

Eazyprep

**MONTHLY
CURRENT
AFFAIRS**

COMPILATION

JUNE 2021

www.eazyprep.com

1st June

1) National News

Rs 10 Lakh PM CARES Fund for kids orphaned due to COVID by PM Modi

PM Narendra Modi announced a number of welfare measures for children who lost their parents to COVID-19.

All children who lost either both parents or legal guardians or adoptive parents will be supported under this scheme.

Each child will be enrolled as a beneficiary under Ayushman Bharat Scheme (PM-JAY) with a health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh.

Quick Fact: PM Cares Members: Amit Shah (Minister of Home Affairs), Nirmala Sitharaman (Minister of Finance), Rajnath Singh (Minister of Defence).

2) Finance News

INR 10 crore penalty on HDFC Bank imposed by the RBI

The RBI imposed a fine of Rs 10 crore on HDFC Bank for a deficit in regulatory compliance in their auto loan portfolio.

HDFC Bank violated the provisions of section 6(2) and section 8 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

RBI conducted an examination in the marketing and sale of third-party non-financial products to the bank's auto loan customers.

Quick Fact: MD and CEO of HDFC Bank: Sashidhar Jagdishan; Tagline of HDFC Bank: We understand your world.

3) National News

YUVA PM Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors by GOI

The Department of Higher Education launched an initiative called 'YUVA - Prime Minister's Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors'.

YUVA stands for Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors.

It is an Author Mentorship programme to train budding authors upto 30 years, to promote reading, writing and book culture.

Quick Fact: Chairman of National Book Trust India: Govind Prasad Sharma.

4) Miscellaneous

Young Warrior movement to combat Covid-19 launched by CBSE

CBSE launched a nationwide Young Warrior movement to engage 5 million young people to fight against Covid-19.

This movement is expected to impact 50 million people.

Students and teachers between the ages of 10 and 30 years will join to safeguard their families, communities, and the country.

Quick Fact: CBSE Chairman: Manoj Ahuja; CBSE Head Office: Delhi; CBSE Founded: 3 November 1962.

5) International News

Mount Nyiragongo erupts in the Republic of Congo

Mount Nyiragongo is one of several volcanoes near the DRC's border with Rwanda and Uganda.

Its last major eruption, in 2002, killed 250 people and displaced thousands.

Nyiragongo and nearby Nyamuragira are together responsible for 40% of Africa's historical volcanic eruptions.

Quick Fact: President Republic of Congo: Denis Sassou Nguesso; PM Republic of Congo: Anatole Collinet Makosso; Congo Capital: Brazzaville; Congo Currency: Congolese franc.

6) Miscellaneous

UAE's Golden Visa to Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt

The UAE government awarded Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt with its Golden Visa.

The Golden Visa system essentially offers long-term residency to people with outstanding talents.

Sanjay Dutt is the first mainstream to receive the Golden Visa that has a validity of either 5 or 10 years and is renewed automatically.

Quick Fact: UAE Capital: Abu Dhabi; UAE Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham; UAE President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

7) Sports News

Silver Medal at 2021 Asian Boxing Championships by Mary Kom

Mary Kom settled for a silver medal at the 2021 ASBC Asian Boxing Championships in Dubai.

The five-time Asian Championships gold medallist Mary Kom was competing in a high-octane 51kg final.

This is the second silver for Mary Kom at the Asian Championships who previously won the silver in 2008.

Quick Fact: Awards bagged by Mary Kom: Padma Vibhushan (2020), Padma Bhushan (2013), Padma Shri (2006).

8) Sports News

IPL 2021 to resume in September-October in the UAE

The BCCI confirmed that the IPL 2021 Phase 2 will be held in the UAE during the September-October window.

The BCCI president Sourav Ganguly confirmed that the tournament will be shifted out of India on account of 'monsoon.'

A Special general meeting was held to decide on the same.

Quick Fact: Secretary of BCCI: Jay Shah; President of BCCI: Sourav Ganguly.

9) Literature

'Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020' by Salman Rushdie

A book titled 'Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020' authored by Salman Rushdie was recently released.

In his new book, Rushdie attempted to perform a defensive castling move.

He suggested that his work was misunderstood because the literary culture turned from imaginative writing toward humbler delights of 'autofiction'.

Quick Fact: The Genre for Rushdie's books are mainly Magic Realism, Satire and Postcolonialism.

10) Important Days

World No-Tobacco Day observed on May 31

The World Health Organization (WHO) and global partners celebrate World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) on May 31.

This day aims to raise awareness on the harmful and deadly effects of tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure.

This year's theme of the 2021 WNTD was 'Commit to quit'.

Quick Fact: WHO Founded: 7 April 1948; WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland; WHO President: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

2nd June

1) National News

'Ankur' scheme launched by Government of Madhya Pradesh

The CM of Madhya Pradesh launched a scheme named 'Ankur' under which citizens would be awarded for planting trees during monsoon.

Citizens taking part in this initiative will be awarded the Pranvayu Award for more public participation.

A sapling plantation campaign will be held during the monsoon and citizens can participate in the drive by registering on the Vayudoot app.

Quick Fact: CM Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Governor: Anandiben Patel.

2) Finance News

Licence of Shivajirao Bhosale Sahakari Bank cancelled by the RBI

The RBI cancelled the licence of Pune-based Shivajirao Bhosale Sahakari Bank.

The bank ceased to carry on the business from May 31. The bank did not have adequate capital and earning prospects.

The RBI observed that with its present financial position, the bank would be unable to pay its present depositors in full.

Quick Fact: RBI chief GM: Yogesh Dayal; Shivajirao Bhosale Sahakari Bank Chairman: Anil Bhosale; Bank Director: Suryaji Jadhav.

3) National News

Pharmeasy acquired Medlife to form India's largest online pharmacy

Pharmeasy announced the acquisition of rival Medlife, thereby creating India's largest online pharmacy.

This deal to make PharmEasy the largest player in the domestic online pharmacy sector, serving 2 million customers a month.

The deal values the stake of Medlife shareholders at \$250 million.

Quick Fact: Pharmeasy Founders: Dharmil Sheth, Dr. Dhaval Shah.

4) Miscellaneous

First European innovation centre of TCS in Amsterdam, Netherland

TCS to bring businesses, startups and government together in Amsterdam to solve sustainability challenges with digital technology.

It will focus on sustainability challenges faced by organisations and become the first in a network of hubs, known as TCS Pace Ports, in Europe.

About 70 universities globally, more than 2,000 startups and large tech companies are engaged with the TCS Pace Port network.

Quick Fact: TCS CEO: Rajesh Gopinathan; TCS Headquarters: Mumbai; Netherland capital : Amsterdam; Netherland currency: Euro.

5) National News

World's first 'Nano Urea' for farmers across world introduced by IFFCO

IFFCO introduced the world's first Nano Urea Liquid for farmers across the world.

The world's first Nano Urea Liquid was introduced in their 50th annual general body meeting held recently in India.

The Nano Urea Liquid was found efficient for plant nutrition which increased the production with improved quality.

Quick Fact: IFFCO Headquarters: New Delhi; IFFCO Chairman: B.S Nakai; IFFCO MD & CEO: Dr U.S Awasthi.

6) Awards

Dr Harsh Vardhan honored by WHO for efforts in tobacco control

The WHO awarded Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan with the 'WHO Director-General Special Recognition Award'.

WHO recognises individuals or organisations in each of the six WHO Regions in the area of tobacco control every year.

Dr Harsh Vardhan leadership was instrumental in 2019 national legislation to ban E-cigarettes and heated tobacco products.

Quick Fact: WHO Member States grouped into 6 WHO regions: Africa, America, South-East Asia, Europe, Eastern Mediterranean, and Western Pacific.

7) Literature

Savarkar: A contested Legacy (1924-1966) by Vikram Sampath

Decorated historian Vikram Sampath came out with the second and concluding volume of the book on the life and works of Veer Savarkar.

The first volume, 'Savarkar: Echoes from a Forgotten Past' was released in 2019.

The second volume will bring to light the life and works of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, from 1924 to 1966, the year he died.

Quick Fact: Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, or Veer Sarvakar was known for Hindutva.

8) Literature

Ravi Shastri's Debut Book Titled 'Stargazing: The Players in My Life'

Ravi Shastri published his debut, 'Stargazing: The Players in My Life'.

The book was published by HarperCollins India and co-authored by Ayaz Memon.

In the book, Shastri wrote about 60 extraordinary talents he met from across the world who inspired him.

Quick Fact: Ravi Shastri has been a Cricket all-rounder, commentator and coach of India.

9) Important Days

Global Day of Parents: June 1

The UN observes Global Day of Parents on June 1st every year to honour parents across the world.

This day aims to appreciate the selfless commitment of a parent including their lifelong sacrifice towards the nurturing of a child.

The Global Day of Parents emphasizes the critical role of parents in the rearing of children.

Quick Fact: The General Assembly designated this day in 2012.

10) Important Days

World Milk Day observed on June 1

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN celebrates this day to recognize the dairy sector.

It aims to encourage people to talk about the advantages of dairy with regards to health including nutrition, accessibility and affordability.

This year's theme focused on sustainability in the dairy sector with messages around the environment and nutrition.

Quick Fact: Director General of UN Food and Agriculture Organisation: Qu Dongyu.

3rd June

1) National News

First Standard Body to Join 'One Nation, One Standard' Scheme: RDSO

RDSO set standards for the Indian Railway Sector, and became the first body to join the 'One Nation, One Standard' scheme by GOI.

RDSO, the sole R&D wing of the Railways Ministry, was recognised as a 'Standard Developing Organisation' by the BIS for three years.

RDSO and BIS will now jointly define the parameters to ensure quality goods and services for the Railways.

Quick Fact: RDSO Headquarters location: Lucknow; RDSO Founded: 1921.

2) Finance News

Revised GDP Growth Estimate by SBI Economists in FY22 to 7.9%

In the research report 'Ecowrap', SBI economists sharply cut the GDP growth estimates for Indian economy to 7.9% in FY22.

This was the lowest growth rate estimate for India among all analysts.

The key factor for revision in the growth estimate was the impact of the second wave of COVID-19 infections.

Quick Fact: SBI Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara; SBI Founded: 1 July 1955.

3) India and the World

Covid-19 variants first found in India as 'Kappa' and 'Delta' named by WHO

The UN health agency, WHO, gave easy-to-say labels to two variants of the Covid-19 first found in India.

The two variants are B.1.617.1 and B.1.617.2. The B.1.617.1 variant was named as 'Kappa' while the B1.617.2 variant was named as 'Delta.'

The naming of these variants is aimed at helping the public discussion about VOI/VOC.

Quick Fact: WHO President: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

4) National News

Justice (retd.) Vikramjit Sen appointed as the chairman of IBF

The IBF appointed former Supreme Court judge Justice Vikramjit Sen as the Chairman of its self-regulatory body DMCRC.

DMCRC is formed as per the mandate of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

The move was done to bring together the broadcasters and OTT (over-the-top) platforms.

Quick Fact: IBF is a unified representative body of the television broadcasters in India. Over 250 Indian television channels are associated with it.

5) Technology

'AmbiTAG' India's First Indigenous Temperature Data Logger by IIT-Ropar

IIT Ropar in Punjab developed a first-of-its-kind IoT device that records real-time ambient temperature.

This information is particularly critical for vaccines including the Covid-19 vaccine, organs and blood transportation.

The recorded temperature helps to know whether the item transported is still usable or perished because of temperature variation.

Quick Fact: IIT Ropar Director: P K Raina.

6) National News

NHRC to be headed by Justice A.K. Mishra

Former Supreme Court judge, Arun Kumar Mishra, will be the new chairperson of the NHRC after a high-powered recommendation.

The selection panel consisted of PM Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, DC of the Rajya Sabha, Harivansh and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

Mahesh Mittal Kumar and Rajiv Jain were recommended by the high-powered panel as members of the NHRC too.

Quick Fact: NHRC Jurisdiction: Government of India; NHRC Headquarters: New Delhi.

7) Person in News

Tata Steel's T.V. Narendran takes over as CII president

Tata Steel Ltd CEO and MD, T.V. Narendran, took over as president of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2021-22.

He took over the leadership from Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd MD and CEO Uday Kotak, who completed his term.

Narendran, an alumnus of the IIM Calcutta, has been associated with the CII for many years.

Quick Fact: Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Founded: 1895.

8) Miscellaneous

Centre for World University Rankings 2021-22 announced

The Centre for World University Rankings 2021-22 announced rankings of 19,788 institutions, and those placed at the top made the global 2000 list.

Harvard University topped the ranking globally followed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University.

As many as 68 Indian institutes made it to the list of the top 2000 higher education institutes across the world, as per CWUR 2021-22.

Quick Fact: Publisher of CWUR: Quacquarelli Symonds Limited, UK.

