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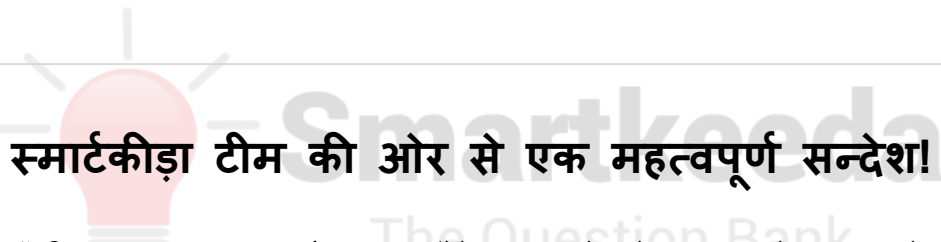
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of June 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

We hope you will make the best of use of this PDF and perform well in MockDrill Tests at Testzone.

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda



स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

मित्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF जून 2021 माह में Testzone पर होने वाले MockDrill Test में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढ़ना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

हम आशा करते हैं की आप इस PDF का भरपूर लाभ उठाते हुए आने वाले MockDrill Test में बेहतर अंक प्राप्त करेंगे।

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



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National & States Affairs

601. The Maharashtra government will make amendments to the “Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act of 1975”, to introduce provisions for the protection of ‘heritage trees’. A tree with an estimated age of 50 years or more shall be defined as a heritage tree. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – to introduce provisions for the protection of ‘Heritage trees’
- A tree with an estimated age of 50 years or more shall be defined as a ‘Heritage tree’
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

602. On June 21, Companies that have a market capitalisation of more than Rs 1 lakh Cr at the time of listing can now sell just 5% of their shares, after SEBI’s approval over the amendment of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules. Such entities will be required to increase their public shareholding to 10% in 2 years and raise the same to at least 25% within 5 years. The Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) under the Finance Ministry has amended the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Department of Economic Affairs – amended the “Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules” – approved by SEBI
- Companies having m-cap of more than Rs 1 lakh Cr can now sell only 5% of their shares
- Requirement for such entities: Public shareholding to 10% in 2 years & at least 25% within 5 years
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

603. On June 18, Tata Motors and Tata Power have jointly inaugurated India’s largest Grid-synchronized, behind-the-meter Solar Carport at the Tata Motors’ car plant in Chikhali, Pune. As a part of its Net Zero Carbon goal for 2039, Tata Motors had entered into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Tata Power on August 31, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Motors + Tata Power = jointly inaugurated India’s largest Grid-synchronized Solar Carport – in Pune, MH
- HQs of Tata Motors – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Guenter Butschek
- HQs of Tata Power – Mumbai | CEO – Praveer Sinha

604. On June 19, The Department of Biotechnology has issued a special call for Northeast region as a part of its “Biotech-KISAN programme” to understand local issues of farmers and provide scientific solutions to those problems. 70% of the workforce is engaged in agriculture and allied sectors for livelihood in the region. Under this scheme, so far 146 Biotech-KISAN Hubs have been established in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Department of Biotechnology – issued a Special Call for Northeast region under its “Biotech-KISAN programme”
- 146 Biotech-KISAN Hubs have been established so far in India



605. On June 18, A high-level committee consisting of representatives from the services and the Ministries concerned has been formed for wider consultations on the creation of Integrated Triservice Theatre Commands. “Shekatkar committee” has also recommended the creation of 3 integrated theatre commands - Northern for the China border, Western for the Pakistan border and Southern for the maritime role. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A high-level committee is formed for consultations on the creation of Integrated Triservice Theatre Commands
- “Shekatkar committee” recommended the creation of 3 integrated theatre commands:
- Northern for the China border
- Western for the Pakistan border
- Southern for the Maritime Role
- [First Tri-Service Theatre Command of Indian Armed Force – Andaman & Nicobar](#)
- [Paramilitary Forces – currently functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs](#)

606. On June 21, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI) has identified “Cassava” (Tapioca) as an alternate raw material for bioethanol production to meet India’s Ethanol Blending Petrol (EBP) programme target of 2025. Tapioca production is estimated at 4.98 million tonnes with major production from Tamil Nadu, followed by Kerala. India has to produce 1,016 Cr litres of Ethanol for blending programmes as part of the EBP target by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICAR-CTCRI – identified “Cassava” (Tapioca) as an alternate raw material for Bioethanol production
- India has to produce 1,016 Cr litres of Ethanol for blending programmes as part of the EBP target by 2025
- [Location of ICAR-CTCRI – Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala](#)

607. On June 20, Hayagriva Madhava Temple Committee of Assam has signed an MoU with two green NGOs, the Assam State Zoo cum Botanical Garden and the Kamrup district administration for long-term conservation of the rare freshwater black Softshell Turtle (*Nilssonina nigricans*). A “Vision Document 2030” was also launched after Turtle Survival Alliance India and Help Earth signed the pact involving the Hayagriva Madhava Temple Committee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hayagriva Madhava Temple Committee ([Assam](#)) – proposed a plan for long-term conservation of the rare freshwater black Softshell Turtle
- Turtle Survival Alliance India + Help Earth + HM Temple Committee = “Vision Document 2030”
- [Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi](#)

608. On June 20, The Lakshadweep administration has mooted a proposal to shift its legal jurisdiction from the Kerala High Court to the Karnataka High Court as it has been facing widespread protests from the islands' people over some of its policies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lakshadweep administration mooted a proposal to shift its legal jurisdiction – from Kerala HC to Karnataka HC
- [Administrator of Lakshadweep – Praful Khoda Patel](#)

609. On June 21, The Ministry of Power has issued an order for extension of the waiver of Inter-State Transmission system (ISTS) charges on transmission of electricity generated from solar and wind sources for projects to be commissioned up to 30th June, 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Power extended the waiver of ISTS charges on transmission of electricity – by 2 years (till 2025)
- [Ministry of Power and New & Renewable Energy – R. K. Singh \(Raj Kumar Singh\)](#)

