

Eazyprep

# **MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**COMPILATION**

**JUNE 2020**

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**1st June**

**1) Person in News**

**R Sreerekha to become Kerala's first female DGP**

Kerala government has appointed R Sreerekha as the Fire and Rescue Services DGP

With this appointment, she will be the first female Director General of Police in Kerala

In 1991, she was also the first female Superintendent of Police in Kerala and is a recipient of the President's police medal

**2) Person in News**

**Wipro appoints Thierry Delaporte as its new CEO and MD**

Thierry Delaporte has been appointed as Wipro's new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD).

He will be replacing Abidali Neemuchwala in this position

**Quick Fact:** Rishad Premji is the Chairman of Wipro Limited

**3) Person in News**

**Narinder Batra appointed as member of Olympic Channel Commission by IOC**

Narinder Batra is the president of Indian Olympic Association (IOA)

He has been appointed as a member of the Olympic Channel Commission

The commission advises the Olympic Channel's growth and development

Olympic Channel is an Internet television service operated by the International Olympic Committee.

**Quick Fact:** The headquarters of International Olympic Committee is located in Lausanne, Switzerland

**4) Miscellaneous**

**CIPET renamed as Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology**

Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET) is a premier national institution functioning under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

It has been renamed to Central Institute of **Petrochemicals** Engineering & Technology (CIPET)

With this name change, CIPET can support the growth of the entire petrochemical sector through academics, skilling, technology support and research.

## **5) Person in News**

### **First Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Ajit Jogi passes away**

Ajit Jogi was the first Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh

Before becoming a politician, he was a bureaucrat

He served as the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh from November 2000 to November 2003.

**Quick Fact:** Chhattisgarh was formed on 1st November 2000 from ten Chhattisgarhi and six Gondi-speaking southeastern districts of Madhya Pradesh.

## **6) Person in News**

### **Banks Board Bureau selects SN Rajeswari as CMD of Oriental Insurance Company**

The Banks Board Bureau has selected SN Rajeswari for this post for a tenure of two years

She is currently the General Manager of New India Assurance (NIA)

She will be replacing AV Girija Kumar for this post

## **7) Science and Technology**

### **Locust attacks in Rajasthan, Punjab, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh**

Food and Agriculture Organization has accorded most of the locust movement to the Westerlies

They have been said to have come from Ethiopia and Somalia after crossing Saudi Arabia, Iran and Pakistan.

Desert Locusts are from the grasshoppers family and feed on green vegetation and crops

They are a major problem this year as they are invading in wind direction, and may come in in more unpredictable waves as the wind direction changes

**Quick Fact:** Desert Locusts are controlled with a spray of organo-phosphate pesticides

## **8) Defence and Security**

### **Foundation stone for Agneeprastha, the Missile Park laid**

The foundation stone for a missile park called Agneeprastha was laid at INS Kalinga.

The park aims to provide information about INS Kalinda and motivate those who are interested in missiles and missile technology

INS Kalinga is located in Visakhapatnam

## **2nd June**

### **1) Science and Technology**

#### **Rare space object called Active Asteroid discovered near Jupiter**

Active Asteroids are celestial bodies that look like a comet but have asteroid like orbits.

The Active Asteroid near Jupiter is called 2019 LD2 and is part of an asteroid swarm called Jupiter Trojans.

2019 LD2 was discovered by the Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System (ATLAS)

**Quick Fact:** Elst Pizarro was the first active asteroid to be discovered.

### **2) Science and Technology**

#### **SpaceX becomes first private space company to send NASA astronauts to space**

SpaceX has sent NASA astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken to the International Space Station

The spacecraft being used for this purpose is called Crew Dragon.

The suits worn by the astronauts inside Crew Dragon are called the Starman suits.

**Quick Fact:** SpaceX is the first private company in the world to return rockets back to the earth.

### **3) Economy**

#### **NPCI launches AI virtual assistant PAi**

National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched an artificial intelligence (AI) based chatbot, PAi to increase financial inclusion in India

It is a 24\*7 AI virtual assistant helping users understand NPCI products

NPCI products include FASTag, RuPay, UPI and AePS

**Quick Fact:** Artificial intelligence or Machine intelligence refers to the simulation of human intelligence in machines

### **4) Sports**

#### **Rohit Sharma nominated for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award**

BCCI has nominated Rohit Sharma for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards 2020

This is the highest sporting award in India awarded for outstanding sports performance for a period of 4 years

Rohit Sharma is the first T20 cricketer to score 4 centuries and the first to score 5 ODI centuries in a single edition of the World Cup

**Quick Fact:** The award is presented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

### **5) International Affairs**

#### **China objects the presence of US THAAD missile in South Korea**

For China, the presence of the missile indicates US interfering with its long term relations with South Korea

US has announced this step as a countermeasure against potential attacks by North Korea

THAAD is an anti-ballistic missile system and stands for Terminal High Altitude Area Defense

**Quick Fact:** The capital of South Korea is Seoul

## **6) Environment**

### **Rare fish, *Scorpaenospsis neglecta*, found in Gulf of Mannar**

The fish has been found by researchers at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute

The fish is locally called Scorpion Fish for its venomous tail which can inject venom in someone who touches it

This species has been found alive in the Indian waters for the first time.

**Quick Fact:** Gulf of Mannar is India's largest biosphere reserve

## **7) Miscellaneous**

### **PM Modi launches video blogging contest "My Life My Yoga"**

The contest will inspire people to participate in the sixth International Day of Yoga (21st June, 2020)

It will be conducted as a joint effort of Ministry of AYUSH and ICMR

As part of the contest, the participants have to upload a 3 minutes video on yogic practices and give the message about how yoga influenced their life.

## **8) Person in News**

### **Venkataramani Sumantran becomes new independent director of Indigo**

Venkataramani Sumantran has become the independent director of airline company IndiGo.

His appointment will be for a tenure of five years.

He is currently serving as the chairman and managing director of Chennai-based Celeris Technologies.

**Quick Fact:** Indigo airlines was established in 2006

**3rd June**

**1) Government Schemes**

**“Responsible AI for Youth” national program launched by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology**

The program will empower Indian youth with new technology and prepare them for an AI enabled world

The program has been rolled out by National e-Governance Division, Ministry of Electronics & IT in partnership with Intel India and Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L), Ministry of Human Resource Development

**Quick Fact:** The Union minister of Electronics & Information Technology is Ravi Shankar Prasad

**2) Person in News**

**New FSSAI CEO: Arun Singhal**

Arun Singhal has been appointed the CEO of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet

FSSAI is an autonomous body established under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

It looks after the food industry standards and manufacturing, storage, distribution, sale, and import of foods in India

**Quick Fact:** FSSAI headquarters are located in New Delhi

**3) Government Schemes**

**Gol launches PM SVANidhi scheme**

PM Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi is a credit facility scheme for rural and urban street vendors

As part of SVANidhi, Rs 10,000 credit amount will be provided to street vendors to restart their business

They shall then return the amount in installments over a year

#### **4) Sports**

##### **Virat Kohli features in Forbes top 100 highest-paid athletes**

The Indian cricket team captain is the only Indian sportsperson to feature on the list.

He has ranked 66, while the top rank is given to tennis player Roger Federer

The list includes sportspersons from 10 sports and 21 countries

#### **5) Person in News**

##### **Ravinder Singh Dhillon appointed CMD of PFC**

Ravinder Singh Dhillon has been appointed the CMD of Power Finance Corporation.

He has more than 35 years of experience in the sector

PFC is considered the backbone of the power sector of India

#### **6) Government Schemes**

##### **Gol launches Technology Platform called CHAMPIONS**

CHAMPIONS stands for Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength.

This is a portal for MSME's which would support them in growing by providing grievance redressal, information about opportunities and identify and encourage high performing MSMEs.

The platform was created by National Informatics Centre.

#### **7) Person in News**



### **PR Jaishankar appointed IIFCL Managing Director**

PR Jaishankar has been appointed the Managing Director of India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd.

