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# June MockDrill PDF No. 12

(PDF in English)



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## National & States Affairs

**551.** On June 23, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the new premises of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, namely "Vanijya Bhawan". Besides, PM Modi also launched a new portal called "NIRYAT" (National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade), a one-stop place for all info needed for India's foreign trade. Despite global disruptions last year, India exported a total of \$670 billion or Rs 50 lakh Cr. {Read more}

### **Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi inaugurated new premises of Ministry of Commerce & Industry "Vanijya Bhawan"
- Narendra Modi launched new portal called "NIRYAT" for India's foreign trade
- NIRYAT National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade
- India exported a total of \$670 billion (Rs 50 lakh Cr) in FY 2021-22
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal | Constituency Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Anupriya Singh Patel & Som Parkash

**552.** On June 24, Minister for Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Nitin Gadkari approved the Draft GSR Notification to introduce "Bharat NCAP (New Car Assessment Program)", wherein automobiles in India shall be accorded Star Ratings based upon their performance in Crash Tests. The Ministry issued a notification, whereby it is proposed to insert a new Rule 126E in "Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), 1989" regarding the Bharat NCAP. {Read more} **Key Points:** 

- Nitin Gadkari approved Draft GSR Notification to introduce "Bharat NCAP"
- For this, MoRTH issued a notification to insert a new Rule 126E in "Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), 1989"
- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: Nitin Gadkari | Constituency Nagpur, Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: V. K. Singh UESTION BANK

**553.** On June 10, India's power demand touched a record high of 211 GW even though the coal shortage continued. To bridge the gap between shortage in domestic supply and increasing demand, power generating companies or 'gencos' were directed to use imported coal for 10% of their requirement, failing which their domestic supplies would be cut. India is the second largest producer of coal, with reserves that could last up to 100 years. {Read more} **Key Points:** 

- India's power demand touched a record high of 211 GW
- India is 2<sup>nd</sup> largest producer of coal

**554.** On June 25, Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has revised the "Rules on Voluntary Winding up of Companies" to give additional opportunities to companies for making the case for an exit through electronic filing after the initial request. The idea is to make the corporate exit process under the Companies Act provisions, outside the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), smoother. Voluntary winding up under the "Companies Act" and the corporate restructure option available under a "2019 Reserve Bank of India Scheme" are two options other than IBC available to businesses. {Read more} **Key Points:** 

- MCA revised "Rules on Voluntary Winding up of Companies"
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Corporate Affairs: Rao Inderjit Singh



**555.** In June 2022, the Central Consumer Protection authority (CCPA), under the Department of Consumer Affairs, issued the "Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022" with an objective to curb misleading advertisements and protect the consumers, who may be exploited or affected by such advertisements. The CCPA has been established under 'Section 10' of the 'Consumer Protection Act, 2019' for regulating matters relating to violation of the rights of the consumers, unfair trade practices and false or misleading advertisements. {Read more}

### **Key Points:**

- CCPA issued "Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements & Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements"
- The CCPA was established under 'Section 10' of the 'Consumer Protection Act, 2019'
- HQs of CCPA New Delhi | HQs of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Consumer Healthcare Brentford, UK

**556.** On June 22, Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, inaugurated a Brainstorming Workshop in New Delhi to kick start an ambitious National Mission on "National Air Quality Resource Framework of India (NARFI)". The NARFI is developed by the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru. The framework will provide an all-inclusive guide to collecting air quality data, studying its impact and implementing science-based solutions. {Read more}

### **Key Points:**

- Ajay Kumar Sood inaugurated Workshop to kick start 'National Mission on NARFI'
- NARFI developed by NIAS, Bengaluru

**557.** On June 23, Peoples Action for Employment Guarantee (PAEG), a group of academicians and activists working in the field, said that the Ministry of Rural Development must withdraw its order related to MGNREGA scheme worksites. The ministry's order discontinues manual attendance for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MGNREGA) scheme worksites with more than 20 workers, to replace it using an app, "National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS)" for recording attendance. PAEG, in a recent letter to Secretary Rural Development N. N. Sinha, said that the Ministry's May 13<sup>th</sup> order is a violation of rights of workers. {Read more}

### **Key Points:**

- MoRD ordered to discontinue manual attendance for 'MGNREGA Scheme' worksites with more than 20 workers & replace it using mobile app "NMMS"
- Ministry of Rural Development: Giriraj Singh | Constituency Begusarai, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Rural Development: Faggansingh Kulaste & Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti

**558.** On June 23, the Ministry of Home Affairs further extended the validity of the FCRA registration of NGOs whose renewal application is pending with the government, till September 30. The previous deadline was June 30 this year. This, however, is applicable to such NGOs who have applied for renewal before expiry of their validity period or will apply in the given period. {Read more}

- MHA extended validity of FCRA registration of NGOs till Sept 30
- Ministry of Home Affairs: Amit Shah | Constituency Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Home Affairs: Nityanand Rai, Ajay Kumar & Nisith Pramanik

**559.** On June 24, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin launched various initiatives during the "Tamil Nadu Advanced Manufacturing Conclave 2022" held at Taramani, Chennai. The CM inaugurated the "Tamil Nadu Centre of Excellence in Advance Manufacturing (TANCAM)", India's first of its kind CoE, set up at a cost of Rs 212 Cr, at the TIDEL Park at Taramani in Chennai. TANCAM has been established by Dassault System and Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) on the hub and spoke model. He also unveiled two SIPCOT Innovation Centres established at the SIPCOT Industrial Parks in Hosur and Sriperumbudur at a total cost of ₹33.46 Cr. Moreover, he launched the "Industry 4.0 Maturity Index Survey", conducted by TIDCO along with Infosys, IIT Madras and the University of Nottingham. {Read more} **Key Points:** 

- M. K. Stalin (Tamil Nadu) inaugurated the 'Centre of Excellence in Advance Manufacturing' in Chennai
- TANCSM established by Dassault System & TIDCO
- "Industry 4.0 Maturity Index Survey" conducted by = TIDCO + Infosys + IIT Madras + University of Nottingham
- Tamil Nadu: Capital Chennai | CM Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**560.** On June 24, the 26<sup>th</sup> "Sindhu Darshan Yatra" was inaugurated by Ladakh Lieutenant Governor R. K. Mathur in Leh, Ladakh. The much awaited 4-day Sindhu Darshan Yatra began at Sindhu Ghat in Shey village of Leh, after 2 years break owing to COVID pandemic. On the occasion, Mr. Mathur also released a Commemorative Envelope worth Rs 50 with Sindhu Ghat and snow covered mountains in the backdrop. {Read more} **Key Points:** 

- R. K. Mathur (Ladakh) inaugurated the 26<sup>th</sup> "Sindhu Darshan Yatra" in Leh
- Ladakh: Capital Leh | Lt. Governor R. K. Mathur

**561.** On June 24, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched e-auction for Commercial Earning & Non-Fare Revenue (NFR) contracts in Rail Bhavan, New Delhi. For this, Indian Railways has taken steps to bring Commercial Earning & NFR contracts under the ambit of electronic auction through Indian Railway e-Procurement System (IREPS), in line with prevailing e-auction of scrap sale. This policy enhances ease of living, promotes transparency and adds to Digital India initiatives in Railways. {Read more}

### Key Points:

- Ashwini Vaishnaw launched e-auction for 'Commercial Earning' & 'Non-Fare Revenue (NFR)' contracts in New Delhi
- HQs of Indian Railways New Delhi | Chairman & CEO Vinay Kumar Tripathi
- Ministry of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Railways: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao & Darshana Vikram Jardosh

562. On June 22, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) unveiled its patented indigenous solar cook top named, "Surya Nutan", developed by the IOC's Faridabad R&D centre. Surya Nutan will aid in reducing India's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions drastically. The solar cook top is a stationary, rechargeable and kitchen-connected indoor solar cooking system. It offers an online cooking mode while charging. The initial cost of the product was ₹12,000 for the base model and ₹23,000 for the top model. {Read more} Key Points:

- IOC unveiled its patented indigenous solar cook top named, "Surya Nutan"
- HQs of IOCL New Delhi | Chairperson Shrikant Madhav Vaidya | Founded in 1959

**563.** On June 24, the upgraded "Ayush Wellness Centre" in the President's Estate, New Delhi was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind, in the presence of Minister of Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal. Ayush Wellness Centre (AWC) at President Estate was started on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2015, as a joint initiative of the Ministry of Ayush and President Secretariat. A book documenting "Establishment, Functioning and Key Milestone" of Ayush Wellness Centre was also released at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre by Minister of State for Ayush, Munjpara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai. {Read more} **Key Points:** 

- Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the upgraded "Ayush Wellness Centre" (initially launched in 2015)
- Ministry of AYUSH: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency Majuli, Asssam
- MoS in Ministry of AYUSH: Munjapara Mahendrabhai

**564.** On June 23, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel launched the 17<sup>th</sup> 'Shala Praveshotsav', the drive to enroll students in primary schools in the state. The 3-day enrollment drive begins from Memadpur primary school in Vadgam taluka of Banaskantha district. {Read more}

### **Key Points:**

- Bhupendra Patel launched 17<sup>th</sup> 'Shala Praveshotsav' a drive to enroll students in primary schools in Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital Gandhinagar | CM Bhupendra Patel | Governor Acharya Dev Vrat

## **International Affairs**

**565.** On June 23, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared global health emergency over Monkeypox outbreak. The WHO label - a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)", is designed to trigger a coordinated international response and could unlock funding to collaborate on sharing vaccines and treatments. Monkeypox is a virus passed from infected animals such as rodents to humans. The first-ever recorded occurrence of the monkeypox virus was in the U.K. in 2018. {Read more}

Key Points:

- WHO declared global health emergency over 'Monkeypox' outbreak (passed from infected animals to humans)
- First case was recorded in the U.K. in 2018
- UK London Pound Sterling | PM Boris Johnson

**566.** In June 2022, the Boris Johnson administration has come up with a new legislation, the "Northern Ireland Protocol Bill", which would enable the UK to override provisions of the "Brexit Deal" that concern trading arrangements in Northern Ireland. The European Union (EU) stated that the proposed law violates international law and has threatened to take legal action against the UK if it goes ahead with the legislation. Northern Ireland is the only part of the UK that shares land border with the EU. Ireland is an EU member-state. The Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP) has been a lingering issue for the UK almost from the day Brexit was signed. {Read more}

- Boris Johnson Administration came up with a new legislation, the "Northern Ireland Protocol Bill"
- Northern Ireland the only part of the UK that shares land border with the EU
- UK London Pound Sterling | PM Boris Johnson



**567.** Russia will deliver "Iskander-M" tactical missile systems, capable of carrying nuclear warheads, to Belarus in the coming months. The Iskander-M is a mobile guided missile system codenamed "SS-26 Stone" by NATO, which replaced the Soviet "Scud". According to National Interest magazine, Operational Tactical Missile System (OTMS) Iskander is the most dangerous weapon of the Russian Armed Force. The Iskander-M was operationalised in 2006. It has a range of 400-500 km. While the Iskander-E variant has a range of 280 km. {Read more}

- **Key Points:**
- Russia will deliver "Iskander-M" to Belarus
- "Iskander-M" is codenamed as "SS-26 Stone" by NATO
- Russia Moscow Russian Ruble | PM Mikhail Mishustin | President Vladimir Putin

### **Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs**

**568.** On June 24, the RBI extended the timeline for Card on File (CoF) tokenisation by another 3 months till September 30, 2022 for all Payment System Providers/Participants. Earlier the due date for tokenisation of Debit & Credit Cards was set on June 30, 2022. This is the 3rd time RBI has extended this deadline. Under the framework, RBI directs cardholders can create "tokens" (a unique alternate code) in lieu of card details; these tokens can then be stored by the merchants for processing transactions in the future. Data from RBI showed that about 19.5 Cr tokens have been created till date. {Read more} Key Points:

- RBI extended the timeline for CoF tokenization till Sept 30, 2022
- HQs of RBI Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**569.** As on 16 June, India's direct tax collections for the Financial Year 2022-23 showed net collections at Rs 3,39,225 Cr compared with Rs 2,33,651 Cr in the corresponding period of the preceding year, representing an increase of 45%. Corporation tax, with the collection of Rs 1,70,583 Cr, made the highest contribution to it. The advance tax collections for the first quarter of the FY 2022-23 stand at Rs 1,01,017 Cr against Rs 75,783 Cr for the corresponding period, showing a growth of more than 33%. {Read more}

### Key Points:

- Net direct tax collections for Q1 (FY23) increased 45% at Rs 3,39,225 Cr
- Highest contribution made by 'Corporation Tax' with the collection of Rs 1,70,583 Cr
- Advance tax collection for Q1 (FY23) Rs 1.01 lakh Cr (increase of 33%)