4th June

1) International News

Newly Elected President of Israel: Isaac Herzog

Veteran Israeli politician, Isaac Herzog, was elected as the President during the 120 members parliamentary election, 2021.

Herzog will be the 11th President of Israel, assuming office with effect from July 09, 2021.

He will succeed Reuven Rivlin, who is set to complete his tenure in July 2021 after seven years in office.

Quick Fact: PM of Israel: Benjamin Netanyahu; Israel Capital: Jerusalem; Israel Currency: Israeli Shekel.

2) National News

Detect Covid in Rural Population via WhatsApp

A new AI-driven platform called 'XraySetu' was built to help in the early detection of COVID 19, with the help of Chest X-ray.

The solution will be beneficial for early detection especially in rural areas, where RT-PCR tests and CT-Scans are not easily available.

Whatsapp-based Chatbot will be used to identify COVID positive patients even from low-resolution Chest X-Ray images.

Quick Fact: XraySetu was developed by ARTPARK (AI & Robotics Technology Park), a NGO established by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

3) International News

New Chairman of WHO Executive Board: Dr Patrick Amoth, Kenya

The acting Director-General for Health, Ministry of Health of Kenya was appointed as the Chairman of the WHO Executive Board.

The announcement was made during the 149th session of the WHO Executive Board by the outgoing Chair Dr Harsh Vardhan.

The chairman's post is held on a rotation basis for one year among regional groups.

Quick Fact: Kenya Capital: Nairobi; Kenya Currency: Kenyan shilling; Kenya President: Uhuru Kenyatta.

4) National News

Paresh B Lal appointed by WhatsApp as Grievance Officer for India

Facebook-owned messaging app, WhatsApp, named Paresh B Lal as the Grievance Officer for India.

WhatsApp updated contact details of Mr Lal because, under the IT law, social media companies are required to display the names on their websites.

The grievance officer is required to address complaints within 24 hours and dispose of them within 15 days.

Quick Fact: WhatsApp CEO: Will Cathcart; WhatsApp Headquarters: Menlo Park, California, United States; WhatsApp Founders: Jan Koum, Brian Acton; WhatsApp Parent organization: Facebook.

5) Finance News

ICICI Lombard partners with Microsoft to automate audits of service calls

Nation's largest private sector general insurer, ICICI Lombard, tied up with Microsoft to strengthen and automate the quality control processes.

Lombard will make use of Microsoft's Azure Speech Services and NLP to screen its daily service calls made by customer service reps.

The deployment of Azure's synthetic instruments, amongst different issues, allowed ICICI Lombard to enhance the accuracy of its high-quality audits.

Quick Fact: ICICI Lombard CEO: Bhargav Dasgupta; ICICI Lombard Headquarters: Mumbai.

6) International News

BRICS Foreign Minister meeting concluded virtually

External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar, chaired the meeting of BRICS foreign ministers through video conferencing.

Foreign ministers of Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa participated in this meeting.

Ministers agreed to cooperate on the pillars of political and security, economic and finance, and People to people and cultural exchanges.

Quick Fact: BRICS is a group formed by five major emerging countries Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

7) Person in News

RS Sodhi from Amul elected to board of International Dairy Federation

The IDF unanimously elected R S Sodhi, MD, GCMMF, that sells Amul branded products in India, to its board.

He is an alumni of the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA).

He joined GCMMF (Amul) in the year 1982 after completing his post-graduation from IRMA.

Quick Fact: DG of International Dairy Federation: Caroline Emond; International Dairy Federation Established: 1903.

8) International News

First human case of H10N3 bird flu reported in China

China's NHC confirmed the first human case of infection with the H10N3 strain of bird flu in their eastern province of Jiangsu.

The man, a resident of the city of Zhenjiang, was hospitalised on April 28 after developing a fever and other symptoms.

He was diagnosed as having the H10N3 avian influenza virus.

Quick Fact: China Capital: Beijing; China Currency: Renminbi; China President: Xi Jinping.

9) Technology

Microsoft launches first of its kind Asia-Pacific cybersecurity council

The first Asia Pacific Public Sector Cyber Security Executive Council was launched by Microsoft.

It consists of policymakers and influencers from Brunei, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

The council aims to accelerate public-private partnerships in cybersecurity and share threat intelligence.

Quick Fact: Microsoft CEO: Satya Nadella; Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States.

10) Important Days

World Bicycle Day: June 3

The UN observed World Bicycle Day to advance the use of the bicycle as a means of fostering sustainable development.

This day aims to strengthen education for young people, prevent disease, promote health, and facilitate social inclusion and a culture of peace.

It also aims to promote the bicycle among all members of society.

5th June

1) National News

Kerala remains on top in Niti Aayog's 3rd SDG India Index 2020-21

Kerala retained the top rank in Niti Aayog's 3rd edition of SDG India Index 2020-21, while Bihar was adjudged as the worst performer.

The Index for SDGs evaluated the progress of states and union territories on social, economic and environmental parameters.

Kerala retained its rank as the top state with a score of 75.

Quick Fact: NITI Aayog Formed: 1 January 2015; NITI Aayog Headquarters: New Delhi; NITI Aayog Chairperson: Narendra Modi.

2) National News

Third Indian IT firm to scale Rs 3 trillion market cap: Wipro

Wipro touched INR 3 trillion in market capitalisation becoming the third Indian IT firm to achieve the milestone after TCS and Infosys.

India now has a total of 13 listed firms that have crossed the Rs 3 trillion m-cap. Wipro ranks 14th.

Reliance Industries is India's most valued company with a market capitalisation of ₹14.05 trillion, followed by TCS Ltd and HDFC Bank.

Quick Fact: Chairman of Wipro Limited: Rishad Premji; Wipro Headquarters: Bengaluru; Wipro MD and CEO: Thierry Delaporte.

3) Finance News

Bancassurance pact between Bharti AXA Life and Shivalik Small Finance Bank

Bharti AXA Life Insurance entered into a bancassurance partnership with Shivalik Small Finance Bank recently.

This was done for the distribution of its life insurance products through SSFB's pan-India network of branches.

This alliance is a part of the bank's various measures towards financial inclusion and acceleration of wealth creation for its customers.

Quick Fact: MD and CEO of Bharti AXA Life Insurance: Parag Raja; Bharti AXA Life Insurance Founded: 2005.

4) Finance News

RBI Governor's Addressal On RBI Monetary Policy 2021

The six-member monetary policy committee of the RBI decided to keep key lending rates unchanged for the sixth consecutive time.

The RBI's MPC decided to continue with an accommodative stance until necessary to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled from August 4 to 6, 2021.

Quick Fact: RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikanta Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.

5) National News

Inauguration of Indus Best Mega Food Park in Chhattisgarh

Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the Indus Best MegaFood Park.

The Mega Food Park aims at value addition, better price realization for farmers, best storage facility and an alternate market for farmers in the region.

The Park will provide employment to about 5,000 people and benefit about 25,000 farmers in the CPC and PPC catchment areas.

Quick Fact: CM of Chhattisgarh: Bhupesh Baghel; Governor: Anusuiya Uikey.

6) Finance News

IPPB ties-up with MRHFL for cash management solution

Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited (MRHFL), and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) tied up to develop cash management solutions.

IPPB will offer cash management and collection services to MRHFL through its access points and postal service providers.

MRHFL mentioned that with the cash management service, its customers will be able to repay their loan instalments at over 1.36 lakh post offices.

Quick Fact: MD and CEO of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB): J Venkataramu; India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) Headquarters: New Delhi.

7) Sports News

FIH world rankings: Indian men's team maintains 4th position

The Indian men's Hockey team maintained the fourth position while the women's team held ninth position in the latest IHF world rankings.

Belgium, the reigning world and European champions lead the table, followed by the 2019 FIH Hockey Pro-League winners, Australia.

The Netherlands were placed third and Germany jumped to fifth place due to their recent performances in the FIH Pro-League.

Quick Fact: Men's Hockey India Coach: Graham Reid; Manager: Arjun Halappa; Captain: Manpreet Singh.

8) Important Days

International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression: June 4

This day affirms the UN's commitment to guard the rights of children.

IDICVA acknowledges the pain suffered by children throughout the planet who are victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse.

The main aim of this day is to spread awareness about the pain and sufferings faced by the victims as children.

7th June

1) National News

SAGE Programme and Portal launched by Thaawarchand Gehlot

Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot launched an initiative, SAGE (Seniorcare Aging Growth Engine), with a portal to support India's elderly people.

The SAGE portal will act as a 'one-stop access' of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups.

This initiative aims to involve youth for elderly care by start-ups and innovative ideas to make elderly care a national movement.

Quick Fact: Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment: Thaawarchand Gehlot.

2) Finance News

2nd Global Bank to offer 'SWIFT gpi Instant' facility: ICICI Bank

ICICI Bank announced their tie up with SWIFT recently.

This partnership will offer a facility to help overseas partner banks to send payments on behalf of their customers to the beneficiary in India.

With this, ICICI Bank became the first bank in Asia-Pacific and second globally to offer the facility, called 'SWIFT gpi Instant'.

Quick Fact: ICICI Bank MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi; ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.

3) National News

National Green Tribunal nod to Gujarat's Vishwamitri river project

The Principal Bench of NGT recently directed VMC, Gujarat, and other authorities to implement the Vishwamitri River Action Plan.

This plan includes preparation for demarcation, plantation and maintaining the integrity of the river.

The crocodiles, turtles & highly protected species have been breeding in the stretches of the river.

Quick Fact: Chairman of NGT: Adarsh Kumar Goel; Gujarat CM: Vijay Rupani; Gujarat Governor: Acharya Devvrat.

4) International News

World's first CO2 neutral cement plant in Sweden by HeidelbergCement

HeidelbergCement, the world's second-largest cement maker, planned to convert its Swedish factory in Slite.

This factory would be transformed into the world's first CO2-neutral cement plant by 2030 via carbon capture technology.

The plant will be able to capture up to 1.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.

Quick Fact: Sweden Capital: Stockholm; Sweden Currency: Krona; PM Sweden: Stefan Lofven.

5) National News

Online portal 'Bal Swaraj' for children affected by Covid-19 by NCPDR

The NCPDR devised an online tracking portal for children in need of care and protection in view of COVID-19 effects.

This portal is for children who lost family support and are in need of care and protection under Section 2(14) of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

All the procedures given under the Act for such children will be followed to ensure the well-being and best interest of children.

Quick Fact: Union Minister of Women and Child Development: Smriti Zubin Irani

6) Person in News

Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari appointed as IAF Vice Chief

Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari was appointed as the next Vice Chief of Air Staff in the Air headquarters of IAF.

Air Marshal Ballabha Radha Krishna would be succeeding Chaudhari at the Western Command in Delhi.

Air Marshal RJ Duckworth would be taking charge of the Central Air Command in Prayagraj.

Quick Fact: IAF HQ: New Delhi; Founded: 8 October 1932; Air Chief Marshal: Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria.

7) Awards

International Business Book of the Year 2021 to Nitin Rakesh and Jerry Wind

Nitin Rakesh and Jerry Wind won the International Business Book of the Year Award 2021.

The authors made history by winning the Award for 2021 for their recent book 'Transformation in Times of Crisis'.

Their book brings entrepreneurs and business owners the knowledge that can help their business thrive even in a crisis.

8) Important Days

Global day of Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing was observed globally on June 5.

According to the UN FAO, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities are responsible for the loss of 11–26 million tonnes of fish each year.

The loss of fish is estimated to have an economic value of US\$10–23 billion.

Quick Fact: Food and Agriculture Organization Head: Qu Dongyu; Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters: Rome, Italy.

9) Important Days

World Environment Day: June 5

This day is observed to raise awareness about protecting the environment and to remind people not to take nature for granted.

The theme of WED 2021 was 'Reimagine. Recreate. Restore.' as this year marked the beginning of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Pakistan was the global host for the day to highlight the importance of ecosystem restoration this year.

Quick Fact: The World Environment Day was first observed on 5 June 1974, 47 years ago.

8th June

1) National News

Three E-100 Ethanol Dispensing Stations launched by PM Modi in Pune

PM Modi launched three E-100 ethanol dispensing stations while addressing the World Environment Day event.

During the event, PM Modi also released the 'Report of the Expert Committee on Road Map for ethanol blending in India 2020-2025'.

The theme of the report was 'promotion of biofuels for a better environment'.

Quick Fact: The World Environment Day is observed on 5 June every year.

2) Finance News

GST collections at Rs 1.03 lakh crore for May

The GST collections for May closed at Rs 1,02,709 crore, being the 8th straight month crossing the Rs 1 lakh crore mark.

The collections were 65% higher than the GST revenues in the same month, despite the lockdown in various states due to the Covid pandemic.

The May GST collections were 27.6% less than a record sum of Rs 1.41 lakh crore in April.

Quick Fact: April 2021 GST collection: ₹1.41 lakh crore(All-time Highest).