The appointment has been made by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister

**Quick Fact:** IIFCL is a GoI-owned company which provides long term finance to viable infrastructure projects

**4th June**

#### **1) Miscellaneous**

### **WHO launches 'C-TAP' for equitable access to life-saving technology**

C-TAP stands for COVID-19 Technology Access Pool

C-TAP aims to:

- share research and information to quicken vaccine and medicine development
- boost collaboration to increase manufacturing capacity for any products that are developed

C-TAP has been launched after the request of 37 nations for common ownership of COVID-19 vaccines, medicines and other diagnostic tools.

**Quick Fact:** Tedros Adhanom is the Director general of the World Health Organization

#### **2) Person in News**

### **Pradip Kumar appointed Secretary in Ministry of Steel**

Pradip Kumar Tripathi has been appointed the Secretary of Ministry of Steel

He was previously the Special Secretary and Establishment Officer in the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

**Quick Fact:** Dharmendra Pradhan is the Union Minister of Steel

### **3) Sports**

#### **Khelo e-Pathshala programme inaugurated by Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sports**

Khelo e-Pathshala has been launched by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) in collaboration with National Sporting Federations (NSF)

It is India's first national open online coaching and education programme for the grassroots level athletes

The ministry has also launched the India Community Coach Development Programme for community coaches and PE teachers all over the country

**Quick Fact:** Kiren Rijiju is the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports

### **4) Geography**

#### **Cyclone Nisarga develops over Arabian Sea**

Cyclone Nisarga developed and intensified into a severe cyclonic storm on 3rd June, and before its wind speeds decreased after making landfall

It is the first cyclone to hit Mumbai in 100 years

Maharashtra, Gujarat, Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli have been put on high alert

**Quick Fact:** IMD, India Meteorological Department, tracks and provides updates about cyclones in India

### **5) Miscellaneous**

#### **Kolkata Port Trust renamed Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port Trust**

The decision was made on the 150th anniversary of the port

Renaming of the port was approved by the Union cabinet.

The longest tunnel of JnK, Chenani-Nashri tunnel has also been renamed as Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Tunnel

**Quick Fact:** Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, predecessor of BJP, in 1951.

## **6) National Affairs**

### **Bimal Julka Committee submits report on Rationalization of Film Media units**

The committee is operating under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

It has recommended:

- a) roadmaps for the development of National Film Development Corporation, Children's Film Society of India, National Film Archives of India, etc
- b) Professionally led four verticals of festival, production, heritage and knowledge, under which the above institutes should work
- c) creation of film promotion funds for independent filmmakers to make commercial films

5th June

## **1) Economy**

### **Moody's Investors Service downgrades India's sovereign rating to Baa3**

India's rating has been downgraded from Baa2 to Baa3 for the first time in over two decades

Baa3 is Moody's lowest investment grade. It is just above the junk status

This is due to:

- 1) Expected contraction of 4% in India's real GDP in fiscal 2021
- 2) Policy implementation challenges faced by India in reducing economic risks

**Quick Fact:** Moody's Investors Service provides international financial research on bonds issued by commercial and government entities

## **2) Economy**

### **India ranks 23rd in StartupBlink's Ecosystem Ranking System**

StartupBlink is a global innovation mapping and research company

It ranks the startup ecosystems of 100 countries based on the quality of their startups, business environment and quantity

US has topped the list while India is at rank 23.

Four cities have been placed in top 100, including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad

### **3) Miscellaneous**

#### **TULIP internship programme launched by MHUD and MHRD**

This is a one year internship meant for engineering graduates

They shall get to work with 4,400 urban local bodies and 100 smart cities in the fields of urban planning, environmental engineering, etc.

This will also benefit Urban Local Bodies and smart cities with fresh innovative talent

### **4) International Affairs**

#### **World Economic Forum to hold a unique Twin Summit**

WEF's next summit in Davos has been named a Unique Twin Summit.

Its theme will be "The Great Reset"

The summit aims connect thousands of young people globally with leaders through a powerful virtual hub

**Quick Fact:** The WEF headquarters are located in Cologny, Switzerland

### **5) India and the World**

#### **China and Pakistan sign agreement to implement Kohala Hydro Power Project in PoK**

The HPP is to be built on Jhelum river, as part of China Pakistan Economic Corridor

It aims to provide 5 billion units of clean hydroelectric power to Pakistan and earn carbon credits from UNFCCC

India has protested projects on land illegally occupied by Pakistan

**Quick Fact:** Jhelum is a tributary of Indus river

## 6) Economy

### **Global Economic Prospects Report 2020 released by World Bank**

The report focussed on the COVID-19 global impact.

As per the report:

- a) Emerging markets and developing economies are highly vulnerable and may face 3% to 8% output loss
- b) Nearly 60 million people may be pushed to extreme poverty this year
- c) There is a need for better policies on long term economy boosters like education, business environment and governance

## 7) Government Scheme

### **SWADES Initiative launched by GoI**

SWADES stands for Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support.

This initiative under Vande Bharat Mission will map the skills of Indians returning from abroad and match them with requirements of foreign and Indian companies

The initiative will be conducted by Ministries of Civil Aviation, External Affairs, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

**Quick Fact:** Vande Bharat Mission is working to bring back Indians in need who are stranded in different places across the world

## 8) India and the World

### **India's first ever virtual bilateral summit: Held with Australia**

PM Modi held a virtual bilateral summit with the Australian PM Scott Morrison on June 4th

This was the first ever virtual bilateral summit held by India.

The leaders discussed a broad framework on Indo-Australian relations

**6th June**

**1) Person in News**

**Krishnendu Majumdar appointed new chairman of BAFTA**

Krishnendu Majumdar has become the new chairman of British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA)

He is an Emmy-winning television producer

He will be the first person of colour to be chairperson of the 73 year old BAFTA

**2) Person in News**

**Uday Kotak appointed President of CII**

Uday Kotak will be the President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the current year

He is the MD and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank

CII is an industry association in India and works with Govt over related policy issues

**3) Miscellaneous**

**Indian entity wins World No Tobacco Day award 2020**

The awards are announced by World Health Organization every year

It recognises Individuals and organizations in the six WHO Regions for their efforts to control tobacco

In India, Socio-Economic and Educational Development Society, Patna has received the award for its efforts to ban pan masala, gutkha, e-cigarettes and hookah in Bihar and Jharkhand

**4) Person in News**

**Kiran Mazumdar Shaw named EY World Entrepreneur of the year**

Kiran Majumdar is the founder of Biocon

She has been honoured as entrepreneur of the year because of her contribution in making life saving medicines more affordable and accessible

She is the second woman to win the award, and third Indian to do so after Uday Kotak and Narayan Murthy

## **5) Environment**

### **Gol launches Nagar Van Scheme for urban forestry**

The scheme aims to develop more than 200 urban forest pan-India in 5 years

The Warje Urban forest will act as a model for urban forest development

Warje Urban Forest is the first ever urban forestry project in Maharashtra.

## **6) National Affairs**

### **Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Green Field Expressway Project**

Gol has approved conversion of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway into a green field project.

The highway will connect five historic towns of Goindwal Sahib, Sultanpur Lodhi, Khadoor Sahib and Tarn Taran.

**Quick Fact:** Green Field projects include new production or service while brown field projects include only modifications and upgradations

## **7) Person in News**

### **V N Datt takes over as CMD of National Fertilizers Limited**

He has worked with premier Central Public Sector Enterprises like GAIL and ONGC over a period of 35 years

He is currently Director (Marketing) of National Fertilizers Limited

National Fertilizers Limited is a mini-ratna category I India-state owned company headquartered in Noida

## **8) Sports**

### **India to host AFC Women's Cup 2022**

India will be hosting the Asian Football Confederation's Women's Asian Cup 2022

India will be hosting this tournament after more than 4 decades

Hosting rights have been handed over to the All India Football Federation (AIFF)

**Quick Fact:** The AIFF is a pre-independence federation, and was formed in 1923

**8th June**

**1) Miscellaneous**

**Kerala: First state to provide free internet to poor**

Kerala will be implementing an ambitious broadband project called Kerala Fibre Optic Network (K-FON)

It will provide free hi-speed wi-fi services for BPL people in Kerala

This is the first such state initiative in India

**Quick Fact:** The full form of Wi-Fi is Wireless Fidelity

**2) Economy**

**RBI launches Payments Infrastructure Development Fund**

The fund will encourage acquirers to deploy digital and physical Points of Sale (PoS) infrastructure

The primary focus areas are tier-3 to tier-6 centres and north eastern states.