## **Defence Affairs**

**570.** On June 25, Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) signed an MoU with Defense Initiatives (DI), Belarus, and Defense Initiatives Aero Pvt Ltd, India, a subsidiary of DI Belarus, for supply of Airborne Defense Suite (ADS) for the helicopters of the Indian Air Force (IAF). The cooperation is aimed at exploring various business opportunities for India and global markets for ADS. {Read more}

- BEL + DI (Belarus) + DIA ltd (India) = an MoU for supply of ADS for helicopters of IAF
- HQs of IAF New Delhi | Chief Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief Air Marshal Sandeep Singh



## Sports & Games

**571.** In June 2022, Denmark's badminton player Viktor Axelsen clinched the men's singles title at the "Indonesia Open 2022", beating China's Zhao Jun Peng. With this, he came top in the men's singles World Tour rankings. While, the women's singles finals, ended with Tai Tzu Ying of Taiwan securing victory over China's unseeded Wang Zhi. {Read more} Key Points:

- Viktor Axelsen (Denmark) won men's singles title at the "Indonesia Open 2022"
- Tai Tzu Ying (Taiwan) won women's singles

**572.** As on June 16, India's Nitin Menon has retained his place in the "ICC Elite Panel of Umpires" and made his maiden appearance as a neutral umpire in Sri Lanka in June 2022. Nitin receive a 1-year extension from the International Cricket Council (ICC). Nitin, from Indore, remains the only Indian in the 11-member panel. In 2020, he became the 3<sup>rd</sup> Indian to enter the club after S. Venkataraghavan and S. Ravi. {Read more}

**Key Points:** 

- Nitin Menon (Indore, MP) the only Indian in 11-member "ICC Elite Panel of Umpires" at present
- He received 1 year extension from ICC | Overall he is 3<sup>rd</sup> Indian to enter the club after S. Venkataraghavan & S. Ravi
- HQs of ICC Dubai, UAE | Chairman Greg Barclay | CEO Geoff Allardice | Members 106 countries



**573.** On June 20, Filmmaker Srijit Mukherji dropped the trailer of "Shabaash Mithu", a biopic on former India women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj, which was set to release on July 15. The biopic stars Taapsee Pannu in titular role and it is directed by Srijit Mukherji. {Read more}

**Key Points:** 

- "Shabaash Mithu", a biopic of Mithali Raj starred by Taapsee Pannu
- Directed by Shrijit Mukherji

**574.** On June 23, 19-year-old Shanan Dhaka from Rohtak district in Haryana topped the entrance exam of the first ever women's batch of Pune-based National Defence Academy (NDA). In 2021, the National Defence Academy (NDA) announced to welcome its first-ever batch of women cadets in 2023. She secured 10<sup>th</sup> position in Boys' examination & first in Girls. {Read more}

- Shanan Dhaka (Haryana) topped first ever women's batch of NDA exam
- Haryana: Capital Chandigarh | CM Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor Bandaru Dattatraya



## Science & Technology

**575.** On June 24, Scientists discovered the world's largest bacterium named "Thiomargarita Magnifica" or "Magnificent Sulfur Pearl" in the archipelago of Guadeloupe, located in Eastern Caribbean Sea. Most bacteria are microscopic, but this one is so big it can be seen with the naked eye. {Read more} Key Points:

 "Thiomargarita Magnifica" or "Magnificent Sulfur Pearl", world's largest bacterium – discovered in archipelago of Guadeloupe, Eastern Caribbean Sea

**576.** On June 28, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In) extended a deadline for complying with its cybersecurity guidelines, to September 25. On April 28, India's cybersecurity agency passed a rule mandating VPN provider to record and keep their customers' logs for 180 days. It also asked these firms to collect and store customer data for up to 5 years. However, this extension was provided after MSMEs, data centres, VPS, VPN, and Cloud Service providers sought time to build capacity required to implement the guidelines issued on April 28. {Read more} **Key Points:** 

- Cert-In extended deadline for complying with its Cybersecurity Guidelines till Sept 25
- In April, India's cybersecurity agency passed a rule mandating VPN provider to keep their customers' logs for 180 days

Cert-In – functions under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology | Director General – Sanjay Bahl

**577.** On June 24, indigenously developed Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) was successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Navy from a warship at Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. The VL-SRSAM, a ship-borne weapon system, is meant for neutralising various aerial threats. {Read more}

