

Top Current Affairs of the Week (13-19 June 2021)

Sanjay Yadav takes oath as Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court

- Justice **Sanjay Yadav** took oath as the **Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court** at Raj Bhavan in Lucknow.
- His oath was administered by Uttar Pradesh Governor **Anandiben Patel**.
- He was serving as the **acting Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court**.
- He has also served as the **acting Chief Justice and Judge of Madhya Pradesh High Court**.
- **Allahabad High Court** was established in **1866** and is one of the oldest high courts with 160 serving judges.

Union Minister launches Central Athlete Injury Management System (CAIMS)

- Minister of Sports **Kiren Rijju** has launched **Central Athlete Injury Management System (CAIMS)** for streamlining the sports medicine and rehabilitation support offered to the athletes for Olympics 2024 and beyond.
- It will start with support for athletes who are a part of **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) development group**
- It will have 4 structures: **Athlete Wellness Cell, On-Field Sports Medicine Experts, National Resource Referral Teams, Central Core Team**

Project O2 For India Initiated to meet rising Oxygen Demand Amid Pandemic

- Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government has launched '**Project O2 for India**' to ensure supply of critical raw materials such as zeolites, setting up of small oxygen plants, and manufacturing of compressors.
- **Aim:** To enable stakeholders working to augment the country's ability to meet this rise in demand for medical oxygen.
- Under this, **National Consortium of Oxygen** is enabling the national level supply of critical raw materials such as zeolites, oxygen plants, etc

European Space Agency to launch 'EnVision' mission to Venus in 2030

- **European Space Agency (ESA)** is developing its own probe to study **Venus**, for holistic view of planet from its inner core to upper atmosphere, following the steps of NASA
- The mission dubbed as **EnVision**, will probably be launched to the planet in the early **2030**.
- **EnVision probe of ESA** will determine how and why Venus and Earth evolved so differently, even while being in the habitable zone to the Sun.
- ESA will undertake this mission with contributions from NASA.

Maharashtra proposes amendment for protection of 'heritage trees'

- **Maharashtra govt** will make amendments to **Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act of 1975** to introduce provisions for the protection of **'heritage trees'**
- Under this, tree with an estimated age of **50 years** or more shall be defined as a heritage tree
- **State climate change dept** will also consider a tree's rarity, its botanical, historical, religious, mythological and cultural importance
- **Local Tree Authority** will have to ensure tree census

Harsh Vardhan addresses WHO High-Level Coalition on Health

- Union Health Minister, **Harsh Vardhan** has digitally addressed first meeting of **World Health Organization High-Level Coalition on Health and Energy Platform of Action**.
- Meeting was attended by several dignitaries and national heads and representatives of various stakeholders like World Bank, UNDP, UNHRC, The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) etc.
- WHO HQs: **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- Director General of WHO: **Tedros Adhanom**.

Congress leader Indira Hridayesh passes away in Delhi

- Indian National Congress leader, **Indira Hridayesh (80 years)** passed away at Uttrakhand Bhavan in Delhi.
- She was **MLA** as well as **Leader of Opposition** from **Haldwani constituency** in the 2012 Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly election
- She served as the minister of Finance in Uttarakhand 2012 to 2017, Parliamentary Affairs, Higher Education, and Planning in Government of Uttarakhand under Harish Rawat.

Naftali Bennett sworn-in as new Prime Minister of Israel

- **Naftali Bennett** was sworn in as the 13th **Prime Minister of Israel**.
- His victory ended the 12-year power of former PM Benjamin Netanyahu.
- **Netanyahu** is Israel's longest-serving leader.
- Bennett is a former defense minister and associated with the right-wing **Yamina** party.
- Mr. Bennett will be prime minister until **Sep 2023** as part of a power-sharing deal.
- He will then hand power over to Yair Lapid for a further 2years.
- Parliament: **Knesset**
- Capital: **Jerusalem**
- Currency: **Shekel**

'Home in the World': Amartya Sen's memoir to release in July

- **Nobel laureate Amartya Sen** has penned his memoir **'Home in the World'**.
- It will be published by **Penguin Random House**.
- In the memoir, he shares details from his life and explores the idea of 'home'.
- In this book, Sen shares how it was **Rabindranath Tagore** who gave him his name **Amartya**.
- Sen, 87, won the prestigious Nobel Prize for Economics in 1998.
- He was conferred with **National Humanities Medal** by the USA.
- Other Books: **'The Argumentative Indian'**, **'The Idea of Justice'**.