610. On June 23, Karnataka has launched the state “Learning Management System” to promote digital learning in higher education. As part of the programme organised by the department of collegiate education in Bengaluru, the Chief Minister has also launched 2500 smart classrooms and virtually distribute Table PC to 1.55 lakh students. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka – launched the state “Learning Management System” to promote digital learning in Higher Education
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala](#)

611. On June 25, The Maharashtra cabinet has approved a proposal transferring the ownership of the Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) which was constructing the Navi Mumbai international airport to the Adani Airport Holdings. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra cabinet – approved transferring Mumbai International Airport’s ownership to Adani Airport Holdings
- [Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)
- [HQs of Adani Power Ltd – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Vneet Jaain](#)

612. On June 24, The Odisha government and United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) have joined hands to improve household food and nutritional security by strengthening livelihood initiatives and reaching out to thousands of state-supported Women’s Self-Help Groups (WSHGs). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha + UN WFP = partnership to improve household food and nutritional security
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)
- [HQs of UNWFP – Rome, Italy | ED – David Muldrow Beasley | Countries – 36](#)



613. On June 23, IFFCO will set up a Nano Urea Liquid Manufacturing Plant in Argentina in partnership with two agencies - Instituto Nacional de Asociativismo y Economía Social (INAES) and Cooperative Confederation of Argentina (Cooperar). IFFCO's nano urea liquid is a sustainable solution for plant nutrition with higher nutrition use efficiency and reduces soil, water and air pollution. Earlier, IFFCO had signed a MoU for the same with the Organization of Brazilian Cooperatives (OCB). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IFFCO will set up a Nano Urea Liquid Manufacturing Plant – in Argentina & Brazil
- HQs of IFFCO – New Delhi | Chairman – Balvinder Singh Nakai
- Argentina – Buenos Aires – Peso | President – Alberto Fernandez

614. On June 19, The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has issued a gazette notification constituting the “Karnataka Coastal Zone Management Authority” under provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The 15-member body is meant to protect and improve the quality of the coastal environment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change – “Karnataka Coastal Zone Management Authority”
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

615. On June 23, The world's first genetically modified (GM) rubber plant was planted on the outskirts of Guwahati, Assam. It was developed at the Kerala-based Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII). The plant, which has additional copies of gene MnSOD (manganese containing superoxide dismutase) in it, is expected to revolutionise natural rubber production in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World's first genetically modified (GM) rubber plant – planted in Guwahati, Assam
- HQs of RRII – Kottayam, Kerala

616. On June 24, Minister for Road Transport & Highways and MSMEs, Nitin Gadkari has laid Foundation stone and inaugurated various National Highway Projects in Himachal Pradesh. The total outlay of the 222-km long 9 road corridors is Rs 6,155 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari – laid Foundation stone and inaugurated various National Highway Projects in Himachal Pradesh
- 222-km long 9 road corridors | Total outlay - Rs 6,155 Cr

617. On June 25, The International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) has constituted a committee to examine global best practices in financing and leasing of ships, identify opportunities and devise a roadmap to enable such activities from GIFT IFSC. This committee is chaired by Vandana Aggarwal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IFSCA – constituted a committee to examine global best practices in financing and leasing of ship
- The committee is chaired by – Vandana Aggarwal
- HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairman – Injeti Srinivas



618. On June 25, Clovia, a Women's personal care brand in partnership with Alliance Insurance has launched a tailor-made insurance policy, "Women's Cancer Shield" for breast cancer female patients. Breast cancer accounts for 14% of cancers in Indian women. The company will provide insurance policy cover of Rs 25,000 to female customers in the age group of 18-65 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Clovia + Alliance Insurance = launched "Women's Cancer Shield" for breast cancer female patients
- Insurance policy cover – Rs 25,000 | Age group – 18-65 years
- HQs of Clovia – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | Founder & CEO – Pankaj Vermani
- HQs of Alliance Insurance – Mumbai, MH | Co-Founder and Director – Aatur Thakkar

619. On June 23, PM Narendra Modi has virtually interacted with the participants of "Toycathon-2021", which aims to make India a hub for ideation and production of toys. "Toycathon 2021" was jointly launched by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women and Child Development, MSME Ministry, DPIIT, Textile Ministry, I & B Ministry and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – interacted with the participants of "Toycathon-2021"
- "Toycathon 2021" jointly launched by = MoEd + MoWCD + MoMSME + DPIIT + Textile Mini + I & B Ministry + AICTE

620. On June 23, Goa has not reported a single rabies case in the last 3 years, making Goa the first rabies-free state in India. The task of rabies control has been carried out by 'Mission Rabies project'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Goa – became the first rabies-free state in India
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

621. On June 25, Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has launched the e-filing portal called "ITAT e-dwar" of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT). The portal will enhance accessibility, accountability and transparency in day to day working of the ITAT. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ravi Shankar Prasad – launched the e-filing portal called "ITAT e-dwar" of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)
- Ravi Shankar Prasad – Ministry of Communications, MeitY, Law and Justice (Patna Sahib, Bihar)



International Affairs

622. On June 23, Electric-vehicle maker Tesla Inc has opened its first Charging Station in China with its own solar and energy storage facilities. Tesla moved into the solar business in 2016 with its \$2.6 billion purchase of California-based SolarCity. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tesla – opened its 1st Charging Station – in Lhasa, China
- HQs of Tesla – California, USA | CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2003

623. On June 23, The Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB), a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), was launched in Bhutan. India was chosen as the partner jurisdiction and has provided tax expert to Bhutan for this programme. This programme is expected to be of about 24 months' duration. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNDP + OECD + India = launched “Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB)” initiative in Bhutan
- Bhutan – Thimphu – Bhutanese Ngultrum | PM – Lotay Tshering
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965
- HQs of OECD – Paris, France | Secretary-General – Mathias Cormann | Member countries – 37