The fund contribution will be shared by RBI and card issuing banks and card networks operating in India on 50:50 basis

**3) Economy**

**CCI approves merger of Peugeot and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles**

Peugeot is incorporated in France and is a original equipment manufacturer and dealer of motor vehicles, passenger cars as well as light commercial vehicles

Fiat Chrysler is incorporated in the Netherlands and is a global automotive group.



**Quick Fact:** CCI, Competition Commission of India is a statutory body which enforces the Competition Act, 2002

**4) Person in News**

**Rajeev Topno appointed as Senior Advisor to ED of World Bank**

Rajeev Topno is a 1996 batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre

He will be Senior Advisor to the Executive Director (ED) of World Bank

His tenure will have a duration of three years from appointment

**Quick Fact:** David Malpass is the president of the World Bank

**5) Person in News**

**Kritika Pandey wins Commonwealth Short Story Prize for Asia Region**

Pandey has won the award for her story "The Great Indian Tee and Snakes"

The story revolves around the theme of love in the times of hatred and division

She was also nominated for the Pushcart prize earlier.

**6) National Affairs**

**#iCommit Initiative launched by Power Ministry**

The initiative will be driven by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited

It has been launched to boost usage of renewable power and resilient energy systems

The campaign aims to strengthen the Indian power system via innovative changes

**9th June**

## **1) Economy**

### **Rajiv Singh becomes new chairman of DLF**

Rajiv Singh has been appointed as the new chairman of Delhi Land & Finance Limited

He will be taking over from Kushal Pal Singh , who has been in the business for more than 60 years

Kushal Pal Singh is now chairman emeritus of DLF.

## **2) Environment**

### **India lost 750 tigers in last 8 years: NTCA**

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has reported:

- a) A loss of 750 tigers between 2012-2019
- b) Highest casualties in Madhya Pradesh
- c) Natural causes being responsible for around half of the cases, followed by poaching

**Quick Fact:** NTCA is a statutory body.

## **3) Miscellaneous**

### **Gairsain declared Summer Capital of Uttarakhand**

Gairsain has been declared as the Summer Capital of Uttarakhand by Uttarakhand Governor

The region falling between Kumaon and Garhwal was selected as state capital by activists when Uttarakhand was formed.

As summer capital, Gairsain will have an e-vidhan Sabha

**Quick Fact:** Dehradun is the winter state capital of Uttarakhand

## **4) Environment**

### **CSE releases State of India's Environment Report**

As per the report:

- a) 19 major extreme weather events claimed 1357 lives last year
- b) India faced the highest internal displacement last year, of 50 lakh people, due to disasters

- c) India's SDG ranking slipped from 115 in 2018 to 114 in 2019
- d) National average on governance of environment was below average at 5.16/10

## **5) International Affairs**

### **8 Democracies form Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China**

The alliance is an international group of legislators working on a reformed approach towards China at a time of doubts regarding the origin of COVID-19 and diluted autonomy of Hong Kong

The Alliance consists of Japan, United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, Lithuania, Norway, Netherlands and USA

## **6) Person in News**

### **Javed Akhtar becomes first Indian to receive Richard Dawkins Award**

The award is for distinguished individuals from scholarship, science, education or environment and proclaim values of rationalism, secularism upholding scientific truth.

He has received the award for raising his voice regarding public policy, citizenship, opening of liquor shops, etc.

The award is presented by an NGO called Atheist Alliance of America

**Quick Fact:** Richard Dawkins is an ethologist, author and an evolutionary biologist

## **7) Science and Technology**

### **UK Archaeologists use LiDAR data for research**

LiDAR is a remote sensing method which uses light to measure the distance between objects

The UK team is using LiDAR to conduct explorations during Coronavirus lockdowns

Their team has found 2 Roman roads and 30 prehistoric large embanked settlements using this technology

**Quick Fact:** LiDAR stands for Light Detection and Ranging

## **8) Science and Technology**

### **ISRO signs MoU with ARIES**

The MoU is based on cooperation in the field of Space Situational Awareness and Astrophysics

The main aim of the MoU is to protect the Indian space assets from space debris, along with R&D of Astrophysics and space environment

Under the Space Situational Awareness, focus will be on debris tracking, collision avoidance, satellite anomaly detection, asteroid and meteorite threat prediction, etc.

**Quick Fact:** ARIES, or Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Science, is located in Nainital

## **10th June**

### **1) Person in News**

#### **M Nethra appointed Goodwill Ambassador for the Poor by UNADAP**

M Nethra is a 13-year old girl who convinced her father to donate Rs 5 lakh of savings meant for her for the benefit of the poor during the lockdown.

She has been appointed Goodwill Ambassador for the Poor by the United Nations Association for Development and Peace (UNADAP)

The Dixon Scholarship of Rs. 1 Lakh scholarship amount has been awarded to Nethra

**Quick Fact:** UNADAP Special Consultative Status agency accredited under the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

### **2) Science and technology**

#### **ARCI develops Magnetocaloric material for cancer treatment**

International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), has developed a rare-earth-based magnetocaloric material.

Magnetocaloric materials which change temperature with the application and removal of a magnetic field.

Their controlled heating can be used to treat cancer by killing tumor cells at a controlled temperature between 40-45°C.

### **3) Sports**

### **Fit India: Special films promoting 10 indigenous sports of India**

This initiative is under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat campaign to create awareness about culture and heritage of Indian states among youngsters.

The films will create awareness about 10 indigenous games and their states' culture and heritage

The 10 sports include Kho-kho, Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Mallakhamb, Thang-Ta, Sqay, Kabaddi, Roll Ball, Tug of War and Shooting Ball.

**Quick Fact:** The programme will be implemented by Ministry of Sports, Fit India and Department of School Education and Literacy

#### **4) Environment**

### **Andhra Pradesh launches India's first Online Waste Exchange**

The exchange will support reuse, recycle and safe disposal of toxic wastes

The programme was launched on World Environment Day 2020.

It will track, audit, scrutinize the waste and encourage proper utilization of toxic waste.

**Quick Fact:** The 6Rs of waste management are Reuse, Recycle, Reduce, Redesign, Refurbish and Remanufacture.

#### **5) National Affairs**

### **18th Bench of CAT in Ladakh and J&K union territories**

Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) bench has been set up at Jammu

It will deal exclusively with service matters of government employees

All three important DoPT agencies: CAT, Central Information Commission and Central Vigilance Commission are now operational in the two UTs

**Quick Fact:** CAT was established under Article 323 of the Constitution

#### **6) Economy**

### **Global Economic Prospects Report: World Bank**

As per the report:

- a) India is the fifth worst hit nations in the world after USA, Brazil, Russia and UK
- b) India's growth slowed by 4.2% in 2019-20
- c) Govt has increased spending for COVID-19 containment via wage support, tax payments deferral, cash transfers, etc.

**Quick Fact:** The Global Economic Prospects Report issued twice a year by World Bank in January and June

## 7) Economy

### **SBI launches separate vertical for financial inclusion and micro markets**

The vertical will offer loans predominantly for agriculture and allied activities and micro and small enterprises

Sanjeev Nautiyal will be heading the vertical

**Quick Fact:** State Bank of India (SBI) is India's largest lender

**11th June**

## 1) Geography

### **China reaches Deepest point on the earth**

China's unmanned submersible dived down to 10,907 metres to Mariana Trench, the world's deepest point

The country is developing deep sea technology for mining resources from the sea

During this operation also China was testing its deep sea capabilities

**Quick Fact:** Mariana trench is located in Western Pacific Ocean

## 2) Environment

### **Fire in Assam's Baghjan Oil Well**

The well had blown out in May and had been leaking gas since half a month

Environmentally it has:

- 1) Affected flora and fauna by depositing gas condensate in the Maguri Beel Wetland
- 2) Killed some of the rare Gangetic Dolphins in Dibru-Saikhowa National park
- 3) Contaminated nearby paddy fields, tea gardens, wetlands and ponds

**Quick Fact:** Gangetic Dolphins are classified as Endangered under IUCN red list

### **3) International Affairs**

#### **New Zealand declares itself “Coronavirus free”**

The announcement was made after the last coronavirus infected person being monitored was released

New Zealand has now lifted all the coronavirus measures

**Quick Fact:** Jacinda Ardern is the Prime Minister of New Zealand

### **4) National Affairs**

#### **“Bande Utkala Janani” declared state anthem of Odisha**

The decision has been made by the state cabinet of Odisha.

