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MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

JUNE-2021 COVERAGE



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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (**IFFCO**) has introduced the **world's first Nano Urea Liquid** for farmers during its 50th annual general body virtual meeting.
 - The production of Nano Urea Liquid will commence by June 2021.
2. The **Common Services Centres (CSC) E-Governance India Ltd** has unveiled a unique **Agri Services Portal** that will act as a one-stop destination and **marketplace for small farmers**.
 - To empower small and marginal farmers, who constitute 86 per cent of India's farming community.
 - The portal "www.cscagri.in" will provide services to Small and marginal farmers, who do not have easy access to the digital world can avail essential agri services.
3. **The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has sanctioned a **Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of Rs 254 crore** for setting up two mega piped drinking water supply projects in **Odisha**.
4. **NTPC** Limited, India's leading power utility under the Ministry of Power has signed **CEO Water Mandate** with **UN Global Compact**, an initiative to mobilize business leaders on water security and sanitation as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.
5. The National Medicinal Plant Board (**NMPB**) and the National Botanical Research Institute (**CSIR-NBRI**) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the promotion of **cultivation and production of medicinal plants and herbs in India**.
6. **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)**, India's premier hydropower company under Ministry of Power along with **Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Ltd (JKSPDC)** has formed a joint venture company, "Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited" for the implementation of **850 MW Ratle Hydroelectric Project** in Jammu and Kashmir(J&K).
7. On Occasion of the **World Oceans Day (June 8)**, Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Prakash Javadekar launched a **2-month Awareness Campaign on Single-Use Plastic (SUP) & India Plastic Challenge – Hackathon 2021**.
 - In 2019, Government of India had set a target of **phasing-out SUP in India by 2022**.

8. The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has established the Koita Centre for Digital Health, **India's first of its kind Center for Digital Health** with the contribution from the **Koita Foundation**.
- KCDH will collaborate with government organisations, healthcare technology companies and Healthcare NGOs.
9. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar (Punjab) developed a device named "**Jivan Vayu**", **India's first** Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (**CPAP**) device that can function without electricity.
- Jivan Vayu can be used as a substitute for the CPAP machine.
10. The Ministry of Home (MHA) operationalised the national helpline **155260** and reporting platform via **Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System** for preventing financial loss of individuals due to cyber fraud.
- These have been made operational by the **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)** under MHA, in cooperation from the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**), all major banks, payment banks, wallets and online merchants.
11. **Andhra Pradesh** has generated the highest employment in India under the **IBPS Scheme (India Business Process Outsourcing Promotion Scheme)** by creating 12, 234 new jobs.
- Tamil Nadu came 2nd by creating 9, 401 jobs, while the remaining jobs were spread across Punjab, Odisha, Maharashtra and others.
 - **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh** received the distinction for providing employment to a large number of youth under the IBPS scheme.
 - The scheme has generated direct employment for more than 40, 000 people residing in Tier-II and Tier-III cities, out of which 38% are women.
 - The IBPS scheme was launched in 2014 under **Digital India Programme** to incentivize establishment of 48, 300 seats under BPO/ITES (Business Process Outsource/Information Technology Enabled Services) operations across India.
 - It aims to create employment opportunities for the youth, by promoting the IT/ITES industry.
12. The Department of Biotechnology (**DBT**) under the Ministry of Science and Technology has issued a Special Call to Farmers of North East Region (**NER**) under its Mission Programme '**Biotech-Krishi Innovation Science Application Network (Biotech-KISAN)**'.

- The objective is to understand the local problems of NER farmers and provide scientific solutions to solve them.
13. Union Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman announced an '**Economic Relief from Pandemic**' stimulus package worth **INR 6,28,993 crore** to support the Indian Economy during the fight against COVID-19 pandemic.
- A total of 17 measures were announced.
 - They can be classified into 3 broad categories – Economic Relief from Pandemic, Strengthening Public Health & Impetus for Growth & Employment.



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STATES AFFAIRS

14. Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister of **Goa** has launched a solar based **Electrification Programme** to provide clean affordable and reliable energy for the rural households of Goa.
15. Punjab Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh approved to create a special purpose vehicle (**SPV**) – **Punjab Rural Water (Utility) Company** for the operation and maintenance of multi village surface water supply schemes across Punjab.
16. **Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur**, launched the **YounTab scheme for students**. Under the scheme, about 12,300 tablets were distributed to government school students virtually in Leh.
17. **Haryana** Chief Minister launched '**Pran Vayu Devta Pension Scheme**', which is the 1st of its kind initiative in India and Oxy Van (Oxygen Forests) initiative.
18. **Gujarat** Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** launched '**e-Nirman**' portal and its mobile App for **Unorganised Sector Workers**.
19. A 3-day long annual festival welcoming the agricultural year in **Odisha** namely 'Raja Parba' aka '**Mithuna Sankranti**' is being celebrated in the state from June 14, 2021 to June 16, 2021.
20. **Telangana** Artificial Intelligence Mission (**T-AIM**) launched an accelerator programme named '**Rev Up**' to empower Artificial Intelligence (**AI**) startups.

21. **Bihar** Chief Minister Nitish Kumar virtually launched 2 new schemes namely 'Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyami Yojana (MMUY)' & 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Yojana (MYUY)' to promote entrepreneurship among women and youth of all sections.
22. **Odisha** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched a scheme named '**Ashirbad**' on Father's Day (June 20, 2021) to provide monthly financial support to all **orphan children** who have lost one or both their parents during COVID-19 from April 2020.
23. Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister of **West Bengal (WB)** relaunched the revised "**Krishak Bandhu**" scheme, a financial scheme for the farmers of West Bengal.
24. **Gujarat** Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** e-launched the **Agricultural Diversification Scheme-2021** to benefit more than 1.26 lakh vanbandhu-farmers from 14 tribal districts of the state.
25. **Tamil Nadu** government has constituted an "**Economic advisory council to the chief minister**". Its members include:
- *Esther Duflo – Nobel laureate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the USA*
 - *Raghuram Rajan – Former Reserve Bank of India governor*
 - *Arvind Subramanian – Former chief economic advisor to central government*
 - *Jean Dreze – Development economist and*
 - *S Narayan – Former Union finance secretary.*
26. In June 2021, the government of **Odisha** and the United Nations World Food Programme (**UN WFP**) made a partnership to **improve the household food and nutritional security in Odisha** by strengthening the livelihood initiatives and working with thousands of state-supported Women's Self-Help Groups (**WSHGs**).
27. **Goa** Chief Minister Pramod Sawant announced that **Goa became the First Rabies-Free State** in India as it has not reported a single rabies case in the last three years.
28. The two days grand **Hemis festival** was celebrated by the people of **Ladakh** and the Tibetan community on 20th and 21st of June 2021. It is celebrated at the sweeping courtyard of Hemis monastery, Ladakh.
29. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (**IBRD**), the lending arm of **World Bank Group**, had sanctioned a fund of **Rs 1,860 crore** to **Andhra Pradesh** for supporting the implementation of the '**Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation**' (**SALT**) programme.

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

30. 74th session of the **World Health Assembly (WHA)** of World Health Organization (WHO) held virtually from **Geneva**, Switzerland amid COVID-19.
- The theme of the 74th WHA is "**Ending this pandemic, preventing the next: building together a healthier, safer and fairer world**".
 - Mrs. Dechen Wangmo, **Health Minister of Bhutan** has been elected as the President of the 74th WHA.
31. The World Health Organisation (**WHO**) has named the **B.1.617.1** and **B.1.617.2** variants of COVID-19 that were first identified in India as '**Kappa**' and '**Delta**' respectively.
32. On 3rd June, China National Space Administration (**CNSA**) successfully launched "**Fengyun-4B**" (**FY-4B**) Meteorological satellite to Earth's Geostationary Orbit.
- FY-4B is the **1st of China's New-Generation Meteorological Satellites**, which has an improved measurement resolution of **250 meters** to scan Earth.
33. **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** plans to implement two new missions **DAVINCI+ and VERITAS to Venus**, Earth's nearest also called sister planet.
- NASA will spend \$500 million for each mission. Both missions will be expected to launch between 2028-2030.
34. **Chile** hosts the most important **Clean Energy and Innovation Summit** of the year: 12th Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM 12) 2021 and 6th Mission Innovation Ministerial (MI-6) virtually from May 31-June 6, 2021.
- **Theme** – 'Ambition into Action – Turning a Year of Ambition into a Decade of Delivery'.
 - CEM is a **high-level global forum** that helps in **promoting policies and programs** which advance clean energy technology.
 - It provides a platform for all to demonstrate clean energy leadership to a global audience.

