

***Weekly Current Affairs
Updates
15th June - 21st June***



Weekly One Liner Updates 15th -21st June 2020

National Affairs

1. The 40th GST council meet was held recently virtually, who is the chairperson of the GST council ____ **Union Finance Minister**.
Note:
 - Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the virtual 40th GST Council Meeting.
 - The key outcome of this meet was further relief on late fee and interest payable on late payments as a part of compliance burden of businesses.
 - This was the first meeting after COVID-19 breakout in India.
2. Who will chair the advisory committee formed by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) on Corporate Insolvency Resolution and Liquidation process ____ **Uday Kotak**.
Note:
 - The new 14-member committee, formed in August 2017, will be chaired by Uday Kotak, the Executive Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank.
 - It will suggest and provide professional support on a request from the IBBI or on its own volition on any matter with respect to the Corporate Insolvency resolution and liquidation dealt with by the Board under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016.
3. Which of the following construction company becomes the first of its kind in the construction sector to go fully digital ____ **NHAI**.
Note:
 - With the launch of cloud-based and artificial intelligence-powered big data analytics platform Data Lake and Project Management Software, the entire project management workflow of NHAI has been transformed from manual to the online portal based.
 - All project documentation, contractual decisions and approvals are now being done through the portal only.
4. Which IIT has developed an Artificial Intelligence-based cyber-physical system to monitor social distancing in public places ____ **IIT Kharagpur**.
Note:
 - The device will play a proximity alert sound through audio output, whenever any violation will occur.
 - It captures images of the field view and computes the distance as per criteria set by the government.
 - The system has been successfully tested by installing three prototypes of the device within the IIT-Kharagpur campus
5. Name the device launched by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy that kills viruses & other germs by sterilising, sanitising & disinfecting in large areas ____ **GermiBAN**.
Note:
 - The device has been developed by Atal Incubation Centre & Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India (ALEAP) Women Entrepreneurs (WE) HUB.
 - The recently launched device has the capability of killing 99.9% of surface and air microbes.
6. What is India's rank in the annual World Competitiveness Index 2020 compiled by Institute for Management Development (IMD) ____ **43rd**.
Note:
 - In 2019, India was at the 43rd ranking. Since 1989, India had ranked 41st in the World Competitiveness Ranking.
 - However, it slipped to 45th rank in 2017 and secured 44th in 2018.

7. According to the SIPRI Yearbook 2020 what is India's position as nuclear weapons holder in the world _____6th.

Note:

- However, India's overall possession of nuclear weapons is less than half of Beijing's and also slightly lower than what Pakistan possesses.
- The number of nuclear warheads in the Indian arsenal pegged at 150 in comparison to the 2019 report (on the basis of 2018) when India had 130-140.
- On the other hand, China's nuclear arsenal calculated at 320 as compared to 290 of SIPRI's 2019 report while Pakistan's nuclear arsenal remained constant at 160 in comparison to 2019's 150-160.

8. Which IIT has developed an Artificial Intelligence-powered COVID-19 test, which can be performed at an affordable cost _____ IIT Hyderabad.

Note:

- The test kit can produce results in around 20 minutes for symptomatic and asymptomatic patients.
- The test kit has already been field-tested at ESIC Medical College and Hospital in Hyderabad to ascertain its efficiency.
- It can be transported quickly, enabling the test to be conducted at the point-of-care.

9. Integrated Flood Warning System (IFLOWS) has been launched for which city _____ Mumbai.

Note:

- Named as 'Boon' and developed for Mumbai it will help the people in a "big way" as it can predict floods.
- The system was developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).
- The device will be very useful, especially if people need to be evacuated from low-lying areas.

10. Which city's Municipal Corporation has launched a mobile application "Air-Venti" to provide information on ICU beds, ventilators _____ Mumbai.