It means Glory to mother Utkala

It has been written by Katakabi Laxmikanta Mohapatra in 1912.

### **5) National Affairs**

#### **FSSAI food safety index 2019-20: Gujarat tops**

The index ranks states on five parameters of food safety:

- 1) human resources and institutional data,
- 2) compliance,
- 3) food testing facility,
- 4) training and capacity building
- 5) consumer empowerment

Top 3 states are Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra

Top 2 UTs are Chandigarh and Delhi

Top 3 among smaller states are: Goa, Manipur and Meghalaya

**Quick Fact:** FSSAI has been launched under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006

## 6) Environment

### **Environmental Performance Index 2020: India at 168th rank**

The index ranks 180 countries based on 32 performance indicators

Denmark has topped the index, followed by Luxembourg and Switzerland

Bhutan has topped among the South Asian countries with a rank of 107

**Quick Fact:** EPI is prepared by Yale and Columbia University and WEF

## 7) Science and Technology

### **World's first 'Internet-controlled' robot built by Indian engineer**

The robot has been built by Pune engineer Pratik Tirodkar

Named 'Coro-bot', the robot dispenses food, water, beverages, medicines and can advice Corona patients

It can be operated remotely using Internet of Things (IoT) technology, negating the use of physical contact with patients.

## 8) Environment

### **Tech Mahindra signs UN Global Compact Initiative for emission control**

This move makes Tech Mahindra one of 155 global companies working for holding global temperature rise to within 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, in order to reach net-zero emissions before 2050.

It will use new technologies like internet of things, artificial intelligence and blockchain to achieve a zero-carbon resilient economy.

**Quick Fact:** United Nations Global Compact is a non-binding United Nations pact to encourage sustainable and socially-responsible businesses worldwide

**12th June**



## **1) Environment**

### **Uttarakhand opens Biodiversity Park in Haldwani**

The park has been established to protect the rich biodiversity of the State

The park contains 40 thematic sections including fruits, edible, medicinal, commercially important plants.

It also includes local foods like wild berries.

**Quick Fact:** Uttarakhand's winter capital is Dehradun, and summer capital is Gairsain.

## **2) Geography**

### **Gol to boost Saffron and Heeng Production**

The measure is being taken to meet the high domestic demand and decrease the need for imports.

Only 7% of saffron demand is fulfilled domestically. Now production will be introduced in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh in addition to JnK.

Heeng is not produced in India and is imported from Iran, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan

Institute of Himalyan Bioresource Technology with Department of Agriculture, Himachal Pradesh will work jointly for boosting domestic production of both.

**Quick Fact:** Heeng is the oleo-gum resin secreted from the roots of the perennial Heeng plant

## **3) Environment**

### **Asiatic Lion population increases by 29% in 5 years**

The lions are currently in protected areas of agro-pastoral landscape of Saurashtra, Gujarat

The population has increased due to community participation, use of technology, good habitat management, healthcare for wildlife and minimization of human-lion conflicts.

**Quick Fact:** The Asiatic Lion comes under Endangered category in the IUCN Red List

## **4) Miscellaneous**

## **Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings 2020**

IIT-B, IIT-D and IISc have featured in top 200 of the rankings at ranks 172, 185 and 193, respectively.

The rankings have rated the world's top 1000 universities

MIT from the USA has topped the list followed by Stanford and Harvard.

### **5) Person in News**

#### **Renjith Kumar receives NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal**

The honour was for his administration to NASA through executive leadership, engineering contribution, technical excellence and consumer loyalty.

He has worked with NASA for more than 30 years.

He has contributed to the upgradation of International Space Station

**Quick Fact:** Headquarters of NASA are located in Washington D.C, US

### **6) India and the World**

#### **India signs MOU on Energy Cooperation with Denmark**

The MoU was signed between the Ministry of Power, GoI and the Ministry for Energy, Denmark.

It will aim for long-term cooperation in the power sector between India and Denmark

**Quick Fact:** Copenhagen is the capital of Denmark and its currency is Danish krone

### **7) Person In News**

#### **Anil Valluri appointed senior director of Google Cloud India**

Anil Valluri has over 30 years of experience in sales and marketing in tech industry

He was earlier working with NetApp as President of India & SAARC operations

**13th June**

**1) Person in News**

**Padma Shri awardee Pritam Singh passes away**

Pritam Singh was a former director of Indian Institute of Management Lucknow

He contributed to higher education by chairing a subcommittee on Higher Education for the 12th Planning Commission

He was a member of the Ministry of Home Affairs Committee for capacity building of IPS officers.

**Quick Fact:** Padma Shri is the fourth highest civilian award in India

**2) Miscellaneous**

**Ramon Magsaysay Award 2020 cancelled due to coronavirus fears**

This award is considered the highest honor in Asia

It is awarded to individuals or organizations from Asia for outstanding altruistic and philanthropic service.

The Award was initiated in 1957 in the memory of the third President of Philippines, Ramon Magsaysay.

**Quick Fact:** Ramon Magsaysay Award is also known as the Nobel Prize of Asia

**3) Miscellaneous**

**India ranks 56th on COVID-19 Regional Safety Assessment Report**

The Deep Knowledge Group has assessed COVID-19 related safety of 200 countries and categorised them into four groups.

The first group is the safest, while the fourth is the riskiest

India features in the third group

Switzerland, with rank 1, has been assessed to be the safest place during the ongoing pandemic.

#### **4) Sports**

##### **FIFA ranks India at 108th rank**

FIFA stands for Federation Internationale de Football Association.

It is the international governing body of association football.

It awards ranks to national teams based on performance in matches played

The top 5 teams are Belgium, France, Brazil, England and Uruguay.

**Quick Fact:** The headquarters of FIFA are located at Zurich

#### **5) Environment**

##### **Guidelines for Import of Exotic Species issued by MOEFCC**

Due to global concerns on wildlife trade in the backdrop of Coronavirus, the ministry has issued revised guidelines.

“Exotic Live Species” will mean only those under CITES (Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species) appendices I, II and III

The guidelines say that:

- 1) For species under Appendix I, no trade is allowed
- 2) For species under Appendix II, trade with permissions is allowed
- 3) For species under Appendix III, large number of birds and animals can be traded
- 4) Importer needs an NOC from Chief Wildlife Warden of the state

**Quick Fact:** Exotic Live Species are plant or animal species that are introduced to a new habitat from their original one.

#### **6) National Affairs**

##### **NIRF Ranking released by MHRD**

Ministry of Human Resource Development has released the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)

It assesses and promotes competition among Indian educational institutions

The first three institutes are IIT-M, IISc Bangalore and IIT-D

**Quick Fact:** The NIRF ranking system was launched in 2015

## **7) Science and Technology**

### **Nature Index released by Nature Research**

Nature Research is a division of the popular academic publishing company Springer Nature

The index is created based on the author affiliation database collected from research articles published in high-quality science journals

India has scored 12th rank in the index, while USA has topped it

CSIR and IISc have been rated high by the index.

## **8) Miscellaneous**

### **International Religious Freedom Report released by US Government**

The report has alleged discrimination and persecution of religious minorities in India.

Some highlighted concerns were related to the scrapping of special status of JnK, Citizen Amendment Act, incidents of mob lynching, etc.

India has raised its concerns over the report.

**15th June**

## **1) Person in News**

### **Shobha Sekhar conferred with “Medal of the Order of Australia”**

The medal is awarded to individuals contributing to their community or to Australia globally or domestically.

Shobha Shekhar is an Indian musician.

