

Weekly Current Affairs 3rd Week of June 2021



National & International Appointments

1. 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**

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Important Dates

2. World Blood Donor Day 2021: 14th June

- Every year, the **World Blood Donor** is celebrated on **June 14**, all around the world
- This day was first observed in **2005** and serves to elevate the recognition of the need for safe blood and blood products.
- World Blood Donor Day is also celebrated to appreciate the blood donors for their voluntary, life-saving gifts of blood.
- The **World Blood Donor Day** is part of the **WHO's** global public health campaigns.

- The theme of Day for 2021 is '**Give blood and keep the world beating**'.

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State Affairs

3. MP to launch 'Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan' using youth power



- **Madhya Pradesh** govt will launch '**Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan**' to make people aware of the COVID pandemic.
- The campaign will be launched with the help of youth power.
- In the campaign, **college teachers** and around 16 lakh **students** will be made aware of corona infection.
- This campaign will be run by the **Higher Education and Technical Education Department** in collaboration with the **Public Health and Family Welfare Department**.
- Governor: **Anandiben Patel**
- Assembly seats: **230**

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4. Grand slam tournament French Open 2021 concluded



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- **French Open 2021** concluded in **Roland Garros in Paris, France**.
- World No.1 **Novak Djokovic** of Serbia won the **Men's Singles** title after beating Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece.
- It was Djokovic's 2nd title in the tournament.
- Czech Republic's **Barbora Krejckova** won the women's Sngle title.
- Krejckova also won the **women's double** title in the tournament with **Katerina Siniakova**.
- Men's doubles: **Nicolas Mahut and Pierre-Hugues Herbert**
- Mixed doubles: **Desirae Krawczyk and Joe Salisbury**.

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Sports

5. **Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu qualifies for Tokyo Olympics in women's 49-kg ca**

- India's **Mirabai Chanu**, the 2017 world champion in weightlifting, has qualified for the **Tokyo Olympics** in the women's **49-kg category**
- The **International Weightlifting Federation** announced that Mirabai has qualified on the basis of her world ranking points
- **Manipur** lifter is ranked 2nd in the women's 49-kg category
- As per the rules of the IWF, the top eight lifters in each of the 14 weight categories, including seven in the women's group, are eligible to compete in **Tokyo Games**

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Sports

6. **Vinesh Phogat wins gold in women's 53 kg freestyle at Poland Ranking Series**

- Indian wrestler **Vinesh Phogat** won the **women's 53kg** freestyle gold in the Poland Ranking Series in Warsaw.
- She defeated **Khrystyna Bereza** of **Ukraine**.
- The gold-winning effort of Vinesh is likely to improve her seeding in the 53kg freestyle

event at the Olympics, to be held from July 23 to August 8.

- Vinesh made it 8-0 in the last 30 seconds of the contest to pocket the **gold medal**.
- **Khrystyna** settled for silver.

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Banking & Finance

7. **Bank of Maharashtra Tops PSU Banks in Terms of Loan, Deposit Growth in FY21**



- **Bank of Maharashtra** has emerged as the top performer among public sector banks in terms of loan and deposit growth during FY 2020-21.
- the bank recorded a **13.45% increase** in gross advances at Rs 1.07 lakh cr in 2020-21.
- It was followed by **Punjab & Sind Bank** which posted an 8.39% growth in advances.
- In **deposit mobilization**, BoM with nearly **16% growth** was ahead of **SBI** (13.56%).
- **CASA** for BoM saw a **24.47% raise**, the highest among the public sector lenders.

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Banking & Finance

8. **HDFC Mutual Fund launches HDFC Banking & Financial Services Fund**

- **HDFC Mutual Fund** has announced the launch of HDFC Banking and Financial Services Fund, **NFO** for retail investors.
- The NFO will run from June 11, 2021, to June 25, 2021.
- The New Fund Offer (NFO) will open on 28 June 2021 and close on 12 July 2021.
- It aims to invest in the banking and financial services sector across segments and market



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capitalization including, **banking, broking, asset management, wealth management, insurance, NBFCs.**

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Books & Authors

9. '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**'.