Note:

- Octaware Technologies Limited, in partnership with Probity Soft Pvt Ltd, has developed this mobile application for MCGM and therefore the data regarding the ICU beds and Ventilators vacant status.
- The mobile app 'Air-Venti' launched by the civic body in Mumbai aims to supply overall statistics of ICU beds and ventilators that are occupied and vacant in both govt and private hospitals besides location map, ability to contact hospital through telephonic call and email is additionally available.

11. Prime Minister Narendra Modi going to launch a massive rural public works scheme, Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan in how many states of India _____ Six.

Note:

- The campaign aims to provide livelihood opportunities to the returnee migrant workers and rural citizens.
- The campaign of 125 days will be implemented on mission mode.
- It will involve intensified and focused implementation of 25 different types of works to provide employment to the migrant workers and create infrastructure in the rural regions of the country.
- The scheme entails a resource envelope of 50 thousand crore rupees.

12. Which IT company has partnered with IBM to co-develop to accelerate digital and cognitive enterprise transformation _____ TCS.

Note:

- As part of the tie up, TCS will establish an IBM Enterprise Cloud Architecture Unit, which will include technical professionals from both companies.
- TCS and IBM plan to co-develop solutions designed to help clients migrate workloads across applications, analytics, data estate and platforms.

13. Composite Regional Centre (CRC) for Skill Development, Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)" has been inaugurated in which city _____ Ranchi.

Note:

- The centre was inaugurated by Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot, and Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda.
- This is the 21st Composite Regional Centre (CRC) which will serve to fulfil the needs of Persons with Disabilities in Jharkhand.

14. Who will lead the high-powered committee of top executives of technology companies formed by NITI Aayog to develop a job platform for migrant labours who lost their job during lock down _____ **Amitabh Kant.**

Note:

- The committee will look into technology-based measures to address the issue related to migrant laborers.
- The platform, which will use technology with public and private participation, will connect job seekers, employers, government agencies, skill centers and external partners who are using new technology such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML).

15. India's first nationwide online delivery-based natural gas trading platform, "Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)" has been launched with headquartered in _____ **New Delhi.**

Note:

- It has been launched on the lines of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to provide clean, affordable, sustainable and equitable supply of energy to every citizen.
- Notably, IGX will work as a wholly owned subsidiary of the India Energy Exchange (IEX), which is India's energy market platform.
- IGX is headed by Rajiv Srivastava as its Director.

16. Which two Indian Startups were featured in the List of Technology Pioneers of 2020, released by the World Economic Forum(WEF) _____ **Stellapps and Zestmoney.**

Note:

- The List includes the pioneers focusing on carbon capture, alternative meat, circular economies, food security and financial access.
- More than 25 industries in the list are led by females which is twice the industry average.

17. Indian Railways' Central Railway zone has installed 1st of its kind an Automated Ticket Checking & Managing Access (ATMA) machine at _____ **Nagpur station.**

Note:

- The machine has been introduced at the station under the New, Innovative Non Fare Revenue Ideas Scheme(NINFRIS) policy to prevent transmission of COVID-19.
- This is an Innovative Earning Contract, implemented by Nagar(NGP) Central Railways(CR) for the prevention of COVID-19.
- ATMA ensures safety for passengers & railway staff as it adheres to social distancing norms

State Affairs

1. Which state government has set up a labour commission to ensure social and economic security for migrant workers _____ **Uttar Pradesh.**

Note:

- The objective of the Commission is to provide maximum employment to the workers at the local level in private and non-government sector as per their skill and employment opportunities.
- The workers in the state will be given access to employment opportunities by skill development and it will also help the economy of the state gain momentum.

2. Which state government has launched Karmo Bhumi, a job portal to help IT professionals who have lost their jobs after the outbreak of COVID-19 and returned to the state _____ **West Bengal.**

Note:

- IT professionals can use the portal 'Karmo Bhumi' to connect with companies based in the state.
- A web portal will act as a medium between the professionals and IT companies in Bengal.
- There are around 700 IT and ITeS companies at Salt Lake Sector V and Rajarhat where at present around 2.5 lakh people work.