She is the founder of Kalakruthi music organisation in Australia

**Quick Fact:** The capital of Australia is Canberra

## **2) Person in News**

### **Kathy Sullivan: First Women to Reach Earth's Deepest Point**

Kathy Sullivan becomes the first woman to reach the Earth's deepest point, Challenger Point.

She is an astronaut and oceanographer who is also the first woman to walk in space

Challenger Deep is located in the ocean territory of Micronesia

**Quick Fact:** Challenger Deep is located in the Western Pacific Ocean near Mariana Trench.

## **3) Person in News**

### **Dr. Rattan Lal: World Food Prize 2020 Laureate**

Leading soil scientist Dr. Rattan Lal was declared the 2020 World Food Prize Laureate

The honour is for his work in developing a soil-centric approach to increasing food production in a sustainable and climate-positive manner

In 2007, he was recognized with a Nobel Peace Prize Certificate for his contributions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports

**Quick Fact:** A Pedologist is a scientist who studies origins, composition and distribution of soils and its constituents

## **4) Miscellaneous**

### **COVID-19 and Child Labour Report released by the United Nations**

The title of the report is COVID-19 and Child Labour: A Time of Crisis, A Time to Act

Its key points are:

- a) COVID-19 pandemic will worsen the child labour problem by pushing more children into child labour. This is due to closure of schools and social services
- b) Working conditions of existing children in child labour will worsen
- c) An increase of 1% in poverty will lead to an increase of 0.7% in child labour
- d) Gender inequalities may worsen due to girl children being more vulnerable

## **5) National Affairs**

### **NHAI: First Construction Sector to become digital completely**

NHAI work has become completely digital

This will enable their employees to continue work without limitations of social distancing

The project management details will be stored in digitally in a cloud-based, GIS-tagged Data Lake

**Quick Fact:** Data Lake is a data repository which allows storing structured and unstructured data at any scale.

## **6) Economy**

### **PK Mohanty Panel to Review Ownership of Private Banks**

Reserve Bank of India has constituted this panel headed by Executive Director of RBI, P K Mohanty

It will:

- a) examine the existing regulations and guidelines on private sector banks' ownership.
- b) suggest ways to prevent concentration of control and ownership of banks
- c) recommend how to migrate all banks towards a uniform regulation

## **7) Person in News**

### **A. Vaidyanathan, former member of Planning Commission, passes away**

He was a member of the Planning Commission from 1962 to 1972

He had also contributed to Indian Economy by his participation in:

- a) Task Force on Revival of Cooperative Credit Institutions in 2004
- b) K.N. Raj Committee on Taxation of Agricultural Income 1969

## **8) Environment**

### **2019: Highest deforestation in Amazon forest in past five year**

The increase in deforestation has been reported by National Institute of Space Research (INPE)

829 square kilometres of forestland was deforested in 2019, and is still increasing

The increase has been due to illegal ranchers and loggers as well as the decision of the incumbent government to favor economic activities in the area.

**Quick Fact:** Amazon forest is a moist broadleaf tropical rainforest covering much of Northwestern Brazil

**16th June**

**1) National Affairs**

**Odisha becomes first state to get ISO certification for tribal hostels**

Odisha's 'Mission Suvidya' project aims to provide all Odisha tribal hostels uniform standards of infrastructure, amenities and human resources

It has been launched by the ST and SC Welfare Department of Odisha

As a result, Odisha has become the first state in India to receive ISO certification for tribal students' hostels

**2) International Affairs**

**IVA signs contract with Astrazeneca for COVID vaccine**

Inclusive Vaccine Alliance (IVA) is a group comprising of Italy, Germany, France and the Netherlands

It has signed a contract with British pharma company Astrazeneca to secure vaccine doses for all member states

**3) Sports**

**Sports to be part of curriculum in new education policy**

The new education policy will have sports as a subject instead of an extracurricular activity.

The same has been declared by Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju



A High-Level Committee to shape the National Sports Education Board will also be established.

#### **4) Art and Culture**

##### **500-year old Temple submerged in Mahanadi resurfaces after a decade**

A 500 year old ancient Lord Vishnu temple submerged in Odisha's Mahanadi river has resurfaced

It was submerged due to change in course of the river during floods

It resurfaced after the water level decreased in the river

**Quick Fact:** River Mahanadi originates from Sihawa Mountain in Chhattisgarh

#### **5) National Affairs**

##### **Captain Arjun robot launched by Railway Protection Force**

ARJUN stands for Always be Responsible and Just Use to be Nice.

The robots will be used to intensify screening and surveillance at railway stations

They will use AI algorithms to track antisocial and suspicious activities and use thermal screening to check body temperature of passengers

#### **6) Environment**

##### **Indian Gaurs facing rare genetic condition called leucism**

Leucism causes partial loss of skin pigmentation and can put the animal's immunity at risk

It is caused by various factors like poor diet, environmental changes, follicular damage, inbreeding, pollution, etc.

Indian Gaur is classified in Vulnerable category as per IUCN Red List, and Schedule I as per Wildlife Protection Act 1972

**Quick Fact:** Indian Gaur are the largest and tallest of the wild cattle family in India

**17th June**

**1) Science and Technology**

**India joins Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence**

India has joined the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, a.k.a GPAI or Gee-Pay, as one of its founding members.

GPAI has been founded by leading economies of the world for responsible development and use of AI

It will have two centres of excellence at Paris and Montreal, respectively.

**Quick Fact:** The secretariat of Gee-Pay will be hosted at Paris by OECD

**2) Economy**

**Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launches Indian Gas Exchange**

India Gas Exchange, or IGX, is the first nationwide online delivery-based gas trading platform of India

It is a fully automated web-based portal

It will enable online trading in standardised gas contracts.

**Quick Fact:** Dharmendra Pradhan is the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas

**3) Person in News**

**Anmol Narang: First observant Sikh to graduate from US Military Academy**

Anmol Narang was born and raised in Roswell, Georgia

She has become the first observant Sikh to graduate from US Military Academy at West Point.

She graduated from the institute with the rank of second lieutenant

**4) India and the World**

### **India sends tri-services contingent to Russia's Victory Day Parade for the first time**

India will be sending 75 of its personnel from Indian Army, Air Force and Navy to the Victory Day Parade in Russia.

Delayed this year due to the pandemic, the day is celebrated on May 9th to commemorate the surrender of Nazi Germany in 1945

It is held at the Red Square, Moscow every year.

**Quick Fact:** Indian Army had participated in the parade alone in 2015

### **5) India and the World**

#### **India-Nepal sign MoU to improve infrastructure of Pashupatinath Temple**

Pashupatinath temple is the largest temple complex in Nepal, and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site

It is located on Bagmati river, a river considered holy by both countries.

The MoU has been signed amidst disputes between India and Nepal regarding Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura regions

**Quick Fact:** Bagmati river is a tributary of Kosi river

### **6) Science and Technology**

#### **NASA Scientists observe fifth state of matter**

Scientists on the International Space Station have observed the fifth state of matter called Bose-Einstein Condensates (BECs)

The existence of BECs was predicted by Satyendra Nath Bose and Albert Einstein

BEC is a state of matter that forms when bosons are cooled to near absolute zero temperatures.

The five states of matter are solid, gas, liquid, plasma and BEC.

**Quick Fact:** Absolute Zero is the temperature at which the entropy and enthalpy of a cooled gas reaches its minimum value.

### **7) Person in News**

### **Imtaiyazur Rahman appointed CEO of UTI Mutual Fund**

He was earlier the chief financial officer of UTI Asset Management Company.

He has been working with UTI since 1998

Leo Puri was the previous CEO of UTI Mutual Fund

**Quick Fact:** The tenure of each UTI CEO is 5 years long

**18th June**

#### **1) Environment**

### **Bombay High Court wants assessment of color change in Lonar lake**

Bombay High court wants an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of Lonar lake due to its recent color change to pink

Lonar lake is a National Geo-Heritage monument as is protected by Geological Survey of India

It is an eco-sensitive zone because it has the Ejecta Blanket that is made up of material similar to lunar material

**Quick Fact:** The saline, soda Lonar Lake, created due to an asteroid's collision with Earth during the pleistocene epoch, is located in Maharashtra

#### **2) Geography**

### **Average temperature in India to rise by 4.4 degree Celsius by 2100 as per government report**

The report called "Assessment of Climate Change over Indian Region" has been released by Ministry of Earth Sciences

Heat Waves will increase by 3 to 4 times

As per the report, temperature will increase due to an increase in Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) which calculates climate forcing.