624. On June 24, India, along with 183 countries voted in favour of a General Assembly resolution that demanded ending the U.S. economic blockade against Cuba. The U.S. and Israel were the only nations voting against the resolution. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + 183 countries = voted in favour of a General Assembly resolution that demanded ending the U.S. economic blockade against Cuba
- U.S. & Israel – the only nations voting against the resolution
- Cuba – Havana – Peso | President – Miguel Diaz-Canel

Banking & Economic Affairs

625. On June 19, The RBI has imposed penalties of Rs 23 lakh on 3 cooperative banks for contravention of various norms. A penalty of Rs 12 lakh has been imposed on Mogaveera Co-operative Bank Limited, Rs 10 lakh on Indapur Urban Cooperative Bank, and Rs 1 lakh on The Baramati Sahakari Bank Limited, Baramati. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – imposed penalties of Rs 23 lakh on 3 cooperative banks
- Rs 12 lakh – on Mogaveera Co-operative Bank Ltd ([Mumbai, MH](#))



- Rs 10 lakh – on Indapur Urban Cooperative Bank (Indapur, MH)
- Rs 1 lakh – on Baramati Sahakari Bank Ltd (Baramati, MH)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

626. On June 18, PhonePe has launched India's first Auto Top-up feature for its payment wallet, using UPI e-mandate. This feature will allow customers of PhonePe to set up a UPI e-mandate once, post which the company will automatically top up their wallet balance when it falls below the minimum below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PhonePe – launched India's first Auto Top-up feature for its payment wallet, using UPI e-mandate
- HQs of PhonePE – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam | Founded in – 2015

627. On June 22, As a part of Neo-lending strategy, India's largest lending marketplace, Paisabazaar.com, has partnered with SBM Bank of India to launch "Step-Up Credit Card". It is a secured card provided against a fixed deposit (with SBM Bank of India). With an end-to-end digital process, it is instantly issued and activated. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paisabazaar.com + SBM Bank of India = launched "Step-Up Credit Card"
- HQs of Paisabazaar.com – Gurgaon, Haryana | CEO – Naveen Kukreja
- HQs of SBM Bank India – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sidharth Rath
- SBM Bank India – the 1st foreign bank in India to obtain a banking licence from the RBI

628. Afthonia Lab has announced a strategic partnership with YES Bank to support fintech companies in India in their efforts to innovate and inject new ideas that would transform the Indian financial sector. Afthonia Lab's portfolio startups will be able to develop APIs in a sandbox environment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Afthonia Lab + YES Bank = partnership to support fintech companies in India
- HQs of Afthonia Lab – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Tanul Mishra
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – "Experience our Expertise"

629. On June 24, SBI Card and Fabindia have joined hands to launch an exclusive co-branded Contactless Credit Card - Fabindia SBI Card. The card comes in two variants - Fabindia SBI Card SELECT and Fabindia SBI Card. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI Card + Fabindia = partnership to launch an exclusive co-branded Contactless Credit Card
- The card comes in two variants - "Fabindia SBI Card SELECT" & "Fabindia SBI Card"
- HQs of SBI Cards & Payment Services Ltd – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & CEO – Rama Mohan Rao Amara
- HQs of Fabindia – New Delhi | CEO – Viney Singh



630. On June 24, State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a new “Aarogyam Healthcare Business Loan” for the healthcare sector to extend loan support in view of the novel coronavirus pandemic. Under this new scheme, the entire healthcare ecosystem can avail of loans up to ₹100 Cr, repayable in 10 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI – launched a new “Aarogyam Healthcare Business Loan” for the healthcare sector
- Entire Healthcare Ecosystem can avail of loans up to ₹100 Cr, repayable in 10 years
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

631. On June 24, According to the latest data from the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the bank credit-to-GDP ratio rose to a 5-year high of 56.075% in 2020. Total outstanding bank credit stood at \$1.52 trillion in India in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bank credit-to-GDP ratio rose to a 5-year high of a little over 56% in 2020
- HQs of BIS – Basel, Switzerland | General Manager – Agustin Carstens | Established in – 1930

632. On June 24, The RBI has issued guidelines for distribution of dividends by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) from the profits of financial year (FY) ending March 31, 2022 and onwards. The deposit-taking NBFCs should have a CRAR of at least 15% for the last 3 years. Net NPA ratio should be less than 6% in each of the last 3 FYs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI issued guidelines for distribution of dividends by NBFCs from the profits of FY ending March 31, 2022
- Deposit-taking NBFCs should have a CRAR of at least 15% for the last 3 years
- Net NPA ratio should be less than 6% in each of the last 3 FYs
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

633. On June 23, Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched a new feature called “Pay Your Contact” that enables its customers to send money or make payments to any of their contacts across all payment apps simply by the beneficiary’s mobile number. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Bank – launched a new feature called “Pay Your Contact”
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – “Let's make money simple”



Defence Affairs

634. The National Security Guard (NSG) and the Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) have signed an MoU for cooperation and collaboration aimed at strengthening the core competencies of the NSG, which are counter-terrorism, counter-IEDs (Improvised Explosive Device), and anti-hijacking. RRU has also established the Security and Scientific Technical Research Association (SASTRA) to serve the innovation requirements of the forces. The RRU is an institute set up under the Ministry of Home Affairs and is located in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSG + Rashtriya Raksha University = an MoU for cooperation to strengthen the core competencies of the NSG
- RRU – also established the Security and Scientific Technical Research Association (SASTRA)
- RRU – set up under Ministry of Home Affairs in 2009 | Location – Gandhinagar, Gujarat

635. On June 22, Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Navy participated in a “Passage Exercise” or “PASSEX” with the US through Indian Ocean Region. Indian Naval Ships Kochi and Teg along with P8I (maritime patrol aircraft) and (Indian ship based) MiG 29K aircraft participated in the Passex. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAF + Indian Navy = participated in a “Passage Exercise” or “PASSEX” with the US – in Indian Ocean Region
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria | Founded in – 1932
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