3) National News

‘YounTab Scheme’ launched by Ladakh LG RK Mathur

The Lt Governor of Ladakh launched a scheme under which 12,300 tablets would be distributed among students in the Union Territory.

As part of the pilot phase, Mr Mathur distributed the tablets to the students of Classes 9 to 12 standards.

This scheme aims to bridge the digital divide between connected and unconnected regions and mitigate the disruption caused by the pandemic.

Quick Fact: Lt Governor Ladakh: RK Mathur.

4) Education

CBSE to introduce coding, data science in curriculum

CBSE collaborated with Microsoft to introduce Coding as a new subject for students of Class 6-8 and Data Science for Class 8-12.

Both these new skill subjects will be launched in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 for the next academic session.

This is an important step to equip students with skills like problem-solving, logical thinking, and design thinking that are critical in the future.

Quick Fact: CBSE Chairman: Manoj Ahuja; Microsoft CEO: Satya Nadella; Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States.

5) National News

‘Knowledge Economy Mission’ launched in Kerala

Kerala government launched ‘Knowledge Economy Mission’ to boost job prospects in the state by supporting knowledge workers.

The initiative was announced in the State Budget on June 4, spearheaded by K-DISC who will submit a comprehensive project report.

The project will be launched to bring ongoing efforts to support 'knowledge workers' under a single programme.

Quick Fact: Kerala CM: Pinarayi Vijayan; Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan.

6) Person in News

New World Bank Education Advisor: Ranjitsinh Disale

Ranjitsinh Disale was appointed as the World Bank Education advisor, starting from June 2021 to June 2024.

He was the first Indian to achieve the Global Teacher Award in 2020, and to work on the Coach Project, launched by the World Bank in March 2021.

The project aims to 'help countries accelerate learning by improving teacher professional development.'

Quick Fact: World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States; World Bank President: David Malpass.

7) Literature

'1232 km: The Long Journey Home' by Vinod Kapri

A book titled '1232 km: The Long Journey Home' by filmmaker Vinod Kapri was recently launched.

It is a tale of seven migrant workers from Bihar, who journeyed back home on their bicycles and reached their destination after seven days.

Kapri accompanied these seven migrant workers on their 1,232-km journey from Ghaziabad to Saharsa in Bihar.

8) Awards

Nature TTL Photographer of the Year 2021 won by Thomas Vijayan

Kerala-based Thomas Vijayan, now settled in Canada, won the 2021 Nature TTL Photography Awards.

He won the award for his photo of an Orangutan clinging to a tree, titled 'The World is Going Upside Down'.

Vijayan was adjudged as the overall winner of the competition from over 8,000 entries and won a grand prize of 1,500 pounds (Rs.1.5 lakh).

Quick Fact: Nature TTL is the world's leading online nature photography resource.

9) Important Days

UN Russian Language Day observed on 6th June

Russian is one of the six official languages used by the UN throughout the Organization.

The day was established by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2010.

This day coincides with the birthday of Aleksandr Pushkin, a Russian poet who was considered the father of modern Russian language.

Quick Fact: Russia President: Vladimir Putin; Russia Capital: Moscow; Russia Currency: Russian Ruble.

10) Important Days

World Food Safety Day: June 7

The aim of the day is to raise awareness about different foodborne risks and the measures of how to prevent it.

The campaigns spread awareness about food safety, which is integral and related to human health, economic growth, and other factors of life.

This year's theme was 'Safe food today for a healthy tomorrow'.

Quick Fact: Director-General of WHO: Tedros Adhanom; Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization: Dr QU Dongyu.

9th June

1) Finance News

\$500 mn program approved by World Bank to help boost India's MSME sector

The Board of Executive Directors at World Bank approved a USD 500 million program to support India's MSME sector.

India started a nationwide initiative to revitalise the MSME sector which was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

The MSME sector is the backbone of India's economy, contributing 30% of India's GDP and 4% of exports.

Quick Fact: World Bank President: David Malpass; MD & CFO: Anshula Kant; Chief Economist: Carmen Reinhart.

2) National News

Punjab leads performance grading index in school education

Punjab jumped from rank 13 in 2018-19 to topping the charts this time among all the states and UTs with a score of 929/1000.

Punjab was followed by Chandigarh (912/1000) and Tamil Nadu (906/1000).

The performance grading index ranks the states and UTs on a set of 70 parameters relating to various factors in the education sector.

Quick Fact: Punjab CM: Captain Amarinder Singh; Punjab Governor: V.P.Singh Badnore.

3) National News

Net energy neutral status achieved by Bengaluru international airport

The Kempegowda International Airport achieved net energy neutral status in FY 20-21 as part of its sustainability goals.

Bengaluru international airport (BIAL) saved nearly 22 lakh units of energy in FY 20-21, enough to power 9,000 houses for a month.

According to BIAL, these measures were achieved through solar installation at various open spots in the airport.

Quick Fact: Owners of BIAL: Fairfax India Holdings (54%); Siemens Project Ventures (20%); Airports Authority of India (13%); Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (13%).

4) International News

UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: 2021-2030

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration was officially launched to run from 2021 to 2030.

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration will be co-led by the UNEP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO).

This project aims to protect and revive millions of hectares of ecosystems all around the world for the benefit of people and nature.

Quick Fact: UN Headquarters: New York, USA; UN Secretary General: Mr Antonio Guterres.

5) Person in News

New CEO of HSBC India: Hitendra Dave

HSBC announced the appointment of Hitendra Dave as interim CEO of HSBC India, with effect from June 7, subject to receipt of regulatory approval.

Dave succeeds Surendra Rosha, who will be moving to Hong Kong as the co-chief executive of HSBC Asia-Pacific.

Dave was the former head of global banking & markets of HSBC India, and has worked for over 30 years in the Indian Financial Markets

Quick Fact: HSBC CEO: Noel Quinn; HSBC Headquarters: London, United Kingdom; HSBC Founder: Thomas Sutherland.

6) India and the World

UN's CEO Water Mandate for Water Conservation joined by NTPC Ltd.

India's largest power utility, NTPC Ltd, became a signatory to the UN Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate.

The initiative provides a platform for companies to partner with like-minded businesses, UN agencies, and other key stakeholders.

This initiative aims to assist companies to improve their water and sanitation agendas as long term Sustainable Development Goals.

Quick Fact: NTPC Chairman and MD: Shri Gurdeep Singh; NTPC Headquarters: New Delhi, India.

7) National News

Raimona reserve forest named as sixth national park by Assam

Raimona, in Kokrajhar district, became Assam's sixth national park.

The 422 sq ft wildlife habitat adjoins the western-most buffer to Manas Tiger Reserve.

The five national parks that existed prior to the 422 sq. km Raimona are Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa.

Quick Fact: Assam Governor: Jagdish Mukhi; Assam CM: Himanta Biswa Sarma.

8) Sports

Oman to host inaugural FIH Hockey5s World Cup in 2024

Oman was named as the host of the inaugural International Hockey Federation (FIH) Hockey5s World Cup.

The FIH announced that the men's and women's events will take place in Oman's capital city Muscat in January 2024.

The governing body mentioned that Oman was named as host, after a proposal from the organisation's Events Bidding Task Force.

Quick Fact: Oman Capital: Muscat; Oman Currency: Omani rial.

9) Awards

Arunachal Pradesh's Water Burial wins National Award for best film

AP's Water Burial won the best film National Award on environment conservation at 67th National Films Awards 2021.

The film is directed by independent filmmaker Shantanu Sen and produced by AM Television.

Water Burial is in Monpa dialect and has an intriguing storyline around a dark ritual of a local tribe in AP.

Quick Fact: This film was inspired by an Assamese novel; Saba Kota Manuh, written by Yeshe Dorjee Thongchi.

10) Important Days

World Oceans Day observed on June 8

This day is observed to raise global awareness about the importance of the ocean and the ways through which it can be protected.

The day aims to mobilize and unite the world's population on a project for the sustainable management of the world's oceans.

'The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods', was the theme for World Oceans Day 2021.

Quick Fact: This day is observed by all UN member states.

10th June

1) India and the World

India elected as member of UN Economic and Social Council for 2022-24

India was elected as a member of the ECOSOC, one of the six main organs of the UN, for a 3-year term of 2022-24.

India was elected by the UNGA on June 7, in the Asia-Pacific States category, along with Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Oman.

ECOSOC is the central platform for discussing international economic, social and environmental issues.

Quick Fact: ECOSOC Headquarters: New York and Geneva; ECOSOC President: Oh Joon.

2) National News

GIFT City to host India's first International Maritime Cluster

Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) planned to set up the nation's first international maritime services cluster at GIFT City.

The cluster would be a dedicated ecosystem of ports, shipping, logistics services providers and government regulators, in the GIFT City.

GIFT City is India's first operational smart city and international financial services.

Quick Fact: Gujarat Chief Minister: Vijay Rupani; Gujarat Governor: Acharya Devvrat.

3) National News

Three ALH MK III advanced light helicopters inducted by Indian Navy

The Indian Navy inducted three indigenously-built advanced light helicopters ALH MK-III in their fleet.

These helicopters will be used for maritime reconnaissance and coastal security.

They are equipped with modern surveillance radar and electro-optical equipment, enabling them to search and rescue operations even at night.

Quick Fact: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited: CMD: R Madhavan; Hindustan Aeronautics Limited HQ: Bengaluru, Karnataka.

4) National News

Creation of 'Oxi-van' in Karnal announced by Haryana CM

The CM of Haryana announced the creation of 80 acres of 'Oxi-van' (a forest) in the Karnal district.

This was announced on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5. Oxi-van will consist of 10 types of forests.

Highlighting the importance of trees and encouraging promotion, protection, planting of trees, the Haryana Government launched four various schemes.

Quick Fact: Haryana Capital: Chandigarh; Haryana Governor: Satyadev Narayan Arya; Haryana CM: Manohar Lal Khattar.

5) Finance News

India to grow at 8.3% in 2021 as projected by World Bank

The World Bank projected India's economy to grow at 8.3% in 2021 and 7.5 % in 2022.

The second COVID-19 wave undermined the sharper-than-expected rebound in activity as during the second half of FY 2020-21, especially in services.

The World Bank said, in 2023, India is expected to grow by 6.5%.

Quick Fact: World Bank HQ: Washington DC, US; Parent Organization: World Bank group.

6) Technology

'I-Familia' launched by Interpol to identify missing persons

Interpol launched a new global database named 'I-Familia' to identify missing persons.

This will be done through family DNA and would help the police solve cold cases in member countries.

Describing it as a groundbreaking database, the Interpol mentioned they applied cutting-edge scientific research.

Quick Fact: Interpol President: Kim Jong Yang; Interpol Headquarters: Lyon, France, Motto: 'Connecting police for a safer world'.

7) Person in News

Newly appointed election commissioner: Anup Chandra Pandey

The Union government appointed a retired IAS officer of the 1984 batch, Uttar Pradesh cadre, as Election Commissioner.

In the Election Commission, Pandey would have under three years in office and will retire in February 2024.

Pandey was appointed to the position left vacant by former Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora's retirement on April 12.

Quick Fact: First executive of Election Commission: Sukumar Sen.

8) Important Days

World Accreditation Day 2021 observed on June 9

World Accreditation Day (WAD) is observed to promote the role of accreditation in trade and economy.

The theme for WAD 2021 was 'Accreditation: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'.

WAD is a global initiative, jointly established by the IAF and the ILAC, to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation.

Quick Fact: Chairman of Quality Council of India: Adil Zainulbhai; Quality Council of India Headquarters location: New Delhi.

11th June

1) International News

First country to adopt bitcoin as legal tender: El Salvador

El Salvador became the first country in the world to grant legal tender status to bitcoin.

The use of bitcoin as legal tender will become law in 90 days and will be optional to use.

This would bring financial inclusion, investment, tourism, innovation and economic development to the country.

Quick Fact: El Salvador Capital: San Salvador; Currency: United States Dollar; President El Salvador: Nayib Bukele.

2) India and the World

Beginning of Indo-Thai CORPAT in Andaman Sea

The 31st edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) started on June 9 in the Andaman Sea.

The 3-day coordinated patrol between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy is being conducted from 9 to 11 June.

From the Indian side, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Saryu, and from Thailand Navy, HTMS Krabi are participating in CORPAT.

Quick Fact: Thailand Capital: Bangkok; Thailand Currency: Thai baht

3) National News

Seventh national park in Assam with Dehing Patkai

The Government of Assam announced Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary as the 7th National Park of the state.

The newest national park has unique floral and faunal diversity, which was recognized by the state government in 2004.

Assam now has the second-highest number of national parks in the country, MP and Andaman and Nicobar being the 1st.

Quick Fact: Assam Governor: Jagdish Mukhi; Assam CM: Himanta Biswa Sarma.

4) Person in News

Two-year extension to Mahesh Kumar Jain as RBI Deputy Governor

The ACC approved the re-appointment of Mahesh Kumar Jain as the Deputy Governor of RBI for two more years.