35. The **8th** triennial conference of the **International Nitrogen Initiative (INI)** held virtually from May 31-June 3, 2021, with a main focus on the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Germany's Federal Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt–UBA) hosted the conference for the 1st time since its inception.
 - UN Environment Programme, UN Food and Agriculture Organization and UN Economic Commission on Europe, also addressed the conference.
36. **Pakistan was retained on “enhanced follow-up” status** for sufficient outstanding requirements by the **Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG)**, a regional affiliate of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- The country's rating was improved on 21 of the 40 technical recommendations of the global watchdog against money laundering and terror financing
37. **INTERPOL**, The International Criminal Police Organization, has launched a new global database named **“I-Familia”** to identify missing persons through family DNA.
- The I-Familia will support the police to solve the cold cases of the member countries.
38. India along with 17 other countries has been elected to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the **2022-24 term** beginning on January 1, 2022.
- India was elected in the **Asia-Pacific States Category** along with Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Oman.
 - ECOSOC is one of the 6 main organs of the UN.
 - It is the coordinating body for the economic and social work of UN agencies and funds
 - ECOSOC's 54 members are elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly.

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39. **G7** nations' Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting held in **London**, chaired by the **British finance minister, Rishi Sunak**, made an agreement to introduce a global minimum corporate tax rate of at least **15 percent** for multinational companies (MNCs).

- The G7 nations include the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada. The meet was held in Cornwall, southwest England.
 - **Objective:** To overcome the cross-border tax loopholes used by some of the world's biggest MNCs like Apple, Google and Amazon.
40. Maldives' Foreign Minister **Abdulla Shahid** elected as President of the **76th** session of the United Nations **(UN) General Assembly**.
- The 193-member General Assembly voted on June 07, 2021, to elect the President, who will preside over the 76th session of the UN body that will start in September 2021.
 - Turkish **Volkan Bozkır** is the president of the **75th** session of the UN General Assembly.
41. China's '**Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST)**' project or known as '**Artificial Sun**' set a new record by running at **216 million degrees Fahrenheit or 120 million degrees Celsius** for 101 seconds.
- For another 20 seconds, the 'artificial sun' also achieved a peak temperature of 288 million degrees Fahrenheit (160 million degrees Celsius), which is over 10 times hotter than the sun.
42. **Assimi Goita**, the transitional president of Mali named **Choguel Kokalla Maïga**, as the transitional Prime Minister **(PM)** of Mali.
43. The 1st Edition of the **Arab-India Energy Forum (AIEF)** was held virtually from June 8-9, 2021.
- It was held under the **co-chairship of India and the Kingdom of Morocco**.
44. **El Salvador has become the first country in the world** to grant **legal tender status to bitcoin**. The use of bitcoin as a legal tender will become law in 90 days.
- The use of bitcoin will be totally optional.
 - According to World Bank data, remittances from bitcoin to El Salvador account for \$6 billion in 2019. It is around a fifth of GDP in 2019 & a highest ratio across the world.
45. Former **Mongolian** Prime Minister **Ukhnaa Khurelsukh** has become the 6th democratically elected **President of Mongolia**.
46. The **31st Edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) (Bi-Annual)** between the Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy was conducted from June 9-11, 2021 in the Andaman Sea.
- From the Indian side, **INS Saryu**, an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) took part in the exercise.

- From Thailand's side, **His Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) Krabi**, an OPV took part in the exercise. Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies took part in the exercise.
47. **China** launched 4 satellites into planned orbits aboard the **Long March-2D rocket** from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Northern Shanxi Province.
- The satellites will be used for ecological environment monitoring, asteroid resource exploration, disaster prevention and mitigation among others.
 - The 4 satellites are Beijing-3 (BJ-3), HISEA-2 (HS-2), Yangwang-1 (YW-1) and Tianjin (TJ).
48. The **47th G7 Leaders' Summit 2021** (Outreach Session of the G7 meeting) took place in a Hybrid format from June 11-13, 2021 at Cornwall, United Kingdom (UK).
- It was **hosted by the United Kingdom (UK)** as it holds the Presidency of G7 for 2021. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually participated in the meeting.
 - Theme for the Summit – '**Building Back Better**'.
 - The UK invited Australia, India, South Korea and South Africa (jointly called 'Democracy 11') as Guest Countries to the 2021 summit.
 - The 47th G7 Leaders' Summit has been called as the **1st ever net-zero G7** as all have committed to reach net zero emissions by 2050.
49. **Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** were elected by the 75th session of the General Assembly as the non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (**UNSC**) for the **2022-23** term.
- The elected 5 non-permanent members will take their seats on the 15-member body of the UNSC.
50. To address the problem of foodborne illnesses worldwide, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** launched a handbook titled '**Estimating the burden of foodborne diseases: A practical handbook for countries**'.
- It is prepared by WHO Team of **Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference** Group (FERG), **Multisectoral Action in Food Systems**, and **Nutrition and Food Safety**.
51. **European Space Agency (ESA)** has announced the launching of its probe called '**EnVision**' to study **Venus**.
- It will probably be launched in early **2030**.

52. **China** is all set to blast off its **first human spaceflight** namely '**Shenzhou-12**' which means 'Divine Vessel'.
- It will be launched from Gobi Desert on a Long March rocket in the coming days with **three men** onboard.
53. In an introductory move, the **European Space Agency (ESA)** will launch the world's first wooden satellite, **WISA Woodsat**, designed and built in **Finland**, on Earth's orbit by the end of 2021.
- It will be launched on a Rocket Lab's **Electron rocket** from the Mahia Peninsula launch complex in **New Zealand**.
54. 31st North Atlantic Treaty Organization (**NATO**) summit happened at **Brussels** in **Belgium**, the leaders of NATO's 30 member countries were participated in the summit.
55. In the face of two crises COVID-19 and climate change, **The World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF)** have launched a "**High-Level Advisory Group (HLAG) on Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery and Growth**".
- The HLAG will be jointly led by
 - **Mari Pangestu**, Managing Director for Development Policy and Partnerships, World Bank
 - Ceyla Pazarbasioglu, Director, Strategy, Policy and Review Department, IMF
 - Lord Nicholas Stern of the London School of Economics
56. The Union Minister of State, **Santosh Gangwar, Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoL&E)** signed a Statement of Intent with the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** to provide a platform for cooperation between them to implement solutions to tackle the employment and skilling challenges for adolescents and youth in India.
- **Focus:** Vulnerable population including – young people with special needs, youth leaving care institutions, migrant youth, victims of child labour, violence, child marriage and trafficking, etc.
57. According to '**Annual Bank Statistics of 2020**' released by Swiss National Bank (SNB), the Central Bank of Switzerland – India with **Swiss Francs (CHF) 2.55 billion** has been placed at **51st place** in the list of foreign clients' money in Swiss Banks during 2020.
- The United Kingdom (UK) topped the list with CHF 377 billion, followed by US (152 billion).
58. **India & Bhutan** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for developing cooperation between the two countries in the area of **environment**.

- It will also enable bilateral cooperation in the **area of climate change, waste management etc.**

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59. The United States Department of Energy (DoE), the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, Government of India, and the US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) jointly launched the **US-India Hydrogen Task Force**, under the US-India Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP).
60. **Indian Navy** and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force conducted a joint naval exercise at the Indian Ocean under the motive '**Free and Open Indo-Pacific**'.
- The Indian side was represented by INS (Indian Naval Ship) **Kulish** (P63) while JS (Japanese Ship) **Kashima** (TV3508) and JS **Setoyuki** (TV3518) participated from the Japanese side.
61. Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare **Narendra Singh Tomar** addressed the **42nd session** of Food and Agriculture Organization's (**FAO**) Conference which took place virtually from June 14-18, 2021.
- All the 193 members of the FAO plus the European Union endorsed the new **Strategic Framework 2022-2031** which will support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
 - The conference elected Ambassador **Hans Hoogeveen**, the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to UN Organizations in Rome, as the **new Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC)** for the next two years (2021-23).
62. The inauguration edition of the Joint Naval Exercise between **Indian Navy & European Union Naval Force Somalia (EU NAVFOR also known as Operation Atalanta)** took place at Gulf of Aden from June 18-19, 2021.
63. **India and Fiji** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the **field of Agriculture and allied sectors** during a virtual meeting.
- This MoU will be executed by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) from Indian side and the Ministry of Agriculture of Fiji.
64. **India, Italy & Japan** launched a **Trilateral partnership** to establish stability and a govern-based global order based on approval of all in the **Indo-Pacific region**.

- Experts from the 3 nations discussed various things like security issues, collaboration with third world countries, multilateralism and the socio-economic dimension.
65. **India** has agreed to host the 9th **Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9) 2022** after a virtual meeting between **International Energy Forum (IEF)** Secretary-General Joseph McMonigle and India's Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.
66. **India hosted the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa) Green Hydrogen Summit 2021** which took place virtually from June 22-23, 2021.
- The event was anchored by NTPC Ltd, a Maharatna CPSU (Central Public Sector Undertaking) under the Ministry of Power.
67. As per the Central government data, **China** replaced the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** as the **2nd largest** export destination for India in **FY21**.
- The **United States** (US) remained as India's top export partner.
 - China's share in India's export rose to **7.29 percent** in FY21 from 5.3 percent of FY20 (Whereas the imports from China declined marginally in FY21).
 - Iron ore, organic chemicals, and petroleum were the top exports to China in FY21.
68. Pakistan has been retained on the '**Grey List**' or **list of countries under 'increased monitoring'** by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a global terror financing watchdog.
- It has been retained due to its inability to prosecute the top leadership of UN Security Council-designated Terror groups.
 - FATF also placed **Malta**, a member of European Union, on the 'Grey List' along with countries like Haiti, Philippines and South Sudan.
 - FATF confirmed in its update that as of 25 June 2021, **Ghana** had been removed from the FATF List of Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring (Grey list).
 - It was announced during the 4th Plenary session of FATF held under the German Presidency of Dr. Marcus Pleyer from June 21-25, 2021.
69. On June 28, 2021, China launched two units of its world's largest **Baihetan hydropower station** worth USD 34 billion.
- The units, currently under construction, are located on the Jinsha River, the upper section of the Yangtze River, and straddle the southwestern provinces of Yunnan and Sichuan.