**Key Points:** 

- VL-SRSAM successfully flight tested by DRDO & Indian Navy from ITR coast of Odisha
- HQs of DRDO New Delhi | Chairman G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in 1958
- HQs of Indian Navy Delhi | Chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC S. N. Ghormade | Founded in 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950

**578.** On June 24, inspired by fireflies, researchers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) created Insect-scale Robots that can emit light (electroluminescence) while flying and enable motion tracking and communication. Fireflies use their luminescence for communication to attract a mate, ward off predators, or lure prey. Researchers have used the same concept to build these robots. {Read more}

#### Key Points:

• Researchers from MIT (US) - created Insect-scale Robots that can emit light (electroluminescence) while flying

**579.** On June 24, the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) signed an agreement with Galore Networks for collaborative development of end-to-end 5G Radio Access Network (RAN) products & solutions. This agreement will be in furtherance of objective of creating a multi-partner indigenous 5G ecosystem through Startups. Earlier in June, the C-DOT signed a similar agreement with WiSig Networks & VVDN Technologies too. {Read more} **Key Points:** 

- C-DOT + Galore Networks = an agreement for development of end-to-end 5G RAN products & solutions
- C-DOT + WiSig Networks + VVDN Technologies = a similar agreement signed in earlier in June





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## **Appointments & Resignation**

**580.** On June 24, the CEO of India Resurgence Asset Reconstruction Company (IRARC), Avinash Kulkarni, has been appointed as the CEO of the India Debt Resolution Company (IDRCL) for a period of 3 years. The IDRCL is the sole agent to resolve more than Rs 83,000 Cr of bad loans to be acquired by the government-backed National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL). Mr. Avinash succeeds the current CEO Manish Makharia. IDRCL is a private sector company controlled by private sector banks that own a 51% share. Its seven-member board is chaired by former SBI executive Diwakar Gupta. {Read more} Key Points:

- Avinash Kulkarni appointed as CEO of IDRCL for 3 years
- HQs of IDRCL Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO Avinash Kulkarni | Chairman Diwakar Gupta
- MD & CEO of NARCL Natarajan Sundar | Chairman Pradip Shah | Lead Sponsor Canara Bank (12% equity)

**581.** On June 21, New Development Bank (NDB) appointed former bureaucrat D. J. Pandian as the Director-General of its India Regional Office in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). A retired IAS officer, Pandian had also served as Chief Secretary of Gujarat. Moreover, he also served as the Vice President and Chief Investment Officer of Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). The NDB has approved 20 projects in India for about USD 7.2. billion. {Read more} Key Points:

- D. J. Pandian appointed as DG of NDB regional office in GIFT City, Gujarat
- HQs of NDB Shanghai, China | President Marcos Prado Troyjo (established by BRICS Countries in 2014)

**582.** On June 24, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of Parameswaran Iyer (former Drinking Water & Sanitation Secretary) as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog for a period of 2 years. Iyer replaced Amitabh Kant, who demitted office on June 30. {Read more} Key Points:

- Parameswaran Iyer appointed as CEO of NITI Aayog for 2 years (replacing Amitabh Kant)
- HQs of NITI Aayog New Delhi | CEO Parmameswaran Iyer | Chairperson Narendra Modi | VC Suman Bery

**583.** On June 23, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed former Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Dinkar Gupta as the Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Mr. Gupta will hold the post till March 31, 2024. {Read more}

- Dinkar Gupta appointed as DG of NIA till March 31, 2024
- HQs of NIA New Delhi | Director General Dinkar Gupta



## **Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes**

**584.** On June 24, Mo Bus, the bus service of Odisha's Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) authority, has been recognised by the United Nations as one of 10 global recipients of its annual "Public Service Awards for 2022". The public transport service has been recognised for its role in promoting gender-responsive public services to achieve the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). Mo Bus incorporated real-time technologies like live tracking, travel planner and e-ticketing, and an e-rickshaw system called 'Mo E-Ride' is also introduced as a last-mile feeder service. Mo E-Ride is estimated to reduce pollution by 30-50%. {Read more}

### **Key Points:**

- 'Mo Bus', the bus service of Odisha recognised by the UN for its annual "Public Service Awards for 2022"
- Odisha: Capital Bhubaneswar | CM Naveen Patnaik | Governor Ganeshi Lal