The three-year term of MK Jain as RBI Deputy Governor was to end on June 21, 2021.

Michael Patra, M Rajeshwar Rao and Rabi Sankar are the other three serving as RBI Deputy Governors.

Quick Fact: RBI Governor: Shantikanta Das.

5) Person in News

Spoorthi Priya as Facebook's new grievance officer for India

Facebook named Spoorthi Priya as its grievance officer for India, as announced on its website.

The new government guidelines suggest that social media companies with 50 lakh+ users have to appoint a GO, NO and a CCO.

Facebook owned messaging platform WhatsApp appointed Paresh B Lal as the grievance officer recently.

Quick Fact: Facebook CEO: Mark Zuckerberg; Facebook Headquarters: California, US.

6) Miscellaneous

ICC's official partner till 2023: BharatPe

Lending and digital payments startup, BharatPe, announced a three-year-long deal with ICC as their official partner.

BharatPe will promote the association across broadcast and digital platforms, and execute in-venue brand activations till 2023.

The key tournaments include the upcoming ICC World Test Championship, Men's T20 World Cup, Women's World Cup, etc.

Quick Fact: BharatPe CEO: Ashneer Grover; Head office BharatPe: New Delhi; BharatPe Founded: 2018.

7) Sports News

Cricket coaching website 'Cricuru' launched by Sehwag

Indian star cricketer Virender Sehwag launched an experiential learning portal for Cricket coaching named CRICURU.

CRICURU is India's first AI-enabled coaching website to offer a personalised learning experience for young players.

The curriculum was developed personally by Virender Sehwag along with former Indian Player and Batting Coach Sanjay Bangar.

Quick Fact: 30-player coaches like AB de Villiers, Brett Lee, Brian Lara, Chris Gayle, Dwayne Bravo, Harbhajan Singh, Jonty Rhodes will share their experience and learning with users.

8) Awards

PEN Pinter prize 2021 to Zimbabwean novelist Tsitsi Dangarembga

Tsitsi Dangarembga was awarded for her 'ability to capture and communicate vital truths even amidst times of upheaval'.

Dangarembga was also shortlisted for the 2020 Booker Prize for her work, This Mournable Body.

Established in 2009, PEN Pinter prize is given in memory of Nobel-laureate playwright Harold Pinter.

12th June

1) International News

Bitcoin Investment Gains in 2020 topped by the US

With a profit of \$4.1 billion, according to the latest report by Chainalysis, the US topped Bitcoin Investment Gains in 2020.

Chinese traders stood second with a profit of \$1.1 billion.

India was ranked 18 with a profit of \$241 million among the top 25 countries in Bitcoin investment gains 2020.

Quick Fact: Original Bitcoin Author: Satoshi Nakamoto; Initial release: 9 January 2009 (12 years ago).

2) National News

Sishu Seva Achoni for COVID-19 Orphans by Assam CM

The CM of Assam dedicated the CM Sishu Seva Scheme to those beneficiaries who lost both their parents due to COVID.

Under this scheme an amount of Rs. 7,81,200 would be parked in the bank as fixed deposit in the name of each beneficiary.

On completion of 24 years of age, the fixed deposit against each beneficiary would be credited to their bank accounts.

Quick Fact: Assam Governor: Jagdish Mukhi; Assam CM: Himanta Biswa Sarma.

3) International News

First fully stealth warship built by Russian Navy

Russia is building the first naval ship which will be fully equipped with stealth technology to make it hard to detect.

The warship will be armed with cruise missiles, anti-aircraft missiles and artillery.

Stealth technology can make military assets such as ships and planes harder for radar to detect destroying submarines.

Quick Fact: Russia President: Vladimir Putin; Russia Capital: Moscow; Russia Currency: Russian Ruble.

4) Finance News

Loyalty platform PAYBACK India acquired by BharatPe

BharatPe acquired a multi-brand loyalty platform to help its offline merchants roll out rewards and loyalty programmes for customers.

The acquisition will give an exit to AmEx and ICICI Investments Strategic Fund, which holds 90% and 10% stake respectively in the entity.

PAYBACK India would continue to function independently even after the acquisition.

Quick Fact: BharatPe CEO: Ashneer Grover; BharatPe HQ: New Delhi; BharatPe Founded: 2018.

5) Person in News

New UN bureaucracy leader for one year: K Nagaraj Naidu

IFS officer K Nagaraj Naidu was named chef de cabinet by the incoming UN general assembly president.

He was appointed for the duration of one-year to lead the world body through its return to normalcy, getting COVID-19 under control.

Naidu will be on loan from the GOI to the UN for a position that is comparable to the Indian PM's principal secretary.

Quick Fact: New UN General Assembly President: Maldivian foreign minister Abdulla Shahid.

6) Miscellaneous News

Benedetto Vigna appointed as new company CEO of Ferrari appoints

Ferrari appointed Benedetto Vigna as the new company CEO, taking over from interim chief John Elkann.

Vigna currently serves as the president of STMicroelectronics' Analog, MEMS and Sensor Group, and is a member of the company's executive committee.

Ferrari S.P.A. is an Italian luxury sports car manufacturer based in Maranello, Italy.

Quick Fact: Ferrari Founder: Enzo Ferrari; Ferrari Founded: 1947, Maranello, Italy; Ferrari Headquarters: Maranello, Italy.

7) Awards

RS Sodhi presented with the Asia Pacific Productivity Champion award

The MD of Amul was conferred with the Asia Pacific Productivity Champion from APO, Tokyo.

He became the first Indian to receive this award in the last 20 years in recognition of enhanced productivity and efficient milk supply chain.

Sodhi received the award on behalf of 3.6 million dairy farmers.

Quick Fact: Asia Pacific Productivity award is presented by UNESCO.

8) Awards

Best Actor award at UK Asian Film Festival won by India's Tillotama Shome

Indian actress Tillotama Shome won the Best Actor award at the 23rd UK Asian Film Festival (UKAFF), making the nation proud.

She bagged the award for her role in the film Raahgir: The Wayfarers, directed by Goutam Ghose.

Apart from Tillotama, filmmaker Goutam Ghose also won the Best Director award at the UKAFF.

Quick Fact: The UKAFF was previously known as the London Asian Film Festival. It is organised by a UK based NGO called Tongues on Fire Ltd.

14th June

1) International News

Presidential election won by Ex-Mongolian PM Khurelsukh

Former Mongolian PM became the nation's sixth democratically elected president consolidating the power of the ruling MPP.

With 99.7% of votes counted overnight, Khurelsukh's tally reached 68% of the total, the largest share of the vote since 1990.

Khurelsukh replaced Khaltmaa Battulga, who was denied an opportunity to seek re-election.

Quick Fact: Mongolia Capital: Ulaanbaatar; Mongolia Currency: Mongolian Togrog.

2) Finance News

RBI: ATM cash withdrawal rule changed

RBI changed a few rules regarding cash withdrawal from ATMs.

These rule changes include higher charges on transactions, a new free ATM transaction limit and a rise in interchange fee.

Bank customers can now do five free financial and non-financial transactions every month from their own bank ATMs.

Quick Fact: RBI Ownership: Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

3) Finance News

Kavach Personal Loan launched by SBI for Covid-19 patients

SBI launched a collateral-free 'Kavach Personal Loan' to help customers meet medical expenses for Covid treatment.

Customers could avail loans up to INR 5 lakhs at an interest rate of 8.5% per annum for 60 months, inclusive of three months moratorium.

This loan product will also be part of the Covid loan book created by banks as per the RBI's Covid relief measures.

Quick Fact: SBI Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara; SBI Headquarters: Mumbai; SBI Founded: 1 July 1955.

4) National News

AISHE 2019-20 report released by Union Education Minister

All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20 report was released by the Union Education Minister.

As per AISHE in the last five years (2015-16 to 2019-20), student enrolment grew by 11.4% and female enrolment increased by 18.2%.

AISHE 2019-20 is 10th in the series of All India Survey on Higher Education and the Department of Higher Education releases it annually.

Quick Fact: Union Education Minister India: Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'.

5) Miscellaneous

Forbes 'World's Best Banks' list topped by DBS in India

DBS Bank was ranked 1 out of 30 domestic and international banks in India for the 2nd consecutive year by Forbes.

This was the third edition of the 'World's Best Banks' list by Forbes, conducted in partnership with market research firm Statista.

Over 43,000 banking customers across the globe were surveyed on their current and former banking relationships.

Quick Fact: MD and CEO, DBS Bank India: Surojit Shome; DBS Bank CEO: Piyush Gupta; DBS Bank Headquarters: Singapore; DBS Bank TagLine: 'Make Banking Joyful'.

6) Sports News

Patiala to host Indian Grand Prix 4

The AFI announced that the Indian Grand Prix 4 would be held on June 21 at the National Institute of Sports in Patiala.

The decision to host the domestic events was made to give Indian athletes the maximum chance to qualify for Tokyo.

India's star sprinters Dutee Chand & Hima Das will participate in the fourth Indian GP of 2021.

Quick Fact: Athletics Federation of India Founded: 1946; Athletics Federation of India Headquarters: New Delhi.

7) Important Days

World Day Against Child Labour: 12 June

According to the ILO, there are about 152 million children globally, engaged in child labour, 72 million of who are in hazardous work.

This year, World Day Against Child Labour, focused on action taken for the 2021 International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour.

The theme of World Day Against Child Labour 2021 was 'Act now: End child labour!'.

Quick Fact: Headquarters of International Labour Organization: Geneva, Switzerland; President of International Labour Organization: Guy Ryder.

15th June

1) India and the World

4th largest forex reserves holder: India and Russia

RBI's data revealed that the foreign exchange reserves of India crossed the \$600 billion mark for the first time.

The Forex reserve of India increased by USD 6.842 billion to \$605.008 billion in the week ended June 04, 2021.

India now stands on a tie with Russia as the 4th largest reserve holder in the world, with the forex reserve of Russia being \$605.2 billion.

Quick Fact: Russia Capital: Moscow; Russia Currency: Russian Ruble.

2) National News

India ranked 67th in Coursera's Global Skills Report 2021

As per the 'Global Skills Report 2021' released by Coursera, India ranked 67th globally with 38% proficiency.

Indian learners have high proficiency in digital skills like Cloud Computing (83%) and Machine Learning (52%) & 54% in Mathematical skills.

Digital skills require improvement because in Data Analysis and Statistical programming the rank was based on only at 25% and 15% proficiency.

Quick Fact: Coursera CEO: Jeff Maggioncalda; Coursera Headquarters: California, USA.

3) Finance News

Customer COVID relief Ghar Ghar Ration Program by IDFC FIRST Bank

IDFC FIRST Bank announced the launch of an employee-funded program for its low-income customers, affected by COVID-19.

The bank also announced a comprehensive program for the families of employees who unfortunately lost their lives due to COVID-19.

Employees of the Bank contributed one day to one month's salary for the purpose.

Quick Fact: IDFC FIRST Bank CEO: V. Vaidyanathan; IDFC FIRST Bank Headquarters: Mumbai; IDFC FIRST Bank Founded: October 2015.

4) International News

World's First Mask-Free Country from June 15: Israel

Israel will become the world's first mask-free country in the Corona period where the rule to wear a mask will be removed from June 15.

However, most restrictions related to foreign travel have not yet been lifted. Travel to nine countries is still banned.

There is a rule of quarantine for travellers coming from these countries and their corona test will be done.

Quick Fact: Israel PM: Benjamin Netanyahu; Israel Capital: Jerusalem; Currency: Israeli Shekel.

5) Person in News

New Secretary-General of UNCTAD: Rebeca Grynspan

The UN General Assembly appointed the Costa Rican economist, Rebecca Grynspan, as the Secretary-General of the UNCTAD.

She will serve a four-year term of office, being the first woman and Central American to head UNCTAD.

Grynspan would replace Isabelle Durant, who has been serving as the acting Secretary-General since February 15, 2021.

Quick Fact: UNCTAD Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland; UNCTAD Founded: 30 December 1964.

6) National News

India's first to inoculate all adults: Weyan village, Bandipora

Weyan, a village in district Bandipora (J&K), became the nation's first village where every person above 18 years has been vaccinated.

The vaccination in Weyan village was covered under the J&K model, a 10-point strategy to inoculate the shots at a faster pace.

The UT also achieved 70% vaccination for the 45+ age group despite the initial vaccine hesitancy, almost double the national average.

Quick Fact: J&K Lieutenant Governor: Manoj Sinha; J&K Capital: Srinagar (May-October), Jammu (November-April).

7) Miscellaneous

Akshay Kumar appointed as brand ambassador by MyLab

Bollywood superstar, Akshay Kumar, was appointed as the new brand ambassador of biotechnology company Mylab Discovery Solutions.

The Pune-based firm announced this news shortly after launching the country's first COVID-19 self-test kit 'CoviSelf'.