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REPORTS & INDICES

70. The **Controller General of Accounts' (CGA)** revenue-expenditure data of the Union government for FY21 reported India's **fiscal deficit** for FY21 at **9.3 percent** / Rs 18.21 lakh crore of the gross domestic product (GDP), which is about Rs 27,194 crore lower than the Finance Ministry's revised estimation(RE) of **9.5 percent**.
71. On June 03,2021, **NITI Aayog** (National Institution for Transforming India) released the **3rd** edition of **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)** India Index and dashboard for 2020–21 in New Delhi.
- Report Title: '**SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21: Partnerships in the Decade of Action**'.
 - The index was launched by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman **Rajiv Kumar** along with other members.
 - **State wise Top Rank: Kerala** has retained its rank as the top state with a score of 75 and Bihar has been adjudged as the worst performer.
 - **Union Territories (UTs) wise Top Rank: Chandigarh** topped among the **UTs**, followed by Delhi, Puducherry. Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu has been adjudged as the worst performer.
72. **Manama**, the Capital city of Bahrain topped the **AIRINC Global 150 Cities Index for Financial Attractiveness ranking** for the 3rd consecutive time.
- Indian Cities of **New Delhi & Mumbai** were the only two to be listed in the Index.
73. **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** released a report titled "**World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2021(WESO Trends 2021)**" stating **global unemployment rate will be 5.7% in 2022**, 6.3% in 2021 & there will no recovery in global jobs until 2023.
74. According to the "**Scientific review of the impact of climate change on plant pests**" report of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (**FAO**), globally around **40% of agricultural produce** is damaged due to invasive pests every year.

75. Food and Agriculture Organization (**FAO**) and UN Environment Programme's (**UNEP**) has released a report titled, "**Becoming #GenerationRestoration Ecosystem Restoration for People, Nature & Climate**".
- The report states, to avoid biodiversity loss, land equivalent to **size of china** or **one billion hectares** of degraded land should be restored by **2030**.
76. According to the **Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2019-20** for States & UTs released by Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education, the states of **Punjab, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands (A&N Islands) and Kerala** occupied the highest grade (Grade I++) for 2019-20 (i.e Scores are between 901-950).
- **Performance Grading Index** measures the progress made by States/UTs with regard to **school education** such as learning outcomes, access and equity, infrastructure and facilities, and governance and management processes. For this, it uses around **70 Indicators**.
 - The PGI 2019-20 is the **3rd edition of the report**, the 1st report was published in 2019.
 - DoSEL has designed the PGI, the main objective of PGI is to speed up transformational change in the field of school education.
77. As per the **State of India's Environment Report, 2021**, which was released by the Centre for Science and Environment (**CSE**), India's rank has dropped by 2 places from last year's 115 to **117** on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**), which are adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by 193 United Nations(UN) member states in 2015.
- The overall SDG score of India is **61.9** out of 100 and it ranks below four South Asian countries viz, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.
 - **State-wise preparedness: Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh** were the **best states** with an overall score which are on the path to achieving the SDGs.
 - **Jharkhand and Bihar** were the least prepared states to meet the SDGs by the target year, 2030. Jharkhand and Bihar lag in 5 and 7 out of the 17 SDGs.
78. Global Wind Energy Council released the report "**Global Wind Workforce Outlook 2021-2025**" with a focus on the job market and workforce needs in the wind energy sector.
- The report highlights the increase of job opportunities across the supply chain with the increase in the global wind industry.

- The report is the global forecast for the training needs which also examines the training needs of 10 countries:
 - **Brazil**, India, Vietnam, Japan, USA, China, South Africa, Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Morocco.

79. According to the **Global Liveability Index 2021** released by the **Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU)**, New Zealand's **Auckland** has been named as the World's Most Liveable City due to its ability to control the spread of COVID-19 pandemic faster and lift restrictions earlier than other cities in the world even though city had more COVID-19 cases.

- Osaka (Japan), and Adelaide (Australia) came 2nd and 3rd respectively.
- Auckland has replaced Vienna (Austrian Capital) as the most livable city.
 - Vienna had topped the list since 2018.

80. According to the '**Child Labour Global Estimates 2020, trends and roads forward**' released by **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** & **International Labour Organization (ILO)**, for the 1st time in two decades, **160 million children (63 million girls and 97 million boys) were in child labour globally** at the beginning of 2020, accounting for almost 1 in 10 of all children worldwide.

- The Child Labour (160 million) registered an increase of 8.4 million over 4 years (2017-20). The number of children put to work fell by 94 million during 2000 and 2016.

81. Union Minister for Education **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** released the report of **All India Survey on Higher Education 2019-20 (AISHE 2019-20)**.

- **AISHE Report** is released annually by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education.
- It provides **key performance indicators on the current status of Higher Education (HE)** in India.
- AISHE 2019-20 is the **10th edition** in the series of AISHE reports.
- It is a web-based survey that calculates Indicators of education development such as Institution Density, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR), Gender Parity Index (GPI) and Per Student Expenditure are calculated from the data.

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82. The report '**The Costs of Climate Change in India: a review of the climate-related risks facing India, and their economic and social costs**' released by the **Overseas Development Institute(ODI)**, a London-based global think tank, stated the possibility for India to lose **3-10 percent** of its gross domestic product (GDP) annually by **2100** due to **climate change**.

- It also estimated the poverty rate of India to rise by **3.5 percent** in 2040 due to climate change.

83. According to the 2021 edition of **UNCTAD's** (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) '**Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures**' report, Due to pandemic, **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)** experienced an estimated fall in **GDP of 9% in 2020**, compared with a **3.3% decline in other developing countries** (Based on IMF data).

- The report has been published ahead of UNCTAD's 15th Quadrennial ministerial conference to be held virtually from October 3-7, 2021. It will be hosted by Barbados.
- SIDS are already facing extreme risk from global warming.
- COVID-19 has affected all spheres of life in SIDS including health, the economy and trade. One of the **severely hit sectors is the services exports**, which is heavily reliant on tourism and contributes on average 25 percent to SIDS' GDP.

84. As per the 'Global Skills Report 2021' released by Coursera, India has been ranked **67th** overall globally. **Switzerland topped the rankings** followed by Luxembourg & Austria.

- India has been ranked number 55 in business and at number 66 in both technology and data science categories.
- At the Asia level, Japan has topped the rankings (Global Rank – 4). India has been ranked 16th in the Asian region ahead of Philippines & Thailand.
- The report is based on performance data of about 77 million learners (from across 100 countries) on the platform collected since the onset of the pandemic. It benchmarks skills proficiency across 3 categories – Business, Technology and data science.

85. The Independent appraisal report '**Aspirational Districts Programme: An Appraisal**' released by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India, has appreciated India's Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) as '**a very successful model of local area development**' and stated that it can be a best practice for other parts of the world, where regional disparities in development status exist.
- The UNDP has appreciated ADP after analyzing its 49 Indicators across **5 key sectors of ADP** – health and nutrition; education; agriculture and water resources; basic infrastructure; and skill development and financial inclusion.
 - The report is based on quantitative analysis of publicly available data, interviews with stakeholders (such as district magistrates, central prabhari officers and others).
86. **Madhya Pradesh** with a score of 64.1 has been ranked 1st in the **Anemia Mukht Bharat Index 2020-21**. Odisha (59.3) came 2nd followed by Himachal Pradesh (57.1) in the 3rd position.
- The score card and rankings in Anemia Mukht Bharat Index are based on parameters like coverage of **Iron–Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation** across beneficiaries to support assessment of progress and performance of the programme.
 - The Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) strategy was launched in **2018** to reduce prevalence of Anemia all over India. It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) & United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**.
87. As per the report of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (**ICAN**), titled '**Complicit: 2020 Global Nuclear Spending**', the worldwide Nuclear-armed countries' overall spending on atomic weapon arsenals in 2020 was increased by **\$1.4 billion** to \$72.6 billion from \$71.2 billion of 2019.
- The 9 Nuclear-armed countries include The **United States (US), China, Russia**, The United Kingdom (UK), France, India, Israel, Pakistan, and North Korea.
88. **Aid Foundation (CAF)** has ranked **India as the 14th most charitable country** in the world (with a score of 44%) out of 114 countries.
- **Indonesia** topped the Index followed by Kenya & Nigeria.
89. According to the '**Financing Clean Energy Transitions in Emerging and Developing Economies**' report released by **International Energy Agency (IEA)**,

- The Annual Clean energy investment in emerging and developing economies needs to increase by more than seven times – from less than USD 150 billion in 2019 **to more than USD 1 Trillion by 2030** to put the world on track to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

90. The '**UNESCO Science Report 2021: The race against time for smarter development**' released by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) states that India's Investment in Research remains unsatisfactory.