636. On June 26, India’s first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC), INS Vikrant, is likely to be commissioned in 2022. The IAC has been under construction at the Cochin Shipyard for over a decade. At present, India has only one aircraft carrier, the Russian-origin INS Vikramaditya. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Vikrant – likely to be commissioned in 2022 | It is under construction at – Cochin Shipyard
- HQs of Cochin Shipyard – Kochi, Kerala | Chairman & MD – Shri Madhu S Nair

Schemes & Initiatives

637. In Gujarat, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has e-launched “Agricultural Diversification Scheme-2021” benefiting vanbandhu- farmers in tribal areas. Under this scheme tribal farmers will get fertilizer-seed assistance of Rs 31 Cr. He also inaugurated the “Command and Control Centre (CCC) 2.0” for monitoring school activities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat – launched “Agricultural Diversification Scheme-2021” for farmers in tribal areas
- Gujarat – also launched “Command and Control Centre (CCC) 2.0” for monitoring school activities
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

638. On June 22, The Delhi government's Social Welfare Department has notified the "Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana" under which Rs 50,000 ex-gratia will be given to every family that has lost a member due to COVID-19 and an additional Rs 2,500 per month if the deceased was the sole breadwinner. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New Delhi – launched the "Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana"
- Rs 50,000 ex-gratia to every family | additional Rs 2,500 per month if the deceased was the sole breadwinner
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

639. On June 25, The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has organised an online event to commemorate 6th Anniversary of the launch of 3 transformative Urban Missions viz. Smart Cities Mission (SCM), AMRUT and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U), which were launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, on 25th June, 2015. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has announced awards to states for the overall performance of the smart cities for the first time. It was won by Uttar Pradesh. In Cities, Indore and Surat won the Smart City award. While, Ahmedabad topped the Smart Cities Leadership Award. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHUA – organised an online event to commemorate 6th Anniversary of 3 transformative Urban Missions
- 3 Missions: Smart Cities Mission (SCM), AMRUT & Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) – launched in 2015
- Smart City award: In States: Uttar Pradesh | In cities: Indore & Surat
- Ahmedabad – topped the Smart Cities Leadership Award



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Sports & Games

640. Swimmer Kaylee McKeown has broken the 100-meter backstroke world record at the Australian Olympic trials. The 19-year-old McKeown had a time of 57.45 seconds at the South Australian Aquatic Centre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kaylee McKeown ([Australian Swimmer](#)) – broke the 100-meter backstroke world record at Australian Olympic trials
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

641. On June 17, The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has appointed mobile gaming platform MPL Sports Foundation as the Principal Sponsor of the country's contingent for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics, 2022 Asian Games & Birmingham Commonwealth Games. Amul has agreed to be a sponsor for the Tokyo Games to be held from July 23 to August 8. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IOA appointed "MPL Sports" Foundation as the Principal Sponsor for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics
- Amul & JSW Group also agreed to be Sponsor for Tokyo Olympics
- HQs of IOA – New Delhi | President – Narinder Dhruv Batra | Secretary General – Rajeev Mehta



642. On June 17, Madhya Pradesh shooter Rubina Francis has set a world record and won herself the Gold in the 10-metre Air Pistol Para Women Event at World shooting Para Sport Cup in Peru. Rubina scored 238.1 points and beat the world record of Aysegul Pehlivanlar of Turkey. She also secured the Paralympic quota for India at the Tokyo games this year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rubina Francis ([Shooter from Madhya Pradesh](#)) – won the Gold in the 10-metre Air Pistol Para Women Event
- She set a world record of 238.1 points – at World shooting Para Sport Cup in Peru

643. On June 21, Weightlifter Laurel Hubbard has become the first transgender athlete to compete at the Olympics after being selected by New Zealand for the women's event at the Tokyo Games. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Laurel Hubbard – became the 1st transgender athlete to compete at the Olympics after being selected by New Zealand
- Laurel Hubbard ([New Zealand](#)) – Weightlifter

644. On June 23, India's Official Olympic Theme Song was launched by Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju for the Tokyo Olympics or Summer Games in July-August. The song is titled "Lakshya Tera Samne Hai" and it was composed & sung by a singer Mohit Chauhan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kiren Rijiju – launched India's Official Olympic Theme Song for the Tokyo Olympics or Summer Games
- The song is titled "Lakshya Tera Samne Hai" | Composed & sung by – Mohit Chauhan

645. On June 23, New Zealand has defeated India in the 2019-2021 ICC World Test Championship to win inaugural edition of the World Test Championship 2021. Marnus Labuschagne was the Top run scorer and Ravichandran Ashwin was the Top Wicket taker in the match. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New Zealand – defeated India to win inaugural edition of the "ICC World Test Championship 2021"
- [New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar \(NZD\) | PM – Jacinda Ardern](#)

Important Days & Dates

646. The United Nations Public Service Day is celebrated on June 23 every year to celebrate the value and virtue of public service to the community. This year, the theme is "Innovating the Future Public Service: New Government Models for a New Era to Reach the SDGs". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- June 23 – UN Public Service Day
- Theme – "Innovating the Future Public Service: New Government Models for a New Era to Reach the SDGs"

647. “World Olympic Day” or “International Olympic Day” is celebrated on June 23 all around the world. Olympic Day is based on three pillars - Move, Learn & Detect. World Olympic Day was introduced in 1948. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- June 23 – “World Olympic Day” or “International Olympic Day” (since 1948)
- [HQs of IOC – Lausanne, Switzerland](#) | [President – Thomas Bach](#)

648. June 23 has been observed as “International Widows Day” since 2011 to draw attention to the voices of widows, highlight the problems they face and galvanize the support that they need. The first International Widows Day was launched by Loomba Foundation. This year, the theme is “Invisible Women, Invisible Problems”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- June 23 – “International Widows Day” (since 2011)
- Theme – “Invisible Women, Invisible Problems”