The partnership with Akshay is aimed at creating awareness for Mylab's products and kits such as CoviSelf.

8) Technology

'EnVision' Mission to Venus in 2030 by European Space Agency

ESA is now developing its own probe to study Venus for a holistic view of the planet from its inner core to upper atmosphere.

The mission dubbed as 'EnVision' will probably be launched to the planet in early 2030.

This probe of ESA would determine how and why Venus and Earth evolved differently, despite being in the habitable zone to the Sun.

Quick Fact: ESA Headquarters: Paris, France; ESA CEO: Johann-Dietrich Wörner.

9) Literature

'Home in the World': self-memoir by Amartya Sen

One of the world's leading public intellectuals of our time, Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, penned his memoir 'Home in the World'.

In this book, Sen shared how it was Rabindranath Tagore who gave him his name Amartya.

He also reminisced about the conversations at Calcutta's famous Coffee House and at Cambridge which shaped his views.

Quick Fact: Amartya Sen Awards - Bharat Ratna (1999); National Humanities Medal (2012); Johan Skytte Prize in Political Science (2017).

10) Important Days

World Blood Donor Day observed on June 14

This day aims to raise global awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products for transfusion.

The day also provides an opportunity to call to action to governments and national health authorities to provide adequate resources.

World Blood Donor Day 2021 slogan was 'Give blood and keep the world beating'.

16th June

1) International News

Israel's new Prime Minister: Naftali Bennett

Naftali Bennett, former Defence Minister of Israel, and leader of the Yamina party took oath as the PM of the country.

The 49-year-old former tech entrepreneur will replace Benjamin Netanyahu, who was forced out of office after 12 years.

Bennett will lead a new coalition government, formed with Yair Lapid, head of the centrist Yesh Atid party.

Quick Fact: Israel Capital: Jerusalem; Israel Currency: New Shekel.

2) National News

India's retail inflation in May touched 6.3%

India's retail inflation shot up to a six-month high of 6.3% in May, after easing to a three-month low of 4.23% in April.

Inflation, based on Consumer Price Index (CPI), breached the RBI's target range for the first time after five months.

The RBI has to maintain the crucial number at 4% in the medium term, with a 2% point margin as part of its inflation target.

Quick Fact: National Statistical Commission Chairman: Prof. Bimal Kumar Roy.

3) National News

IAMAI's Grievance Redressal Board to be chaired by Justice AK Sikri

The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) invited former Supreme Court Justice (Retd.) Arjan Kumar Sikri to chair the GRB.

The GRB will address content grievances pertaining to any of the DPCGC member's video streaming services.

The Grievance Redressal Board will aim to provide independent adjudication on content grievances escalated to it.

Quick Fact: Chairman of the IMAI: Amit Agarwal; IMAI Headquarters: Mumbai.

4) National News

Assam to present versions of Bharat Ratna and Padma awards

The Assam government will present its own versions of the Bharat Ratna and the Padma awards from next year.

The cabinet instituted other civilian honours such as the Asom Bibhushan Award, the Assam Bhushan, and the Asom Shree.

These 4 awards would carry cash prizes of Rs 5 lakh, Rs 3 lakh, Rs 2 lakh & Rs 1 lakh respectively.

Quick Fact: Assam Governor: Jagdish Mukhi; Assam CM: Himanta Biswa Sarma.

5) Miscellaneous

India moved down to 55th position in Global Home Price Index

India degraded 12 spots in the global home price index to 55th rank in Q1 2021 against 43rd rank in Q1 2020.

This took place with a decline of 1.6% year-on-year (YoY) in home prices.

Turkey continued to lead the annual rankings with prices up by 32% YoY, followed by New Zealand.

Quick Fact: Knight Frank Established: 1896; Knight Frank Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.

6) Person in News

Ajai Puri of Bharti Airtel re-elected as COAI chairman for 2021-22

COO of Bharti Airtel, Ajai Puri, was re-elected as Chairman of the industry association for 2021-22.

The COAI mentioned that the President of Reliance Jio Infocomm, will continue as VC of the association.

The association 'is optimistic about the future of the industry and the opportunities ahead, as 5G and allied technologies get closer to commercial deployment'.

Quick Fact: COAI Headquarters location: New Delhi; COAI Founded: 1995.

7) Sports News

ICC Players of the month for May: Kathryn Bryce & Mushfiqur Rahim

The ICC announced Scotland's Kathryn Bryce and Bangladesh's Mushfiqur Rahim as winners of the ICC Player of the Month for May.

This award aims to recognise and celebrate the best performances from both male and female cricketers across all forms of international cricket.

Bryce is the first player from Scotland to make it to the top 10 of the lists in the ICC Player Rankings released recently.

Quick Fact: ICC CEO: Manu Sawhney; ICC Chairman: Greg Barclay.

8) Sports News

Gelfand Challenge chess title won by D. Gukesh

D. Gukesh won the \$15,000 Gelfand Challenge chess title and with it, a 'wild card' for the elite Meltwaters Champions Chess Tour.

He won all four rounds, including the key battle against Praggnanandhaa, and emerged on top.

This happened after a series of favourable results from the games involving other title-contenders.

9) Literature

Cricketer Suresh Raina's Autobiography: 'Believe'

Former Indian batsman, Suresh Raina, released his autobiography 'Believe – What Life and Cricket Taught Me'.

The book was co-authored by Bharat Sundaresan where Raina narrated his journey and the golden word (Believe) from Sachin Tendulkar etched on his arm as a tattoo.

The cricketer shared a glimpse of his cricket career which included success, failure, injuries, setbacks, and how he came out on top of it.

Quick Fact: Suresh Raina's Role in Indian Cricket Team: Batsman (Left-handed).

10) Important Days

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day observed on June 15

This day is celebrated to raise a voice for the elderly who are abused and victimized.

The day aims to provide an opportunity for communities around the globe to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons.

This can be done by creating awareness of the cultural, social, economic and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect.

17th June

1) Finance News

Record high of 12.94% on wholesale inflation in May

The wholesale price-based inflation shot up to 12.94% in May, due to rising prices of crude oil and manufactured goods.

In May 2020, WPI inflation was at (-) 3.37%, while in April, WPI inflation hit 10.49%.

The annual rate of inflation, based on monthly WPI, was 12.94% May 2021 (over May 2020) as compared to (-) 3.37% in May 2020.

Quick Fact: RBI controls inflation in India.

2) International News

NATO Summit 2021 Held in Brussels, Belgium

The leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) held a face-to-face summit at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

The 2021 Brussels summit was the 31st formal meeting of the heads of state and heads of government of the alliance.

The summit of the 30-member group was held as a part of the US President Joe Biden's first foreign trip since he took office.

Quick Fact: NATO Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium; Chairman NATO Military Committee: Air Chief Marshal Stuart Peach; Member countries of NATO: 30.

3) Finance News

Prepaid mobile recharges through Bharat Bill Payment System allowed by RBI

The scope of BBPS will be expanded by August 31, 2021, by adding 'mobile prepaid recharges as a biller category'.

BBPS is an interoperable platform for recurring bill payments operated by the National Payments Corporation of India.

In May, 213.59 million bill payment transactions were carried out through the BBPS channel.

Quick Fact: National Payments Corporation of India MD & CEO: Dilip Asbe.

4) Technology

India's first power-free CPAP device 'Jivan Vayu' by IIT Ropar

IIT Ropar developed a device named 'Jivan Vayu', a substitute for Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machine.

Jivan Vayu can deliver high flow oxygen up to 60 Litres Per Minute (LPM).

It is the first of its kind device that functions even without electricity and can work on both kinds of oxygen generation units.

Quick Fact: IIT Ropar Director: Rajeev Ahuja.

5) National News

India ranked 14th in World Giving Index 2021

India ranked 14th among 114 countries in the World Giving Index 2021, by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF).

The Index ranking was topped by Indonesia, followed by Kenya, Nigeria, Myanmar and Australia in the top five respectively.

CAF is an international organisation that promotes giving to transform lives and communities across the world.

Quick Fact: Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) HQ: Kings Hill, Kent, UK.

6) Miscellaneous

‘Report it, Don’t share it!’ initiative launched by Facebook

Facebook launched a new initiative that encourages people to report child abuse content on its platforms and not to share it.

The initiative is in collaboration with civil society organisations like Aarambh India Initiative, Cyber Peace Foundation and Arpan.

The initiative was launched with a video to communicate about the negative impact that such content could have on children.

Quick Fact: Facebook CEO: Mark Zuckerberg; Facebook Headquarters: California, US.

7) Sports News

Wrestler Vinesh Phogat clinched gold medal in Poland open

Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat won the gold medal in the 53 kg category at the Poland Open, this being her third title of the season.

Earlier, She won gold at the Matteo Pellicone event (March) and Asian Championship (April).

Earlier, Indian wrestler Anshu Malik pulled out of the 57kg competition due to a fever.

8) Important Days

Global Wind Day 2021 observed on June 15

This day aims to spread awareness about wind energy, the various uses, and the ways and possibilities as to how wind energy can help.

Global Wind Day is organized by WindEurope and the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC).

According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), wind energy is one of the fastest-growing renewable energy sources in the world.

Quick Fact: Global Wind Energy Council Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium; Global Wind Energy Council Founded: 2005.

18th June

1) National News

Deep Ocean Mission of Ministry of Earth Sciences approved by Cabinet

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the implementation of the 'Deep Ocean Mission'.

The Deep Ocean Mission aims to support the Blue Economy Initiatives of the Government of India.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) will be the nodal Ministry for implementing this multi-institutional ambitious mission.

Quick Fact: Union Minister of Earth Sciences: Dr Harsh Vardhan.

2) Finance News

Policybazaar gains insurance broking licence

Policybazaar gained approval from IRDAI to undertake insurance broking, helping it to augment business and expand its services.

The company will surrender its web aggregator licence and undertake insurance aggregation under the broking umbrella.

Policybazaar has a market share of 25% in the life insurance segment while 10% in health insurance.

Quick Fact: Policybazaar CEO: Yashish Dahiya; Policybazaar HQ: Gurugram, Haryana.

3) National News

Budgetary Support of Rs 499 cr for innovations approved by Defence Minister

The Defence Minister approved the budgetary support of Rs 498.8 crore for IDEX-DIO for the next five years.

The funds will provide financial support to 300+ start-ups, MSMEs and individual innovators with a goal to ensure self-reliance in the defence sector.

The scheme syncs with the government's push to cut imports of military hardware and make India a hub for defence manufacturing.

Quick Fact: Defence Minister India: Rajnath Singh.

4) National News

'Project O2 for India' initiative launched by Central Government

The Gol launched this project to increase production of medical oxygen to meet demand increase due to incoming waves of the pandemic.

Under the project, a 'National Consortium of Oxygen' is enabling the supply of critical raw materials such as zeolites.

Besides, the consortium is also working to strengthen the manufacturing ecosystem for long-term preparedness.

Quick Fact: The 'Project O2 for India' is an initiative of the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India (Gol).

5) Finance News

'ICICI STACK for Corporates' launched by ICICI Bank

ICICI Bank announced the launch of a comprehensive set of digital banking solutions for corporates and their entire ecosystem.

This would include promoters, group companies, employees, dealers, vendors and all other stakeholders.

With this launch, ICICI Bank aims to be the preferred banking partner for companies and their entire ecosystem.

Quick Fact: ICICI Bank MD & CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi; ICICI Bank Tagline: Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.

6) Miscellaneous

ADB inked \$ 484 million loan with Gol to upgrade road network in Tamil Nadu

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Gol signed a loan to improve transport connectivity and facilitate industrial development in Tamil Nadu.

The project is key to providing seamless road connectivity across industrial clusters, transport gateways and consumption centres.

This will help reduce logistics and production costs for CKIC's targeted industries to boost their competitiveness.

Quick Fact: ADB Members: 68 countries (49 members from Asia Pacific region); ADB Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines; ADB President: Masatsugu Asakawa.

7) Person in News

New Microsoft Chairman: Former CEO Satya Nadella

Microsoft Corp named CEO Satya Nadella as its new chairman.

The company also appointed former chairman John Thompson as a lead independent director.

The top-level executive change came just over a year after Gates stepped down from the board to focus on one of the world's biggest charities.

Quick Fact: Microsoft CEO: Satya Nadella; Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States.

8) Miscellaneous

Telangana AI Mission launched 'Revv Up'

Telangana government launched an accelerator programme called 'Revv Up' to enable and empower AI startups.

The programme will begin its first cohort in July, and is a step towards making Telangana a global destination for AI and other technologies.

The accelerator programme, exclusively designed for growth-stage AI startups, will cover various sectors.

Quick Fact: Telangana Capital: Hyderabad; Telangana Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan; Telangana CM: K. Chandrashekar Rao.

19th June

1) National News

'Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan' launched by Government of MP

The Government of MP launched 'Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan' to spread awareness about the COVID-19 pandemic.