- India's Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research & Development (**GERD**) remained **at 0.7%** of the GDP for several years.
- India has one of the lowest GERD/GDP ratios among the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) nations.
- In 2020, the task force drafting India's new Science & Technology Policy set the target date for 2% of GDP for R&D to 2030.

91. According to the '**Renewable Energy Market Update – Outlook for 2021 and 2022**' released by the International Energy Agency (IEA), India will add **17 GigaWatt renewable capacity in 2021 & 19.3 GW in 2022**.

- However, the total Renewable Energy Capacity will be under 140 GW in 2022.

92. In the recently released **World Competitiveness Index 2021** released by the Institute for Management Development's (IMD) World Competitiveness Center, **India retained its 43rd rank out of 64 nations** (for the 3rd consecutive year).

- **Switzerland** topped the Index followed by Sweden in the 2nd spot & Denmark in the 3rd spot.
- India's ranking in the **4 parameters** are – Government Efficiency 46 (from 50 in 2020), the ranking in other 3 parameters remained unchanged compared to 2020 – Economic performance – 37, business efficiency – 32, infrastructure – 49.
- Botswana (61st) was added to the ranking this year 2021.

93. The World Health Organisation (**WHO**) in its new report titled, "**Children and Digital Dumpsites**" estimates the risk faced by children and pregnant women living & working in informal electronic waste (e-waste) processing centers.

- Over 18 million Children and 12.9 million women work at the e-waste dumpsite every year, mostly from low- & middle-income countries, for dismantling & recycling e-wastes.

94. According to the 6th Edition of '**Sustainable Development Report 2021 (SDR 2021)**' released by Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), India with a score of 60.1 has been placed at **120th rank out of 165 countries**.

- **Finland** topped the Index followed by Sweden & Denmark.
- For the 1st time since 2015, all countries have shown a reversal in progress in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- SDR 2021 has been written by a group of authors led by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, President of the SDSN and has been published by Cambridge University Press.
- SDR is an annual report which ranks the 193 UN member countries based on their performance against the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- It has been released since 2015 and is based on official data sources (UN, World Bank, etc.) and non-official data sources (research institutions and non-governmental organizations)

95. According to the **15th Edition of Global Peace Index 2021 (GPI 2021)** released by Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP), India with a score of 2.553 has been ranked **135 out of 163 countries**, which specifies '**Low State of Peace**'.

- **Iceland** topped the GPI 2021 Index followed by New Zealand & Denmark.
- The average level of **global peacefulness decreased by 0.07 per cent** in the 2021 Global Peace Index. It has deteriorated for the 9th time in the last 13 years.
- The Middle East and North Africa (**MENA**) **region remained the world's least peaceful region**, while **Europe remained the most peaceful region** in the world. 8 of the 10 most peaceful countries are from Europe.
- In the 2020 GPI, India was ranked 139th.

96. The National Association of Software and Services Companies' (**NASSCOM**) stated its perspective in the process of hiring and job creation over the IT – Business process management (BPM) sector.

- As per its forecast, the Indian IT industry is on track to meet its vision of **\$300-350 billion** annual revenues by 2025.
- The top 5 IT services companies viz, TCS, Infosys, Wipro, HCL, and Tech Mahindra are planning to add over **96,000** employees during FY22.
- The IT-BPM sector together employs over **5 million** workers as of March 2021.

97. According to the 'Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2020 Report' released by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (**UNHCR**) – The number of people fleeing wars, violence, persecution, and human rights violations increased to nearly **82.4 million people in 2020**, an increase of 3 million people compared to 79.5 million recorded at the end of 2019.
- Number of people facing Forced Displacement has increased despite COVID-19 related movement restrictions.
 - The report states that more than **1% of the world's population or 1 in 95 people are now forcibly displaced**. This compares with 1 in 159 in 2010.
 - This is the 9th straight annual increase in the number of people forcibly displaced.
98. According to the '**World Investment Report 2021**' released by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**) – India received Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows worth **USD 64 billion in 2020** making it the **5th largest recipient** of inflows in the world.
- The **US** with 156 Billion was the top destination for FDI in 2020 followed by **China** (USD 149 billion) & Hong Kong, China (USD 119 billion).
 - **Global FDI inflows declined to USD 1 Trillion** in 2020 (35% decline) compared to USD 1.5 trillion in 2019 due to pandemic.
 - India's FDI inflow has increased to USD 64 billion in 2020 from USD 51 billion in 2019 (37% increase) due to acquisition in the Information & Communication Technology (ICT) industry.
 - India was ranked 8th in the UNCTAD's 2020 Report based on its FDI Inflows.
 - Countries with Largest FDI outflows are China (133 billion), Luxembourg (127 billion) & Japan (116 billion). India was ranked 18th with USD 12 billion (compared to USD 13 billion in 2019).
99. According to the Interim Edition of '**Global Wealth Report 2020**' released by **Credit Suisse** – the overall wealth of India's super-rich decreased by 4.4% to **USD 12.83 trillion in 2020 due to fall in Rupee value**. The fall in value of Rupee has caused
- Number of dollar millionaires in India to fall from 7,64,000 in 2019 to **6,98,000 in 2020**.
 - Decline in cumulative wealth of India's super-rich to USD 12.833 trillion in 2020, down by USD 594 billion or 4.4% compared to 2019.
 - Currently, India is home to **1% of the global rich list**.

100. According to the '**Ease of Living Index 2020**' released by Centre for Science & Environment (CSE) – **Bengaluru (Karnataka)** with a score of 66.7 has been ranked as India's most liveable capital city followed by Chennai, Tamil Nadu at No. 2, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh at No. 3.
- The Index is part of the report titled State of India's Environment 2021.
 - This is the 2nd edition of Ease of Living Index 2020, the 1st edition was published in 2018.
101. On June 24, 2021, the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's** (UNODC) released a World Drug Report 2021 which states that around **275 million people used drugs worldwide in 2020** of which **36.3 million** people or 13% suffered from drug use disorders.
102. Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) Prakash Javadekar virtually released the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of **Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR)** based survey of forest areas for 10 states. The survey is the 1st of its kind in India which uses LiDAR technology.
- The 10 states are Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, and Tripura. It is the 1st time that Central funds have been utilized for surveying of forest areas at such a large scale.
 - The LiDAR survey will help in **increasing water and fodder in jungle areas** thereby reducing human-animal conflict. It will also assist in identifying areas that need groundwater recharge, which will benefit the local communities.

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GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

103. Ministry of Finance has extended the validity of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (**ECLGS**) for another 3 months till September 30, 2021 or till guarantee for an amount of Rs 3 lakh crore is issued.
- Additionally, the scope of ECLGS has been widened through the introduction of ECLGS 4.0 for on-site oxygen generation.

104. The Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, launched an Author Mentorship programme '**YUVA (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors)** – Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors' to Train Young and Budding Authors (Below 30 Years of age).
- Objective: To promote reading, writing, and book culture of Indians; to project Indian writings globally.
 - Implementing Agency: The National Book Trust, India under the Ministry of Education will be the Implementing Agency of the scheme
105. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a new scheme under **PM-CARES for children** who affected in COVID-19.
- Children who have lost both parents or surviving parent or legal guardian/adoptive parents due to Covid 19 will be supported under 'PM-CARES for Children' scheme.
 - Each child will receive a monthly financial support once they attain 18 years of age for next five years and they will get a fund of Rs.10 lakh when they turn 23.
106. Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, **Narendra Singh Tomar** virtually launched the **Horticulture** Cluster Development Programme (**CDP**).
- Initially, the programme will be implemented in a **pilot phase** in **12** horticulture clusters out of the total **53** clusters selected for the programme.
107. To reduce India's dependence on costly oil imports, the government (govt) has brought forward the target year for achieving **20 percent ethanol-blending** with petrol by 2 years to April 2023 from **2025**. It was reported by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG).
- India is the 3rd biggest oil importer in the world and relies on foreign suppliers to meet more than 80 percent of demand.
108. Union Minister Harsh Vardhan, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) launched the revamped, digitized version of **Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS)**, Umbrella schemes of **Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN)**, and Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG) on National Health Authority's (**NHA**) IT platform.
- **Objective:** Digitization of healthcare services to enable the poor and needy people to avail the benefits of the health schemes on time.
109. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (**MoSJ&E**) **Minister, Thaawarchand Gehlot** virtually launched **Seniorcare Aging Growth Engine (SAGE) initiative & portal** to help old aged people.

- These benefits to the elderly people will be given by the Startups.

110. Union Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar**, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), launched the **Seed Minikit Programme** for distributing seed mini-kits (higher-yielding varieties of seeds) to farmers.

- The mini-kits are being provided by the central agencies National Seeds Corporation (NCS), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.(NAFED), and Gujarat State Seeds Corporation.
- The programme was **wholly funded** by the **Centre** through the National Food Security Mission.