**585.** In June 2022, Eminent Hindi poet and litterateur Prof Ramdarash Mishra was conferred the 31<sup>st</sup> "Saraswati Samman" for 2021 for his collection of poems "Mein to Yahan Hun", which covers a gamut of social issues and societal concerns. Instituted in 1991 by KK Birla Foundation, the Saraswati Samman is one of the most prestigious literary awards in the country. It is given annually to an outstanding literary work published during the past 10 years by an Indian citizen in any language included in Schedule VIII of the Constitution. It carries a cash prize of ₹15 lakh, a citation, and a plaque. The recipient of the Saraswati Samman is chosen by a selection committee whose current head is Subhash Kashya. {Read more} Key Points:

- Ramdarash Mishra (Hindi Poet & Litterateur) conferred the 31<sup>st</sup> "Saraswati Samman" for 2021
- He was selected for his collection of poems "Mein to Yahan Hun"
- The selection committee of 'Saraswati Samman' headed by Subhash Kashya

### **Schemes & Initiatives**

**586.** In June 2022, Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan (GKRA) has completed 2 years. Government of India launched GKRA on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 for a period of 125 days with a resource envelope of Rs 50,000 Cr to boost employment and livelihood opportunities for returnee migrant workers in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 50.78 crore person-days employment was generated during the Abhiyaan. A total of 12 Ministries and Departments of Government of India participated in the Abhiyaan. Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal Ministry for the scheme. {Read more} Key Points:

- "Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan" completed 2 years on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2022
- Launched in 2020 | Outlay Rs 50,000 | Nodal Agency Ministry of Rural Development
- Ministry of Rural Development: Giriraj Singh | Constituency Begusarai, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Rural Development: Faggansingh Kulaste & Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti

## Important Days & Dates

**587.** The 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the "Day of the Seafarer" was celebrated on 25 June, 2022. For 2022, the campaign of the Day of the Seafarers, was observed with the theme "Your voyage - then and now, Share Your Journey". The day was first observed in 2011. {Read more}

### **Key Points:**

- June 25 12<sup>th</sup> Day of the Seafarer (since 2011)
- 2022's Theme "Your voyage then and now, Share Your Journey"

**588.** World Vitiligo Day is observed on June 25 every year to create awareness around the condition and make people aware of the cause and the various treatment methods available for it. In 2022, the theme is "Learning to Live With Vitiligo". In memory of American singer and songwriter late Michael Jackson, the first World Vitiligo Day was observed in 2011, led by Ogo Maduewesi, Founder and President of Vitiligo Support and Awareness Foundation (VITSAF) in Lagos, Nigeria. Vitiligo is a common skin condition with white or depigmented patches over the body which is caused due to loss of melanin in the skin. {Read more}

### Key Points:

- June 25 World Vitiligo Day (since 2011) | In memory of late Michael Jackson
- 2022's Theme "Learning to Live With Vitiligo"

## **Meetings, Conferences and Summits**

**589.** On June 29, the National Institute of Urban Affairs' (NIUA) Climate Centre for Cities (NIUA C-Cube), World Resources Institute India (WRI India) and their partners launched India's first National Coalition Platform for urban nature-based solutions (NbS) to build urban climate resilience, at the 11<sup>th</sup> "World Urban Forum" in Poland. The India Forum for Nature-based Solutions aims to create a collective of NbS entrepreneurs, government entities and like-minded organisations, to help scale urban nature-based solutions. It is anchored by WRI India under the 'Cities4Forests' initiative. {Read more} **Key Points:** 

- NIUA C-Cube + WRI = launched India's 1<sup>st</sup> 'National Coalition Platform' for urban NbS
- 11<sup>th</sup> "World Urban Forum" held at Poland
- Poland Warsaw Polish Zloty | President Andrzej Sebastin Duda

**590.** A new, first-of-its-kind, Sustainability-driven Trade Agreement called the "Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS)" was adopted at the 20<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva, Switzerland. This AFS is the third instance of amending the WTO agreement in its 27-year history. The aim of AFS as echoed by Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.6 is to address harmful fisheries subsidies provided by countries towards marine fishing and to save the world's fish stocks from further depletion. {Read more}

- 20<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of WTO adopted the "Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS)"
- AFS is the 3<sup>rd</sup> instance to amend WTO agreement
- HQs of WTO Geneva, Switzerland | 7<sup>th</sup> DG Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria) | Members 164 | Founded 1995