PM Addresses UN conference on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought

- **PM Modi** virtually addressed UN 'High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation & Drought'.
- He said that **three million hectares** of forest cover have been added in India over the last ten years.
- He listed steps taken by India to deal with the land degradation issue.
- He conveyed that India is on track to achieve its national commitment of **Land degradation** neutrality.
- He said India is also working towards restoring 26 million hectares of degraded **land by 2030**.

India emerges as 14th most charitable country in the World

- According to **World Giving Index 2021**, released by the **Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)**, India is the **14th most** charitable country.
- **Indonesia** remains in 1st place, followed by **Kenya**.
- 4 African nations now sit in the top 10 for the first time.
- 3 of them are **Nigeria, Ghana & Uganda**
- Most of the western countries which are usually in the Top 10 have fallen far down the rankings.
- **61%** of Indians helped strangers; **34%** volunteered; **36%** donated money.

IIT Ropar develops power free CPAP device "Jivan Vayu"

- **IIT Ropar** has developed a device "**Jivan Vayu**" which can be used as a substitute for a **CPAP machine**.
- This device can function even without electricity
- It is adapted to both kinds of **oxygen generation** units like **CO2 cylinders** and **oxygen pipelines**.
- The device is designed to maintain a **FiO2** (the concentration of oxygen in the gas mixture) of above 40% with a PEEP of 5-20 cm H2O.
- The device houses a viral filter at the air entrainment end with a viral efficacy of **99.99%**

India Exports GI Tagged 'Jardalu' Mangoes to UK

- India exported **Geographical Indications (GI)** certified **Jardalu** mangoes from **Bhagalpur** to **London**.
- **APEDA** in collaboration with the Bihar govt, Indian High Commission & Invest India, exported the mangoes.
- Mangoes were packed and treated at the APEDA packhouse in **Lucknow**.
- GI relates to a specific geographical origin of a product and certifies that it possesses qualities or a reputation due to that.
- Bihar CM: **Nitish Kumar**
- Governor: **Phagu Chauhan**

World's first wooden satellite to be launched from New Zealand

- The **European Space Agency** will launch the world's first satellite, **WISA Woods** by the end of **2021**.
- The objective of the satellite is to test the applicability of **wooden materials** in spacecraft structures and expose it to extreme space conditions, such as **heat, cold, vacuum, and radiation**.
- It will be launched by **Rocket Lab Electron** rocket from the **Mahia Peninsula** launch complex in **New Zealand**.
- The satellite was designed by **Finland**.
- It is a 10x10x10 cm **nanosatellite**.

Centre allocates 78,000 tonnes of rice from FCI for ethanol production

- The Centre has allocated **78,000 tonnes** of rice from **FCI** to distilleries for ethanol production for 2020-21.
- The Centre had allowed procurement of surplus FCI rice by grain-based distilleries for production of ethanol to be supplied to oil marketing companies under the **Ethanol Blending Programme**.
- The govt has set a target of blending **20% ethanol** with petrol by **2025-26**.
- To achieve that target, over **1,000 cr litres** of ethanol will be required to blend with the petrol.

Shipping Ministry, MoCA sign pact to develop seaplane services in India

- **Ministry Shipping** signed an MoU with the **Ministry of Civil Aviation** to start **seaplane services** across India.
- This MoU envisages the development of the **Non-Scheduled/Scheduled** operation of seaplane services within the territorial jurisdiction of India under the **RCS-UDAN scheme**.
- A total of **28 seaplane** routes and **14 water aerodromes** in **Gujarat, Assam, Telangana, AP, Andaman-Nicobar** Islands, and **Lakshadweep** are in various stages of development at a cost of **₹450 crores**.
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SJVN inks pact with National Institute of Wind Energy for energy projects

- State-owned **SJVN Ltd** has signed a pact with the **National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE)** to develop solar and wind energy projects.
- **SJVN** has entered into an MoU with the Institute for 'technical consultancy services for the development of **solar, wind, and hybrid energy** projects of **SJVN**.'
- The Government of India is targeting to achieve the installation of **175 gigawatts (GW)** of renewable energy capacity by the year **2022 and 450 gigawatts by 2030**.