111. The Central Government has announced the extension of the Scheme to distribute Free of cost – Wheat & Rice Under **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)** to around 80 Crore people till November 2021.

- Earlier, the scheme was applicable for the months of May & June 2021 only.
- Under **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)**, the Central government is distributing 5 Kg free food grains per person per month to 80 Crore beneficiaries covered under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)**.

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

- Objective – SBM (G) Phase 2 aims to achieve comprehensive cleanliness in villages (also called Open Defecation Free Plus Status – ODF Plus Status) by focusing on ODF sustainability and ensuring SLWM arrangements in villages).

113. The **Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (MoHI&PE)** made partial modifications over the 'Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles in India Phase II' (FAME India Phase II) scheme, which began on 1 April 2019.

- The FAME scheme was administered by the department of heavy industries (**DHI**)
- MoHI&PE has decided for the aggregation of electric three-wheelers and electric buses component of the scheme via state run **Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL)**, to bring down the cost of electric 3 Wheelers to that of ICE-3 Wheelers.
- For Electric Buses, EESL will generate demand in 9 cities with over 4 million-plus population like Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Chennai, Surat and Pune.

114. As per the data of the Ministry of Commerce, India's merchandise exports in May 2021 increased by 67.39 percent to **USD 32.21 billion**, against USD 19.24 billion in May 2020, due to healthy growth in sectors such as engineering, pharmaceuticals, petroleum products, and chemicals. (May 2019 export – USD 22.86 billion).
115. In its June 2021 Global Economic Prospects, **World Bank** revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY22 to **8.3 percent** from its earlier estimate of **10.1 percent**, (the forecast has been revised up by 2.9 percentage points). It has also projected India's growth in FY23 at **7.5 percent** due to the impact of COVID-19.
- WB estimated India's economy to have contracted by 7.3 (-7.3) percent in 2020. It also estimated India to grow at 7.5 percent and 6.5 percent in calendar years 2023 and 2024.
 - **Global Growth:** WB increased its global growth forecast in 2021 from 4.1 percent (January 2021, forecast) to **5.6 percent**, the fastest post-recession pace in 80 years.
116. India's export of agriculture and allied products (including marine and plantation products) increased by **17.34 percent to USD 41.25 Billion** during 2020-21 (in INR terms the increase was 22.62 percent).
- Exports during 2020-21 amounted to INR 3.05 lakh crore compared to INR 2.49 lakh crore during 2019-20.
 - **India's Agricultural & Allied Imports** for 2020-21 stood at USD 20.67 billion compared to USD 20.64 billion in 2019-20.
 - India's export figures during 2019-20 stood at **USD 35.16 billion**.
117. Digital Payment application **BharatPe** has acquired 100 percent stakes of multi-brand loyalty platform **PAYBACK** India from American Express and ICICI Investments Strategic Fund which hold 90 percent and 10 percent stake respectively in the entity.
- This is the first-ever acquisition by BharatPe.
 - Payback India becomes a wholly-owned subsidiary of BharatPe
118. The Union Minister for Tribal Affairs launched the Tribal Livelihoods Initiative '**Sankalp Se Siddhi-Mission Van Dhan**'.
- Along with the initiative, the Union Minister also launched 7 new Tribes India Outlets, Tribes India Coffee table book, Van Dhan website, software application, and new TRIFED Head Office in New Delhi.

- All the initiatives are aimed at sustainable livelihoods for the tribal population.
 - **Sankalp Se Siddhi – Mission Van Dhan:** Through this scheme, TRIFED aims to expand its operations through convergence of various schemes of different Ministries and Departments and **launch various tribal development programs in Mission Mode.**
119. **Malaria No More**, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in partnership with the **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) & Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** established an India Interagency Expert Committee on Malaria and Climate (IEC) to explore and advance climate-based solutions for accelerating malaria elimination in India.
- India has set a **target to eliminate Malaria by 2030.**
120. Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda launched “**Adi Prashikshan**” portal, a unique online portal to provide quality training to Tribal population.
- The portal was jointly developed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Tribal Research Institute (**TRI**) – **Odisha** and the United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**).
 - To provide quality skill development and capacity building programs to Tribal population across India, and improve their socioeconomic status
121. WhatsApp & National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) launched its ‘**Digital Skill Champions Programme**’. The programme aims to **train Indian youth on digital skills to make them employable** and more productive in their work environment.
122. On the lines of National Education Policy (NEP-2020) and to achieve academic excellence in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs), **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)** partnered with National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for conducting capacity building programme ‘**NISHTHA-National initiative for School Heads’ and Teachers’ Holistic Advancement**’, across 350 functional EMRSs in India.
123. On June 25, 2021, the Department of Heavy Industries, Ministry of heavy industries and public enterprises, extended the government’s (govt) flagship Electric Vehicles (EV) promotion scheme, ‘**FAME India Phase II**’ (Faster **A**doption and **M**anufacturing of (Hybrid &) **E**lectric Vehicles in India Phase II) for **2 years till 2024**
124. On occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26th June), Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment **Thawarchand Gehlot** launched a website for the **Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) scheme.**

- To commemorate the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, MoSJE organized a 6-day Nasha Mukta Bharat Summit from June 21-26, 2021.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

125. The National Statistical Office (**NSO**), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, estimated India's Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**) growth for **Q4 FY21** at **1.6 percent** with a contraction of **7.3(-7.3) percent** for **FY21**(Earlier projection 8(-8) percent) against 4 percent expansion in FY20
126. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (**OECD**), in its Economic Outlook, reduced India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast in 2021 to **9.9 percent** from its earlier projection of 12.6 percent (March 2021).
127. The Bombay Stock Exchange (**BSE**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (**ESC**) to create awareness among Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and startups about the benefits of listing on the BSE SME & Startup platform.
128. India's largest private sector general insurer **ICICI Lombard has partnered with Microsoft** to strengthen and **automate the quality control processes**.
129. The Ministry of Labour and Employment has constituted an expert group led by Professor **Ajit Mishra**, director of the Institute of Economic Growth to provide technical support and recommendations to fix the minimum wages and national floor minimum wages.
- This decision is a part of the centre's implementation of the Code of Wages, 2019, which mandates a statutory national level floor wage
130. **Wipro** Limited joined the World Economic Forum's (**WEF**) Partnership for New Work Standards initiative to establish a healthy, resilient and equitable future of work.
- The initiative aims to build **human-first work standards** by co-creating new frameworks, and utilizing tools and technologies.
 - Wipro is also undertaking initiatives to support its people with dedicated programmes for physical, social, financial and mental well-being.
 - The WEF was established in 1971 with headquarters at Cologny, Switzerland.

131. Retail inflation of India was increased to **6.3 percent** in May 2021, breaching the upper limit of the Reserve Bank of India's inflation target of **2 to 6 percent** for the 1st time in 6 months due to a rise in food and fuel prices.
- Wholesale price inflation also increased to an 11-year-high of 12.94 percent in May 2021. As per the National Statistical Office data, food inflation increased to 5 percent in May 2021 from 2 percent in April 2021.
132. **Bharti Airtel & Tata Group** have announced a strategic partnership for implementing 'Made in India' 5G network solutions for India.
- The 5G Technology will be based on '**O-RAN (Open Radio Access Network)**' based Radio and NSA/SA (Non-Standalone/standalone) Core Technology.
133. As per the report of **Moody's** Investors Service, on June 24, 2021, titled "Macroeconomics India: Economic shocks from second COVID wave will not be as severe as last year's", India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for the calendar year **2021** was reduced to **9.6 percent** from its earlier estimate of 13.9 percent. It also projected a **7 percent** growth in **2022**.
- It reported 10 states in India as hardest hit by the second wave of COVID-19 and stated them as accountable for about 60 percent of the pre-pandemic level of India's GDP.
 - The 4 states, viz, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka are mentioned as the largest shares contributor of GDP among all other states in FY20.
134. In June 2021, S&P Global Ratings revised India's economic growth projection in **FY22** to **9.5 percent** from its earlier forecast of 11 percent. It projected the growth for **FY23** at **7.8 percent**.
135. Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (**IFFCO**) Limited, a Multi-state cooperative society, is set to establish a nano urea liquid manufacturing plant in Argentina in partnership with Instituto Nacional de Asociativismo y Economía Social (**INAES**) and Confederación Cooperativa De La República Argentina Ltda (**Cooperar**).
136. According to Industry body Nasscom, India's share in the global engineering and research and development (ER&D) market will reach **USD 63 billion by 2025**.
137. **Mastercard** made a strategic equity investment in **Instamojo** to digitize and empower Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (**MSMEs**) and **gig workers** by providing '**easy to use solutions**'.