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National & International Appointments

10. Akshay Kumar Becomes Brand Ambassador of Mylab Discovery Solutions

- Biotechnology company **Mylab Discovery Solutions** has appointed actor **Akshay Kumar** as its brand ambassador.

- The Pune-based firm has recently launched the country's first COVID-19 self-test kit, CoviSelf.
- The partnership aims at creating awareness for **Mylab's** products and kits for laboratories and individuals including CoviSelf and share educational content.
- **Kumar** will play a vital role in educating people about the use, safety, and **efficacy of products.**

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Obituaries

11. Former India volleyball captain Nirmal Kaur passes away

- Former Indian women volleyball team captain **Nirmal Kaur** passed away recently due to complications related to **Covid-19 infection**.
- She was the wife of legendary **Olympian Milkha Singh**
- **Milkha Singh** himself is being treated for Covid-related complications at the **PGI Chandigarh**.
- **Milkha Singh** has been under the observation of a medical team comprising senior doctors of the institute.

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15th June 2021

National Affairs

1. PM Addresses UN conference on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought



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- **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**.

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National Affairs

2. 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.

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Science & Technology

3. 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%**

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Obituaries

4. Kannada actor Sanchari Vijay passes away in road accident in Bengaluru

- National Award-winning Kannada actor **Sanchari Vijay** passed away in a road accident in **Bengaluru**.
- Vijay meets with a road accident and was in critical condition.
- Doctors performed an emergency brain surgery but could not save him.
- Vijay, who made his debut with **Rangappa Hogbitna** in 2011, appeared in many Kannada films such as **Dasavala, Harivu, Oggarane, Killing Veerappan, Varthamana**, and Sipaayi.



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- His film **Naanu Avanalla Avalu** fetched him his first **National Award**.

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Banking & Finance

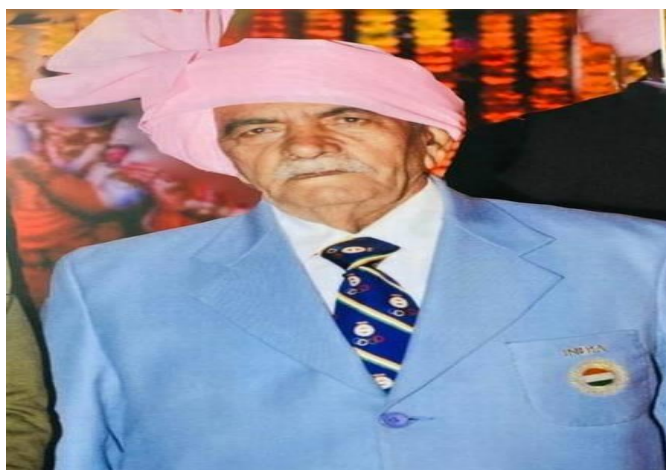
5. RBI expands BBPS scope by August 31, 2021



- The RBI has expanded the scope of the **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)** by 31st August 2021.
- Also, '**mobile prepaid recharges**' are added as a biller category.
- **BBPS** is an integrated bill payment system that offers interoperable bill payment services to customers online as well as through a network of agents on the ground.
- **BBPS** functions under the aegis of the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.

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6. Olympian Surat Singh Mathur passes away



- **First Olympian** from independent India **Surat Singh Mathur** passed away recently.
- He was a marathon runner, complete the **Olympic marathon race, at the 1952 Helsinki Games**.
- Running with the legendary **Emil Zatopek** in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, Mathur completed the marathon in the **52nd place** in 2:58.92s.
- He was a bronze medallist at the first **Asian Games** in 1951.
- He also won **2 Gold Medals** in the **National Championships**.