**591.** On June 26 & 27, PM Narendra Modi attended the G7 summit, held in Munich, Germany, following an invitation by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. The summit was hosted by Germany in its capacity as the chair of G7, a grouping of the world's seven richest nations. Besides India, Germany also invited Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa as Guests for the summit. The G7 leaders launched a 'Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)' initiative and pledged to raise \$600 billion in private and public funds over 5 years to finance needed infrastructure in developing countries. During the summit, G7 nations formally announced a ban on Russian Gold imports, since Gold is Russia's second most lucrative export after Energy. Besides, G7 decided to establish a "Climate Club" to commit to the 2015 Paris Agreement Goal of limiting global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius and achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2050. {Read more} Key Points:

- Narendra Modi attended the G7 summit hosted by Germany
- G7 leaders launched a 'Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)' initiative
- G7 leaders pledged to raise \$600 billion to finance needed infrastructure in Developing Countries
- G7 nations announced ban on Russian Gold imports
- G7 nations to establish a "Climate Club" to commit to the 2015 Paris Agreement Goal
- G7 member countries US, UK, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Canada | Founded in 1975
- Germany Berlin Euro | President Frank-Walter Steinmeier

**592.** The second phase of the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the "Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity" will be held in Montreal, Canada from December 5 to 17, 2022. Originally set for Kunming, China, in April this year, the meeting was postponed and relocated due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The first phase of COP15 was successfully held both online and offline in Kunming in October, 2021. China, as COP15 President, will continue to preside over the Meetings of 2nd phase of COP15, with the logo and the theme of COP15 maintained. {Read more} **Key Points:** 

- "COP15 to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity" to be held in Montreal, Canada (Dec 5-17)
- The 15<sup>th</sup> meeting was originally set for Kunming, China (in April 2022)
- Canada Ottawa Canadian Dollar | PM Justin Trudeau

**593.** On June 23, Minister of State for Food Processing Industries, Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated the "National Conference on Millets" on the theme "The Future Super Food for India" in New Delhi, organised by industry body ASSOCHAM. The conference was organised to discuss opportunities and challenges in ensuring food and nutritional security. The production of coarse cereals in India has increased to 17.96 million tonnes in 2020-21 from 14.52 million tonnes in 2015-16 and the production of bajra (pearl millet) has also increased to 10.86 million tonnes in the same period. India is now the 5<sup>th</sup> largest exporter of millets globally. Moreover, the year 2023 will be observed as the "International Year of Millets". {Read more} Key Points:

- Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated "National Conference on Millets" in New Delhi (organized by ASSOCHAM)
- Theme "The Future Super Food for India"
- India 5<sup>th</sup> largest exporter of millets globally
- 2023 declared as "International Year of Millets"
- HQs of ASSOCHAM New Delhi | President Sumant Sinha

## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**594.** A report titled "Harnessing Green Hydrogen: Opportunities for Deep Decarbonisation in India", co-authored by NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), highlights that Green Hydrogen can substantially spur industrial decarbonisation and economic growth for India in the coming decades. Green hydrogen can help abate 3.6 gigatons of cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050. The report concludes that hydrogen demand in India could grow more than 4 fold by 2050, representing almost 10% of global demand. The cumulative value of the green hydrogen market in India could reach \$8 billion by 2030. {Read more}

### **Key Points:**

- "Harnessing Green Hydrogen: Opportunities for Deep Decarbonisation in India" report = by NITI Aayog + RMI
- Green hydrogen can help abate 3.6 gigatons of cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050
- Cumulative value of the green hydrogen market in India can reach \$8 billion by 2030
- HQs of NITI Aayog New Delhi | CEO Amitabh Kant

**595.** The total value of fertilizer imports by India, inclusive of inputs used in domestic production, was \$24.3 billion in 2021-22. In 2021-22, India imported 10.16 million tonnes (mt) of urea, 5.86 mt of di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) and 2.91 mt of muriate of potash (MOP). In value terms, imports of all fertilisers touched an all-time high of \$12.77 billion last fiscal FY22 (excluding inputs used in domestic production). {Read more} **Key Points:** 

- The total value of fertilizer imports by India in 2021-22 \$24.3 billion
- 10.16 mt import of urea | 5.86 mt import of DAP | 2.91 mt import of MOP