It translates to free from Corona with the help of the youth power campaign.

Students in colleges would be given information and details about the significance of COVID-friendly behaviour and vaccination.

Quick Fact: CM Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Governor: Anandiben Patel.

2) Finance News

India bagged 2nd spot in share of central bank surplus transfers

RBI ranked 2nd in terms of reserves transferred to the government as a percentage of GDP for FY 2020-21, where Turkey ranked first.

RBI transferred Rs 99,122-crore surplus to the government for FY21 which is 73% higher than the Rs 57,128 crore paid out in 2019-20.

The surplus transferred by the RBI constituted 0.44% of GDP, while that of Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey constituted 0.5% of GDP.

Quick Fact: RBI Governor: Shaktikanta Das; Central Bank of Turkey Governor: Şahap Kavcıoğlu.

3) International News

Agreement on historic free trade between UK and Australia

A new free trade agreement with the UK would bring both countries closer together in a changing strategic environment.

PMs Scott Morrison and Boris Johnson agreed on the broad outlines of an Australia-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Australian producers and farmers would receive a significant boost by getting greater access to the UK market.

Quick Fact: UK Capital: London; UK PM: Boris Johnson; UK Currency: Pound sterling; Australia Capital: Canberra; Australia Currency: Australian dollar; Australia PM: Scott Morrison.

4) Finance News

Prepaid gift card launched by LIC CSL in collaboration with IDBI Bank

LIC Cards Services (LIC CSL) launched a contactless prepaid gift card, 'Shagun', collaborating with IDBI Bank on RuPay.

This card aims to expand the gift card market with an intent to promote cashless ways of gifting and a future foray into the market of e-gift cards.

NPCI partnered with LIC CSL & IDBI Bank for the launch of the Shagun Gift Card on RuPay network.

Quick Fact: IDBI Bank CEO: Rakesh Sharma; IDBI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.

5) National News

Vedic Education and Sanskar Board to be set by Rajasthan Government

The Rajasthan government is soon to set up a Vedic Education and Sanskar Board to revive knowledge of Sanskrit Vedas.

The committee aims, objectives and functioning of the board, and submitted its report to the state government.

MoS for Sanskrit Education Subhash Garg mentioned that adding modules will be presented before the board based on the report.

Quick Fact: CM Rajasthan: Ashok Gehlot; Governor: Kalraj Mishra.

6) Person in News

Aashish Chandorkar appointed as director at India's WTO mission

The government of India appointed Aashish Chandorkar as Counsellor in India's Permanent Mission in the WTO for three years.

Chandorkar is currently the director of Bengaluru-based policy think tank Smahi Foundation of Policy and Research.

The WTO is a 164-member multi-lateral body, which deals with global trade. India is a member since 1995.

Quick Fact: WTO Director-General: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala; WTO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland; WTO Founded: 1 January 1995.

7) Technology

World's first wooden satellite to be launched by ESA

The European Space Agency (ESA) planned to launch the world's first wooden satellite, to be launched from New Zealand.

It will be launched from a Rocket Lab Electron rocket by the end of 2021.

The satellite is the brainchild of Jari Makinen.

Quick Fact: ESA Headquarters: Paris, France; ESA Founded: 30 May 1975, Europe; ESA CEO: Johann-Dietrich Worner.

8) Important Days

Autistic Pride Day observed on June 18

This day aims to create awareness about autism among people and its role in bringing about positive changes in the broader society.

The day is represented by a rainbow infinity symbol which denotes the infinite possibilities that autistic people have.

Autistic Pride Day was first celebrated in Brazil in 2005, at the initiative of an organisation named Aspies for Freedom.

Quick Fact: Brazil Capital: Brasilia; Currency: Brazilian Real (BRL).

21st June

1) Finance News

Digital lending platform 'IndusEasy Credit' launched by IndusInd Bank

IndusInd Bank launched a digital lending platform that enables customers to meet their financial requirements from their homes.

Both existing and non-IndusInd Bank customers could instantly avail personal loans or credit cards on a single platform digitally.

A first of its kind proposition, this offers a fully digital process that leverages the power of India's public digital infrastructure.

Quick Fact: IndusInd Bank CEO: Sumant Kathpalia; IndusInd Bank Headquarters: Pune; IndusInd Bank Founder: S. P. Hinduja.

2) National News

'Jahan Vote, Wahan Vaccination' Campaign launched by CM of Delhi

Delhi CM launched the campaign with the aim to vaccinate adults above 45 years against COVID-19 in Delhi within the next four weeks.

The booth level officers (BLO) are being trained for this purpose, who would reach every house in the city.

These officials will inform about the slots for vaccination at the nearest booth.

Quick Fact: Delhi CM: Arvind Kejriwal; Delhi Lieutenant Governor: Anil Baijal.

3) India and the World

43rd rank maintained by India on IMD's World Competitiveness Index 2021

India maintained 43rd rank on the Index compiled by IMD which examined COVID-19 impact around the world.

The IMD World Competitiveness Ranking ranked 64 economies and assessed how a country promoted the prosperity of its people.

This was done by measuring economic well-being through hard data and survey responses from executives.

Quick Fact: IMD World Competitiveness Center Director: Arturo Bris.

4) National News

Crash course launched to train one lakh 'Covid warriors' by PM Modi

PM Modi launched a crash course to train more than one lakh 'Covid warriors' to be prepared for the challenges imposed by the pandemic.

The programme is to be carried out from 111 training centres spread across 26 states, where skilled manpower would be critical.

The training will be imparted to Covid warriors in six customised job roles — Home Care, Basic Care, Advanced Care, Emergency Care, Sample Collection, and Medical Equipment Support.

Quick Fact: World's First COVID-19 case: Wuhan, Hubei, China.

5) Finance News

RBI in-principle nod to Centrum for taking over PMC Bank

RBI gave 'in-principle' approval to Centrum Financial Services Ltd (CFSL) to set up a SFB, to take over the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC Bank).

This approval was given to CFSL due to the offer made by them in response to the expression of interest (EoI) to take over PMC Bank.

Both Centrum and BharatPe will hold 50% in the SFB and the assets and liabilities of the multistate cooperative bank will be transferred to it.

Quick Fact: Administrator PMC Bank: AK Dixit; PMC Bank Founded: 1984; PMC Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.

6) Miscellaneous

Snowflake Global Innovation Partner of the Year awarded to LTI

Larsen & Toubro Infotech was recognized as the Global Innovation Partner of the Year by Snowflake, the Data Cloud Company.

LTI received this prestigious recognition during the Snowflake Virtual Partner Summit.

The award represented a key milestone for the strategic partnership between LTI and Snowflake.

Quick Fact: LTI Chairman: A.M. Naik; LTI CEO & MD: Sanjay Jalona; LTI Headquarters: Mumbai, India.

7) Awards

Prestigious UN Award won by Environmental Organisation 'Familial Forestry'

The 2021 Land for Life Award was won by Familial Forestry of Rajasthan, which relates a tree with a family, making it a green 'family member'.

The UNCCD organises this award every two years to recognize excellence and innovation in efforts towards land in balance.

The theme for the 2021 Award was 'Healthy Land, Healthy Lives'.

Quick Fact: UNCCD Location: Paris, France & New York, US; Familial Forestry Founder: Shyam Sunder Jyani from Rajasthan, India.

8) Important Days

National Reading Day observed on June 19

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) celebrates National Reading Day annually on 19 June.

This day is celebrated to honour the father of the 'Library Movement in Kerala', the late P.N. Panicker, whose death anniversary falls on June 19.

On June 19, 2017, PM launched the 22nd National Reading Month calling for unity to 'Read and Grow' among all citizens of the country by 2022.

Quick Fact: The entire month of June is the Reading Month.

22nd June

1) National News

PAN to be declared 'INOPERATIVE' if not linked before 30th June

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) recently extended the deadline to link PAN with Aadhaar number to June 30, 2021.

As per the new Section 234H of the Income-tax Act 1961, the unlinked PAN cards would be declared 'inoperative' with a penalty of Rs 1,000.

A bank account holder who saves above Rs. 10,000 would pay 20% TDS, double of what is levied on bank accounts with a PAN card.

Quick Fact: CBDT Chairperson: Jagannath Bidyadhar Mahapatra (since 1 June, 2021).

2) International News

Iran's new President: Ebrahim Raisi

Ebrahim Raisi won the 2021 Iranian presidential election, winning 62% of the vote with about 90% of ballots counted.

The 60-year-old Raisi will succeed Hassan Rouhani in August 2021, to begin his four-year term.

He is currently the Chief Justice of Iran, since March 2019.

Quick Fact: Iran Capital: Tehran; Iran Currency: Iranian Toman.

3) National News

Bengaluru named as 'most liveable' city in Ease of Living Index

Bengaluru was declared as the most liveable city of India, in the Ease of Living Index 2020.

Bengaluru was followed by Chennai, Shimla, Bhubaneshwar, and Mumbai, as the top five best cities respectively.

The report focused on four parameters: quality of life, economic ability, sustainability and citizens' perceptions.

Quick Fact: CSE Founder: Anil Agarwal; CSE Director-General: Sunita Narain.

4) Miscellaneous

World's Third-Largest Diamond Unearthed in Botswana

A 1,098-carat diamond was discovered in Botswana, by Debswana Diamond Company.

The newly discovered diamond is believed to be the third-largest gem-quality stone ever to be mined in the world.

The stone was presented by Debswana Diamond Company to the President of Botswana, Mokgweetsi Masisi.

Quick Fact: Republic of Botswana Capital: Gaborone; Currency: Pula (BWP).

5) India and the World

India Ranks 120 in Sustainable Development Report 2021

India, with a score of 60.1, was placed at 120th rank out of 165 countries in SDR 2021 released by Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).

Finland topped the Index followed by Sweden & Denmark.

SDR is an annual report which ranks 193 UN member countries based on their performance against 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Quick Fact: SDSN President: Jeffrey Sachs; SDSN Headquarters: Paris, France & New York, USA.

6) Literature

'The Nutmeg's Curse' by Amitav Ghosh launched

Renowned author Amitav Ghosh authored a book titled, 'The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis' published by John Murray.

The book talks about the history of the influence of colonialism on the world today, through the story of the nutmeg.

Some of Ghosh's other notable works include the 'Ibis Trilogy' and 'The Great Derangement' among others.

Quick Fact: Amitav Ghosh's awards: Jnanpith Award, Sahitya Akademi Award, Ananda Puraskar, Dan David Prize, Padma Shri.

7) Important Days

International Day of Yoga observed on June 21

The UN celebrates this day every year to raise awareness of the many benefits of practising yoga, worldwide.

The word 'yoga' derived from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness, originating in India.

The theme for Yoga Day 2021 was 'Yoga for well-being' – how the practice of Yoga can promote the holistic health of every individual.

Quick Fact: 21st June is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and shares a special significance in many parts of the world.

8) Important Days

World Music Day: June 21

World Music day is celebrated to honour amateur and professional musicians.

Over 120 countries celebrate World Music Day by organizing free public concerts in parks, streets, stations, museums and other public places.

This day aims to provide free music to everyone, and also encourage amateur musicians to showcase their work to the world.

Quick Fact: World Music Day was founded in Paris in 1982 by France's Minister of Culture, Jack Lang and Maurice Fleuret, a French composer.

23rd June

1) National News

'MukhyaMantri Udyami Yojana' launched by Bihar government

Bihar CM launched two schemes named 'Mukhya Mantri Yuva Udyaymi Yojna' and 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyami Yojana'.

Both aim to promote entrepreneurship among youth and women under 'Mukhya Mantri Udyami Yojana' scheme.

The schemes were promised by the CM during the 2020 Bihar elections.

Quick Fact: Bihar CM: Nitish Kumar; Governor: Phagu Chauhan.

2) Technology

Airtel & TCS partner for 5G network solutions

Bharti Airtel and Tata Group announced a partnership to implement 5G network solutions in India.

Airtel will pilot and deploy the indigenous solution as part of its 5G rollout plans in India and start the pilot in January 2022.

Tata Group will work with Indian tech companies and start-ups for hardware solutions, Tata 'acting as a super integrator'.

Quick Fact: Bharti Airtel CEO: Gopal Vittal; Bharti Airtel Founder: Sunil Bharti Mittal; Tata Group Chairman: Natarajan Chandrasekara.

3) Finance News

Four-member Takeover Panel reconstituted by SEBI

Markets regulator Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) reconstituted its four-member Takeover Panel.

They inspect the applications seeking exemption from the mandatory open offer that an acquirer needs to make to minority shareholders.

SEBI first constituted this Takeover Panel in November 2007, under the former Bank of Baroda chairman, K Kannan.

Quick Fact: SEBI Founded: 12 April 1992; SEBI Headquarters: Mumbai; SEBI Agency executive: Ajay Tyagi.