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Important Dates

7. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day: 15th June



- **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day** is celebrated every year on **15th June**.
- The aim of the day is to raise awareness against one of the cruelest manifestations of ageism in our society – elder abuse.
- Elder abuse can be **physical, sexual, social, psychological, financial**, and can include neglect and ill-treatment.
- In 2011 the **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day** was officially recognized by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

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Banking & Finance

8. India Exports GI Tagged 'Jardalu' Mangoes to UK

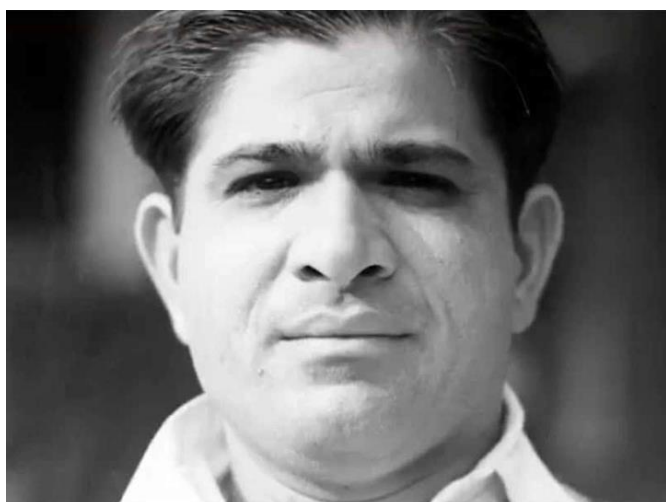


- India exported **Geographical Indications (GI)** certified **Jardalu** mangoes from **Bhagalpur** to **London**.
- **APEDA** in collaboration with the Bihar govt, Indian High Commission & Invest India, exported the mangoes.
- Mangoes were packed and treated at the APEDA packhouse in **Lucknow**.
- 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**

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Sports

9. Vinoo Mankad, Sangakkara and 8 others inducted into ICC Hall of Fame



- **Vinod Mankad, Kumar Sangakkara**, and 8 other former cricketers were inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame ahead of the **World Test Championship final**.
- Vinoo Mankad of India played 44 Tests, scored 2,109 runs at 31.47, took 162 wickets at 32.32,
- He was an **opening batsman** and slow left-arm orthodox bowler, known as one of India's greatest-ever all-rounders.
- His most famous feat was against **England** at Lord's in **1952** when he scored 72 and 184 and bowled 97 overs in the match.

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National Affairs

10. MoHI&PE Modifies FAME India Phase II Scheme: Aggregation via EESL



- The union govt has modified the ambitious **FAME II scheme** to promote **electric mobility**.
- It allotted the electric **three-wheelers and electric buses** component of the marquee **FAME scheme** to state-run **EESL**.
- EESL is a joint venture of NTPC Ltd, Rural Electrification Corp. Ltd, Power Finance Corp. Ltd and Power Grid Corp. of India Ltd.
- The FAME scheme was administered by the department of heavy industries (DHI) which started on **1 April 2019**.

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11. Navi General Insurance launches monthly subscription-based health insurance

- **Navi General Insurance** has introduced the option for customers to purchase health insurance through a **monthly subscription (EMI)**.
- The navigation option of paying EMI for health insurance makes it easier to buy at a more affordable price.
- It makes health insurance more accessible to far more customers.
- The Monthly fee of the policy is **Rs 240**.
- **Navi Health** covers more than **20 health insurance** including hospitalization, pre-hospital costs, etc.

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Banking & Finance

12. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank collaborates with MoEngage



- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** collaborated with **MoEngage** to drive digital banking experiences in the unserved and underserved areas of the country.
- **MoEngage** is a leading customer engagement platform.
- This will foster a holistic customer experience across all organic channels, like the website, app, email, text message, social media, and branches to drive business growth.

- Utilizing **MoEngage's** expertise, the **SFB** will target **SMS campaigns** to encourage digital repayments.

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16th June 2021

Science & Technology

1. 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**.

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State Affairs

2. Rajasthan govt. to set up Vedic Education and Sanskar Board



- **Rajasthan govt** will set up a **Vedic Education and Sanskar Board**.
- The aim of this is to revive the knowledge of ancient **Sanskrit scriptures** and connect the learnings of the **Vedas** with science and yoga.



