

Weekly Current Affairs 7th -13th Jun 2021

Important News: State

Indus Best Mega Food Park at Raipur, Chhattisgarh

Why in the News?

- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Narendra Singh Tomar virtually inaugurated the Indus Best Mega Food Park at Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

Indus Best Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd



Key Points

About Indus Best Mega Food Park:

- Mega Food Park is being implemented by M/s Indus Best Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd.
- M/s Indus Best Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd has been set up in 63.8 acres of land at a project cost of Rs. 145.5 crore.

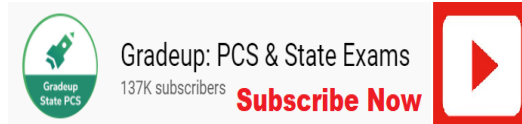
Benefits:

- The Mega Food Park will ensure value addition, longer shelf life for farm produce, better price realization for farmers, excellent storage facility and will provide an alternate market for farmers in the region.
- The Park will also provide direct and indirect employment to about 5,000 persons and benefit about 25,000 farmers.



About Mega Food Park Scheme:

- Mega Food Park is a scheme of the Ministry of Food Processing, Government of India with the aim of



establishing a "direct linkage from farm to processing and then to consumer markets" through a network of Collection Centres (CCs) and Primary Processing Centres (PPCs).

- The Mega Food Park project is implemented by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) which is a Body Corporate registered under the Companies Act 2013.
- Under the Scheme, the Government of India provides financial assistance up to Rs. 50.00 Crore per Mega Food Park project.

Note:

- 42 Mega Food Parks have been sanctioned in six phases.
- Presently, 22 Mega Food Parks are operational.

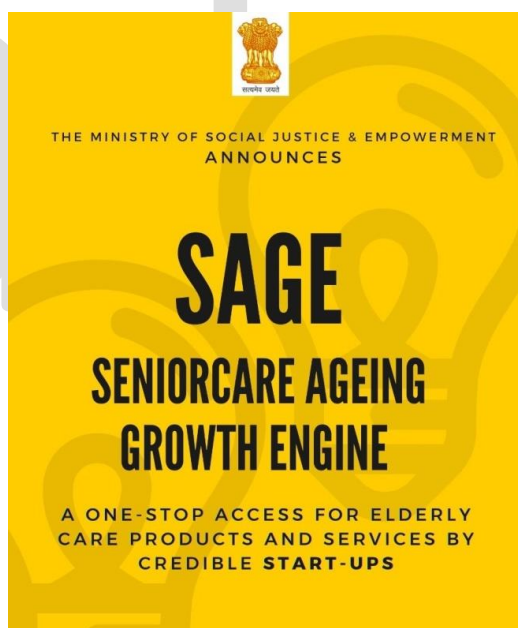
Source: PIB

Important News: India

SAGE (Seniorcare Aging Growth Engine) initiative and SAGE portal

Why in the News?

- The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment launched the SAGE (Seniorcare Aging Growth Engine) initiative and SAGE portal for elderly persons.
- An amount of **Rs 100 crore** has been assigned for the promotion of the **silver economy**.



About Silver economy

- It is the system of production, distribution and consumption of goods and services aimed at using the purchasing potential of older and ageing people and satisfying their consumption, living and health needs.

Key points

About SAGE portal

- The SAGE portal will be a "one-stop access" of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups.
- SAGE programme and SAGE portal have been launched with a view to help such persons who are interested in entrepreneurship in the field of providing services for elderly care.

- The start-ups selected under SAGE will be those which will provide new innovative products and services to elderly persons in various areas like health, travel, finance, legal, housing, food among others.
- **An allocation of Rs 25 crores** has been made for the SAGE project in the **current financial year i.e 2021-22**.
- The SAGE project is shaped on the recommendations of the empowered expert committee (EEC) report on start-ups for elderly.

Need for the Initiative

- India's elderly population is on the rise, and as per surveys, the share of elders, as a percentage of the total population in the country, is expected to increase from around 7.5% in 2001 to almost 12.5% by 2026 and surpass 19.5% by 2050.

Other Government Initiatives for Elderly people

- Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP)
- Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)
- Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)
- Vayoshreshtha Samman
- Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (MWPSA) Act, 2007
- Senior Citizen Welfare Fund

Source: PIB

India's first International Maritime Services Cluster to set up at GIFT City

Why in the News?

- **Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB)** will be setting up India's first international maritime services cluster at GIFT City in Gujarat.

Key Points

- The Maritime Cluster will be developed as a dedicated ecosystem comprising ports, shipping, logistics services providers and pertinent government regulators, all present in the same geographic vicinity.



About Maritime Services Cluster:

- This will be the first of its kind commercial maritime services cluster in India which has been



conceptualized to enhance competitiveness and self-sufficiency of India in the maritime sector and provide a one-stop solution for the entire maritime fraternity.

About Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City):

- GIFT City is India's first operational smart city and International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).
- GIFT City has state-of-the art infrastructure and world-class banking facilities and institutions that will be beneficial for fostering innovation, economic viability, collaboration, and business opportunities for the Cluster.

About Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB):

- The Gujarat Maritime Board - a Government of Gujarat undertaking, and the first maritime board of India was set up in 1982.
- It is responsible for the development, administration, operation and regulation of the 48 Non-Major Ports as well as for the development of other maritime / shipping activities in the state of Gujarat.

Source: TOI

CBSE to introduce Coding, Data Science in Curriculum

Why in the News?