**596.** India's national capital New Delhi has been ranked 112<sup>th</sup> in the "Global Liveability Index 2022", released by The Economist. While India's financial capital Mumbai is ranked at 117<sup>th</sup> position. Austrian capital Vienna has once again topped the list of most liveable cities in the world, followed by the Danish capital Copenhagen at 2nd position and Switzerland's Zurich at 3<sup>rd</sup> position jointly with Canada's Calgary. The report ranked 173 cities on the basis of their liveability or living conditions, which was determined by five factors - stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education, and infrastructure. Iran's Tehran is the least liveable city in the world. {Read more}

- "Global Liveability Index 2022" released by The Economist (London, UK)
- Most liveable cities: 1<sup>st</sup> Vienna (Austria) | 2<sup>nd</sup> Copenhagen (Denmark) | 3<sup>rd</sup> Zurich (Switzerland)
- Least liveable cities: Tehran (Iran)
- New Delhi ranked 112<sup>th</sup> | Mumbai ranked 117<sup>th</sup>

**597.** As on June 21, the number of school-aged children in crisis-impacted countries who require educational support has grown to 222 million at present from 75 million in 2016, according to the report titled "Global Estimates: Number of Crisis-affected Children and Adolescents in Need of Education Support" published by Education Cannot Wait (ECW). Of them, 78.2 million are out of school due to often protracted conflicts and emergencies. Around 54% of the out-of-school children are girls, 17% are children with functional difficulties and 16% forcibly displaced. Children in sub-Saharan Africa were hardest-hit by the learning crisis, as per the another report by non-profit organisation, Save the Children. {Read more}



#### **Key Points:**

- "Global Estimates: Number of Crisis-affected Children & Adolescents in Need of Education Support" published by ECW
- Number of school-aged children in crisis-impacted countries who require Educational support 222 million
- 78.2 million (out of 222 million) are out of school due to often protracted conflicts & emergencies

**598.** The report, "Creating Jobs and Cutting Bills: The Economic Opportunities of a Clean Energy Transition" was published by the 'We Mean Business Coalition' and Cambridge Econometrics. As per the report, a swift shift from fossil fuels to clean energy could lead to creation of 1.5 Cr new jobs in India by 2025 and increase savings on electricity bills. The reduction in per capita energy expenditure in India is projected to be 34 dollars or 31% by 2030 and 74 dollars or 52% by 2035 from the business as usual scenario. The report asked G-7 nations to phase out domestic coal-fired power generation by 2030 and rapidly scale up renewable energy deployment towards achieving 70% of power generation by the next 8 years. {Read more}

#### **Key Points:**

- "Creating Jobs and Cutting Bills" report published by We Mean Business Coalition & Cambridge Econometrics
- Shifting from Fossil Fuels to Clean energy can create 1.5 Cr new jobs in India by 2025
- Reduction in per capita Energy Expenditure in India: 34 dollars (31%) by 2030 & 74 dollars (52%) by 2035

**599.** According to a report titled "Financing India's 2030 Renewables Ambition" published by BloombergNEF (BNEF) & Power Foundation of India (PFI), India will need an investment of \$223 billion to meet its non-fossil energy's target of 500 GW by 2030. India has already invested around \$75 billion in renewable energy in the past 8 years between 2014 to 2021 to install 165 GW of Renewable Energy. At COP26 in November 2021, PM Narendra Modi had announced India's plans to reduce emission intensity by more than 45% by 2030 below 2005 levels. {Read more}

- "Financing India's 2030 Renewables Ambition" report published by BloombergNEF & PFI
- Investment of \$223 billion is needed to meet Non-fossil Energy's target of 500 GW by 2030
- \$75 billion has been invested from 2014 to 2021 to install 165 GW of Renewable Energy
- India plans to reduce Emission Intensity by more than 45% by 2030, below 2005 levels

### Amount & Agreements

**600.** On June 23, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the only multilateral fund focused on biodiversity, has promised to provide \$5.33 billion over the next four years to address problems related to biodiversity worldwide, it announced at the "Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework" meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. The plan is to provide \$1 million per country for incountry work and \$9 million as global technical assistance. {Read more} **Key Points:** 

- GEF to provide \$5.33 billion to address problems related to Biodiversity worldwide
- HQs of GEF Washington, D.C., US | CEO Carlos Manuel Rodriguez



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