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- The board is likely to be set up in the coming four to five months.
- The State, at present, has about **20 residential Vedic schools**, including 'Gurukuls'.
- The state government has also established Ayurveda and Sanskrit universities.
- CM: **Ashok Gehlot**
- Governor: **Kalraj Mishra**

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Banking & Finance

3. Canara Bank to be lead sponsor of bad bank with 12% stack



- **Canara Bank** will be the lead sponsor of **National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL)** or bad bank with 12% stake.
- The board of **Canara Bank** has given in-principle approval for taking a stake in **NARCL**.
- The IBA was appointed nodal agency to constitute the **NARCL** and **India Debt Management Company Ltd (IDMCL)** respectively.
- A bad bank refers to a financial institution that takes over the bad assets of lenders and undertakes resolution.
- MD and CEO : **L V Prabhakar**

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Banking & Finance

4. RBI proposes removing interest rate caps for microlenders



- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** proposed a uniform regulatory framework for **microfinance institutions (MFIs)**, wherein **MFIs** can provide collateral-free loans to households at interest rates determined by their boards.
- **MFIs** will get the freedom to set rates and end regulatory caps on interest rates.
- **Microfinance** is a form of financial service which provides small loans and other financial services to poor and low-income households.

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Banking & Finance

5. Financial wealth in India jumps 11% in 2020 to \$3.4 trillion: BCG Report



- As per the **BCG report**, financial wealth in India grew **11%** to \$ 3.4 tr. in **2020**.
- This growth was at par with the compounded annual growth rate for the **5 years**.



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- **Financial wealth** is defined as the total wealth excluding real assets and liabilities held by adult individuals.
- As per the report India is expected to lead the percentage growth of individuals with fortunes of over \$100 mn till 2025.
- The real assets are expected to grow by 8.2% per annum to \$ 18.5 tr. by 2025.

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Banking & Finance

6. 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.

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Agreement

7. 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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International Affairs

8. UK and Australia agreed on historic free trade agreement

- **Britain and Australia** have agreed on a historic **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**.
- It will make it cheaper for the UK to sell its **cars and Scotch whisky** Down Under and remove barriers for business.
- An FTA with Australia is also dubbed as a **gateway into the fast-growing Indo-Pacific region**, which covers India.
- The **UK-Australia** trade relationship was worth **13.9 billion pounds** last year and is set to grow under the deal.
- UK PM: **Boris Johnson**
- Australia PM: **Scott Morrison**

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Agreement

9. 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**



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(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**.

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Agreement

10. Ambuja Cement Foundation, NABARD to Skill Rural Youth



- **Ambuja Cement Foundation** has joined hands with NABARD for the implementation of its employability through the **skill initiative project phase II**.
- The foundation received grant assistance from NABARD under the **Gramya Vikas Nidhi**.
- The project will provide skill training across **19 locations** for two years in **12 trades**.
- It has already reached over **4,000 youth** despite the pandemic
- The course also includes soft skills and **leadership skills** as part of the training module.

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National & International Appointments

11. Mukesh Sharma Appointed as Honorary Member of WHO Body

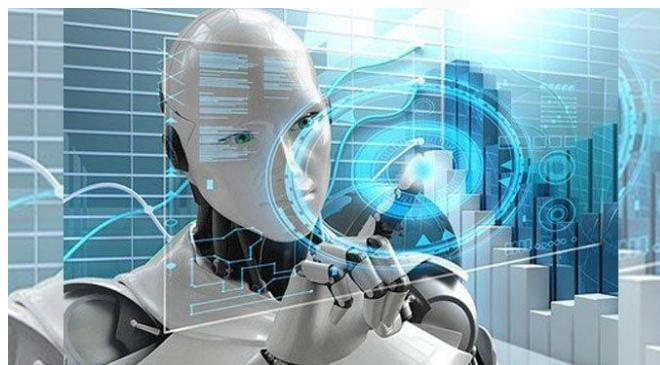


- **Mukesh Sharma**, a faculty at IIT Kanpur, has been appointed as an honorary member of WHO's **Global Air Pollution and Health - Technical Advisory Group (GAPH-TAG)**.
- He has been associated with **WHO, Geneva, International Council for Clean Transport, Clean Air Asia United National Environmental Program, Bangkok**, and the **World Bank**.
- He will now be part of the WHO advisory group on interventions and policies for air pollution control in **194 member states**.