Rajnath Singh addresses ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus

- **Rajnath Singh** addressed the **ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus** via video-conferencing.
- He hailed the Indian values of '**Vasudhaive Kutumbakam**' and '**Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah**'.
- Minister called for a united fight against the pandemic.
- ADMM-Plus is a forum comprising 10 ASEAN member countries and 8 partner nations **India, China, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and US**.
- The **15th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting** is being hosted by **Brunei** (chair of ASEAN for 21)

India extends \$ 100 million LoC to Sri Lanka for Solar Energy Projects

- India has signed an agreement extending a \$100 mn **Line of Credit (LOC)** to **Sri Lanka** for projects in the **Solar Energy Sector**.
- The agreement was signed between Sri Lanka and the EXIM Bank.
- This LOC will help finance various projects in the solar energy sector in **Sri Lanka**.

- Some of the projects were announced during the Founding Conference of the **ISA** held in **March 2018** in **Delhi**.
- Thus far **89 countries**, including **Sri Lanka**, have signed the **Framework Agreement of the ISA**.

China sends its first crew to new space station

- China launched a spacecraft '**Shenzhou-12**' carrying 3 astronauts to part of its own **space station**.
- It was launched from **Gobi Desert**.
- China becomes the third country to send astronauts into space.
- This is a third of the **11-mission** needed to complete China's space station by **2022**.
- The Chinese station reportedly is intended to be used for **15 years** and may outlast the **International Space Station**.
- This is also **China's 7th** crewed mission overall.

IIT Bombay Hosts Conference of BRICS Network Universities as part of 13th B

- A 3-day virtual **Conference of BRICS Network Universities (BNU)** on the theme of electric mobility was inaugurated at **IIT Bombay**.
- This conference is part of the engagements that India is hosting under the education stream during its **Chairship** of the **13th BRICS Summit**.
- Over **100 students, researchers**, and faculty from the **BNU** of the 5-member countries are expected to participate in the **conference**.
- **IIT Bombay** is the lead institution of **India** for the **BNU**.

ADB, India sign \$ 484 mn loan to upgrade road network in TN industrial corr

- The **ADB** and the **GoI** signed a **\$484 million** loan to improve transport connectivity and facilitate industrial development in the **Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC)** in **Tamil Nadu**.
- **CKIC** is part of India's **East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC)**.
- ADB is the lead partner of the Government of India in developing ECEC.
- The project will upgrade about **590 km** of state highways in the **CKIC influence** areas that cover 23 of the 32 districts b/w **Chennai and Kanyakumari**.

Google Pay to allow 'tokenized' payments

- **Google Pay** has tied up with a clutch of **leading Indian banks** to offer tokenized card services to customers on its **UPI app**.
- It has now added debit cards by **SBI, IndusInd Bank, and Federal Bank** and Credit cards by **IndusInd Bank** and **HSBC India** to its tokenized offerings.
- It is a feature that enables users to make debit or credit card payments through a secure digital token attached to their phone.
- The network partner for these transactions is **VISA**.

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2021: 17th June

- Every year on **June 17, World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought** is observed.

- The day's focus is to turn the degraded land that has lost its natural productivity due to human activity into healthy land.
- The **UN-designated** day is all about a green planet, sustainable development, and the health and welfare of people.
- This year's theme is "**Restoration.Land.Recovery. We build back better with healthy land**".

Centre appoints Finance Ministry official Anand Mohan Bajaj to SEBI Board

- The **Govt of India** has appointed **Anand Mohan Bajaj** as a Member of the Board of **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.
- Currently, he is holding the post of Additional Secretary in the **Finance Ministry** since **May 2020**.
- He will succeed Tarun Bajaj, who is now the Revenue Secretary.
- He had rejoined the Finance Ministry in **September 2018** as **Joint Secretary**.
- He had earlier served as Director (capital markets) in the Finance Ministry between July 2006-June 2011.