138. The **43rd Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council** met virtually under the Chairmanship of Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** recommended the '**Amnesty Scheme**' to reduce the **late fees** payable for pending returns by **small taxpayers** & medium-sized taxpayers (aggregate turnover upto Rs 5 crore).
139. **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of Pune-based Shivajirao Bhosale Sahakari Bank** as the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.
140. Under sections 10(4) and 11(1) of the **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999** (42 of 1999), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had fixed the limits for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) investment in Government securities (**G-secs**) and State Development Loans (**SDLs**) unchanged at **6 percent** and **2 percent** respectively, of outstanding stocks of securities for FY22.
141. India's largest crypto exchange, **WazirX** has announced its own **Non-Fungible Token (NFT)** marketplace, a first of its kind for India and South Asia.
- NFTs are digital tokens that exist on a blockchain and represent ownership of digital items, like artwork, music, etc.
 - It will have no listing price and "minimal gas fees" of \$1 for transactions.
 - The WazirX marketplace will run on the Binance Smart Chain and will use the company's own WRX token.
142. After its partnership with **SWIFT, ICICI** (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India) Bank became the **1st** bank in Asia-Pacific and the **2nd** globally to offer the facility called '**SWIFT gpi** (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication Global Payments Innovation)**Instant**', the facility for **cross border inward payments**.
143. Digital payments provider **Paytm is going to launch its Initial Public Offering (IPO)** and raise about **\$3 billion (around Rs 21,800 crore)**, which would be **India's largest IPO** debut ever.
144. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) and the Luxembourg Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (**CSSF**) signed a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for mutual co-operation and technical assistance.
- To strengthen cross border cooperation in the area of securities regulation.
145. The Financial Stability and Development Council (**FSDC**) has constituted the first of its kind inter-regulators' panel to **address the regulatory challenges posed by the fintech** (financial technology) industry.

- The committee includes officials from the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**), finance ministry, the Securities Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) and the Insurance and Regulatory Authority of India (**IRDAI**).
146. Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) enhanced the overseas investment limit for a mutual fund house to **USD 1 billion** from the existing **USD 600 million**.
- The overall MF industry limit for investing overseas remained unchanged at USD 7 billion.
147. The Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) and the **Government of India** has signed a **\$2.5 million project readiness financing (PRF) loan** to support preparation and design activities to upgrade major district roads in **Sikkim**
148. **India's largest private lender, HDFC Bank** has planned to become **carbon neutral by 2031-32**.
- Bank is now looking to reduce its emissions, energy, and water consumption.
 - The bank is working on a framework of issuing green bonds
149. After successfully providing VISA Virtual Debit Cards to more than 4.5 million customers, **Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL)** has announced issuing of **physical debit cards by Visa**.
150. As per the data of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**), the United States became the **2nd largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India** during FY21 by replacing Mauritius.
- Singapore remained the top largest source of FDI into India for the 3rd consecutive fiscal year.
151. **Public sector banks** have sanctioned **95 percent of the total loans under PM SVANidhi scheme** to Street Vendors.
- PSU Banks have sanctioned **23,16,207 loans** under this scheme as on 31st May 2021.
 - The Government of India launched the PM Street Vendors' Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme on June 1, 2020.
 - Under the scheme, collateral-free working capital loan of up to Rs 10,000 of one-year tenure is being provided. The scheme aims at financing approximately 50 lakh street vendors.
 - **A collateral free loan** is a loan provided to the borrower without any security.
152. The **World Bank's (WB)** Board of Executive Directors has approved a **\$500 million programme** named '**Raising and Accelerating Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Performance**' (**RAMP**), to support the Government of India's nationwide initiative to strengthen the MSME sector, which has been heavily impacted due to COVID-19.

- **Maturity:** The \$500 million loan, which will be provided from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (**IBRD**), an arm of the world bank group, has a maturity of **18.5 years** including a 5.5-year grace period.

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

RBI's Modifications in Brief:

- **Interchange Fee:** RBI has increased the **interchange fee** that banks could charge on **ATM per transaction** from **Rs 15 to Rs 17** for **financial transactions**, and from **Rs 5 to Rs 6** for **non-financial transactions** in all centres.
 - This could be effective from August 1, 2021.
154. The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) **extended** the Risk-Based Internal Audit (**RBIA**) **system** for all deposit-taking Housing Finance Companies (**HFCs**), irrespective of their size, and for non-deposit taking HFCs with asset size of **Rs 5,000 crore and above** to enhance the quality and effectiveness of their internal audit system.
- The HFCs are directed by RBI to implement the RBIA framework by June 30, 2022.
 - The RBIA system was earlier imposed on Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs).
155. The **Housing Development Finance Corporation** Limited Mutual Fund has launched the **New Fund Offer (NFO)** of HDFC Banking and Financial Services Fund for retail investors.
- The NFO runs from June 11, 2021 to June 25, 2021.
 - The main objective of this fund is to provide long-term capital appreciation by investing predominantly in equity and equity related instruments of companies engaged in banking and financial services
156. Bombay Stock Exchange (**BSE**), Asia's 1st & the world's fastest Stock Exchange, has set up its wholly-owned subsidiary company named – '**BSE Administration & Supervision Ltd (BASL)**' for carrying out the administration and supervision activities of all **SEBI** (Securities and Exchange Board of India)-Registered Investment Advisors (**RIA**).

- BASL has received recognition from SEBI to administer and supervise investment advisors (**IAs**) registered with SEBI.
 - All existing SEBI-registered IAs and new applicants desirous of obtaining registration as investment advisor will be required to register with BASL as a member.
 - BASL members will be supervised and administered in accordance with the capital markets regulator SEBI's rules.
157. The 44th Goods and Services Tax (**GST**) **Council** met virtually under the Chairmanship of Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**.
158. Under Section 18 read with Section 10(2) of the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) issued regulations for investments in Payment Systems Operators (**PSOs**) by new entities from **Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Non-compliant Jurisdictions** (Countries).
- RBI has not permitted new investors from or through non-compliant FATF jurisdictions to acquire, directly or indirectly, 'significant influence' in PSOs (existing PSOs/ entities seeking authorisation as PSOs).
 - Fresh investments (directly or indirectly) from those non-compliant FATF jurisdictions, in aggregate, should account for less than **20 percent** of the voting power (including potential voting power) of the PSO.
159. Under Section 10 (2) read with **Section 18** of the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007** (Act 51 of 2007), the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has expanded the scope of the Bharat Bill Payment System (**BBPS**) by permitting the addition of '**mobile prepaid recharges**' as an additional biller category in BBPS on a voluntary basis.
- This was intended to support mobile prepaid customers with more options to recharge and it will be implemented on or before **August 31, 2021**.
160. **ICICI Bank** launched a first-of-its-kind initiative, a comprehensive set of digital banking solutions named – **ICICI STACK** for corporates and their entire ecosystem including promoters, group companies,
161. **LIC Cards Services Limited (LIC CSL)** partnered with IDBI Bank to launch "**Shagun**", a contactless prepaid LIC gift card powered by the IDBI Bank on the RuPay platform.

162. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revoked the deposit-taking status of Dewan Housing Finance Limited (**DHFL**) and reclassified it as a **non-deposit** taking housing finance company (HFC), before approving the **Piramal group's** bid to take over it towards the end of the resolution process.
163. Government of India virtually signed a **\$484 million** loan agreement with the **Asian Development Bank** to improve transport connectivity and facilitate industrial development in the Chennai–Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor in **Tamil Nadu**.
164. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted in-principle approval to **Centrum Financial Services Limited** (CFSL) to set up a small finance bank (SFB).
- Through this SFB, Centrum will take over crisis-hit **Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank** (PMC) as a separate process.
 - For the setting up of SFB, there will be capital infusion of **Rs 1,800 crore** by the **Centrum Capital**, holding entity for CFSL, and its partner **BharatPe**.
165. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has issued guidelines for the participation of Mutual Fund (**MF**) schemes in Interest Rate Swaps (**IRS**).
- SEBI allowed MFs to enter into **plain vanilla IRS** for hedging purposes, but the value of the notional principal in such cases must not exceed the value of respective existing assets being hedged by the scheme.
 - If the MF is entering into the IRS through counter transactions, the counterparty has to be an entity recognized as a market maker by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
166. **SBI General Insurance** inked a bancassurance partnership with **IDFC** (Infrastructure Development Finance Company) **FIRST Bank** for selling its **non-life insurance products**.
- In this regard, a **corporate agency agreement** was signed between both the entities.
167. **ICICI Bank** has extended the instant '**Cardless EMI**' facility for its pre-approved customers to make **online** purchases across 2,500 e-commerce platforms without using their card.
168. After the Securities and Exchange Board of India's (**SEBI**) approval over the amendment of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, Companies that have a market capitalization (M-cap) of more than **Rs 1 lakh crore** at the time of listing are now enabled to sell just **5 percent** of their shares.
- The issuer companies should reach a public shareholding of **10 percent** within **2 years** of listing and **25 percent** within **5 years** of listing.