**Quick Fact:** Climate forcing is the difference between sunlight absorbed and the energy radiated back by the earth.

### 3) Economy

#### **World Competitive Index published by Institute for Management Development**

India is ranked at the 43rd position.

India's consistent low rank is due to poor infrastructure and low investment in education.

Top positions have been secured by Singapore, Denmark, Switzerland, Netherlands and Hong Kong

### 4) Economy

#### **UNCTAD releases World Investment Report 2020**

As per the report:

- a) India is the 9th largest recipient of FDI in 2019.
- b) Investments in digital sector of India were most promising
- c) Due to the corona pandemic, global FDI inflows will decrease by 40% in 2020 as compared to the previous financial year

**Quick Fact:** United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland

### 5) Economy

#### **India set to face its worst recession due to corona pandemic**

As per RBI, India has faced four recessions after 1947:

- a) In 1958 due to Balance of Payment crisis
- b) In 1966 due to wars with China and Pakistan and a subsequent drought
- c) In 1973 due to energy crisis caused by an oil embargo by Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries
- d) In 1980 due to BoP crisis caused by an oil crisis (the result of Iran revolution and war between Iran and Iraq)

**Quick Fact:** Recession is a period of temporary economic decline during which trade and industrial activity are reduced, identified by a decrease in GDP in two successive quarters.

## **6) India and the World**

### **India to supply Pneumonia Vaccine to low-income nations**

Pune's Serum Institute of India has signed an agreement to provide 10 million Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines to low income countries every year

This will be done in partnership with UNICEF and GAVI

Pneumonia is the leading cause of death among children globally.

**19th June**

### **1) Government Schemes**

#### **Uttar Pradesh: Highest MGNREGA employment generating state**

As per data released, more than 57 lakh workers have received employment in 57 thousand villages

Work for around 8 crore man-days has been generated

The state has also committed to provide jobs to 10 lakh more workers.

**Quick Fact:** Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MGNREGA) scheme was launched in 2006

### **2) Environment**

#### **New fish species discovered in Arunachal Pradesh**

A new fish species from genus *Schizothorax* has been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

The new species, *Schizothorax sikusirumensis*, was discovered near Gakang area at the confluence of River Siku and Sirum.

### **3) Sports**

#### **“Khelo India State Centres of Excellence” to be set up by Sports Ministry**

The KISCEs will strengthen India's sports ecosystem and train youth for Olympics

One KISCE will be identified in each state and union territory of India

In Phase I, state-owned sports facilities in 8 states will be upgraded to KISCE level.

**Quick Fact:** Kiren Rijiju is the current Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports

#### **4) Miscellaneous**

##### **Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation Award won by Deccan Development Society**

Since 2008, the award has been recognising entities who have contributed to the preservation of environment

Hyderabad-based Deccan Development Society has won the award this year

The Society has been awarded for its work related to promoting biodiversity and supporting farming in degraded lands.

#### **5) Art and Culture**

##### **Traditional art 'talamaddale' digitally overcomes COVID-19 limitations**

Talamaddale is an ancient debate performance form of Karavali and Malnad regions of Karnataka and Kerala

It is a mix of sarcastic, humorous and philosophical content based on mythology

It is a variant of temple art form Yakshagana without the dance, costumes, and stage convention.

#### **6) Economy**

##### **National Employment Policy to be fast tracked by Ministry of Labour**

The policy will have the following twin objectives:

- a) Attracting new enterprises and industries to generate employment opportunities
- b) Improving the skill set of existing workforce to make them employable

The Policy will focus on formalizing 500 million workforce and absorbing an additional 5 million workforce every year.

**Quick Fact:** Santosh Gangwar is MOS independent charge of Ministry of Labour and Employment

**20th June**

### **1) India and the World**

#### **India elected as non-permanent member of UN Security Council**

India has won the non-permanent seat from the Asia-Pacific category for the 2021-22 term

It had been elected for a two-year term, during which it will be president of the council in August 2021 and for one more month in 2022.

Along with India, Ireland, Mexico and Norway have also won the Security Council elections.

**Quick Fact:** The UN high-table consists of 5 permanent members and 10 non-permanent members.

### **2) Economy**

#### **Two Indian firms in WEF's 2020 Technology Pioneers**

2 Indian firms, ZestMoney and Stellapps, have been selected for the 20th cohort of Technology Pioneers

ZestMoney is an AI based digital lending platform, while Stellapps uses IoT for digitization of dairy supply chain

The two companies will be part of a cohort of 100 firms who are leaders in issues like carbon capture, alternative meat and circular economies, food security, financial access etc.

As part of the cohort, they will have access to WEF workshops, events and high-level discussions

### **3) Government Schemes**

**Gol to launch "Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan" for providing employment to rural migrants**



The scheme will work to provide employment to returnee migrant workers as well as rural citizens, along with infrastructure development

The scheme will be launched from Village Telihar, Block Beldaur of Khagaria District of Bihar.

Common Service Centres and Krishi Vigyan Kendras of six states, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Jharkhand and Bihar, will participate.

#### **4) Sports**

##### **Pentala Harikrishna wins second place in World Stars Sharjah Online Championship**

The online international chess championship was hosted by Sharjah Cultural and Chess Club

Azerbaijan's Shakhriyar Mamedyarov bagged the first position, while Poland's Radoslaw Wojtaszek bagged 3rd position.

#### **5) National Affairs**

##### **Three DDUPSP awards for gram panchayat development awarded to JnK administration**

JnK administration was awarded 3 prestigious Deen Dayal Upadhyay Sashaktikaran Puraskar awards for socio-economic development of gram panchayats.

The award was given to Rathal and Badakana in Rajouri and Meej in Pulwama districts

The award was bestowed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

#### **6) Science and Technology**

##### **Health Ministry to launch India's first COVID-19 testing mobile lab I-LAB**

The lab, called Infectious Disease Diag Lab (I-LAB), has been developed by Department of Biotechnology

It will provide last mile connectivity for COVID-19 testing, and will be deployed in the most remote and inaccessible areas of India

The lab can perform around 25 RT-PCR and 300 ELISA tests per day

22nd June

### **1) Person in News**

#### **Volkan Bozkir: President of 75th UN General Assembly**

The Turkish diplomat has been elected as president with support of 178 UN members

He will be taking over the position from Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

The duration of the term is one year

**Quick Fact:** Volkan Bolzir is the first Turkish national to be president of UNGA

### **2) Environment**

#### **MoES releases National Report on the state of Climate Crisis**

The report, released by Ministry of Earth Sciences, is titled "Assessment Of Climate Change Over The Indian Region"

As per the report:

- a) India's average temperature has increased 0.7 degrees Celsius between 1901-2018, primarily due to greenhouse gases
- b) Precipitation over north India during monsoon has decreased by 6% between 1951-2015 because of the polluting aerosol "brown cloud"
- c) Heatwaves in summer will become four times more frequent by 2099
- d) Rise in sea level is happening at a rate of 3 cm per decade in Bombay's coast and 5 cm per decade at Kolkata's coast

**Quick Fact:** This is India's first ever National Report on Climate change

### **3) Sports**

#### **Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Aizawl to be transformed into a KISCE**

The stadium will be amongst the first Khelo India State Centres of Excellence under the Khelo India Scheme.

This will help strengthen the sports potential in the state and train the youth for olympics

Mizoram is famous for its love for sports and has produced a number of successful sportspeople

#### **4) Science and Technology**

##### **Stegodon Fossil discovered in Saharanpur 5-8 Million Years Old**

The discovery was made in the Badshahi Bagh area of Saharanpur, UP  
The fossil is of an extinct ancestor of the modern day elephant present till the late pleistocene.