649. “Vitiligo Awareness Day” also known as “World Vitiligo Day” was recently observed across the globe on June 25. This year, the theme is “Embracing Life with Vitiligo”. The day also marks the death anniversary of American singer Michael Jackson, “King of Pop”. Skin is affected by Vitiligo disease. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- June 25 – “Vitiligo Awareness Day” also known as “World Vitiligo Day”
- Theme – “Embracing Life with Vitiligo”

650. June 21 is the longest day in the Northern Hemisphere and the day is also celebrated as “World Humanist Day” since the 1980s. The word ‘humanist’ derives from the Latin word ‘Humanitas’, which means human nature, civilisation and kindness. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- June 21 – “World Humanist Day” (since 1980s)
- June 21 – longest day in the Northern Hemisphere

651. “International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking” is observed every year on June 26 with an aim to spread awareness about the global drug problem and eliminate drug misuse. “Share Drug Facts to Save Lives” is the theme this year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- June 26 – International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
- Theme – “Share Drug Facts to Save Lives”



652. The “International Day in Support of Victims of Torture” is observed on 26 June every year by the United Nations (UN). The day is marked to urge all stakeholders to unite for those who have faced or are facing abuse and torture. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- June 26 – “International Day in Support of Victims of Torture”

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

653. On June 22, MoS for Education and Electronics & IT, Sanjay Dhotre has represented India in the “G20 Education Ministers meet 2021”. He also attended the “G20 Ministers for Labour & Employment meet 2021” on the same day. The two meetings were held under the Chairmanship of Italy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjay Dhotre – represented India in the “G20 Education Ministers meet 2021” – chaired by Italy
- Sanjay Dhotre – also represented India in the “G20 Ministers for Labour & Employment meet 2021”
- [Presidency of G20 Summit: 2021 – Italy | 2022 – Indonesia | 2023 – India | 2024 – Brazil](#)

654. As on June 22, India has agreed to host the 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9) of the International Energy Forum (IEF) in 2022. Such previous meeting was held in Abu Dhabi during 2018 and it was co-hosted by India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to host the 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9) of the IEF in 2022
- [HQs of IEF – Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | Established in – 1991](#)

655. On June 22, BRICS Nations have unanimously agreed on an innovation co-operation at the 11th BRICS Science & Technology Steering Committee Meeting. The meeting was hosted by India. The concept note and Action Plan for BRICS Innovation Cooperation 2021-2024 was discussed during the meeting. The meeting was led from the Indian side by Sanjeev Kumar Varshney. India will host 6th edition of “BRICS Young Scientist Conclave” during 13-16 September 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjeev Kumar Varshney – led Indian delegation in the 11th BRICS S&T Steering Committee Meeting – hosted by India
- India will host 6th edition of “BRICS Young Scientist Conclave” in September 2021
- [BRICS Member Countries = 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | BRICS Chairmanship in 2021 – India](#)

656. On June 24, The 44th Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2021 of Reliance Industries Ltd was conducted virtually. Reliance Jio will partner with Google Cloud to launch 5G services in India. Saudi Aramco Chairman and Governor of the Kingdom's wealth fund Public Investment Fund, Yasir Al-Rumayyan, has been inducted into the board of Reliance Industries Ltd as an Independent Director. RIL will set up "Dhirubhai Ambani Green Energy Giga Complex" in Jamnagar, Gujarat at a cost of Rs 60,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 44th Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2021 of Reliance Industries Ltd was conducted virtually
- Yasir Al-Rumayyan – has been inducted into the board of Reliance Industries Ltd as an Independent Director
- Reliance Jio – will partner with Google Cloud to launch 5G services in India (Rs 60,000 Cr)
- RIL – will set up "Dhirubhai Ambani Green Energy Giga Complex" in Jamnagar, Gujarat
- HQs of Reliance Industries Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani | Founded in – 1973
- HQs of Saudi Aramco – Dhahran, Saudi Arabia | CEO – Amin H. Nasser | Chairman – Yasir Al-Rumayyan

657. On June 24, National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval has attended the 16th meeting of Security Council Secretaries of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) held at Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The Beijing-based SCO has emerged as one of the largest transregional international organisations. India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajit Doval (NSA) – attended the 16th meeting of Security Council Secretaries of SCO – held at Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- HQs of SCO – Beijing, China | Member Countries – 8

658. On June 24, Food Processing Industries (FPI) Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has called the industry players to take benefit of the government initiatives, including the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, during the 3rd edition of the "Northern Region Food Processing Summit 2021" organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry. The government has launched the PLI scheme for the food processing industry, under which Rs 11,000 Cr will be spent. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3rd edition of the "Northern Region Food Processing Summit 2021" – organised by the CII
- Food Processing Industry – included into the Production Linked Incentives (PLI) – at a cost of Rs 11,000 Cr
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – T. V. Narendran | Director General – Chandrajit Banerjee

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

659. On June 24, The Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) has won the Airport Council International's (ACI) Director General's Roll of Excellence honour for Quality of Airport Service. The CIAL consistently delivered excellence in customer service by winning multiple ASQ awards over five years during the past 10 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cochin International Airport Ltd – won the ACI's DG's Roll of Excellence honour for Quality of Airport Service
- HQs of ACI – Montreal, Canada | DG – Luis Felipe de Oliveira

Appointments & Resignations

660. The Centre has extended the tenure of appointment of Ananta Barua & SK Mohanty as Whole-time Members (WTM) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for a period of two years till July 31, 2023. Barua was appointed as SEBI WTM in June 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ananta Barua & SK Mohanty – tenure extended as Whole-time Members (WTM) of SEBI – for 2 years (till 2023)
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992
- Total WTMs in the SEBI: 4 – G. Mahalingam, Madhabi Puri Buch, Ananta Barua, SK Mohanty