- The amendments became **beneficial to the Government** of India for the proposed **IPO** (Initial public offering) of Life Insurance Corporation (**LIC**), as the minimum divest is reduced to 5 percent than the earlier norms of 10 percent.
 - Meanwhile, under the latest amended rules, "every listed company shall maintain public shareholding of at least five per cent as a result of implementation of the resolution plan approved under section 31 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016".
169. As per the **State of Economy report** by the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) in June 2021, India ranked **2nd** after Turkey in terms of the share of '**Surplus Transferred from Central Banks to Governments**' (as per percent of GDP).
- RBI has transferred **0.44 percent of GDP** to the Government in FY21, in FY20 it took the 4th position with 0.29 percent.
170. On June 24, 2021, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** linked the declaration of dividend by non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) to their minimum prudential norms on Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) and Non-Performing Assets (NPAs).
- In order to infuse greater transparency and uniformity in the payout practice, RBI has issued guidelines on the distribution of dividend by NBFCs to be effective from the profits of FY22 and onwards.
171. As per the data of the **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)**, the **bank credit-to-GDP ratio** of India in **2020** rose to a **5-year high** of about **56.075 percent** (whereas in 2016 the ratio was at 59 percent)
- The **incremental credit growth** in FY21 was about **5.56 percent** (at Rs 109.51 lakh crore), which was the lowest recorded growth in 59 years (whereas in FY 1962 it was at 5.38 percent), in FY20, credit growth was at a 58-year-low at 6.14 percent.
 - The total outstanding bank credit in 2020 stood at **\$1.52 trillion**.
172. The country's largest lender, **State Bank of India (SBI)** launched "**Aarogyam Healthcare Business Loan**", for the healthcare sector to extend loan support in view of the novel coronavirus pandemic.
173. The **World Bank** Board of Executive Directors has approved a **\$125 million** program under the '**Resilient Kerala Program**' to support Kerala's preparedness against natural disasters, climate change impacts, and COVID-19.

174. According to a regulatory filing, the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), **SBI Life Insurance** and **Canara Bank** were among the top investors picking up stakes in Indian Bank under the qualified institutional placement (QIP).
- Indian Bank has raised a total of Rs 1650 crore in its QIP of shares which were issued at Rs 142.15 apiece.
 - The LIC, India's largest and the only state-owned life insurer, has picked up 17.80 % shares issues under QIP.
175. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has launched a centralized web-enabled workflow-based IT platform for its group business operations named '**e-PGS**'.
176. Union Minister for Law & Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad formally launched the e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) – '**itat e-dwar**' from New Delhi.
- The portal developed by ITAT will enable parties to **file their Appeals, Miscellaneous Applications, documents, paper books etc electronically**. It is expected to benefit lawyers & tax litigants.
 - During the launch, the Union Minister stated that data of more than 18 crore cases were available in the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), and suggested that cases of ITAT should be integrated in NJDG.

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AWARDS & RECOGNITION

177. Notion Press authors **Nitin Rakesh and Jerry Wind** won **the International Business Book of the Year Award 2021** for their recently launched book **Transformation in Times of Crisis**.
178. World Health Organisation (WHO) has awarded **Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan** with '**WHO Director-General Special Award**' for banning E-cigarettes & heated tobacco products.

179. **Dr. Rupinder Singh Sodhi (RS Sodhi)** is Managing Director of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation(**GCMMF**), Ltd., (**AMUL**) was honoured with the Asia Pacific Productivity Champion 2020, the regional award of Asian Productivity Organization (**APO**), Tokyo, Japan.

- The award recognises India's enhanced productivity and efficient milk supply chain in the world.
- He was nominated for the award by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
- R S Sodhi became the **first Indian** to receive this award in the past 20 years.

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

- The winners of the 2021 Pulitzer prize constitute the **105th class of Pulitzer Prize winners**. Aminda (Mindy) Marqués González and Stephen Engelberg were the co-chair of the Pulitzer Prize board.
- **Darnella Frazier**, who recorded the murder of Floyd by police officer Derek Chauvin, received a special citation from the Pulitzer Prize Board.
- The **New York Times** won the Public Service Pulitzers for its extensive coronavirus coverage that exposed racial and economic inequities, government failures in the United States and beyond.
- **Louise Erdrich** won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize under the fiction category for his book titled "**The Night Watchman**".
- **Late Les Payne and Tamara Payne** won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize under the **Biography** category for the book titled "**The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X**".

181. Noted **Zimbabwean** novelist **Tsitsi Dangarembga** has been declared as the winner of the 2021 **Pen Pinter Prize** for charting the development of Zimbabwe from a British colony to an autocratic and troubled free state through her writing career of 30-years.

- She will receive the award at a ceremony hosted by British Library and English PEN in October 2021.

182. **Familial Forestry**, the environment conservation concept of **Rajasthan**-based climate activist **Shyam Sundar Jyani** has won the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification's (UNCCD) Land for Life Award for 2021**.

183. Indian-American chemist, **Sumita Mitra** won the European Patent Office's (EPO) **European Inventor Award 2021** under the **Non-EPO countries category** for her innovative dental filling invention using Nanotechnology.
184. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd. a Maharatna CPSU under the **Ministry of Power** has been recognised as a '**Great Place to Work**' for the 15th year in a row by the Great Place to Work (GPTW) Institute.
- It was the only PSU to feature consistently among India's Top 50 Best Workplaces.
185. The founder of Tata Group, **Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata** has emerged as **the biggest philanthropist globally** in the last century (between 1901-1999) by donating **\$102.4 billion**, according to the list of top 50 givers prepared by the **Hurun Report and EdelGive Foundation**.
186. Renowned journalist and founder of **PARI** (People's Archive of Rural India) **P Sainath** (Palagummi Sainath) has been awarded Japan's Fukuoka Grand Prize for 2021.
- He was awarded for promoting civil cooperation through his writing.
 - The award is given in three categories: Academic Prize, Culture Prize and the Grand Prize.

PERSON IN NEWS

187. **Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra (J B Mohapatra)**, a 1985-batch Indian Revenue Service officer, was appointed as **the interim chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**.
188. The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has elected **Tata Steel Ltd Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) T.V. Narendran**, as its **President** for the year 2021-22.
189. **Tsang Yin-Hung** from **Hong Kong** broke the record and became the **fastest female climber** to reach the peak of Mount Everest, she scaled the peak in **25 hours 50 minutes**, (the shortest time taken by any woman).
190. **Former Justice of Supreme Court, Arun Kumar Mishra** appointed as the **Chairperson** of the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India**.
- He was appointed as the Chairperson for a period of **3 years**.
191. Indian Born British Writer **Salman Rushdie** has authored a new book titled "**Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020**" a collection of nonfiction essays, criticism and speeches with a focus on his view and imaginations of the change in literature and culture written between 2003 and 2020

192. **Dr. R S Sodhi, Managing Director**, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (**GCMMF**) popularly known as '**Amul**' was selected to the Board of International Dairy Federation (IDF).
- The decision has been taken in IDF General meeting on June 1,2021 i.e. World Milk Day.
193. In June 2021, **Ranjitsinh Disale**, a schoolteacher from Maharashtra was appointed as the **Educational Advisor of the World Bank** from June 2021 till December 2024.
- He was one of the 12 advisors from the World to be appointed by the World Bank.
 - Notably, Ranjitsinh Disale was the **winner of 2020's Global Teacher Prize** and also the 1st Indian to win the prize.
194. The co-founder of **upGrad**, India's largest online higher education company and Film producer, **Ronnie Screwvala** authored a book titled "**Skill It, Kill It**".
- This book is published by **Penguin Random House** and it will be released in July,2021.
195. The Government of India has appointed **Anup Chandra Pandey**, retired IAS officer of 1984 batch, Uttar Pradesh Cadre as the **Election Commissioner of India** with effect from the date he assumes the office. He will retire in February 2024.
196. Nobel laureate **Amartya Sen**, authored a new book titled "**Home in the World**" which is set to be published by Penguin Random House in July 2021.
- The book describes the early life of Amartya Sen and explores the idea of 'home'.
197. Former Vice President of **Costa Rica** and Economist **Rebeca Grynspan** became the **first woman secretary-general** of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**).
- She was nominated by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.
 - She is the first woman and Central American to be appointed as UNCTAD's secretary-general. and will succeed Mukhisa Kituyi of Kenya
198. **Naftali Bennett** was sworn in as the **13th Prime Minister of Israel**. He succeeds Benjamin Netanyahu who has been serving as the PM of Israel for the past 12 years.
- Israeli parliament Knesset elected him as the Prime Minister by a 60-59 vote of confidence in the 120-member house.
199. **Anand Mohan Bajaj**, Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) has been appointed as Member of the Board of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) by the Government of India.

200. On 16th June 2021, during the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) Leaders Summit 2021, 10-Global leaders were named as the SDG Pioneers 2021.
- **Sumant Sinha**, the Chairman and Managing Director of **ReNew Power** was recognised as one of the Global leaders working towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) through the implementation of the UN Global Compact Ten Principles on human rights, environment, labor, and anti-corruption.
201. Microsoft Corporation appointed its Chief Executive Officer **Satya Nadella as its Chairman**. He will succeed **John Thompson** who will now serve as lead independent director.
202. Jnanpith awardee and Renowned author **Amitav Ghosh** authored a new book '**The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis**'.
- This Book is Published by John Murray and will be released on October 14, 2021.
203. On June 18, 2021, **Antonio Guterres**, was re-elected as the **Secretary General of United Nations (UN)** for a 2nd 5-year term from January 1, 2022 to **December 31, 2026**.
204. **Montek Singh Ahluwalia**, former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India and the distinguished person at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), was named as a **member** of a '**High-Level Advisory Group (HLAG) on Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery and Growth**' formed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
205. Renowned Indian British author **Ruskin Bond** authored a new book titled "It's a Wonderful Life", which is published by **Aleph book**.
206. **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** Executive Director **Meenesh Shah** has taken additional charge as the **Chairman of NDDB** for six months with effect from June 1, 2021.
207. **Vigilance Commissioner Suresh N Patel** has been appointed as acting **Central Vigilance Commissioner** in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) with effect June 24, 2021, until the appointment of the central vigilance commissioner.
208. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved a one-year extension to **Umesh Sinha**, Deputy Election Commissioner of India on contract basis.