3. Which state government has decided to adopt the scheme of Flatted Factory Model, which means the non-polluting industries can operate in Multistoried buildings _____ **Uttar Pradesh.**

Note:

- The committee is headed by Alok Kumar Principal Secretary (Infrastructure & Industrial Development).
- The members of the committee includes the Chief Executive officers(CEOs) of UPSIDA, NOIDA, Greater Noida and Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA).

4. Which has become the top state in India to provide employment to the workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) _____ **Uttar Pradesh.**

Note:

- According to the data released, 57 lakh 12975 workers got employment is around 57 thousand village panchayats of the state which is 18% of the total work generated under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in the country.
- The state government has generated 7.93 crore man-days and the government will provide jobs to 10 lakh more workers.

5. Which state government has decided to start 'Ektu Khelo, Ektu Padho' –meaning 'Play Little, Study Little' scheme _____ **Tripura.**

Note:

- The scheme will be implemented via SMS or WhatsApp. For students, those who have access to smartphones of their parents will be able to access the scheme through WhatsApp. For students having feature phones, they will be able to access through SMS.
- The objective of the scheme is to make sure that students invest their time in studies during these times of uncertainty as it could still take a couple of months for schools to reopen due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

International Affairs

1. Which initiative has been launched by the United Nations to fight the spreading of misinformation (Infodemic) about COVID-19 with fact-based accurate information _____ **Verified.**

Note:

- The initiative is led by the United Nations Department of Global Communication(DGC) with an aim to provide facts about COVID-19 in the digital space.
- The initiative is a collaboration with Purpose, one of the world's leading social mobilization organizations, and supported by the IKEA Foundation and Luminate.
- UN also partners with First Draft, an organization which closely monitors the spread of misinformation.

2. Which country has announced 'Jet Zero' plan to drive down aviation emissions and to make carbon-free transatlantic flights possible _____ **United Kingdom.**

Note:

- The U.K. is chasing a target to make the country a net-zero economy by 2050, and transport emissions are proving among the toughest to get down.
- Aviation emissions currently account for more than 2% of global greenhouse gases, and have risen by 70% since 2005.
- The International Civil Aviation Organization forecasts that they will rise another 300% by 2050 in the absence of measures to bring them down.

3. Indian Railways has created a new world benchmark by successfully running first Double-Stack Container Train in high-rise in Over Head Equipment electrified territory on _____ **Western Railway.**

Note:

- This achievement is a first of its kind in the entire world and will also boost the ambitious mission of Green India.
- The Operations successfully commenced on 10th June from Palanpur and Botad stations in Gujarat.

4. Name the features launched by Microsoft to engage and prepare students and teachers for new remote and hybrid learning formats in the upcoming school year _____ **Teams for Education.**

Note:

- These features include expanded audience view of up to 49 participants, custom backgrounds, class insights, and virtual breakout rooms, among other new features.
- Aimed at increasing student participation and give educators new methods to keep students digitally engaged, Teams will expand its grid view to 7x7, accommodating up to 49 participants.

5. Which country has been elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a two-year term from the Asia-Pacific category for the 2021-22 term _____ **India**.

Note:

- Along with India, Ireland, Mexico and Norway also won the Security Council elections held last night. India was a candidate for a non-permanent seat from the Asia-Pacific category for the 2021-22 term.
- India's two-year term will begin on January 1, 2021.

6. India will send 75-member Tri-Service contingent to participate in the military parade to which country on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the victory in the Second World War _____ **Russia**.

Note:

- The parade will honour the heroism and sacrifices made by the Russian and other friendly people.
- Defence Minister of Russia had invited an Indian contingent to take part in the Victory Day Parade scheduled to be held on 24th of this month.

7. With which country India signed a credit financing agreement promising 200 million euros to support the social welfare system and India's covid response _____ **France**.