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State Affairs

12. Telangana government launches Revv Up for AI startups



- **Telangana** govt launched the **TAIM** accelerator programme **Revv Up**.
- It is exclusively designed for growth-stage artificial intelligence (**AI**) **startups**.
- The vision of **T-AIM** is to develop Telangana as a global hub for AI startups.
- The accelerator program would be a torchbearer for future AI accelerators in the country.
- **NASSCOM** will execute the envisioned strategy of **T-AIM** to identify and promote



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innovative and impactful AI solutions to solve **real-world problems**.

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17th June 2021

National & International Appointments

1. Microsoft names CEO Satya Nadella as chairman



- **Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella** has been named as the **Chairman of the Microsoft Corp.**
- He will succeed **John Thompson**, who will now serve as a lead independent director.
- Nadella took over as **CEO in 2014** from **Steve Ballmer**.
- He has been instrumental in scaling up its business including billion-dollar acquisitions like **LinkedIn, Nuance Communications, and ZeniMax**.
- **Nadella** has transformed the software titan into America's **second-largest** firm by value after tech giant **Apple**.

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Summits & Conferences

2. 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)

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National Affairs

3. TRAI launches TV Channel Selector Portal



- TRAI has launched **TV Channel Selector Portal**.
- This portal will facilitate those subscribers who do not own a mobile phone but want to use a web browser for the selection of **TV channels**.
- This portal will help the subscriber to check their **own subscription** and view all the channels provided by the **DTH and Cable operators**.
- The portal also allows the subscriber to modify the existing **subscriptions**.
- The users can also provide feedback **through the portal**.

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Agreement

4. 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**.

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International Affairs

5. 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.

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Summits & Conferences

6. 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**.

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Agreement

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

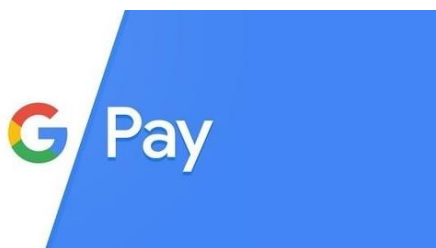


- The **ADB** and the **GoI** signed a **\$484 million** loan to improve transport connectivity and facilitate industrial development in the **Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC)** in **Tamil Nadu**.
- **CKIC** is part of India's **East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC)**.
- **ADB** is the lead 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**.

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Banking & Finance

8. 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**.

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Important Dates

9. 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"**.

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National & International Appointments

10. Centre appoints Finance Ministry official Anand Mohan Bajaj to SEBI Board



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- 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**.

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Summits & Conferences

11. 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.

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18th June 2021

National Affairs

1. 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).

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National Affairs

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



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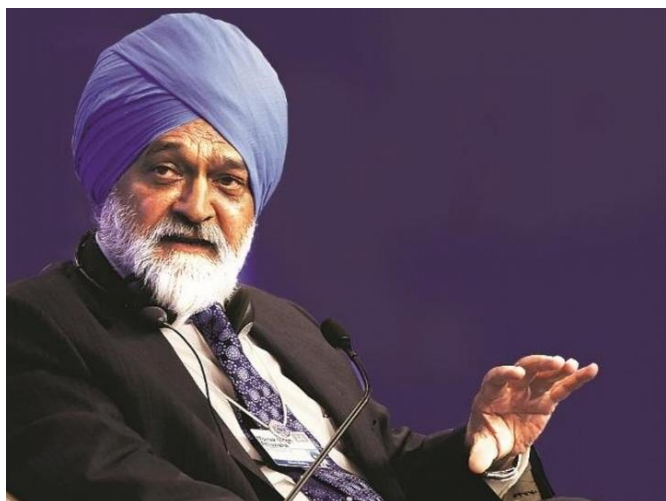
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- The 15th edition of the **Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021** was released by the **Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)**, Sydney.
- **Indian ranked 135th most peaceful country in the world**
- **Iceland** remains the most peaceful country while **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**

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National & International Appointments

3. **Montek Ahluwalia named member of WB-IMF High-Level Advisory Group**



- **Montek Singh Ahluwalia** was named as a member of a **High-Level Advisory Group** formed by the **World Bank** and **IMF**
- He was formerly Deputy Chairman of the **Planning Commission**
- The group will be jointly led by **Mari Pangestu**, MD for Development Policy and Partnerships, WB; **Ceyla Pazarbasioglu**, Director, Strategy, Policy and Review Department, IMF; and **Lord Nicholas Stern**.
- It will also include **Gita Gopinath**, Economic Counsellor and Director of the Research Department at the IMF.