OBITUARIES

209. Former Mauritius PM **Anerood Jugnauth** dies at 91.
210. Eminent **Assamese Litterateur**, Padma Shri **Dr Lakshmi Nandan Bora** passed away at the age of 91 in Guwahati, Assam. He was born on 15th June 1932, in Nagaon, Assam.
211. Eminent **Educationist Munirathna Anandakrishnan**, former Vice Chancellor of Anna University passed away at the age of 93 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He was born on 12th July 1928 in Vaniyambadi, Tamil Nadu.
212. Padma Shri awardee **environmentalist** and Odisha's former information commissioner **Professor Radha Mohan** passed away on June 11, 2021. He was born in 1943 in Nayagarh, Odisha.
213. **Prominent neurologist and Padma Shri awardee Dr Ashok Panagariya** passed away due to post-Covid complications in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
214. India's **Olympic Marathoner Surat Singh Mathur**, the first athlete from Independent India to complete the Olympic marathon race, at the 1952 Helsinki Games, passed away in Delhi.
- He was born in Mohammadpur Majri Village (Karala), Delhi.
215. The National Award-winning **Kannada film actor Vijay Kumar Basavarajiah Popularly known as Sanchari Vijay** has passed away
216. Legendary Indian sprinter Padma Shri **Milkha Singh**, who is popularly known as '**Flying Sikh**' in the **athletic field**, passed away at the age of 91 in Chandigarh.
- He was born on 20th November 1929 in Govindpura, Pakistan.
217. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**) **secretary Guruprasad Mohapatra** passed away due to post-Covid-19 complications in New Delhi.
- He was born on 22 April 1962, Bhubaneswar, **Odisha**.
218. Legendary **Carnatic singer Parassala B Ponnammal** passed away due to age-related ailments in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- She was born in a Tamil Brahmin family in Parassala, along Kerala-Tamil Nadu border in 1924.

IMPORTANT DAYS

219. **World Milk Day** is annually observed across the globe on **June 1** to create awareness about milk and to highlight the importance of milk and dairy products as a global food.
220. United Nations (UN)'s **World Environment Day** is annually observed across the globe on **5th June** to promote and encourage the involvement of the government, businesses, celebrities and citizens to focus on environmental issues.
- World Environment Day 2021 is focused on ecosystem restoration and its theme is **"Reimagine. Recreate. Restore."**
 - **Pakistan** is the host of 2021 World Environment Day, they host the day with the theme "Ecosystem restoration".
221. The United Nations(UN)'s **World Food Safety Day** is annually observed across the globe on **7th June** to create awareness about the methods to prevent and detect foodborne risks, and to ensure food security, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism and sustainable development.
- The **theme** of the World Food Safety Day 2021 is **"Safe food today for a healthy tomorrow"**.
 - The **slogan** of the World Food Safety Day 2021 is **"Food safety is everyone's business"**.
222. The United Nations's **World Oceans Day** is annually observed across the globe on **8th June** to focus on the major role of the oceans in everyday life.
- The day aims to create awareness about the impacts of human activity on the Ocean and to promote sustainable management of the Oceans.
 - The theme of World Oceans Day 2021 is **"The Ocean: Life and**
223. Kiren Rijiju Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy (**AYUSH**) formally launched the **"Namaste Yoga"** mobile application, dedicated to Yoga.
- The app was launched during the virtual curtain raiser event of the 7th International Day of Yoga (**IDY 2021**).
 - IDY has been annually on **21st June** since **2015**.
 - The event was organised by the Ministry of AYUSH in association with the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (**MDNIY**).

224. The United Nations' **World Day to Combat Desertification** and Drought is annually observed across the globe on **17th June** to create and raise awareness regarding prevention of desertification of the soil in arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid areas caused due to climate change and human activities.
- The theme of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2021 is "**Restoration.Land.Recovery: We build back better with healthy land**".
225. The United Nations's **World Refugee Day** is annually observed across the globe on **20th June** to support and protect the refugees across the globe and focus on the inclusion of refugees in Healthcare, education and sports.
- The theme of World Refugee Day 2021 is "**Together we heal, learn and shine**".
226. The **World Music Day**, also known as **Fête de la Musique** in French, is annually observed across the globe on **21st June** to honour the musicians and singers across the globe.
227. **United Nations' International Day of Yoga (IDY)** is annually celebrated on **June 21** all over the world.
- This year 2021 marks 7th International Day of Yoga.
 - The day aims to raise awareness and promote the benefits of practicing yoga worldwide.
 - The theme of IDY 2021 is '**Yoga for well-being**'.
 - The 1st IDY was celebrated on 21st June 2015.
228. The **International Olympic Day** is annually observed across the globe on **23rd June** to promote the Olympic movement.
- The day commemorates the creation of the International Olympic Committee (**IOC**) on 23rd June 1894 in Paris, France.
229. The United Nations (UN)'s **International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking** is annually observed across the globe on 26th June to create awareness about the major problem that illicit drugs represent to society.
- The theme of the 2021 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is "**Share Facts On Drugs, Save Lives**".
230. The United Nations (**UN**)'s Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day (**MSME Day**) is annually observed across the globe on **27th June** to create awareness about the contributions of the MSME sector towards sustainable development and the global economy.

- The theme of MSME Day 2021 is “**MSME 2021: Key to an inclusive and sustainable recovery**”.

231. The National Statistics Day is annually observed on **29th June** to popularise the use of Statistics in everyday life and sensitise the public as to how Statistics helps in shaping and framing policies.

- The day also commemorates the birth anniversary of **Padma Vibhushan** Prof Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis (**P C Mahalanobis**) who was referred to as the “**Father of Indian Statistics**”.



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SPORTS

232. **Sifan Hassan** of the **Netherlands** sets **women’s 10,000m** world record of **29 min 6.82 sec**.

233. Red Bull driver **Sergio Perez** wins Formula One Azerbaijan Grand Prix in **Baku**.

234. Red Bull Racing’s **Sergio Perez (Mexico)** won the **Formula One Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2021** held at Baku City Circuit, Baku, capital of Azerbaijan.

235. **The International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced that it has entered into a strategic partnership with **BharatPe** for being its **global tournament sponsor from 2021 to 2023**.

236. The International Cricket Council (ICC) inducted 10 cricket icons, including India’s **Vinoo Mankad**, into the illustrious **ICC Hall of Fame 2021**. With this now there are 103 players in the ICC Hall of Fame.

- The special edition intake of 10 cricket icons into the ICC Hall of Fame is to celebrate the prestigious history of Test cricket, and to coincide with the first ever ICC World Test Championship Final.

237. The **125th Edition of French Open 2021** (also known as Roland Garros) took place from May 30- June 13, 2021 at Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France.

238. It is organized by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

- **Novak Djokovic (Serbia)** defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece) to win the Men’s Singles Title French Open 2021.

- It is Djokovic's **2nd French Open Title & 19th Grand Slam Title**.
 - Djokovic became the **1st player in the Open Era to win all 4 Major Grand Slams twice** (which is called a double career Grand Slam).
 - **Barbora Krejckova (Czech Republic)** defeated Anastasia Pavylyunchenkova (Russia) to win the Women's Singles Title of the French Open.
 - It is her maiden Grand Slam Title, she became the 1st woman from Czech Republic to clinch the French Open Singles title since Hana Mandikolikova in 1981.
 - **Barbora along with her partner Katerlina Siniakova (Czech Republic)** defeated Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA) & Iga Swiatek (Poland) to win the **Women's Doubles Title of French Open 2021**.
 - With both wins (singles & doubles), Barbora became the **1st woman** since Mary Pierce in 2000 **to win the Singles and Doubles Title** in the same year at French Open.
239. Global sports brand **PUMA** extended its partnership with **former Indian Cricketer Yuvraj Singh** by signing him as the Brand Ambassador of **PUMA motorsports in India**.
- He has been associated with the brand for over a decade.
240. Indian women cricketer **Shafali Verma** (17 years old), became the first women's cricketer to hit 3 sixes in a test match.
- She achieved the feat during the one-off test match between India and England held in Bristol, England.
241. According to **ICC's latest rankings** released on June 22, 2021 – India's Ravindra Jadeja was ranked as the World's No. 1 All-rounder in Test Cricket (replacing West Indian Jason Holder).
242. In June 2021, Indian Woman **archer Deepika Kumari** created history by winning Gold in all 3 recurve events – Women's individual, team and mixed pair events in the **Archery World Cup Stage-3** event that was held in **Paris, France**.

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