- The **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** collaborated with **Microsoft** to introduce Coding for class VI-VIII and Data Science curriculum for class VIII-XII as new skilling subjects in the 2021-2022 academic session.



Key Points

About Coding and Data Science Curriculum:

- In keeping with the **NEP (National Education Policy) 2020**, the introduction of these courses aims to build next-generation skills in students.
- Coding and Data Science Curriculum are focused on building critical thinking, computational skills, problem-solving skills, creativity and hands-on exposure to new technologies.

Source: The Hindu

‘Awareness Campaign on Single Use plastics’ and ‘India Plastic Challenge – Hackathon 2021’

Why in the News?

- The Union Environment Minister launched a two-month ‘**Awareness Campaign on Single Use plastics**’ and ‘**India Plastic Challenge – Hackathon 2021**’.
- The Government of India had set a target to phase out single use plastics by 2022.



Key Points

About Single Use Plastics:

- Plastics that are thrown away after their first use are known as single-use plastics.
- According to the United Nations, much of the plastics produced today are designed to be thrown away after first use.

About ‘Awareness Campaign on Single Use plastics’:

- GIZ (The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH), UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) along with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, are organizing the two-month long awareness campaign.
- It will comprise of four on-line regional events and a social media campaign to spread the message of mitigation of plastic pollution to a wider audience.

About ‘India Plastic Challenge – Hackathon 2021’:

- The ‘India Plastic Challenge – Hackathon 2021’ is a unique competition calling upon start-ups /entrepreneurs and students of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to develop innovative solutions to mitigate plastic pollution and develop alternatives to single use plastics.

Initiatives taken by India:

- The Government of India has already banned import of plastic waste in the country.

Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016:

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for the first time brought out **Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016**, for handling plastic waste in an environmentally sound manner.
- Under the rules, plastic carry bags below 50 microns have been banned.
- Further, the Ministry has issued a draft notification in March 2021 for amending the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, with respect to prohibiting identified 12 single use plastic items such as disposable plastic cutlery etc.

Source: PIB

Cabinet approves allotment of 5 MHz spectrum in 700 MHz band to Indian Railways

Why in the News?

- The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for allotment of 5 MHz Spectrum in 700 MHz frequency band to Indian Railways for public safety and security services at stations and in trains.

Note: In addition to this, Indian Railways has approved **TCAS (Train Collision Avoidance System)**.



Key Points

- The estimated investment in the project is more than Rs. 25,000 Crore. The project will be completed in the next 5 years.
- The Spectrum charges may be levied based on formula basis as prescribed by Department of Telecommunications for Royalty Charges and License Fee for Captive use as recommended by **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**.
- With this spectrum, Indian Railways has envisaged to provide **LTE (Long Term Evolution)** based **Mobile Train Radio Communication** on its route.

About LTE (Long-Term Evolution):

- It is a 4G wireless standard that provides increased network capacity and speed for cellphones and other cellular devices compared with 3G technologies.

Purpose

- The purpose of the LTE for Indian Railways is to provide secure and reliable voice, video and data communication services for operational, safety and security applications.
- It will also enable **Internet of Things (IoT)** based remote asset monitoring especially of coaches, wagons & locos, and live video feed of CCTV cameras in the train coaches.

About TCAS (Train Collision Avoidance System):

- It, an indigenously developed ATP (Automatic Train Protection) System, which will help in avoiding train collisions thereby reducing accidents and ensuring passenger safety.

About Radio Spectrum:

- The radio spectrum is the part of the electromagnetic spectrum with frequencies from 30 Hz to 300 GHz.
- Electromagnetic waves in this frequency range, called radio waves, are widely used in modern technology, particularly in telecommunication.
- To prevent interference between different users, the generation and transmission of radio waves is strictly regulated by national laws, coordinated by an international body, the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**.

Source: PIB

‘Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan’ launched in 112 Aspirational Districts

Why in the News?

- **NITI Aayog** and **Piramal Foundation** launched ‘Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan’ in 112 Aspirational Districts to assist district administrations in providing home-care support to COVID-19 patients who are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms.



Key Points Objective

- The campaign is expected to play a key role in district preparedness for managing nearly 70% of COVID cases at home, reducing pressure on the health system, and stemming the spread of fear amongst the people.

About Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan:

- The Abhiyaan is being part of a special initiative, **Aspirational Districts Collaborative**, in which local leaders, civil societies and volunteers work with district administrations to address emerging problems across key focus areas of the **Aspirational Districts Programme**.
- Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan will be led by district magistrates in partnership with over 1000 local NGOs, which will enlist and train over 1 lakh volunteers to connect with patients through inbound/outbound calls.
- Volunteers will be trained to support 20 affected families each by educating caretakers to follow COVID protocols, provide psycho-social support and timely updates about patients to the administration.
- Piramal Foundation will work with district magistrates to support the training of NGOs and volunteers.

About Aspirational Districts Programme

- The Government of India has launched the 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' initiative in January 2018 with a vision of a New India by 2022.
- The focus is to improve India's ranking under Human Development Index, raising living standards of its citizens and ensuring inclusive growth of all.
- **Source: PIB**



Important News: World

India elected to UN Economic and Social Council

Why in the News?

- **India** has been elected to the **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** for the term **2022-24** in the Asia-Pacific States Category along with Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, and Oman.

Key Points

About United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):

- **ECOSOC** is one of the six principal organs of the UN, responsible for coordinating the economic and social fields of the organization.