661. On June 21, Vijay Deshwal has joined Magma Fincorp Ltd as its group Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Poonawalla Group acquired 60% stake in Magma Fincorp in May, 2021. Vijay Deshwal has post-graduated from IIM Ahmedabad (IIM-A). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vijay Deshwal – appointed as the CEO of Magma Fincorp Ltd
- HQs of Magma Fincorp Ltd – Kolkata, West Bengal

662. On June 23, The Delhi government has appointed India's first woman Olympic medal winner Karnam Malleswari as the first Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi Sports University (DSU). The Delhi Assembly had in 2019 passed a Bill to set up the DSU which would offer graduation, postgraduation and doctorate degrees in cricket, football, and hockey among other sports. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnam Malleswari – appointed as the first Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi Sports University



663. On June 23, Barrister Pardeep Singh Tiwana has become the first Indian to be appointed as a judge of the County Court of Victoria (Australia). Earlier, Jalandhar's Palbinder Kaur Shergill had become the first Sikh turbaned baptised woman to be appointed as a Supreme Court Judge of Canada in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pardeep Singh Tiwana – became the 1st Indian to be appointed as a judge of the County Court of Victoria (Australia)
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

Amount & Agreements

664. On June 25, The Government of India, Mizoram and the World Bank have signed a \$32 million Mizoram Health Systems Strengthening Project to improve management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram. The project will invest in a comprehensive Quality Assurance program which would enable quality certification of health facilities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + World Bank = \$32 million project to improve Health Services in Mizoram
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

665. On June 25, The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved a \$125 million “Resilient Kerala Program” to support Kerala’s preparedness against natural disasters, climate change impacts, disease outbreaks and pandemics. The program laid the foundations for a 5 year State Partnership Framework. The program will be in the Pamba River Basin. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Bank – approved \$125 mn “Resilient Kerala Program” to support Kerala’s preparedness against natural disasters
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant



Ranks, Reports & Surveys

666. On June 21, According to the “Global Wealth Report 2020” released by Credit Suisse, overall wealth of India’s super-rich dipped 4.4% to reach \$12.83 trillion. While Mukesh Ambani, Gautam Adani and the Poonawallas saw a significant jump in their net worth. India is home to 1% of the global rich. The report expects the number of millionaires in India to increase 81.8% to 1.3 million by 2025. Every adult Indian was worth an average \$14,252 in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Wealth Report 2020” – released by Credit Suisse ([Zurich, Switzerland](#))
- Overall wealth of India’s super-rich decreased by 4.4% to reach \$12.83 trillion in 2020
- The number of millionaires in India is expected to increase 81.8% to 1.3 million by 2025

667. On June 22, India invested in 99 projects and created 4,830 jobs in the UK to retain India's position as the second-largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) after the US in the past year, according to the “Inward Investment Statistics for 2020-21” released by the UK. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Inward Investment Statistics for 2020-21” – released by the UK
- Largest source of FDI for the UK in 2020: 1st – US | 2nd – India
- India invested in 99 projects & created 4,830 jobs in the UK
- [UK – London – Pound Sterling](#) | [PM – Boris Johnson](#)

668. On June 23, According to the 10th edition of “Reuters Institute Digital News Report 2021”, India has ranked 31 out of 46 countries on levels of overall trust in news. Finland had the highest levels of overall trust in news (65%) while the U.S. had the lowest levels of trust (29%). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 10th edition of “Reuters Institute Digital News Report 2021”
- India – 31 out of 46 countries on overall trust in news | Highest levels of overall trust – Finland | Lowest – US

669. On June 22, This year, only four business schools globally made it to the top as a pioneering B-school in the 2nd edition of the “Positive Impact Rating 2021”, of which three are from India. Among the three are: Goa Institute of Management (GIM), SP Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPJIMR) and XLRI - Xavier School of Management. The fourth one is University of Business and Technology Kosovo. The Goa Institute of Management emerged as a leader. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2nd edition of the “Positive Impact Rating 2021” – topped by Goa Institute of Management
- This year, only 4 business schools globally made it to the top as a pioneering B-school
 - Goa Institute of Management (GIM)
 - SP Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPJIMR)
 - XLRI - Xavier School of Management
 - University of Business and Technology Kosovo

670. On June 19, Bengaluru has ranked as most liveable city in India as per the report titled “State of India’s Environment in Figures 2021” released by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). Bengaluru received an ease of living index score of 66.7, followed by Chennai 62.61. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “State of India’s Environment in Figures 2021” – released by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)
- Bengaluru (66.7) – ranked as most liveable city in India | 2nd – Chennai | 3rd – Shimla
- HQs of CSE – New Delhi | Director General – Sunita Narain

671. On June 25, Bengaluru has emerged as the top five technology centres in Asia Pacific region, according to a report by Colliers. Hyderabad ranked in the top 10 list in the report titled “Growth Engines of Innovation: How Asia Pacific Technology Hubs are Reshaping Regional Real Estate”. Beijing bagged the top spot in the list followed by Shanghai, Bengaluru, Shenzhen, and Singapore. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Colliers: “Growth Engines of Innovation: How Asia Pacific Technology Hubs are Reshaping Regional Real Estate”
- Bengaluru – emerged as the top five technology centres in Asia Pacific region | Hyderabad – in the top 10 list
- The top spot in the list – Beijing

672. On June 23, Colombia is home to the world’s largest variety of butterflies, approximately 20% of all known species, according to a study published by the Natural History Museum in London. Between 2000 and 2019 Colombia lost nearly 2.8 million hectares of forest, equivalent to the area of Belgium. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Colombia is home to the world’s largest variety of butterflies – published by Natural History Museum (London)
- Colombia – Bogota – Peso | President – Ivan Duque Marquez

673. On June 23, Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata, founder of the Tata Group, has topped the EdelGive Hurun Philanthropists of the Century. Tata is the only Indian in the top 10 list. The other Indian among the top 50 is Azim Premji, former chairman of Wipro, who is ranked 12th. The total philanthropic value of Tata is made up of 66% of Tata Sons, estimated at \$102.4 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata – topped the “EdelGive Hurun Philanthropists of the Century” (\$102.4 billion)
- Azim Premji (12th) – among the top 50