Note:

- The fund will be provided to India through the AFD, French Development Agency.
- The agreement was signed in India by C.S. Mohapatra, Additional Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, and Bruno Bosle, Director of AFD, French Development Agency in the virtual presence of Emmanuel Lenain, Ambassador of France to India.

8. Accordance to the annual report on displacement titled "Global Trends- Forced Displacement in 2019" released by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) what percent of world population faced forced displacement _____ **Approx 1.0 per cent**.

Note:

- On the Global front, the displacement number is 79.5 million or one in every 97 people on the planet at the end of 2019. This number of forced displacement has almost doubled since 2010 (41 million).
- It should be noted that this figure is the highest since these statistics have been systematically collected. It is approximately 1% of the world's population

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. As per the new framework of the RBI the National Payment Corporation of India and National Electronic Fund Transfer will be treated as _____ **Financial Market Infrastructure (FMI)**.

Note:

- It is to be noted that in general Systematically important FMIs till now only included Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS), Securities Settlement Systems (SSSs), Clearing Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIL) and Negotiated Dealing System (NDS).
- In addition, NPCI has also been designated as a "system wide important payment system (SWIPS).

2. Which bank has launched 'Insta Flexicash', an online overdraft facility for its salary account customers _____ **ICICI Bank**.

Note:

- The end-to-end fully digital facility can be accessed with no documentation, using the Bank's internet banking platform without visiting a bank branch.
- The customers can start using the approved overdraft limit within 48 hours.
- Bank offers the credit limit worth up to 3 times their net salary.

3. The Reserve Bank of India on its Discussion Paper on 'Governance in Commercial Banks in India' proposed maximum age limit for CEOs and whole time Directors belonging to the promoter group of banks is _____ **70 years**.

Note:

- This offer has been made to improve administration in the banking sector.
- The tenure has been limited in order to strengthen the culture of consistent governance and to adopt the principle of separating management from ownership.

4. Who will chair the committee formed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to review the guidelines related to ownership, governance and corporate structure of private sector banks _____ **PK Mohanty**.
- Note:**
- The RBI has constituted a 5-member Internal Working Group to review the guidelines related to ownership, governance and corporate structure of private sector banks.
 - The RBI panel will also examine and review the eligibility criteria for individuals or entities to apply for a banking licence.
 - It will also study the current regulations on holding of financial subsidiaries through a non-operative financial holding company.
5. Which Payments Bank has launched 'Suraksha Salary Account' for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) _____ **Airtel Payments Bank**.
- Note:**
- Through this innovative account construct, MSMEs and other organisations will be able to make cashless payments and also provide a financial security blanket to their employees.
 - The account offers benefits such as Hospicash Insurance and personal accident insurance cover, keeping in mind the low penetration of insurance in India. The account has no minimum balance condition.
6. In accordance with the weekly statistical data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's foreign reserves crossed the _____ **\$500 billion mark**.
- Note:**
- India's forex reserves comprise foreign currency assets (FCAs), gold reserves, special drawing rights (SDRs), and India's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
 - The FCAs, the largest component of the forex reserves, increased by \$8.422 billion to \$463.630 billion.
7. According to UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2020, the Global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows are forecast to decrease by up to what per cent in 2020 _____ **40 per cent**.
- Note:**
- This would bring FDI below \$1 trillion for the first time since 2005 (figure 1). In addition, FDI is projected to decrease by a further 5% to 10% in 2021 and to initiate a recovery in 2022.
8. According to UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2020 what is the position of India as recipient of the foreign direct investment in 2019 _____ **9th largest**.
- Note:**
- The UNCTAD in its World Investment Report 2020 report said that a lower but positive economic growth in India in the post-Covid19 pandemic period and the country's large market will continue to attract investments.
 - Earlier, the inflows stood at \$42 billion when India ranked 12th worldwide in 2018. The country witnessed an increase in the inflows by \$9 billion in 2019.
9. Which general insurance company has joined hands with UK based tech firm TropoGo Limited to launch India's 1st 'Pay as you Fly' insurance for drone-owners in India _____ **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company**.
- Note:**
- Members of this policy can claim an insurance cover of up to Rs 10 lakh on TropoGo mobile app & they can opt for 4 hours, one-day, or a one-month cover to insure themselves against third-party liabilities.
10. Which becomes the first Indian company to sign Climate Pledge with Amazon and Global Optimism to become Net-Zero Carbon by 2040 _____ **Infosys**.
- Note:**
- The company, which has initially set 2018 for its transition to 100 per cent renewable energy, has now set 2035 to complete the transition to RE.
 - Measure and report the emission of greenhouse gases on a regular basis.
 - Implement decarbonization strategies through changes in business and innovations through renewable energy, materials reductions etc.