- It was established on 26 June 1945.
- The Council consists of 54 Member States.

Note:

- **India** is currently serving the 2021-22 term as a **non-permanent member** of the **UN Security Council** and will assume the Presidency of the 15-nation UN organ in August 2021.

Source: Times of India

G7: Global Minimum Corporate Tax Rate

Why in the News?

- The **Finance Ministers from the G7** nations reached a landmark accord setting a Global Minimum Corporate Tax Rate on multinational companies.
- The decision regarding the Global Minimum Corporate Tax Rate will now be discussed in detail at a meeting of G20 financial ministers and central bank governors in July 2021.





Key Points

About Global Minimum Corporate Tax Rate:

- G7 would back a **minimum global corporation tax rate of at least 15% and** put in place measures to ensure taxes were paid in the countries where businesses operate.
- **Corporation tax** is a direct tax imposed on the net income or profit those enterprises make from their businesses.

Applicability:

- It would apply to companies' overseas profits. Therefore, if countries agree on a global minimum, governments could still set whatever local corporate tax rate they want.
- But if companies pay lower rates in a particular country, their home governments could "top-up" their taxes to the agreed minimum rate, eliminating the advantage of shifting profits to a tax haven.

Need of Global Minimum Corporate Tax Rate:

- Reduce Tax Loss
- To Bring Uniformity

Other International Effort:

- OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) has been coordinating tax negotiations among 140 countries for years on rules for taxing cross-border digital services and curbing tax base erosion, including a global corporate minimum tax.

India's Stand:

- India is likely to benefit from the global minimum 15% corporate tax rate pact as the effective domestic tax rate is above the threshold, and the country would continue to attract investment.
- In September 2019, the government had reduced the corporate tax rate to 22% for companies that gave up all exemptions and incentives. Further, a 15% rate was offered to new manufacturing firms.
- For Indian domestic companies, the effective tax rate, inclusive of surcharge and cess, is around 25.17%.



Facts about G7:

- It is an intergovernmental organisation.
- **Founded:** 1975
- **Members:** United Kingdom, United States, Japan, France, Germany, Canada, Italy
- All the G7 countries and India are a part of G20.

Source: The Hindu

Global database “I-Familia” to identify missing persons launched

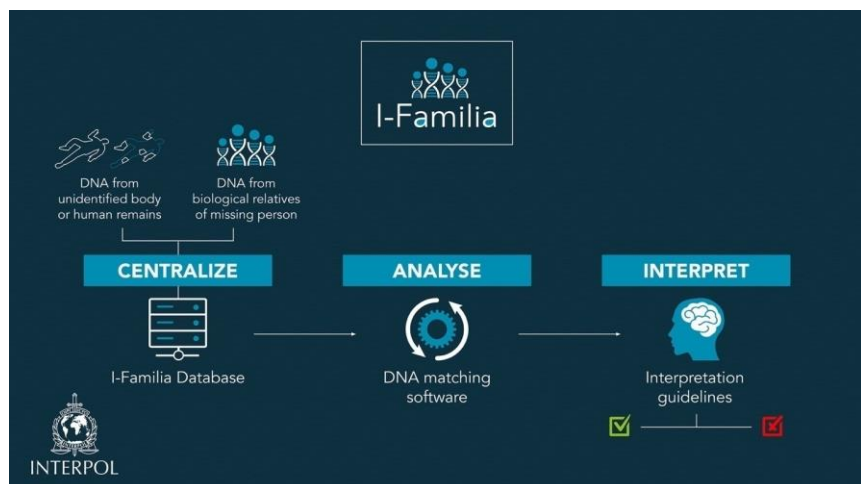
Why in the News?

- The **Interpol** has launched a new global database named “I-Familia” to identify missing persons through family **DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid)** and help the police solve cold cases in member countries.

Key Points

About “I-Familia”:

- The first of its kind, I-Familia is a global database for identifying missing persons based on international DNA kinship matching.
- Interpol’s I-Familia service provides the necessary international mechanism to allow missing persons DNA data to be compared globally.
- I-Familia is powered by Bonaparte, a forensic DNA matching software system developed by SMART Research.



About Interpol:

- The **International Criminal Police Organization**, commonly known as **Interpol**, is an international organization that facilitates worldwide police cooperation and crime control.

Headquarters: Lyon, France

President: Kim Jong Yang

Founded: 7 September 1923

Source: The Hindu

Important News: Economy

World Bank: Indian Economy to grow at 8.3% in 2021

Why in the News?

- The World Bank slashed its 2021-22 GDP growth forecast for the Indian economy to 8.3 percent from 10.1 percent estimated in April 2021.



Key Points:

For India:

- The Washington-based global lender, in its latest issue of Global Economic Prospects June 2021 said India's economy is expected to grow at **8.3% for Fiscal Year 2021-22, 7.5% for 2022-23 and 6.5% for 2023-24.**

For World:

- The global economy is set to expand by 5.6 per cent in 2021 - its strongest post-recession pace in 80 years.

Steps Taken by India:

- The government announced that the health-related spending would more than double and set out a revised medium-term fiscal path intended to address the economic legacy of the pandemic.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced further measures to support liquidity provision to micro, small and medium firms, and loosened regulatory requirements on the provisioning for non-performing loans.