4) Finance News

No tax on cash deposits made by housewives during demo 2016

The ITAT, Agra ruled that cash deposits by housewives during demonetization scheme 2016, would not be taxable if below Rs 2.5 lakh.

The Tribunal considered an appeal filed by a housewife who deposited Rs 2,11,500 in the bank account during the demonetization period.

The assessee had collected the above-said sum from money given by her husband, son, relatives for her and her family's future.

Quick Fact: Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) Administration: Ministry of Law and Justice, India.

5) International News

ICC's new chief prosecutor: British lawyer Karim Khan

British lawyer Karim Khan was sworn in as the new chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Court.

He pledged to reach out to nations that are not members of the court and try to hold trials in countries where crimes are committed.

He took over from Fatou Bensouda of the Gambia, whose nine-year term ended.

Quick Fact: ICC Headquarters: The Hague, the Netherlands; ICC Member states: 123; ICC Working languages: English, French.

6) Person in News

'Ambassador of Forest Frontline Heroes' at WWF India: Upasana Kamineni

WWF India inducted Upasana Kamineni, Director, Apollo Hospitals, as 'Ambassador of Forest Frontline Heroes'.

WWF aims to appreciate the efforts of frontline workers in hospitals and in the wildlife protection space.

The focus of this will be on several States across the country covering most eco-regions.

Quick Fact: WWF India Headquarters: New Delhi; WWF India Founded: 1969.

7) Person in News

1st Arunachali Woman to be appointed in AIBA: Tadang Minu

Dr Tadang Minu became 1st in AP and 2nd Indian woman to be appointed as member of the Coaches Committee of the AIBA.

She was appointed by AIBA for her enormous knowledge and experience in the field of boxing.

Dr Tadang is currently the HOD of Physical Education at RGU and chairman of the Boxing Federation of India's Women's Commission.

Quick Fact: AIBA Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland; AIBA President: Dr. Mohamed Moustahsane.

8) Awards

Prestigious European Inventor Award presented to Sumita Mitra

Indian-American chemist Sumita Mitra was honoured with the EIA 2021 in the 'Non-European Patent Office countries' category.

She was the first to have successfully integrated nanotechnology into dental materials to produce stronger and aesthetically pleasing fillings.

The award is presented annually by the European Patent Office (EPO) to recognise outstanding inventors from Europe and beyond.

Quick Fact: EPO Headquarters: Munich, Germany; EPO President: António Campinos.

9) Literature

'The 7 Sins of Being A Mother' by Tahira Kashyap Khurrana

Filmmaker-writer Tahira Kashyap Khurrana announced her upcoming book about motherhood, titled 'The 7 Sins of Being A Mother'.

This is her fifth book and the second she wrote amid the pandemic.

The writer also penned books like Cracking The Code: My Journey in Bollywood and Souled Out.

10) Important Days

World Humanist Day observed on June 21

World Humanist Day is celebrated every year worldwide on the June solstice, which usually falls on June 21.

This day aims to spread awareness of Humanism as a philosophical life stance and means to effect change in the world.

The day has been organised by the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU), since 1980.

Quick Fact: IHEU President: Andrew Copson; IHEU Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.

24th June

1) Finance News

HFCs above Rs 100 cr allowed to use to SARFAESI law by Finance Ministry

The Housing finance companies (HFCs) with asset size of over Rs. 100 crore would be able to recover dues using SARFAESI law.

This move by the Ministry of Finance would facilitate quick recovery of dues and encourage small HFCs to lend more.

SARFAESI Act 2002 financial institutions to auction residential or commercial properties (of Default) to recover loans.

Quick Fact: Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs: Nirmala Sitharaman.

2) National News

Mawya Sudan became 1st woman fighter pilot of IAF from J&K

Flying Officer Mawya Sudan became the first woman from J&K to be inducted as a fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF).

She became the 12th female fighter pilot to be inducted in the IAF.

The 24-year-old Mawya hails from Lamberi village near the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu division.

Quick Fact: IAF Headquarters: Ministry of Defence, New Delhi; Motto: 'Touch the sky with Glory'.

3) Person in News

New director of NIMHANS: Senior psychiatrist Pratima Murthy

Dr Pratima Murthy, head of Department of Psychiatry at NIMHANS, Bengaluru, was appointed as the Director of the Institute.

She was awarded the WHO Regional Director's Special Recognition Award on 'World No Tobacco Day 2021'.

She was appointed by NIMHANS on the approval of the central government as the full-term director of the institute of national importance.

Quick Fact: NIMHANS operates autonomously under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India.

4) Awards

Prestigious CEU Open Society Prize for 2021 presented to KK Shailaja

The Central European University (CEU) Open Society Prize for 2021 was awarded to KK Shailaja, the former Health Minister of Kerala.

This was in recognition of 'her determined leadership and community-based public health work, saving lives during the pandemic'.

This prize is awarded annually to an individual or organisation 'whose achievements have contributed substantially to the creation of an open society'.

Quick Fact: CEU was founded in 1991 by George Soros, a Hungarian-born political activist and billionaire philanthropist.

5) Sports News

New captains of Indian hockey teams: Rani Rampal & Manpreet Singh

Midfielder Manpreet Singh was named captain of the 16-member Olympic-bound Indian men's hockey team.

Rani Rampal was named the captain of the 16-member Olympic-bound Indian Women's Hockey Team, announced Hockey India.

The teams led by both of them made it to the quarterfinals of the FIH Men's and Women's World Cup 2018.

Quick Fact: Hockey India President: Gyanendro Nigombam.

6) Literature

'Habba Khatoon' written by Kajal Suri released by Arvind Gaur

Theatre personality, Arvind Gaur, released the book 'Habba Khatoon' written by Kajal Suri.

The book 'Habba Khatoon' was Published by Sanjana Prakashan.

Habba Khatoon was the wife of Yousuf Shah Chak, the last Emperor of Kashmir.

Quick Fact: Habba Khatoon is also known by the honorary title 'The Nightingale of Kashmir', and was a Kashmiri poet and ascetic.

7) Important Days

International Olympic Day observed on June 23

This day is celebrated to encourage masses to participate, spread awareness, and promote the Olympic Movement.

Based on the three pillars – 'move', 'learn' and 'discover' – the National Olympic Committees are deploying sports, cultural and educational activities.

The Olympic Day 2021 theme was 'Stay healthy, stay strong, stay active with the #OlympicDay workout on 23 June.'

Quick Fact: International Olympic Committee Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland; International Olympic Committee President: Thomas Bach.

25th June

1) National News

Assam hosts world's first-ever genetically modified rubber plant

World's first genetically modified (GM) rubber plant was planted by Rubber Board, at the board's farm in Sarutari near Guwahati.

The GM rubber sapling was developed at the Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII), in Puthuppally, Kottayam, Kerala.

This first of its kind plant was developed exclusively for the northeast so that they can thrive in the climatic conditions of the region.

Quick Fact: Assam Governor: Jagdish Mukhi; Assam CM: Himanta Biswa Sarma.

2) Finance News

Tie-up between SBI General Insurance and IDFC First Bank for bancassurance

SBI General signed a corporate agency agreement with IDFC FIRST Bank for the distribution of non-life insurance solutions.

SBI general insurance will access IDFC first bank's larger customer base resulting in wider penetration of its insurance products online.

Bancassurance will benefit the bank too as it gets a commission amount from the insurance company.

Quick Fact: IDFC First Bank MD & CEO: V. Vaidyanathan; SBI general insurance MD & CEO: Prakash Chandra Kandpal; SBI general insurance Tagline: Suraksha Aur Bharosa Dono.

3) National News

Agricultural Diversification Scheme e- launched by Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani

The 'Agricultural Diversification Scheme-2021' aims to make agriculture sustainable and profitable in the tribal areas of the state.

The scheme will benefit more than 1.26 lakh vanbandhu- farmers from 14 tribal districts in Gujarat.

The state government would distribute fertilizer-seed assistance worth around Rs. 31 crores to tribal farmers.

Quick Fact: Gujarat CM: Vijay Rupani; Gujarat Governor: Acharya Devvrat.

4) International News

Re-elected Armenia Prime Minister: Nikol Pashinyan

Armenia's acting PM, Nikol Pashinyan, kept power in a parliamentary election that boosted his authority.

Nikol's Civil Contract party won 53.92% of the votes whereas his rival's alliance, ex-leader Robert Kocharyan, came second with 21%.

Kocharyan was Armenia's president from 1998 to 2008.

Quick Fact: Capital of Armenia: Yerevan. Currency of Armenia: Armenian dram.

5) Finance News

'Pay Your Contact' service launched by Kotak Mahindra Bank

'Pay Your Contact' is a new feature that enables the customers to send money to any contact across all apps using the beneficiary's mobile number.

The 'Pay Your Contact' feature on Kotak mobile banking app made payments as easy and simple as can be.

Kotak customers can now make their payments to a friend, household help, neighbourhood shop etc. just by knowing the beneficiary's mobile number.

Quick Fact: Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO: Uday Kotak; Kotak Mahindra Bank Tagline: Let's Make Money Simple.

6) Miscellaneous

'Lakshya Tera Samne Hai', India's official Olympic theme song released

Ahead of the Tokyo Games, the official Olympic theme song for the Indian contingent was launched.

Mohit Chauhan composed and sang the song titled 'Lakshya Tera Samne Hai'.

The Games will open on July 23 and over 100 Indian athletes have qualified for the event so far.

Quick Fact: Indian Olympic Association President: Narayana Ramachandran; Indian Olympic Association Founded: 1927.

7) Person in News

New brand ambassador for OnePlus: Jasprit Bumrah

OnePlus welcomed cricketer Jasprit Bumrah as Brand Ambassador for its Wearables category.

The partnership with Bumrah reiterates the brand philosophy of 'Never Settle' and the company's pursuit towards perfection.

The OnePlus Wearable category includes the OnePlus Watch that offers premium design, smart fitness tracking and an incredible battery life.

Quick Fact: Jasprit Bumrah Indian Cricket team role: Bowler.

8) Literature

'Will': Autobiography of Actor Will Smith

Actor Will Smith revealed the title and cover of his upcoming autobiography 'Will', to be published on November 9 by Penguin Press.

Will Smith is co-writing the book with author Mark Manson, and the cover is designed by New Orleans artist Brandan 'BMike' Odums.

The book will delve into him being raised in West Philadelphia to entering superstardom as an actor and rapper.

Quick Fact: Will Smith is a two-time Academy Award nominee and a four-time Grammy winner.

26th June

1) India and the World

USD 32 million loan for Mizoram signed by India and World Bank

GOI, along with Mizoram Government, signed an agreement worth \$32 million with World Bank for Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project.

The project aims to improve management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram, with a focus on vulnerable groups.

The Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project will benefit the people across all eight districts of the state.

Quick Fact: World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., US; World Bank President: David Malpass; CM of Mizoram: Pu Zoramthanga; Governor: P.S. Sreedharan Pillai.

2) Finance News

Aarogyam healthcare business loan launched by SBI

SBI launched the Aarogyam healthcare business loan to provide enhanced support to the healthcare sector amidst COVID-19.

Under this new product, the entire healthcare ecosystem would be able to avail loans up to Rs 100 crore, repayable in 10 years.

In metro centres, loans can be availed up to Rs 100 crore, Tier I & Urban centres up to Rs 20 crore and Tier II to Tier VI centres up to Rs 10 crore.

Quick Fact: SBI Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara; SBI Headquarters: Mumbai; SBI Founded: 1 July 1955.

3) International News

UN body endorses ISRO, NOAA-led multinational project

The UN body endorsed 'Committee on Earth Observation Satellites Coastal Observations, Applications, Services, and Tools (CEOS COAST)'.

The CEOS COAST programme will be co-led by ISRO and NOAA from the US.

This programme aims to improve the accuracy of coastal data on the basis of satellite and land-based observations.

Quick Fact: NOAA stands for 'National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration'.

4) Finance News

Fabindia SBI Card to be launched by SBI Card in partnership with Fabindia

SBI Card and Fabindia joined hands to launch an exclusive co-branded contactless credit card named 'Fabindia SBI Card'.

The card is designed with curated benefits and privileges to offer a rewarding shopping experience to its premium customers.

The Fabindia SBI Card bolsters their premium portfolio and enables the customers to contribute to the digital economy of India.

Quick Fact: SBI Card MD and CEO: Rama Mohan Rao Amara; SBI Card Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana.

5) Awards

Cochin International Airport honoured in airport service quality

Cochin International Airport (CIAL) won Airport Council International (ACI) Director General's Roll of Excellence honour in Airport Service Quality.

This recognition is awarded to those airports which, in the opinion of passengers, consistently delivered excellent services.

CIAL has consistently delivered excellence in customer service by winning multiple awards for five years in the past 10 years.

Quick Fact: ACI Headquarters: Montreal, Canada; ACI Founded: 1991.