11. As per the SEBI Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers Amendment Regulations, 2020 promoters owning 25% or more of the shares or voting rights in a company now can increase what percent shareholding in a year _____ **10%**.

Note:

- SEBI Amended it after exercising the powers conferred under section 30 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.
- SEBI has amended the regulation 3, in sub-regulation (2) of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011 to enhance the acquisition limit for promoters of a listed company.

12. Which public sector lender planning to completely digitize its lending operations including home, agriculture, Micro, MSMEs, personal and Auto loans _____ **Bank of Baroda**.

Note:

- The bank has set up a new vertical, digital lending department at the corporate office, which will have substantial overlap with various credit verticals including Retail, MSME, Agri & service verticals like Analytics centre, Risk Management, Marketing.
- To set up this digital lending department the bank has reached out to the Big Four and some white shoe consultants like McKinsey and Boston Consulting Group.

13. Which Home Finance company has launched "SARAL" scheme for a special affordable house loan for urban and rural areas _____ **ICICI Home Finance Company Limited**.

Note:

- The loan requires compulsory ownership of a woman in the country's rural areas from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 6 lakh. The maximum limit of the loan is Rs 35 lakh.
- The interest rate of the loan starts from 7.98%. The maximum tenure of the loan is 20 years. Customers with pre-existing loans can also transfer their loans.

14. According to the payroll data of EPFO witnessed what percent increase in formal employment in 2019-20 _____ **28.6 %**.

Note:

- The main reason for this is the low withdrawal by EPFO subscribers due to the government's policy reforms such as implementing GST, allowing fixed income contracts as well as better returns on PF (Provident Fund) deposits.
- Sectors such as Hospitality and Financial Institutions have experienced a 50% growth, while the formalities of the workforce in the textile sector have increased by 20 %.

15. As per the proposed new rules for Housing Finance companies the Reserve Bank of India has increased the Minimum net owned funds (NOF) from Rs 10 crore to _____ **Rs 20 crore**.

Note:

- In exercise of powers conferred under Section 29A (1) (b) of NHB Act, 1987, RBI proposes to increase the minimum NOF for HFCs from the current requirement of Rs10 crore to Rs 20 crore in order to strengthen their capital base.
- Existing HFCs will get one year to reach the level of Rs 15 crore and two years to increase it to Rs 20 crore.

16. Karnataka Bank in partnership with which company launched a health insurance policy to cover the individuals' COVID-19 pandemic related health expenses _____ **Universal Sompo General Insurance Company**.

Note:

- The policy aims to cover the individuals' COVID-19 pandemic related health expenses.
- The health cover can be availed at a nominal premium(current price without taking inflation or other factors into account) of Rs 399, inclusive of all taxes.

17. Which life insurance company has partnered with East Consultancy Services to offer Aadhaar-based paperless offline e-Know Your Customer (KYC) service _____ **Tata AIA Life Insurance**.

Note:

- This tie up helps to service the customer during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.
- The e-KYC service will offer uninterrupted service to customers during the online application process for the company's life insurance solutions.