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National & International Appointments

4. **Govt. appoints Aashish Chandorkar as Director at India's WTO mission**



- The govt has appointed **Aashish Chandorkar** as **Counsellor in India's Permanent Mission** in the **WTO**.
- For the first time, a private person has been appointed at the Mission.
- Chandorkar is director of Bengaluru-based policy think tank **Smahi Foundation of Policy and Research**.
- The **WTO** is a 164-member multi-lateral body, which deals with global trade.
- India is a member since **1995**.
- WTO Hq: **Geneva**
- WTO Director-General: **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**

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National & International Appointments

5. **British lawyer Karim Khan sworn in as ICC's chief prosecutor**



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- British lawyer **Karim Khan** was sworn in as the new chief prosecutor for the **International Criminal Court**.
- He has years of experience as an international lawyer as a prosecutor, investigator, and defense attorney.
- He takes over from **Fatou Bensouda** of **Gambia**.
- Most recently, Khan led a United Nations team investigating atrocities in **Iraq**.
- ICJ HQ: **The Hague**
- No. of Member states: **123**

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National Affairs

6. Centre opens 14 disability early intervention centres

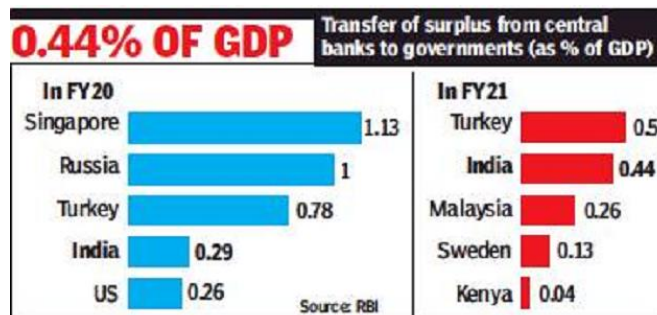


- The **Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry** launched **14 cross-disability early intervention centres** across the country.
- The Centres will provide **screening and identification, rehabilitation, counselling, therapeutic** services among others for different disabilities.
- The Govt has implemented the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**, in line with the UN Convention on the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.
- Minister of Social Justice: **Thaawar Chand Gehlot**

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Banking & Finance

7. 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**.

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National & International Appointments

8. PUMA signs Yuvraj Singh as brand ambassador of PUMA Motorsport in India



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- Global sports brand **PUMA** has extended its decade-long partnership with **Yuvraj Singh**
- PUMA signed him as the face of **PUMA Motorsport in India**
- He will showcase his passion for fast cars and sports-inspired fashion
- He also joins the brand's global league of legends like Thierry Henry, Boris Becker, and **Usain Bolt**.
- Globally, PUMA is associated with Scuderia Ferrari, Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team, Aston Martin Red Bull Racing, BMW M Motorsport, and Porche Motorsport

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International Affairs

9. 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.

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Important Dates

10. Autistic Pride Day 2021: 18th June

- **Autistic Pride Day** is observed every year on **18th June** to raise awareness about people diagnosed with **Autism Spectrum Disorder**.
- This day gives us an opportunity to view people with autism not as disadvantaged but as equal individuals.
- Autistic Pride Day was first celebrated in Brazil in 2005, at the initiative of an organization named **Aspies for Freedom**.
- According to **World Health Organization (WHO)**, one in 160 children has an **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**.

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Obituaries

11. Mahavir Chakra recipient Brig Raghbir Singh Rajawat passes away



- Mahavir Chakra recipient, **Brigadier Raghbir 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.



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- 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**.

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Honours & Awards

12. Sumant Sinha recognised as SDG Pioneers by UNGC



- **United Nations Global Compact** has recognized Sumant Sinha as one of the ten **SDG Pioneers 2021**, for his work to advance access to clean and affordable energy.
- He is the **CMD of ReNew Power**.
- SDG Pioneers are business leaders selected by the UNGC for doing an exceptional job to advance the SDGs through the implementation of the **UNGC Ten Principles** on human rights, environment, labor, and anti-corruption.
- **ReNew Power** has been a participant in the UNGC since **2016**.