The fossil was found embedded in sedimentary rock Sandstone

#### **5) Government Schemes**

##### **SATYABHAMA Portal launched for Mining and Mineral Sector**

SATYABHAMA stands for Science and Technology Yojana for AtmaNirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement

It has been launched by Union Ministry of Mines and Coal

It will encourage involvement of researchers and scientists in innovative research and development work in the mining and mineral sector.

**Quick Fact:** Prahlad Joshi is the Union Minister of Mines and Coal

**23rd June**

#### **1) Geography**

## **India witnesses annular solar eclipse on 21st June**

Northern India got to witness a rare celestial event called 'ring of fire'  
This is an annual solar eclipse coinciding with the summer solstice.

During this, the Sun, Moon and Earth align on the same plane and the Moon comes between the Sun and the Earth

### **2) Person in News**

#### **Sethuraman Panchanathan appointed as the Director, National Science Foundation, US**

Sethuraman Panchanathan is an Indian American scientist

He is the second Indian American to be nominated for this position after Dr Subra Suresh

After appointment, he will be the 15th director of NSF

**Quick Fact:** NSF is the top institute in US supporting fundamental research in non-medical fields of science and engineering

### **3) Science and Technology**

#### **India's first oral vaccine for moderate COVID-19 cases gets CDSCO approval**

Glenmark Pharmaceuticals' oral antiviral drug Favipiravir (Fabiflu) was approved by Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation

The antiviral drug was first approved in Japan in 2014, and has been used for viral infections.

It functions by targeting the Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) polymerase enzyme, which is required by viruses to replicate

It has shown positive results in global studies on 150 test subjects

**Quick Fact:** The CDSCO is headquartered in New Delhi

### **4) Art and Culture**

#### **COVID-19 effect: No Ambubachi mela at Kamakhya for the first time**

For the first time in its recorded history of 600 years, the Ambubachi mela will not be observed in Assam's Kamakhya Temple

The event is a five day mela, where lakhs of devotees and tourists assemble.

It is believed that during the monsoon rains, the creative and nurturing power of the 'menses' of Devi Kamakhya/Goddess Shakti is concentrated in the temple region.

**Quick Fact:** Kamakhya Temple was built by King Narakasura on Nilachal Hills. It is considered to be one of the 51 Shakti Peeths

## 5) Economy

### India: Twelfth Largest Holder of US Government Securities

Treasury Securities backed by the United States Treasury Department are considered to be a very safe asset

In India, RBI invests in foreign assets as part of its prudential liquidity management measures.

The top five holders of US Government securities are: Japan, China, UK, Ireland and Luxembourg

**Quick Fact:** Types of treasury securities include bonds, bills, notes and inflation-protected securities.

## 24th June

### 1) India participates in 32nd virtual EAG meet

EAG stands for Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism

It is a nine member regional body.

Its members are India, Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

**Quick Fact:** EAG headquarters is in Moscow, Russia

### 2) Person in News

**Child Welfare pioneer Vidyaben Shah passes away**

Vidyaben Shah was a pioneer in the field of child welfare. She had created the first Bal Bhavan in Rajkot in the 1940s.

She had been awarded the Padma Shri as well as a National Award for her work as a social activist

She was also the first non-official head of New Delhi Municipal Council in the 1970s

### **3) Government Schemes**

#### **‘Decarbonising Transport in India’ project to be launched by NITI Aayog**

The project will:

- a) develop a strategy for moving towards low-carbon transport system in India
- b) design a tailor-made transport emissions assessment framework

It will be launched jointly by NITI Aayog and International Transport Forum (ITF), an intergovernmental organisation for transport policy.

**Quick Fact:** Young Tae Kim is the Secretary-General of International Transport Forum

### **4) Sports**

#### **Indian Tennis Champion Niki Poonacha elected in ITF Player’s Panel**

Niki Poonacha will be representing Asia-Oceania zone in International Tennis Federation’s (ITF) World Tennis Tour Player Panel.

This panel will provide a forum for players to provide their input on various matters

There are overall 6 players in this panel

**Quick Fact:** The ITF headquarters are located in London

### **5) Economy**

#### **Reliance Industries Ltd. becomes first Indian firm to reach \$150 bn market capitalization**

The shares of the company have surged in both BSE and NSE

With \$151.2 billion, RIL now has the highest ever valuation of an Indian company

It is now ranked 58 among the world’s most valuable companies.

**Quick Fact:** RIL is owned by Mukesh Ambani

## **6) Science and Technology**

### **China launches last satellite of BeiDou Satellite System 3**

China has launched the last satellite of its BeiDou Satellite System

This will provide following services like:

- a) Navigation services at a global level
- b) Precise point positioning
- c) Short message communication
- d) International search and rescue operations

**Quick Fact:** Navigation satellite systems of other countries are: NAVSTAR GPS (US), GLONASS (Russia) and Galileo (European Union)

## **25th June**

### **1) Person in News**

#### **Amartya Sen wins German Book Trade's Peace Prize**

German Book Trade has selected Indian economist Amartya Sen for its Peace Prize.

The prize has been given for his pioneering work on issues of global justice, social inequality in education and healthcare.

**Quick Facts:** Amartya Sen won the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 1998

### **2) Science and Technology**

#### **ISRO receives patent for LCHG Garment**

Indian Space Research Organisation has received a patent for its Liquid Cooling and Heating Garment (LCHG)

The garment would be worn by astronauts as a protective layer underneath their spacesuits

LCHG will ensure minimal skin impact during longer term wear.

**Quick Fact:** K. Sivan is the director of ISRO

### **3) Art and Culture**

#### **Amish Tripathi launches his new book: 'Legend of Suheldev'**

Amish Tripathi's new book is called 'Legend of Suheldev: The King Who Saved India'

It is a fictional book about an Indian King Suheldev who battles to protect his country and makes huge individual penances.

### **4) Miscellaneous**

#### **Foundation stone of first Hindu temple laid in Islamabad**

The temple will be called Sri Krishna Mandir

It is the first temple to be constructed in Islamabad after independence of Pakistan

The construction cost of the temple will be Rs. 10 crore and will be borne by the Pakistan Government.

**Quick Fact:** Hinduism is the second largest religion in Pakistan, with 4% of its population following it

### **5) India and the World**

#### **India participates in the RIC meet**

Foreign ministers of Russia, India and China (RIC) met for a trilateral virtual meeting

The meeting commemorated the 75th anniversary of United Nations' foundation

During the meeting, Russia backed India for a permanent UNSC seat

## **26th June**

### **1) Economy**



### **All cooperative banks to be under supervision of RBI**

An ordinance promulgated by GoI will bring nearly 1500 cooperative banks under the ambit of RBI

After this, RBI will have the same power over cooperative banks as they do over commercial banks.

This move will bring assurance to customers of cooperative banks

**Quick Fact:** Cooperative banking is retail and commercial banking organized on a cooperative basis

### **2) Science and Technology**

#### **Indian receiver chip “Dhruva” to receive data from Indian navigation satellites**

The chip “Dhruva” can be inserted in cell phones and used for navigation inside India

It will receive this data from Indian navigation system satellites NAVIC.

The chip has been created by IIT-Bombay

**Quick Fact:** NAVIC is the operational name of the 8 satellite strong Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)

### **3) Science and Technology**

#### **‘eBloodServices’ mobile app launched in Delhi**

The app will enable users to access information about blood availability in blood banks, as well as order up to four units of blood remotely.

This would help patients who require regular blood donation or have bleeding disorders.

The app has been launched in Delhi, and is an initiative of the Indian Red Cross Society

**Quick Fact:** The most well-known bleeding disorder is known as hemophilia

### **4) World Affairs**

#### **Ten areas of Nepal encroached by China by river course diversion**

As per Nepal Agricultural Ministry's Survey Department, ten areas have been encroached upon by China by changing the flow of rivers which acted as natural boundary between the two countries

Around 33 hectares have been encroached by China

Two villages named Rui and Teigha have also been annexed

**Quick Fact:** Some of the rivers between Nepal and China include Bagdare Khola, Jambu Khola, Karnali, Sinjen, Bhurjuk, Bhote Kosi, Kharane Khola, Arun, Sumjung, and Kam Khola

### **5) International Affairs**

#### **Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps to set up Permanent Base in the Indian Ocean**

The Navy commander of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has announced set up of a permanent base by next year

The IRGC is a branch of the Iranian Armed Forces.