18. Fitch Ratings has revised the outlook on India's long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating (IDR) to negative from stable and affirmed the rating at _____ **BBB-**.
- Note:**
- The move comes after another rating agency Moody's earlier this month downgraded India's sovereign rating by a notch to lowest investment grade of 'Baa2' for the first time in 22 years.
 - "Fitch Ratings has revised the outlook on India's long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating (IDR) to negative from stable and affirmed the rating at 'BBB-."
19. Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) has collaborated with which of the following banks to offer simpler and flexible financing plans for new clients _____ **Karur Vysya Bank**.
- Note:**
- Through the association with the bank, the company is trying to offer imminent purchasers exceptional plan of up to 100 per cent on-road funding with six months holiday period on all models, except van EECO, loans for both salaried and self-employed customers and repayment period up to 84 months.
20. According to Asian Development Outlook by the Asian Development Bank, in FY 2020-21 Indian economy is projected to contract by _____ **4 per cent**.
- Note:**
- For Countries in 'Developing Asia', ADB forecasted growth of 0.1% in 2020. Excluding the newly industrialised economies of Hong Kong, China; the Republic of Korea; Singapore; and Taipei, China, Developing Asia's growth predicted at 0.4% this year and 6.6% in 2021.
 - 'Developing Asia' refers to a group of over 40 countries that are members of the ADB.
 - The growth of South-Asia is predicted to contract by 3% in 2020, in comparison to 4.1% growth predicted in April, 2020. For FY21-22, growth prospects revised down to 4.9% from 6%.
21. Hyundai Motor India Limited partnered with which bank to offer industry 1st online auto retail financing on its end-to-end online automotive retail platform, 'Click to Buy' to the customers _____ **HDFC Bank**.
- Note:**
- Under this collaboration, HMIL will provide customised car financing solutions to its customers from HDFC bank through its online car buying platform.
 - This partnership enables the customers to choose loans and get the funds they need to buy their favorite Hyundai car without visiting HDFC Bank branch.
22. Which Indian company becomes the most valued company with almost Rs 11.83 trillion market capitalization _____ **Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)**.
- Note:**
- In dollar terms, RIL's m-cap translates into \$155 billion, making it the 54th largest company globally.
 - If the value of RIL's partly paid shares of Rs 67,500 crore is added, then the company's m-cap adds up to almost Rs 11.83 trillion.
 - Importantly, RIL is the most valued firm followed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), which is valued at Rs 7.7 trillion.

Obituaries

1. Sushant Singh Rajput who found dead in his house in Mumbai was a veteran _____ **Actor**.
- Note:**
- 34-year-old actor committed suicide & found dead at his home in Bandra, Mumbai.
 - He was born on 16th January 1986 in Patna, Bihar.
 - He promoted the Women Entrepreneurship Platform of NITI Aayog which was launched on 8th March 2018.
2. Renowned personality Raj Mohan Vohra passed away recently due to COVID-19 was a veteran _____ **Military personnel**.
- Note:**
- Maha Vir Chakra awardee Lt Gen (ret'd) Raj Mohan Vohra passed away due to COVID-19. He was a 1971 war hero. Lt Gen Vohra had received the coveted award in 1972.
 - The Maha Vir Chakra is that the country's second-highest gallantry award.
 - It is awarded for acts of conspicuous gallantry within the presence of the enemy whether on land, at sea or in the air.

3. Renowned personality Dinu Ranadive passed away recently was a veteran _____ **Journalist**.

Note:

- The veteran journalist was born in 1925 at a tribal hamlet at Dahanu near Mumbai, he started his journalistic career in 1956.
- Ranadive started his career as the founder-editor of Samyukta Maharashtra Patrika in the 1950s. He then did exemplary reporting on the Goa Freedom Struggle in 1961.

4. Film Director, Scriptwriter, and Producer K.R. Sachidanandan passed away recently, he was associated with which language films _____ **Malayalam**.

Note:

- Malayalam Film director, scriptwriter, and producer K.R. Sachidanandan passed away. His directorial debut was Anarkali in 2015.
- He had co-scripted numerous movies with Sethu and later began composing solo contents. Sachy was a rehearsing legal advisor at the Kerala High Court.

