, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh at No. 3. The Index is part of the report titled State of India's Environment 2021.

- Only 3 state capitals feature in the Top 10 most liveable cities list.
- This is the 2nd edition of Ease of Living Index 2020; the 1st edition was published in 2018.

22.(a) Italy

Exp. : Minister of State for Education Sanjay Dhotre virtually represented India in two G20 meetings - G20 Education Ministers meet 2021 & G20 Ministers for Labour & Employment meet 2021. Minister of Public Education of Italy, Patrizio Bianchi chaired the G20 Education Ministers Meet 2021.

- Both meetings were held under the Chairmanship of Italy (G20 Presidency for 2021) at Catania, Italy, in a hybrid format.

23.(a) Stay healthy, stay strong, stay active with the #Olympic Day workout on 23 June

Exp. : The Olympic Day 2021 theme is “Stay healthy, stay strong, stay active with the #OlympicDay workout on 23 June.”

24.(a) mYoga

Exp. : On the occasion of the seventh International Yoga Day on June 21, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled the mYoga mobile app.

25.(c) 5th Largest

Exp. : According to the 'World Investment Report 2021 released by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) - India received Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows worth USD 64 billion in 2020 making it the 5th largest recipient of inflows in the world. The US with 156 billion was the top destination for FDI in 2020 followed by China (USD 149 billion) & Hong Kong, China (USD 119 billion).

26.(b) Max Verstappen

Exp. : Max Verstappen (Netherlands-Red Bull) has won the 2021 French Grand Prix. This race is the seventh round of the 2021 FIA Formula One World Championship.

27.(a) Sprinter

Exp. : Legendary Indian sprinter Padma Shri Milkha Singh, who is popularly known as 'Flying Sikh' in the athletic field, passed away at the age of 91 in Chandigarh. He was born on 20th November 1929 in Govindpura, Pakistan.

28.(a) Bhutan

Exp. : India & Bhutan signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for developing cooperation between the two countries in the area of environment. It will also enable bilateral cooperation in the area of climate change, waste management etc.

29.(a) 135

Exp. : According to the 15th Edition of Global Peace Index 2021 (GPI 2021) released by the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP), India with a score of 2.553 has been ranked 135 out of 163 countries, which specifies 'Low State of Peace'. Iceland topped the GPI 2021 Index followed by New Zealand & Denmark.

30.(c) UPL

Exp. : On June 17, 2021, the IT (Information technology) industry body, the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) stated its perspective in the process of hiring and job creation over the IT - Business process management (BPM) sector. As per its forecast, the Indian IT industry is on track to meet its vision of 300-350 billion annual revenues by 2025.

The top 5 IT services companies viz, TCS, Infosys, Wipro, HCL and Tech Mahindra are planning to add over 96,000 employees during FY22.

The IT-BPM sector together employs over 5 million workers as of March 2021.

31.(a) Cyber Fraud

Exp. : On June 17, 2021, the Ministry of Home (MHA) operationalized the national helpline 155260 and reporting platform via Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System for preventing financial loss of individuals due to cyber fraud

32.(a) COVID-19 workers

Exp. : Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched the 'Customized Crash Course programme for COVID-19 Frontline Workers'. The training programme will be conducted in 111 training centres spread over 26 states.

Under the training programme, about 1 lakh youth will be trained in the next 2-3 months.

The programme has been designed as a special programme under the Central Component of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 (PMKVY 3.0) of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

33.(b) Satya Nadella

Exp. : Microsoft Corp, named Chief Executive Officer Satya Nadella as its new chairman. Nadella took over as the software giant's CEO in 2014, succeeding Steve Ballmer.

34.(a) Madhya Pradesh

Exp. : The Government of Madhya Pradesh has launched 'Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan' to create awareness among people on the covid-19 pandemic. Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan means "free from corona with the help of youth power campaign".

35.(a) IIT Ropar

Exp. : Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar (Punjab) developed a device named "Jivan Vayu", India's first Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) device that can function without electricity. Jivan Vayu can be used as a substitute for the CPAP machine.

36.(d) Madhya Pradesh

Exp. : Madhya Pradesh with a score of 64.1 has been ranked 1st in the Anemia Mukta Bharat Index 2020-21. Odisha (59.3) came 2nd followed by Himachal Pradesh (57.1) in the 3rd position.

The scorecard and rankings in Anemia Mukta Bharat Index are based on parameters like coverage of Iron-Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation across beneficiaries to support assessment of progress and performance of the programme.

37.(d) Rebeca Grynspan

Exp. : Former Vice President of Costa Rica and Economist Rebeca Grynspan became the first woman secretary-general of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

38.(a) Excellence in newspaper journalism, literary achievements and musical composition

Exp. : The winners of the 2021 Pulitzer Prizes for Journalism, Books, Drama and Music were announced over a virtual ceremony. The winners of the 2021 Pulitzer Prize constitute the 105th class of Pulitzer Prize winners.

39.(b) Google

Exp. : Google announced its plan of connecting the United States of America (USA) with South American countries by constructing an Open subsea cable. The subsea cable was named "Firmina" honouring Brazil's 1st poet 'Maria Firmina dos Reis'.

40.(b) Long March 2D

Exp. : China launched 4 satellites into planned orbits aboard the Long March-2D rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Northern Shanxi Province. The satellites will be used for ecological environment monitoring, asteroid resource exploration, disaster prevention and mitigation among others.

41(b) Maldives

Exp. : Abdulla Shahid, Foreign Minister of Maldives and the president-elect of the 76th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) appointed Indian Diplomat Kakanur Nagaraj Naidu, India's Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative of Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations (UN) as his Chef de Cabinet.

42.(b) Arjan Kumar Sikri

Exp. : The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) announced that former Supreme Court judge Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri will chair the Grievance Redressal Board of the Digital Publisher Content Grievances Council (DPCGC). The recently formed DPCGC is backed by 14 publishers of online curated content as members. It will function as an independent body and act as the second tier within the three-tier grievance redressal mechanism mandated in the IT (Digital Media) Rules, 2021.

43.(d) Mansukh Mandaviya

Exp. : Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya is the Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare India and Chemical and Fertilizers.

44.(b) Kaushik Basu

Exp. : Indian economist Kaushik Basu has been awarded the Humboldt Research Award for Economics. The award was conferred on him by Professor Dr Hans-Bernd Schäfer of Bucerius Law School in Hamburg, Germany.

45.(d) Anurag Singh Thakur

Exp. : Anurag Singh Thakur is a member of the Lower House of Parliament in India from Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh, and the current Minister of Sports, Youth Affairs and Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

46.(d) Surat

Exp. : E-Commerce company, Amazon has launched its first Digital Kendra in India in Surat, Gujarat.

47.(d) Tabar

Exp. : Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tabar recently participated in military exercises with the frontline frigate of the Italian Navy. INS Tabar joined Italian Navy and entered Port of Naples on July 3 as part of the ongoing deployment in the Mediterranean.

48.(d) Facebook

Exp. : Social Media Giant Facebook has announced a set of publishing and subscription tools named Bulletin, aimed to promote independent writers in the US.

49.(a) Mumbai and Pune

Exp. : Women's Asian Cup in India will be held in Mumbai and Pune after the Asian Football Confederation dropped Bhubaneswar and Ahmedabad as venues to minimise the travelling time for participants and ensure an "optimum environment" for a bio-secure bubble.

50.(b) Ministry of Law and Justice

Exp. : Kiren Rijju is appointed as the new Union Law Minister. Kiren Rijju is an Indian lawyer and politician from Arunachal Pradesh.