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19th June 2021

Important Dates

1. World Sickle Cell Awareness Day : 19th June



- **World Sickle Cell Day**, observed every year on **19 June** to raise awareness of **sickle cell disorders**. **Sickle cell Anaemia** is a genetic red blood cell disorder
- People with sickle cell disorders **don't have enough healthy red blood cells** to carry oxygen throughout the body
- The day **came into existence in 2008** after the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** acknowledged sickle cell disease as a public health problem
- **UNGA President:** Abdulla Shahid
- **Headquarters:** New York, USA

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Obituaries

2. Milkha Singh passes away due to Covid-19 complications



- The Flying Sikh, **Milkha Singh** (91-years) passed away **due to post-Covid**



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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).

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State Affairs

3. Madhya Pradesh Govt launches 'Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan'



- The Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has launched '**Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan**' involving youth to make the people aware of the COVID-19 pandemic and covid appropriate behaviour.
- Mr. Chouhan said that about **10 lakh students of the colleges of the state** will play an important role in the eradication of Corona.
- Chief Minister also launched a mobile app '**Covi-Sandesh**' designed for real time monitoring of the campaign.
- MP Governor: **Anandiben Patel**.

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National Affairs

4. HPCL to set up grain based ethanol plant in Himachal's Una district



- **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)** has decided to set up a grain-based ethanol plant in the Una district (Himachal Pradesh).
- The state government would provide about **70 acres** of land and a rail-fed POL terminal of higher capacity.
- This plant would have a capacity to **generate 125 KL ethanol** per day.
- These projects would be set up at a cost of **400 crore rupees** and would provide direct and indirect employment to about 300 persons.

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Banking & Finance

5. 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**.



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

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Obituaries

6. Zambia's first President Kenneth Kaunda passes away



- Zambia's first President **Kenneth Kaunda** (97-years) passed away in the capital, Lusaka.
- Mr Kaunda served as the **first President of independent Zambia** from 1964 to 1991.
- In 1991, he was forced to hold the first multi-party elections for 23 years, which he lost to long-time foe, trade unionist Frederick Chiluba.
- Zambia gained independence from Britain in October 1964.
- **Capital:** Lusaka
- **Currency:** Zambian kwacha

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Banking & Finance

7. IndusInd Bank launches a digital lending platform "IndusEasy Credit"



- **IndusInd Bank** has announced to launch a **comprehensive digital lending platform 'IndusEasy Credit'**.
- It enables customers to meet their financial requirements from the comfort of their homes.
- With this, both existing, as well as non-IndusInd Bank customer, can instantly avail of personal loans or credit cards on a single platform in a completely paperless and digital manner.
- **CEO:** Sumant Kathpalia
- **Headquarters:** Pune

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Agreement

8. India and Bhutan sign MOU for developing cooperation in Environment



- India and Bhutan inked an **MoU for developing cooperation** between two countries in the area of the environment.
- The MoU was signed virtually by the Minister of Environment.
- Union Minister Prakash Javadekar from the Indian side and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairperson of the National Environment Commission Lyonpo Dr. Tandi Dorji from the Bhutanese side.
- The MoU will open new vistas of bilateral cooperation in the area of climate change, waste management etc.

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Important Dates

9. International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conf.: 19 July



- International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is observed globally on **19th June** every year.
- The day aims to raise awareness of the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence, honour the victims and survivors of sexual violence around the world
- In 2015 the United Nations adopted **19 June** as the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict.

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International Affairs

10. ADB approves USD 250 million loan for social Devt. programs in Bangladesh



- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** approved USD 250 million loans to Bangladesh to help finance reforms.
- It is aimed at improving the inclusiveness and responsiveness of the country's social development and resilience program.
- The Strengthening Social Resilience Program will include institutional and policy reforms

to address cross-sector issues of social development in Bangladesh.

- **ADB Headquarters:** Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- **President:** Masatsugu Asakawa

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