About World Bank:

- The World Bank was created at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference.
- It comprises two institutions: the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**, and the **International Development Association (IDA)**.
- The World Bank is a component of the **World Bank Group**.

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The World Bank Group's five international organizations

- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- International Development Association (IDA)
- International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
- International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

Membership

- 189 countries (IBRD)
- 173 countries (IDA)

Major Reports:

- World Development Report
- Ease of Doing Business
- Human Capital Index
- Global Economic Prospects
- Migration and Development Brief

Source: The Hindu

Important News: Defense

Indo-Thai Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) 2021

Why in the News?

- The **31st edition** of **India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT)** between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy is being conducted from 09 – 11 June 2021.



Key Points

- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Saryu, an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel and His Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) Krabi, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, along with Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies are participating in the CORPAT.

About CORPAT:

- The two navies have been undertaking CORPAT bi-annually along their International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) since 2005.
- CORPAT builds up understanding and interoperability between navies and facilitates institution of measures to prevent and suppress unlawful activities like Illegal Unreported Unregulated fishing, maritime terrorism, drug trafficking, armed robbery and piracy.

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About SAGAR:

- As part of Government of India's vision of **SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region)**, the Indian Navy has been proactively engaging with the countries in the Indian Ocean Region towards enhancing regional maritime security.
- This has been through bilateral and multilateral exercises, Coordinated Patrols, Joint EEZ Surveillance, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.

Science and Technology

NASA announces 2 missions to Venus

Why in the News?

- NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) has selected 2 missions for the exploration of Venus.



Key Points

The selected missions:

- **DAVINCI+ (Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry, and Imaging):** It will measure the composition of Venus' atmosphere to understand how it formed and evolved, as well as determine whether the planet ever had an ocean.
- **VERITAS (Venus Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography, and Spectroscopy):** It will map Venus' surface to determine the planet's geologic history and understand why it developed so differently than Earth.
- Mission is expected to launch in the 2028-2030 timeframe.

About Venus:

- Venus is the second planet from the Sun. It is named after the Roman goddess of love and beauty.
- Venus is one of the four terrestrial planets in the Solar System, meaning that it is a rocky body like Earth. It is similar to Earth in size and mass, and is often described as Earth's "sister" or "twin".

Note: India has planned to launch the **Shukrayaan Venus mission** in 2024.

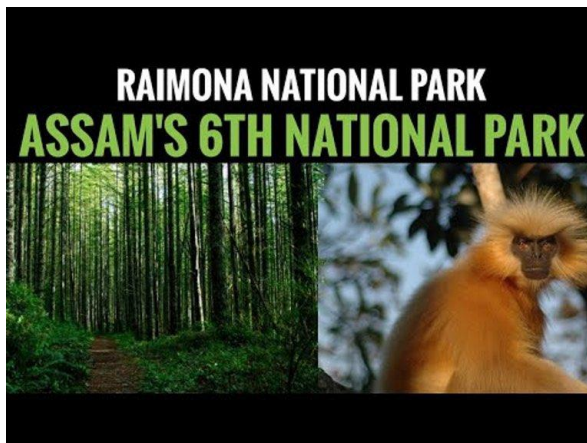
Source: Indian Express

Environment News

Raimona becomes Assam's sixth national park

Why in the News?

- Raimona in Kokrajhar district has become Assam's sixth national park.
- The 422 sq ft wildlife habitat in Kokrajhar district adjoins western-most buffer to Manas Tiger Reserve.



Key Points

- The **Raimona reserve forest** in Kokrajhar district under the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), bordering Bhutan, has been upgraded as the sixth national park of the state.
- It is home to golden langur, Asian elephants, tigers, clouded leopards, Indian gaur, wild buffalo, spotted deer, hornbill, more than 150 species of butterflies, 170 species of birds and 380 varieties of plants and orchids.

Note:

- The other five national parks in the state are **Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa**.
- **National parks in India** are IUCN category II protected areas.
- **India's first national park** was established in 1936 as Hailey National Park, now known as Jim Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand.
- In 1972, India enacted the Wildlife Protection Act and Project Tiger in 1973 to safeguard the habitats of conservation reliant species.

Source: The Hindu

Assam's 7th National Park 'Dihing Patkai'

Why in the News?

- **Assam's Dehing Patkai wildlife sanctuary** has been announced as the 7th national park of the state.
- The announcement comes shortly after **Raimona reserve forest in western Assam's Kokrajhar district** was upgraded to a **national park on June 5, 2021**.



Key Points

About Dehing Patkai National Park:

- The 111.942-sqkm Dehing Patkai wildlife sanctuary (notified in 2004) is located inside the larger Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve, which spreads across Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Sivasagar districts of Upper Assam — rich in coal and oil.
- The area is home to hoolock gibbon, leopard, elephant, slow loris, tiger, clouded leopard, golden cat, fishing cat, sambar, hog deer, marble cat, sloth bear, and several bird species including the endangered state bird, the white-winged wood duck.

National Parks in Assam:

- The seven national parks of Assam are **Kaziranga, Nameri, Orang, Manas, Dibru-Saikhowa, Raimona and Dehing Patkai.**
- **Assam** now is the **state with the second highest** number of national parks in the country, after **Madhya Pradesh's 11.**
- The **Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar** has **nine national parks.**

Note: Kaziranga national park and Manas national park are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Source: PIB

Award and Honours

Assam to confer Civilian Honours on lines of Bharat Ratna, Padma Awards

Why in the News?