PM Modi addresses Europe's biggest startup & tech event -Viva Tech

- **PM Modi** addressed the 5th edition of **VivaTech**, the largest digital, and start-up event in **Europe**.
- The Prime Minister has been invited as a **Guest of Honour**.
- He said that India is adaptable and agile even in the middle of the pandemic.
- **VivaTech** is being held in Paris every year since 2016.
- It is jointly organized by **Publicis Groupe**, a prominent advertising and marketing conglomerate, and **Les Echos** – a leading French media group.

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

- India maintained **43rd rank** in the annual **World Competitiveness Index 2021**.
- The report was compiled by the **Institute for Management Development (IMD)**.
- Top three nation in the 64-nation list are: 1. Switzerland; 2. Sweden; 3. Denmark.
- BRICS Nations rank order is **China, India, Russia, Brazil** and **South Africa**.
- The top-performing Asian economies are, in order, **Singapore** (fifth), **Hong Kong** (seventh), **Taiwan** (eighth) and **China** (16th).

Institute for Economics and Peace released Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021

- The 15th edition of the **Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021** was released by the **Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), Sydney**.
- **Indian ranked 135th most peaceful country in the world**
- **Iceland** remains the most peaceful country while **Afghanistan** is the least peaceful country in the world for the fourth consecutive year.
- **Bhutan** ranked as the most peaceful nation in South Asia.
- **New Zealand, Denmark, Portugal** ranked 3rd, 4th, and 5th resp.
- Iceland capital: **Reykjavík**

India rank 2nd in share of central bank surplus transfers

- The **RBI ranked** 2nd after **Turkey** in terms of reserves transferred to the govt as a percentage of GDP for the FY 2020-21.
- In FY20, the RBI stood fourth when ranked by the ratio of surplus as a **percentage of GDP**.
- The RBI transferred a Rs 99,122-crore surplus to the govt
- Which is 73% higher than the Rs 57,128 crore paid out in 2019-20.
- The surplus transferred by RBI constitutes **0.44% of GDP**, while that of the **Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey** constitutes 0.5% of **GDP**.

Japan to issue vaccine passport for travel abroad

- **Japan** decided to make a **vaccine passport** available from **next month** for Japanese travelers.
- The certificate will be paper-based rather than digital.
- It will be issued by the local govt from sometime next month.
- The **European Union** is working on a digital vaccine passport for this summer so it can welcome back badly needed tourists.
- The **EU version** will feature information on whether a person has been vaccinated, or had the virus, tested negative, and recovered.

Mahavir Chakra recipient Brig Raghubir Singh Rajawat passes away

- Mahavir Chakra recipient, **Brigadier Raghubir Singh Rajawat** passed away recently.
- He was from **18 Rajputana Rifles** and had also received a sword from **Maharaja Sawai Man Singh** as a token of honour.
- He served as the Provost Marshal in the Military police, during the 1971 Indo-Pak war.
- He also participated in the Burma war in **1944** and went to Japan to fight.
- During the **1958-59 Israel – Egypt war**, he was part of the **United Nations Emergency Force**.

Milkha Singh passes away due to Covid-19 complications

- The Flying Sikh, **Milkha Singh** (91-years) passed away **due to post-Covid complications** at the PGIMER hospital in Mohali.
- He is the **only athlete to win gold** in 400 metres race at the **Asian Games** as well the **Commonwealth Games**.
- He also won **gold medals** in the 1958 and 1962 Asian Games.
- He represented India in the **1956 Summer Olympics** in Melbourne, the **1960 Summer Olympics** in Rome and the **1964 Summer Olympics** in Tokyo.
- Singh, born in **Gobindpura** (in present day Pakistan).

Country's foreign exchange reserve rose by US 103 Billion in last one year

- According to the RBI, **Foreign exchange reserves** of the country reached an all-time high of US\$ 605.0 billion on June 4, 2021.
- In the **last one year**, the country's foreign exchange reserve rose by **US\$ 103 Billion**.
- RBI estimated that, In terms of projected imports for 2021-22, the current level of reserves provides cover for less than **15 months**.

- In the foreign exchange market Indian rupee appreciated against the US dollar in May 2021 and gained further in June.

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