5. Renowned personality and B.P.R. Vithal passes away recently, he was a veteran _____ **Economist**.

Note:

- He also served as the Secretary, Finance and Planning, government of Andhra Pradesh, from 1972 to 1982.
- B.P.R. Vithal also worked at the International Monetary Fund as the fiscal adviser to the governments of Malawi and Sudan.
- He also played an instrumental role in the establishment of Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad.

Important Days

1. The International Day of Family Remittances is observed every year on which date by the United Nations _____ **16th June**.

Note:

- The day is observed all over the world.
- The theme of the for the year 2020 is 'Remittances are a lifeline'
- The first International Day of Family Remittances was celebrated in 2015.

2. What is the theme of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2020 observed every year on 17th June _____ **Food. Feed.Fibre. – the links between consumption and land**.

Note:

- World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed on 17th June every year.
- The day is observed to spread awareness among people about the cooperation required to combat desertification and the effects of drought.

3. Sustainable Gastronomy Day is observed globally every year on which date _____ **18th June**.

Note:

- This day is observed to acknowledge gastronomy as a cultural expression related to nature as well as the cultural diversity of the world.
- It also reaffirms that each one culture and civilizations are contributors and crucial enablers of sustainable development throughout the planet.

4. World Hydrography Day is observed globally every year on which date _____ **21st June**.

Note:

- World Hydrography Day is observed globally on 21st June every year. This day was adopted by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) as an annual celebration to publicise the work of hydrographers and the importance of hydrography.
- World Hydrography Day 2020 theme is "Hydrography enabling autonomous technologies".

5. World Music Day is observed globally every year on which date _____ **21st June.**

Note:

- Over 120 countries celebration World Music Day by organizing free public concerts in parks, streets, stations, museums and other such public places.
- The aim of celebrating World Music Day is to provide free music to everyone, and also to encourage amateur musicians to showcase their work to the world.

6. What is the theme of the International Day of Yoga 2020 celebrated world wide by the United Nations _____ **Yoga for Health - Yoga at Home.**

Note:

- Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India.
- The word 'yoga' derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness.
- The theme of International Day of Yoga 2020 is "Yoga for Health - Yoga at Home".

New Appointments

1. Who has taken charges as the Chief of Staff of Eastern Naval Command (ENC) _____ **Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta.**

Note:

- He replaced Vice Admiral S.N Ghormade, who has been appointed as Controller Personnel Services at the Integrated Headquarters, New Delhi.
- Mr Dasgupta was an alumnus of the NDA and commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1985.

2. Kubatbek Boronov has been appointed as the Prime Minister of which country _____ **Kyrgyzstan.**

Note:

- He succeeded Mukhammedkalyi Abylgazyev who resigned on June 15 following accusations of corruption.
- Kyrgyzstan's parliament approved the candidacy of Kubatbek Boronov with 105 votes out of 116.

3. Who has been appointed as the President of CSB Bank Limited _____ **Pralay Mondal.**

Note:

- He has around 30 years of banking experience across multiple business and functions including retail assets, retail liabilities, business banking, products and technology. Before joining Axis Bank, Mr. Mondal was the Senior Group President and Head of Retail and Business Banking at Yes Bank.

4. Who has been elected president of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly _____ **Volkan Bozkir.**

Note:

- Turkish's diplomat Volkan Bozkir has been elected president of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly. The 75th session of the UN General Assembly begins in September 2020.
- Bozkir won the unanimous support of the 178 UN members. He will take over from Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, the present General Assembly president. A General Assembly president has a one-year term.

5. Name the Indian-American who has been appointed as the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) by the US senate _____ **Sethuraman Panchanathan.**

Note:

- He will replace France Cordova, whose six-year term ended in March, as the 15th director of the NSF. He is expected to take office on July 6.
- Panchanathan is the second Indian-American ever to be nominated to the prestigious science position with the first being Dr Subra Suresh who served from October 2010 to March 2013.