- The Assam government announced state awards on the lines of Bharat Ratna and Padma annual awards for eminent personalities and achievers in the state, by providing cash rewards and a slew of other benefits.

Key Points

About newly announced awards:

- Assam announced conferring **one Asom Ratna, three Asom Bibhushan, five Asom Bhushan and ten Asom Shree awards** every year.
- The awards will carry ₹ 5 lakh, ₹ 3 lakh, ₹ 2 lakh and ₹ 1 lakh cash respectively.

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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

- The awards will also include benefits like free medical treatment of critical illness, free stay at Asom Bhawans, free travel in ASTC buses etc.

Source: NDTV

International Booker Prize 2021: David Diop becomes first French winner

Why in the News?

- David Diop, a French novelist, won the International Booker Prize 2021 for 'At Night All Blood is Black'.

Key Points

- The book was translated by **Anna Moschovakis**.
- The winning book was first published in 2018 with the French title 'Frère d'ame'.
- It was **published by Pushkin Press**.



About International Booker Prize

- The International Booker Prize, formerly known as the Man Booker International Prize, has been awarded since 2005.

Source: Indian Express

New Appointments

Isaac Herzog elected president of Israel

Why in the News?

- Isaac Herzog, Veteran politician has been elected Israel's 11th president.

Key Points

- Isaac Herzog, former Labor leader will be the first Israeli President who is the son of a former president.
- Herzog is currently the head of the Jewish Agency – a nonprofit that works with the government to promote immigration to Israel.



Facts about Israel:

- Prime Minister:** Benjamin Netanyahu
- Capital:** Jerusalem
- Currency:** Israeli Shekel

Source: Indian Express

Dr Patrick Amoth elected as Chairman of WHO Executive Board

Why in the News?

- Dr Patrick Amoth of Kenya has been elected as the Chairman of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Executive Board.



Key Points

- Dr Amoth is the acting Director-General (DG) for Health, Ministry of Health of Kenya.
- He replaced Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union

Health Minister as he completed his tenure as Chairman of WHO Executive Board on June 02.

Facts about WHO (World Health Organization)

- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Founded:** 7 April 1948
- **Director-General:** Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Source: The Economic Times

Maldives Foreign Minister elected President of UNGA

Why in the News?

- **Maldives Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid** was elected as President of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA).



Key Points

- Abdulla Shahid will succeed Turkish diplomat Volkan Bozkir who was UNGA President for the 75th session.
- According to the established rules of regional rotation, the President of the 76th session of the General Assembly was to be elected from the Group of Asia-Pacific States.

About United Nations General Assembly (UNGA):

- It is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN), serving as the main deliberative, policy-making, and representative organ of the UN.
- The UNGA is responsible for the UN budget, appointing the non-permanent members to the Security Council, appointing the Secretary-General of the United Nations, receiving reports from other parts of the UN system, and making recommendations through resolutions.

Source: Indian Express

Ranjitsinh Disale appointed as World Bank Education Advisor

Why in the News?

- Ranjitsinh Disale, the first Indian teacher to receive the Global Teacher Prize 2020, has been appointed as the World Bank Education Advisor for the period June 2021 to June 2024.
- The World Bank has appointed 12 advisors from world over and Disale is one of them representing India.



Key Points

- Ranjitsinh Disale is a primary teacher from Maharashtra's Solapur.
- Disale was named the winner of the **Global Teacher Prize 2020** in recognition of his efforts to promote girls' education and trigger a quick-response (QR) coded textbook revolution in India.

Note:

- The World Bank has recently launched the Global Coach Program, a new initiative focused on accelerating learning by helping countries improve in-service teacher professional development (TPD) programs and systems.

Source: NDTV

Anup Chandra Pandey takes over as new Election Commissioner

Why in the News?

- **Anup Chandra Pandey** joins the **Election Commission of India** as **second Election Commissioner** in a three-member body headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar.



Key Points

- Anup Chandra Pandey has been a 1984 batch Indian Administrative Service Officer.
- During the span of about 37 years of distinguished Government of India service, Shri Pandey has worked in various Ministries & Departments at the Centre and his state cadre of Uttar Pradesh.

Source: PIB

Obituaries

Former Mauritius Prime Minister Anerood Jugnauth passes away

Why in the News?

- The former Prime Minister of Mauritius, Anerood Jugnauth passed away at 91.
- As a mark of respect, the Government of India has announced a day's state mourning on 05 June 2021 throughout the country.

Key Points

- Anerood Jugnauth was the country's longest-serving Prime Minister with more than 18 years of tenure.
- He was considered the father of the Mauritian economic miracle of the 1980s.
- He also served as President of Mauritius from 2003-2012.



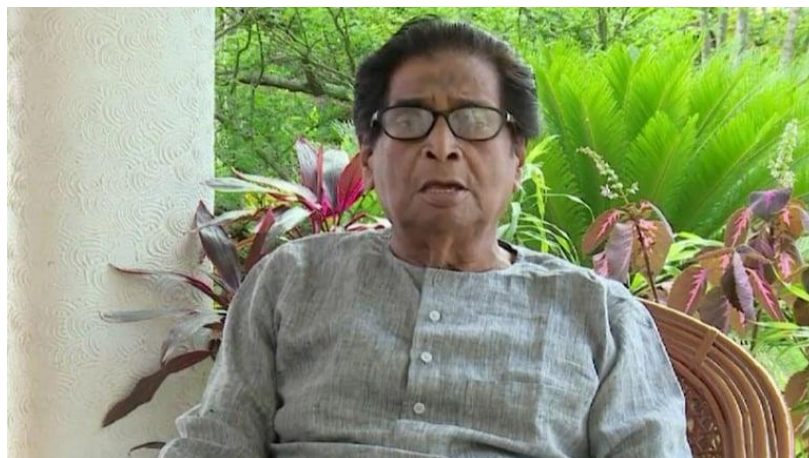
Note: Anerood Jugnauth was given India's second highest civilian honour **Padma Vibhushan**.