The base would help them prevent harassment of Iranian fishermen by pirates as well as encroachments in the area by foreign vessels

### **6) India and the World**

#### **Vivekananda Yoga University launched in Los Angeles**

World's first Yoga University outside of India has been established at Los Angeles.

The university has been named after Swami Vivekananda

The university will provide courses on yoga with a combination of scientific principles and modern research

**Quick Fact:** Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (SVYASA) Bengaluru, is the first yoga university in the world

**27th June**

### **1) National Affairs**

### **Kushinagar Airport gets international airport status**

Union Cabinet has granted International Airport status to Kushinagar Airport

The airport is located in north-eastern Uttar Pradesh, in an important Buddhist pilgrimage site

The international status will:

- (a) Boost tourism in the area
- (b) Increase economic development

It is a strategically important area with access to international border

**Quick Fact:** It is believed that Gautam Buddha attained Parinirvana after his death in Kushinagar

### **2) National Affairs**

#### **Himachal Pradesh wins e-Panchayat Puraskar 2020**

The e-Panchayat Puruskar 2020 has been won by the Himachal Pradesh state panchayati raj department

The prize has been given for providing internet services to all the 3,226 panchayats of the state

This will help make registration processes of birth, marriage and death easily accessible to all villages

**Quick Fact:** Narendra Singh Tomar is the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj

### **3) Science and Technology**

#### **Union Cabinet approves formation of IN-SPACe**

IN-SPACe stands for Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre

The centre will help:

- a) participation of private sector in space activities
- b) spur innovation and increase India's global standing in space technology

IN-SPACe will be a facilitator and regulator and act as an interface between ISRO and private companies

### **4) Science and Technology**

### **Russia company plans to take first tourist on space walk in 2023**

Russian Company, RSC Energia, has signed a deal with US space tourism company Space Adventures

As per the agreement, two tourists will be sent to the International Space Station, out of whom one will do a spacewalk with a Russian cosmonaut

Till now there have been eight space tourists, but none have done a spacewalk

**Quick Fact:** A US businessman Dennis Tito became the World's First Private Space Explorer in 2001

### **5) National Affairs**

#### **Annual TB Report 2020: Gujarat, Nagaland and Tripura best performing**

As per the report:

- a) In larger state category, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh are best performers
- b) In the smaller state category, Nagaland and Tripura are best performers
- c) Among UTs, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu are best performers
- d) Almost every rural area has been covered through more than 4.5 lakh DOT Centres.

**29th June**

### **1) National Affairs**

#### **“Navigating the New Normal” behavior change campaign launched by NITI Aayog**

The campaign comprises of two parts:

- (a) Web portal: For increasing public participation in COVID-safe behaviours
- (b) Media campaign: Focus on wearing of masks as a COVID-preventive behavior

The campaign will be implemented in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Centre for Social and Behavioural Change- Ashoka University, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Women and Child Development.

### **2) International Affairs**

#### **Pakistan remains on FATF grey list**

Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an intergovernmental organization which develops policies to combat money laundering and terrorism financing.

Pakistan is on the Grey List for terror financing and failure to complete its 27-point action plan in time

The decision was taken at FATF's third and final plenary, headed by China

**Quick Fact:** FATF headquarters are located in Paris, France

### 3) Science and Technology

#### **Bengaluru airport: India's first airport to install AWMS technology on runway**

Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport is the first Indian airport to install the indigenous AWMS technology on its runways

The Aviation Weather Monitoring System has been developed by Bengaluru-based CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratory

It has also installed four Drishti transmissometers to measure the runway visibility range (RVR).

### 4) Miscellaneous

#### **WHO-led coalition 'ACT-Accelerator' to fight against COVID-19**

ACT-Accelerator stands for Access to COVID-19 Tools

The ACT-Accelerator is WHO's global initiative launched in April 2020

The coalition aims to develop 2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines by the end of 2021

**Quick Fact:** Indian scientist Soumya Swaminathan was the Deputy Director General of Programmes of WHO from 2017-19

### 5) Science and Technology

#### **NASA headquarter building named after 'Mary W.Jackson'**

NASA has named the building of its headquarters after Mary W.Jackson- its first African American female engineer

Mary W. Jackson had started her career as a research mathematician and went on to work as an engineer

Her career with NASA started in 1951, when both African-Americans and females had to break a lot of barriers to succeed professionally and socially

Through her work, she inspired other women and African-Americans to take up similar opportunities.

**Quick Fact:** The NASA headquarters are located in Washington DC.

## 6) Person in News

### **Priyanka Chopra and Anurag Kashyap among ambassadors for TIFF 2020**

Toronto International Film Festival is one of the largest film festivals in the world

Due to the corona pandemic, the TIFF 2020 will be a virtual event

Priyanka Chopra and Anurag Kashyap are among 50 filmmakers and actors invited as ambassadors for the event

## **30th June**

### **1) Miscellaneous**

#### **India becomes first country to control locusts through drones**

Locusts are pests which damage crops.

They have entered India through the India-Pakistan border

The center has controlled the threat using drones and indigenously developed Ultra-low volume (ULV) sprayer

**Quick Fact:** The current locust swarm is an outbreak of desert locusts and has taken place in Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, South Asia and South America

### **2) Government Schemes**

#### **Successful completion of 3 housing schemes: 3.5 million houses handed over**

The three housing schemes are:

- a) Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)
- b) Smart Cities Mission (SCM)

c) Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Urban (PMAY-U)

Together, these three schemes have handed over 3.5 million houses to beneficiaries

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs marked the 5 years of successful completion of the 3 Schemes.

## **2) International Affairs**

### **Nine year old dispute between Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia moves towards resolution**

The dispute has been over the Giant Ethiopian Renaissance Dam constructed over River Nile's tributary, Blue Nile, by Ethiopia.

After nine years of discussion it has been decided that the dam will not be filled unilaterally by Ethiopia.

Egypt is dependent on the river for freshwater.

**Quick Fact:** River Nile originates from Lake Tana in Ethiopia and then diverges into two tributaries, the Blue Nile and White Nile.

## **3) India and the World**

### **Pakistan and China sign agreement for Kohala HPP in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir**

The agreement has been signed by the Government of Pakistan, State-owned Chinese Company China Three Gorges Corporation, and the Government of Azad Kashmir.

The Kohala Hydropower Plant is located on River Jhelum

It is part of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

## **4) India and the World**

### **World Bank Group's STARS program in six Indian states**

Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) Program will improve the quality and governance of school education system in India

The program will take place in Rajasthan, Odisha, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Maharashtra

It will help India in bringing its aim to Education for All to realization

**Quick Fact:** The World Bank Group has five main branches: MIGA, ICSID, IBRD, IDA and IFC.

## **5) Science and Technology**

### **Project Platina: World's Largest Plasma Therapy Trial launched by Maharashtra**

Plasma therapy has the following steps:

- 1) A recovered patient donates their plasma containing COVID-19 specific antibodies
- 2) The plasma is then transfused into a COVID-19 patient
- 3) The patient then develops similar antibodies for fighting the COVID-19 virus

Under Project Platina, convalescent plasma will be given to all critical patients in the state hospitals of Maharashtra

**Quick Fact:** Plasma is the clear component of the blood left after the cells are removed

## **6) Science and Technology**

### **First Plasma Bank in India at ILBS, Delhi**

As per Delhi government, the Plasma Bank will be set up at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences.

It will be used to meet the demand for plasma as cases rise in the region.

The plasma will be donated by COVID-19 recovered patients and transfused to COVID-19 patients to support their antibody generation capacity

## **7) Miscellaneous**

### **Ministry of Culture: Sankalp Parva drive for clean and healthy environment**

A tree plantation drive is being conducted in all government offices and bodies of Ministry of Culture from 28th June to 12th July

Five trees representing the herbal heritage of India— Bargad, Awla, Pepal, Ashok and Bel, will be planted