6) Literature

'It's a wonderful Life' by Ruskin Bond

Indian British author, Ruskin Bond, authored a new book titled 'It's a Wonderful Life' published by Aleph Book Company.

The book is written in a perceptive, uplifting, deeply moving, and non-fictional way.

His First Novel was the Room on the Roof.

Quick Fact: Ruskin Bond's awards: Sahitya Akademi Award, Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan.

7) Important Days

Day of the Seafarer observed on June 25

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) celebrates this day to pay respect to sailors who help conduct sea transport.

The theme of the 2021 campaign was 'Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future'.

The day was proposed by the IMO in 2010 to celebrate the contribution of the seafarers to the world economy and civil society.

Quick Fact: 2021 marks the 11th anniversary of DoS.

28th June

1) National News

Mukhyamantri Covid-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana by Delhi Government

The Delhi government launched the scheme to provide financial assistance to families who lost a member due to Covid-19.

The Social Welfare Department notified that Rs 50,000 ex-gratia would be provided to every family that lost a member to Covid.

Children who lost both parents or single parent would be given ₹2,500 per month along with free education until 25 years of age.

Quick Fact: Delhi CM: Arvind Kejriwal; Lieutenant Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal.

2) India and the World

Tax Inspectors Without Borders Initiative jointly launched by India and Bhutan

India and Bhutan jointly launched the 'Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB)' for strengthening the tax administration of Bhutan.

This programme is another milestone in the relationship between India and Bhutan and will be completed in 24 months duration.

The TIWB initiative was launched in 2015 with the aim to strengthen developing countries' auditing capacity.

Quick Fact: Bhutan Capital: Thimphu; Bhutan PM: Lotay Tshering; Bhutan Currency: Bhutanese ngultrum.

3) Finance News

Technology Platform 'e-PGS' introduced by LIC

LIC launched a centralized web-based workflow-based IT platform called 'e-PGS'.

This platform was designed to provide a centralized collection and payment accounting with a high level of bank integration.

The system would provide self-servicing capabilities through the customer portal where corporate customers would be able to access all data.

Quick Fact: Chairman of LIC: MR Kumar; LIC Headquarters: Mumbai; LIC Founded: 1 September 1956.

4) National News

‘Digital Skill Champions Program’ launched by NSDC and WhatsApp

The National Skill Development Corporation and WhatsApp announced an alliance to launch the Digital Skill Champions Program.

This program aims to train India’s youth on digital skills, in order to make them employment ready.

Students would be coached to imbibe digital skills with WhatsApp and NSDC awarding ‘Digital Skill Champions’ certificate to them.

Quick Fact: WhatsApp Founded: 2009; WhatsApp CEO: Will Cathcart; WhatsApp Headquarters: Menlo Park, California, US; WhatsApp Founders: Jan Koum, Brian Acton; WhatsApp Parent organization: Facebook.

5) Technology

‘Windows 11’ officially launched by Microsoft

Microsoft officially launched the new Windows operating system ‘Windows 11’, called the ‘next generation’ of Windows.

The release came nearly six years after the current latest Windows Operating System ‘Windows 10’, launched in July 2015.

Windows 11 focuses on a new user interface, a new Windows Store, and includes a centre-aligned Taskbar and Start button.

Quick Fact: Microsoft CEO and Chairman: Satya Nadella; Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States.

6) Technology

Likely Collaboration between Jio and Google Cloud on 5G Technology

Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited and Google Cloud are embarking on a long-term relationship with a goal of powering 5G.

Reliance would also take advantage of Google Cloud's scalable infrastructure, enabling its retail business to achieve better customer experience.

Jio will also adopt Google Cloud's scalable, serverless data analytics platform to advance its data-led innovation strategy.

Quick Fact: Reliance Jio President Infocomm: Mathew Oommen; Reliance Jio Founder: Mukesh Ambani; Google CEO: Sundar Pichai; Google Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin.

7) Awards

Full list of Smart Cities Awards 2020 winners released by Centre

The Central government declared Smart City awards 2020 in which Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Surat (Gujarat) won the award jointly.

Whereas Uttar Pradesh emerged on the top among all states, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu under the Smart City award, 2020.

According to the ministry, Ahmedabad bagged the 'Smart Cities Leadership Award', followed by Varanasi and Ranchi in the second and third spots respectively.

Quick Fact: Smart Cities Mission launched: 2015; Key Person: PM Narendra Modi; Ministry: Ministry of Urban Development.

8) Important Days

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking: June 26

The day is observed by the UN as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve a society free of drug abuse.

The theme of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2021 was 'Share Facts On Drugs, Save Lives'.

On 7 December 1987, the UN General Assembly decided to observe 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Quick Fact: UN Office on Drugs and Crime Headquarters: Vienna, Austria; UN Office on Drugs and Crime Founded: 1997.

29th June

1) India and the World

USD125 million financial support approved by World Bank for Kerala

The World Bank Board approved a \$125 million support for the 'Resilient Kerala Program' to help in preparedness against calamities.

This loan from the IBRD has a final maturity of 14 years including a grace period of six years.

The Program would focus on two key areas - incorporating disaster risk planning; and help to make the state more resilient to calamities.

Quick Fact: Kerala CM: Pinarayi Vijayan; Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan; World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., US; World Bank President: David Malpass.

2) National News

MoU between JSCA & SAIL-BSL for International Cricket Stadium in Bokaro

Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) inked a MoU with SAIL Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL), for construction of an International Cricket Stadium in Bokaro city.

Bokaro will become the third city in Jharkhand to have an International Cricket Stadium after Jamshedpur and Ranchi.

The proposed stadium will also be the first stadium to be constructed in SAIL township.

Quick Fact: Jharkhand CM: Hemant Soren; Governor: Shrimati Droupadi Murmu.

3) Miscellaneous

Encrypted Messaging App Wickr acquired by Amazon's AWS

Amazon acquired an American instant messaging app 'Wickr' to offer secure communications for people moving to hybrid work environments.

Wickr offers the most secure, end-to-end encrypted, communication technology that is not available with traditional communications services.

Wickr is an encrypted messaging service, founded in 2012, and primarily used by government agencies in the US.

Quick Fact: Amazon CEO: Jeff Bezos (May 1996–5 Jul 2021); Amazon Founded: 5 July 1994.

4) National News

First Rabies-Free state: Goa

CM Dr. Pramod Sawant announced that Goa became the first state in the country to be Rabies free.

The team of mission rabies were conducting vaccination for dogs and no rabies cases have been reported in the state since 2018.

The progress with Mission Rabies, a statewide drive in place since 2014 which saw almost one lakh dogs given the anti-rabies vaccine yearly.

Quick Fact: Goa Capital: Panaji; Governor of Goa: Bhagat Singh Koshyari; Goa CM: Pramod Sawant.

5) Person in News

Vigilance Commissioner Suresh N Patel appointed as acting CVC

The incumbent Vigilance Commissioner, Suresh N Patel, was appointed as the acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) of India.

He was appointed in place of Sanjay Kothari, who completed term on June 23, and will remain on the post until the appointment of a new commissioner.

The Central Vigilance Commission is headed by the CVC and can have a maximum of two vigilance commissioners.

Quick Fact: Central Vigilance Commission Formed: February 1964; Central Vigilance Commission Headquarters: New Delhi.

6) Person in News

Highest civilian award of Mongolia presented to RK Sabharwal

Engineers India Limited (EIL) CMD, RK Sabharwal was honoured with 'The Order of Polar Star' by his excellency.

The President of Mongolia recognised his contribution towards the establishment of the first-ever oil refinery in Mongolia.

The 'Order of Polar Star' is highly valuable and distinguished and recognises individuals who have made an invaluable contribution.

Quick Fact: Mongolia Capital: Ulaanbaatar; Mongolia Currency: Mongolian Tugrik; Mongolia President: Ukhnaa Khurelsukh.

7) Awards

Top Spanish award won by French non-fiction author Emmanuel Carrère

French author Emmanuel Carrère was granted Spanish Princess of Asturias Literature Award, 2021.

The 50000-euro award is one of the 8 prestigious prizes by the foundation named after the heir to the Spanish throne, Princess Leonor.

The 8 prizes cover different disciplines-arts, social sciences, sports etc.

Quick Fact: Emmanuel Carrère notable awards: Prix Renaudot; Prix Femina; Grand Prix de littérature Henri Gal de l'Académie française; Princess of Asturias Award.

8) Important Days

MSME Day: 27 June

The UN Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day has been held since 2017 to celebrate the work of MSME in local and global economies.

The day also recognises the contribution of these industries in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2021, the theme was 'MSME 2021: key to an inclusive and sustainable recovery.'

30th June

1) National News

'Agni P' Ballistic Missile successfully flight-tests by DRDO off Odisha Coast

The DRDO successfully flight-tested the Ballistic Missile 'Agni P (Prime)' from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha, Balasore.

Agni P (Prime) is a new-generation advanced variant from the Agni class of missiles.

It is a canisterised surface-to-surface ballistic missile having a range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 km.

Quick Fact: Odisha CM: Naveen Patnaik; DRDO Minister: Rajnath Singh, Minister of Defence; DRDO Chairman: Dr G. Satheesh Reddy.

2) National News

Newly appointed Special Director of CBI: Praveen Sinha

The ACC 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.

The post was vacant for the last three years and was earlier held by Rakesh Asthana.

Quick Fact: Central Bureau of Investigation Headquarters: New Delhi; Central Bureau of Investigation Founded: 1 April 1963.

3) International News

'Sea Breeze drills' launched by Ukraine and United States

Ukraine and the US launched joint naval exercises in the Black Sea in a show of Western cooperation for a face off with Russia.

The drills came days after the British Royal Navy's HMS Defender passed near Russian-annexed Crimea in the Black Sea.

The Sea Breeze drills will involve 5,000 military personnel from 30 countries, lasting two weeks and involving 30 ships, including missile destroyer USS Ross.

Quick Fact: Ukraine President: Volodymyr Zelensky; Ukraine Capital: Kyiv; Ukraine Currency: Ukrainian hryvnia; US Capital: Washington, D.C.; US President: Joe Biden; US Currency: United States Dollar.

4) Person in News

California-based Jeremy Kessel appointed as GO for India by Twitter

Twitter announced the appointment of California-based Jeremy Kessel as the new Grievance Officer for India.

Kessel is the Global Legal Policy Director of Twitter.

The appointment of Kessel is not in line with new IT rules guidelines, which state that the grievance redressal officer should be a resident of India.

Quick Fact: Twitter CEO: Jack Dorsey; Twitter founded: 21 March 2006; Twitter Headquarters: San Francisco, California, US.

5) International News

Joint military drills by Turkey & Azerbaijan in Baku

Turkey and Azerbaijan began joint military drills 'Mustafa Kemal Ataturk – 2021' in Baku, deploying tanks, helicopters and drones.

The exercises involve up to 600 personnel in an effort to improve the allies' combat interoperability.

The main aim of the exercises is to improve the interaction between the two countries' army units during combat operations.

Quick Fact: Turkey President: Recep Tayyip Erdogan; Turkey Capital: Ankara; Turkey Currency: Turkish lira; Azerbaijan Capital: Baku; Azerbaijan PM: Ali Asadov; Azerbaijan President: Ilham Aliyev; Azerbaijan Currency: Azerbaijani manat.

6) Person in News

Manesh Mahatme appointed as Head of Payments in India by WhatsApp

WhatsApp appointed former Amazon executive Manesh Mahatme as director to lead the growth of its payments business in India.

Mahatme will focus on enhancing the payments experience for users.

The enhancement will scale the service and work towards the messaging app's vision of digital and financial inclusion in India.

Quick Fact: WhatsApp Founded: 2009; WhatsApp CEO: Will Cathcart; WhatsApp Headquarters: Menlo Park, California, US; WhatsApp Founders: Jan Koum, Brian Acton; WhatsApp Parent organization: Facebook.

7) Literature

‘Policymaker’s Journal: From New Delhi to Washington, DC’ by Kaushik Basu

A book titled ‘Policymaker’s Journal: From New Delhi to Washington, DC’ authored by Kaushik Basu would be released soon.

This book mentions Basu’s career over seven years, as he moved out of the cloisters of academe to the frenetic world of policymaking.

Kaushik Basu is an Indian economist who was the Chief Economist of the World Bank from 2012 to 2016.

Quick Fact: From 2009 to 2012, during the UPA government’s 2nd term, Basu served as the Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India.

8) Important Days

National Statistics day: June 29

The government of India celebrates National Statistics day on 29th June on the birth anniversary of Prof. P C Mahalanobis.

This day aims to create awareness among youth about the role of statistics in socio-economic planning and policy formulation.

The theme of National Statistics Day 2021 was ‘End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture (Sustainable Development Goal or SDG 2 of the UN)’.

Quick Fact: Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis is the father of Indian Statistics and has won Padma Vibhushan (1968), Weldon Memorial Prize from the University of Oxford (1944) and Fellow of the Royal Society, London(1945).