Source: Indian Express

Assamese litterateur Lakshmi Nandan Bora passes away

Why in the News?

- Padma Shri awardee and noted Assamese litterateur Lakshmi Nandan Bora passed away at 89.



Key Points

- Lakshmi Nandan Bora won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1988.

- In 2008, he won the Saraswati Samman from KK Birla Foundation.
- Lakshmi Nandan Bora was honoured by the Government of India in 2015 with Padma Shri, the fourth highest Indian civilian award.

Source: The Hindu

National Award-winning director Buddhadeb Dasgupta passes away

Why in the News?

- Bengali filmmaker and poet, Buddhadeb Dasgupta passed away at 77.



- Buddhadeb Dasgupta had won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film a total of five times.
- Some of his best-known works included projects like Bagh Bahadur, Lal Darja, Kaalpurush and Tahader Katha among more.

Source: The Hindu

Schemes

Digitized versions of flagship health schemes on NHA's IT platform

Why in the News?

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched the revamped **Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS)** and the **Umbrella schemes of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN)** and **Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG)** on **National Health Authority (NHA)**'s IT platform.

Key Points

- This will enable seamless delivery of healthcare services to eligible beneficiaries under these schemes by making the whole process paperless.
- Now all the schemes have become cashless, paperless and citizen centric.



About Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS):

- The CGHS, a comprehensive Health Scheme for Serving Employees, Pensioners, Members of Parliament, ex-MPs, etc., and their dependent family members, during the last 7 years has expanded to 72 Cities with more than 38 lakh beneficiaries covered under the scheme.

About Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN):

- The Scheme provides for financial assistance of Rs. 15 lakh to patients, living below poverty line and who are suffering from major life threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at any of the super specialty Government hospitals / institutes.

About Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG):

- Under HMDG a maximum amount of Rs.1,25,000/- is provided to patients whose annual income does not exceed Rs.1,25,000/-, to defray a part of the expenditure on hospitalization/treatment in Government Hospitals.

Source: PIB

Reports and Indexes

State of Finance for Nature Report 2021: UN

Why in the News?

- The State of Finance for Nature Report by the United Nations analyzes the investment flow in nature-based solutions and identifies the future investment needed to meet the climate change, biodiversity and land degradation crises.
- The report was jointly produced by the **UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the Economics of Land Degradation (ELD)**

Key Points

About the 'Nature-based solutions':

- A nature-based solution refers to the sustainable management and use of nature for tackling socio-environmental challenges. The challenges include issues such as climate change, water security, water pollution, food security, human health, biodiversity loss and disaster risk management.



Key Findings of Report:

- A total investment in nature of USD 8.1 trillion is required between now and 2050 – while annual investment should reach USD 536 billion by 2050.
- The report finds that annual investments in nature-based solutions will have to triple by 2030 and increase four-fold by 2050 from the current investments into nature-based solutions of USD 133 billion (using 2020 as base year).

Top Spenders:

- Public sector spending for the same is dominated by the US and China, followed by Japan, Germany and Australia.
- Countries such as India, Brazil and Saudi Arabia are likely spending large amounts of money too, but they do not report internationally comparable data.

About the UN Environment Programme (UNEP):

- The United Nations Environment Programme is responsible for coordinating responses to environmental issues within the United Nations system.
- **Headquarters:** Nairobi, Kenya
- **Formation:** June 1972

About the World Economic Forum (WEF):

- The World Economic Forum is an international NGO.
- **Headquarters:** Cologny, Switzerland
- **Formation:** January 1971

About the Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Initiative:

- The ELD Initiative is a global initiative established in 2011 by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the European Commission. It is supported by a broad network of partners across diverse fields of knowledge.

Source: unep.org

Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2019-20

Why in the News?

- Union Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' released the Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2019-20 for States and Union Territories of India.
- The PGI: States/UTs for 2019-20 is the **third publication**.



Key Points

Implementing Agency

- The scheme is initiated by the **Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL)**.

About Performance Grading Index (PGI)

- The PGI helps the States/UTs to pinpoint the gaps and accordingly prioritise areas for intervention to ensure that the **school education system** is robust at every level.
- The Government has introduced the **Performance Grading Index with a set of 70 parameters** to catalyse transformational change in the **field of school education**.

Note: The PGI for States and Union Territories was **first published in 2019 with reference year 2017-18**.

Overall Results and Findings

- Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Kerala** recorded the highest score (Grade I++) for 2019-20.

| Grade (Scores) | Names of States/ UTs |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Level I (951 - 1000) | Nil |
| Level II (901 - 950), Grade I ++ | Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Punjab, Kerala, Tamil Nadu |
| Level III (851 - 900) Grade I+ | Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, NCT of Delhi, Puducherry, Rajasthan |
| Level IV (801-850) Grade I | Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Daman & Diu, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh |
| Level V (751 - 800) Grade II | Goa, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Lakshadweep, Manipur, Sikkim, Telangana |
| Level VI (701 - 750) Grade III | Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram |
| Level VII (651 - 700) Grade IV | Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Nagaland |
| Level VIII (601 - 650) Grade V | Meghalaya |
| Level XI (551 - 600) Grade VI | Nil |
| Level X (0 - 550) Grade VII | Ladakh |

- Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Puducherry, Punjab and Tamil Nadu have improved overall PGI score by 10%, i.e., 100 or more points.