6. Who among the following has been appointed as the brand ambassador of JSW cement _____ **Saurav Ganguly and Sunil Chhetri.**

Note:

- JSW Cement has signed Sourav Ganguly and Sunil Chhetri as its brand ambassadors. The cement brand has also launched a new multi-media marketing campaign "Leader's Choice" which includes both sports icons.
- The multi-media marketing campaign "Leader's Choice" of JSW Cement promotes the ideology of building a solid foundation for a better tomorrow.

7. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) _____ **Urjit Patel.**

- The appointment of the Urjit Patel has been made for a period of four years. He will be replacing the outgoing chairman Vijay Kelkar.
- Urjit Patel has earlier served as the Governor as well as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). He resigned as the Governor of RBI in December 2018.

Honor & Awards

1. Who among the following has been adjudged as the winner of New Zealand's first 'Virtual' Chef competition – the 'Quality NZ Culinary Cup' held in India _____ **Angad Singh Rana.**

Note:

- Chef Angad Singh Rana has won QualityNZ Culinary Cup 2020. The award was announced by Cricket legend and Chennai Super Kings coach Stephen Fleming.
- This award is the New Zealand's first 'Virtual' Chef competition – the 'Quality NZ Culinary Cup' held in India.

2. Which organization has won the Biodiversity award 2020 of Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation _____ **Deccan Development Society (DDS).**

Note:

- The award was announced in a teleconference by Olivier Wenden, Vice President and CEO of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.
- The award is given to recognise the individuals for their actions and the organisations for their contribution in preserving the planet in the three priority areas of the foundation.

3. Which state/UTs has been conferred with three prestigious Deen Dayal Upadhyay Sashaktikaran Puraskar for its outstanding contribution to the socio-economic development of the Gram Panchayats across the state/UTs _____ **Jammu and Kashmir.**

Note:

- Panchayat Rathal, (Block Rajouri) and Panchayat Badakana, (Block Thana Mandi) of District Rajouri and Panchayat Meej, (Block Pampore) of Pulwama district were adjudged the best performing panchayats in recognition of their work in improving the delivery of services for socio economic development and implementation of various schemes.

Sports News

1. IM Vijayan has been recommended for the fourth highest civilian award in India, the Padmashri, is associated with which sports _____ **Football.**

Note:

- IM Vijayan has scored 40 goals in over 79 matches. He won the Arjuna award in 2003. Also, in 1993, 1997 and in 1999 he was awarded the best Indian "Player of the year".
- Padmashri is the fourth highest civilian award in India. The other three highest civilian awards include Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan and Padma Bhushan.
- The awards are presented by the President of India during Republic Day celebrations of the country.

2. The 4th edition of Asian Youth Para Games to be held in which country in December 2021 _____ **Bahrain.**

Note:

- Around 800 athletes under 20 years aged are expected to compete in nine sports: athletics, badminton, boccia, goalball, para taekwondo, powerlifting, swimming, table tennis and wheelchair basketball.
- The event is being organised in conjunction with the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) of Bahrain with the support of the government.

3. Who has won the World Stars Sharjah Online International Chess Championship 2020 _____ **Shakhriyar Mamedyarov.**

Note:

- He won the coveted title and price of \$3000 after scoring 7.5 points from 10 rounds.
- Indian Grandmaster Pentala Harikrishna finished second in the Championship after scoring 6.5 points from 10 rounds.
- Sharjah Online International Chess Championship was hosted by the Sharjah Cultural & Chess Club.

4. Name the Indian tennis player who has been elected as a player member to ITF World Tennis Tour Player Men's panels _____ **Niki Poonacha.**

Note:

- The Men's and Women's Panel will be headed by Mark Woodforde and Mary Pierce respectively who are the athlete representatives on the ITF board of directors.
- Poonacha is chosen as one of the two players from Asia/Oceania locale with a second-most noteworthy number of votes (62) among all challenging players.

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