674. On June 24, India’s share in the global engineering and research and development (ER&D) market is expected to grow at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 12-13% to reach \$63 billion by 2025, according to industry body Nasscom. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's share in the global ER&D market – expected to grow at a CAGR of 12-13% to reach \$63 billion by 2025
- CAGR – Compound Annual Growth Rate
- HQs of NASSCOM – New Delhi | President – Debjani Ghosh

675. On June 23, India has attracted a total foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow of \$6.24 billion in April 2021, which is 38% higher compared to the total inflow of \$4.53 billion in April, 2020. Mauritius is the top investing country with 24% of the FDI Equity inflows, followed by Singapore (21%) and Japan (11%). Karnataka is the top recipient in case of states. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India attracted a total FDI inflow of \$6.24 billion in April 2021 (38% higher compared April 2020)
- Top investing countries: 1st - Mauritius (24%) | 2nd - Singapore (21%) | 3rd - Japan (11%)
- Top recipient in states – Karnataka

676. On June 25, The Post Graduate Programme in Enterprise Management (PGPEM) of IIM Bangalore has been ranked the Best in India with a score of 61.8 in the latest edition of “QS Executive MBA Rankings 2021” of Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). IIM Bangalore has bagged the 39th spot globally, making it the only Indian institute to feature in the list of the top 100. IIM Bangalore holds the 10th spot in the Asia-Pacific category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIM Bangalore – ranked the Best in India in the “QS Executive MBA Rankings 2021”
- IIM Bangalore: Globally - 39th | In Asia-Pacific category - 10th

677. On June 25, Around 275 million people used drugs worldwide in 2020, while over 36.3 million people (13%) suffered from drug use disorders, according to the “World Drug Report 2021” released by the U. N. Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World Drug Report 2021” – released by the UNODC
- 275 million people used drugs worldwide in 2020 | 36.3 million people (13%) suffered from drug use disorders
- HQs of UNODC – Vienna, Austria | Director-General – Ghada Fathi Waly

678. On June 22, Over 19,300 children, including boys and girls, suffered from one or more incidents of grave violations against them in 2020, according to the “Annual Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict” (CAAC) released by the United Nations (UN). While, crimes of abduction grew by 90% in 2020, incidents of rape and other forms of sexual violence increased by 70%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Annual Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict” – released by the UN
- Over 19,300 children – suffered from one or more incidents of grave violations in 2020
- Crimes of abduction increased by – 90% in 2020 | Incidents of rape & sexual violence increased by – 70% in 2020



Acquisitions & Mergers

679. On June 19, HDFC Bank has received approval to buy more than 3.55 Cr shares in HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company for over Rs 1,906 Cr from the parent company Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank – to buy more than 3.55 Cr shares in HDFC ERGO General Insurance for over Rs 1,906 Cr
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”
- HQs of HDFC ERGO General Insurance – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Ritesh Kumar

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

680. On June 18, India along with Italy and Japan has launched their Trilateral Partnership to create stability and a rules-based international order based on consent of all in the Indo-Pacific region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Italy + Japan = launched their Trilateral Partnership for Indo-Pacific stability
- Italy – Rome – Euro | President – Sergio Mattarella | PM – Mario Draghi
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

681. On June 21, The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), have recently collaborated on a joint mission for the “NISHTHA” capacity-building programme for Eklavya school teachers and principals. Under the programme, teachers and principals from 120 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) from 3 States (Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh) participated in the first batch of the programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs + NCERT = collaboration for the “NISHTHA” capacity-building programme
- NISHTHA – National Initiative for School Heads’ and Teachers’ Holistic Advancement
- Teachers & principals from 120 Eklavya Model Residential Schools – participated in the 1st batch of the programme
- HQs of NCERT – New Delhi | Director – Hrushikesh Senapaty

682. On June 24, The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and WhatsApp have partnered to launch the “Digital Skill Champions Program” that aims to train India’s youth on digital skills to make them employment ready. The programme will be imparted through WhatsApp’s project implementation partner - ‘InfiSpark’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSDC + WhatsApp = partnership to launch the “Digital Skill Champions Program”
- The programme will be imparted through WhatsApp’s project implementation partner - ‘InfiSpark’
- HQs of NSDC – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Manish Kumar
- HQs of Whatsapp – California, USA | CEO – Jan Koum | Founded in – 2009

683. On June 23, Denmark has signed the framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA) and Instrument of Ratification with India. Meanwhile, Denmark becomes first country to ratify International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Denmark + India = International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA) and Instrument of Ratification
- Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen
- HQs of ISA – Gurugram, Haryana | DG – Ajay Mathur | Member Countries – 124

684. On June 23, The Cabinet has approved an agreement between India and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for the exchange of tax information and assistance in the collection. The agreement will promote tax cooperation between the two countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved an agreement between “India + Saint Vincent & Grenadines” for the exchange of Tax Information
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines – Kingstown | PM – Ralph Gonsalves

685. On June 24, Triton Electric Vehicle Pvt Ltd has signed an MoU with the Telangana government for setting up ₹2,100 Cr manufacturing unit for electric buses in Zaheerabad. The project expects to employ more than 25,000 persons and produce 50,000 vehicles over the first 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Triton Electric Vehicle + Telangana = an MoU to set up ₹2,100 Cr manufacturing unit for electric buses in Zaheerabad
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

686. On June 25, Maharashtra has signed an MoU with the British government under their “ACT4Green” programme, which aims to enable the Indian and UK start-ups to expand internationally through market entry support in their respective cross-border markets of interest. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra + UK = an MoU under their “ACT4Green” programme
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshiyari
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson



687. On June 25, MOIL Ltd has signed a pact with the Madhya Pradesh government and the Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation Ltd (MPSMCL) to explore the options of Manganese ore mining in four districts of the state - Balaghat, Jabalpur, Jhabua, and Chhindwara. MOIL has carried out detailed remote sensing studies with the help of the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) ISRO, Hyderabad, in order to identify the manganese-bearing areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MOIL Ltd + Madhya Pradesh + MPSMCL = to explore the options of Manganese ore mining in 4 districts
- HQs of MOIL Ltd – Nagpur, Maharashtra | Chairman & MD – Mukund Chaudhari
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

Books & Authors

688. Ruskin Bond has recently authored a book titled “It’s a Wonderful Life”. The book is part-nostalgia and part-current-affairs as Bond tries to make sense of life’s diverse currents. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “It’s a Wonderful Life” – authored by Ruskin Bond

689. On June 22, Dr. Vipin Gupta has recently authored two new books around his project “VIPIN” (Vastly Integrated Processes Inside Nature). He has already published 4 books in this project. The books are titled “What is Consciousness” & “What is Para Consciousness”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Vipin Gupta – authored 2 new books for his project “VIPIN” (Vastly Integrated Processes Inside Nature)
- Books: “What is Consciousness” & “What is Para Consciousness”

690. On June 23, Tahmima Anam’s novel, titled “The Startup Wife” has been published by Penguin Random House India. It revolves around a coder Asha Ray, and her high school crush-turned-husband Cyrus Jones who develop a hit social media networking app. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Startup Wife” novel – authored by Tahmima Anam
- Publisher – Penguin Random House India

691. On June 22, A book titled “Habba Khatoon” was released by Sanjana Prakashan, New Delhi at Mandi House. The book has been penned down by daughter of the soil Kajal Suri. Habba Khatoon was a renowned poetess of Kashmir. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Habba Khatoon” book – authored by Kajal Suri | Released by – Sanjana Prakashan
- Habba Khatoon – a Poetess of Kashmir



Obituaries

692. Gottfried Bohm passed away at the age of 101. The venerable architect leaves a legacy of more than 60 churches across Germany. Bohm was awarded the Pritzker Prize in 1986. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gottfried Bohm ([Germany](#)) – an Architect – passed away (Pritzker Prize in 1986)
- [Germany](#) – [Berlin](#) – [Euro](#) | [President](#) – [Frank-Walter Steinmeier](#)

693. On June 24, Former Philippines President Benigno Aquino passed away. He was 61. He was president of the Philippines from 2010 to 2016. [{Read more}](#)

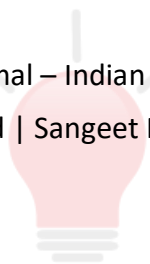
Key Points:

- Benigno Aquino – Former President of Philippines – passed away
- [Philippines](#) – [Manila](#) – [Peso](#) | [President](#) – [Rodrigo Duterte](#)

694. On June 22, Doyenne of Carnatic music and Padma Shri award-winner Parassala B. Ponnammal passed away. She was 96. She was a recipient of the State government's Swathi award and the Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 2009 and the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi award. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Parassala B. Ponnammal – Indian Carnatic musician – passed away (Padma Shri - for Carnatic music)
- Awards: Swathi award | Sangeet Natak Akademi award (2009) | Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi award



Science & Technology

695. On June 21, The Israeli military used a plane armed with a High-Power Laser Weapon System to intercept and shoot down several unmanned aircraft in flight in a first-of-its-kind test for the Israeli armed forces. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Israel – tested a plane armed with a High-Power Laser Weapon System that can destroy unmanned aircrafts / drones
- [Israel](#) – [Jerusalem](#) – [Israeli Shekel](#) | [President](#) – [Isaac Herzog](#) | [PM](#) – [Naftali Bennett](#)

696. On June 23, IBM and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have launched the “IBM-IISc Hybrid Cloud lab” to advance research in Hybrid Cloud Technologies and drive breakthrough innovations in this area. The lab will be co-chaired by Prof. Yogesh Simmhan and Dr. Amith Singhee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IBM + IISc = launched the “IBM-IISc Hybrid Cloud lab” to advance research in Hybrid Cloud Technologies
- The lab will be co-chaired by = Prof. Yogesh Simmhan + Dr. Amith Singhee
- [HQs of IBM India](#) – [Bengaluru](#), [Karnataka](#) | [MD](#) – [Sandip Patel](#)



697. On June 24, A multinational project called “Committee on Earth Observation Satellites-Coastal Observations, Applications, Services, and Tools (CEOS COAST)”, co-led by ISRO and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) from the US has been recently endorsed by UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) for its use of innovative technology, and for fostering trust and collaboration among scientists. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CEOS COAST (ISRO) & NOAA (US) = endorsed by the UNESCO IOC for its use of Innovative Technology
- HQs of UNESCO IOC – Paris, France | Executive Secretary – Vladimir Ryabinin
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969

698. On June 25, China aims to send its first crewed mission to Mars in 2033 under a long-term plan to build a permanently inhabited base on the Red Planet and extract its resources. Crewed launches to Mars are planned for 2033, 2035, 2037, 2041 and beyond. China is also planning to set up a base in the south pole of the Moon and is deploying robotic expeditions to asteroids and Jupiter around 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – aims to send its first crewed mission to Mars in 2033
- China is also planning to set up a base in the south pole of the Moon around 2030
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

699. On June 23, A team of researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), Bhubaneswar, has discovered a new species of skittering frog species named “Euphlyctis Kerala” from the surroundings of the Thattekkad bird sanctuary in Kerala. The discovery was published in the International Journal Zootaxa published from New Zealand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Euphlyctis Kerala” a new species of frog – discovered in Thattekkad bird sanctuary (Kerala)
- Publisher – “International Journal Zootaxa”
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

700. On June 24, The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has test-fired “Nirbhay” subsonic cruise missile, having a range of around 1,000 km, from an integrated test range in Balasore in Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO – test-fired “Nirbhay” subsonic cruise missile – from Balasore, Odisha | Range – 1,000 km
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal





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