Source: PIB

State of India's Environment Report 2021

Why in the News?

- According to the State of India's Environment Report 2021, India's position has slipped by two places from last year to **117 on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- The report is released by the **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi, India**.
- In 2020, India's rank was 115.



Key Points

- India's overall SDG **score is 61.9 out of 100**.
- India was ranked below four South Asian nations - Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal.
- SDG Goals were adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by 193 United Nations member states in 2015.

Reason for the drop in rank

- The reason is due to major challenges like ending hunger and achieving food security (SDG 2), achieving gender equality (SDG 5) and building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and fostering innovation (SDG 9) in the country.

State-wise preparedness

- According to the State of India's Environment Report 2021, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh with the best overall score are the states and Union Territories on the path to achieving the SDGs.
- Bihar and Jharkhand are the least prepared to meet the SDGs by the target year 2030.

The Hindu

ILO: World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2021

Why in the News?

- The **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** has released the World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2021 (WESO Trends).
- The report analyses the impact of the crisis on the labour market across the world.



Key Points

Findings:

- The World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2021 projects the global crisis-induced 'jobs gap' will reach 75 million in 2021, before falling to 23 million in 2022.
- The **global unemployment rate will be 5.7 % in 2022, 6.3 % in 2021.**
- Global unemployment is expected to stand at **205 million people in 2022.**
- The related gap in working-hours, which includes the jobs gap and those on reduced hours, amounts to the equivalent of 100 million full-time jobs in 2021 and 26 million full-time jobs in 2022.
- The crisis has also hit women disproportionately. Their employment declined by 5 percent in 2020 compared to 3.9 percent for men.

About International Labour Organization (ILO):

- It is a United Nations agency whose mandate is to advance social and economic justice through setting international labour standards.

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Director-General; Guy Ryder

Formation: 11 April 1919

- The ILO has **187 state members.**
- **India** is a founder member of the International Labour Organization.

Note: India has assumed the Chairmanship of the Governing Body of ILO in 2020.

Source: ILO

UN Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate

Why in the News?

- **NTPC Ltd** has become a signatory to the prestigious UN Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate.



CEO WATER MANDATE

Key Points

- NTPC is committed to proactively address water sustainability issues through implementing Water Policy, which will serve as a directive for establishing water management strategies, systems, processes, practices and research initiatives.
- NTPC will further imbibe the 3 R's (reduce, reuse, recycle) for water conservation and management while carrying out its core business activity of power generation.

About CEO Water Mandate:

- The CEO Water Mandate is a UN Global Compact initiative that mobilizes business leaders on water, sanitation, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Mandate's Six Commitment Areas:

- Direct Operations
- Supply Chain & Watershed Management
- Collective Action
- Public Policy
- Community Engagement
- Transparency

About UN Global Compact:

- The **United Nations Global Compact** is a non-binding United Nations pact to encourage businesses and firms worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies, and to report on their implementation.
- India is also a part of the UN Global Compact.

About NTPC Limited:

- It, formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, is an Indian government electricity board engaged in the business of generation of electricity and allied activities.
- NTPC was conferred Maharatna status by the Government of India in may 2010.

Other Initiatives for Environmental Conservation:

- Race to Zero Campaign
- Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative

Source: PIB

QS World University Rankings 2022

Why in the News?

- **Three Indian Universities** have achieved top-200 positions in **QS World University Rankings 2022**.
- **IISc Bengaluru** ranked **number 1 in the world for research**.



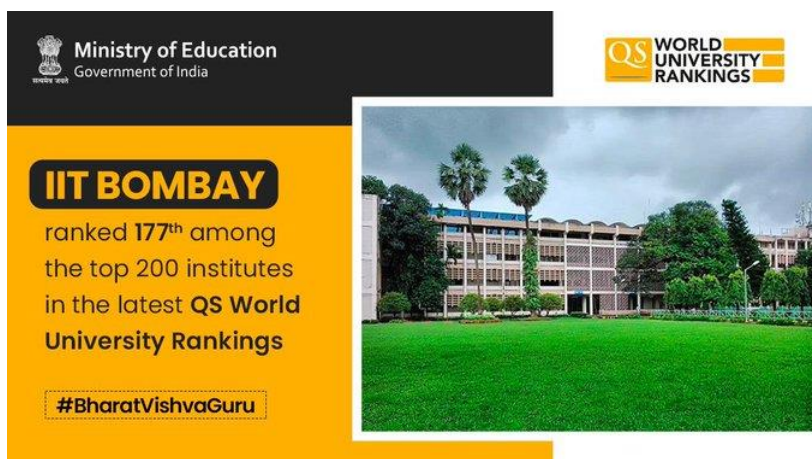
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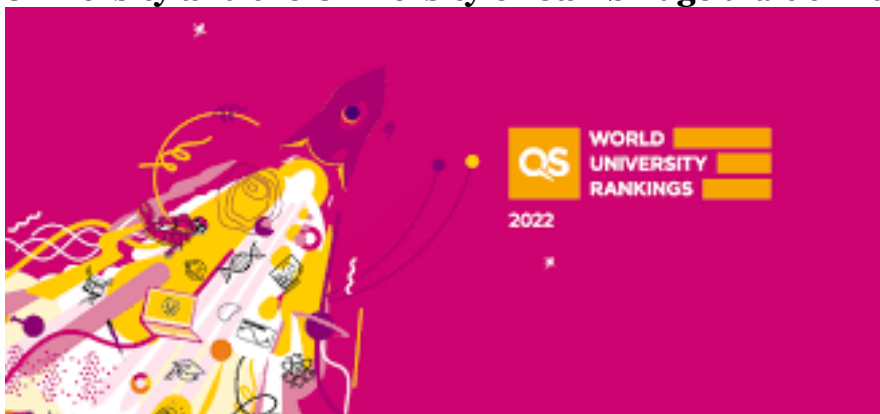
Key Points

Indian Institutions:

- Three Indian universities are ranked in the top-200 in QS World University Rankings 2022, with **IIT-Bombay securing 177th position, IIT-Delhi at 185th, and IISc-Bengaluru placed on 186th position.**
- The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore** has got a perfect score of 100 out of 100 for the citations per faculty (CPF) metric in the analysis.

Global Rankings:

- The US-based **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** achieved a record-extending 10th consecutive year as **world number-one.**
- The **University of Oxford** has risen to **second** for the first time since 2006, while the **Stanford University and the University of Cambridge** share **third** spot.



About QS World University Rankings:

- London-based QS Quacquarelli Symonds, global higher education analysts, released the **18th edition** of the world's international university rankings.
- For the QS World University Rankings, institutions and universities were judged on **six indicators**-- academic reputation, employer reputation, citations per faculty, faculty/student ratio, international faculty ratio and international student ratio.

Related Indian Initiatives for Education:

- **National Education Policy (NEP), 2020:** NEP aims to introduce several changes in the Indian education system - from the school to college level and make India a global knowledge superpower.

- **Institutions of Eminence (IoE) Scheme:** IoE is a scheme to provide the regulatory architecture for setting up or upgrading of 20 Institutions (10 from public sector and 10 from the private sector) as world-class teaching and research institutions called 'Institutions of Eminence'.
- **Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana (UAY):** UAY was announced with a view to promote innovation of a higher order that directly impacts the needs of the Industry and thereby improves the competitive edge of Indian manufacturing.
- **Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT):** It is a first-of-its-kind Pan-IIT and IISc joint initiative to develop a new education policy and a roadmap for research to solve major engineering and technology challenges.

Source: TOI

Important Days

June 05, World Environment Day

Why in the News?

- World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated on June 5, annually to encourage awareness and environmental protection.



Key Points

- The **theme** of World Environment Day 2021 is '**Ecosystem Restoration**'.

History:

- World Environment Day was established in 1972 by the United Nations (UN) at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment (June 5-16, 1972). Two years later, in 1974 the first World Environment Day was held.
- **Pakistan** was the **global host** of World Environment Day 2021.

About Ecosystem:

- An ecosystem is a community of plants and animals interacting with each other in a given area, and also with their non-living environments. The non-living environments include weather, earth, sun, soil, climate and atmosphere.

About Ecosystem restoration:

- Ecosystem restoration means assisting in the recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded or destroyed, as well as conserving the ecosystems that are still intact.

India's Initiatives:



- **On the World Environment Day 2021**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the ambitious **E-100 pilot project** in Pune for the production and distribution of **ethanol across the country**.
- The Government has resolved to meet the **target of 20 percent ethanol blending in petrol by 2025**. Earlier the resolve was to achieve the target by 2030 which is now preponed by 5 years.

Other Initiatives:

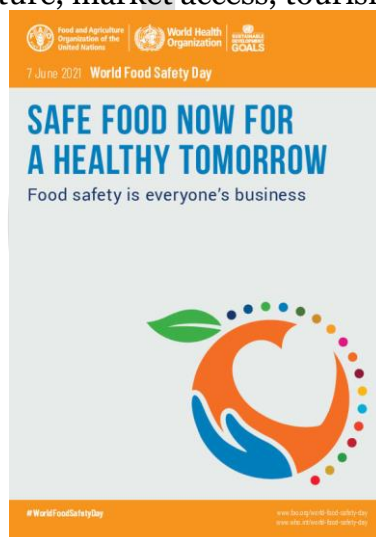
- National Biodiversity Action Plan
- National Afforestation Programme
- National Mission for a Green India

Source: Business Standard

June 07, World Food Safety Day

Why in the News?

- Celebrated on June 7 every year, World Food Safety Day aims to spread awareness, detect, and prevent foodborne risks, contributing to food security, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism and sustainable development.



Key Points

- The **theme** of World Food Safety Day 2021 is '**Safe food today for a healthy tomorrow**'.

History

- In 2018, the **United Nations General Assembly** proclaimed that every year June 7 would be observed as **World Food Safety Day**.
- The observance is jointly facilitated by the **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** and the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**.

Note:

- The World Health Assembly in 2020 further passed a resolution to strengthen efforts across the world for food safety and controlling foodborne diseases.
- By 2030, food borne diseases are expected to rise to 150 to 177 million annually.
- According to the UN, unsafe food kills an estimated 420,000 people every year.

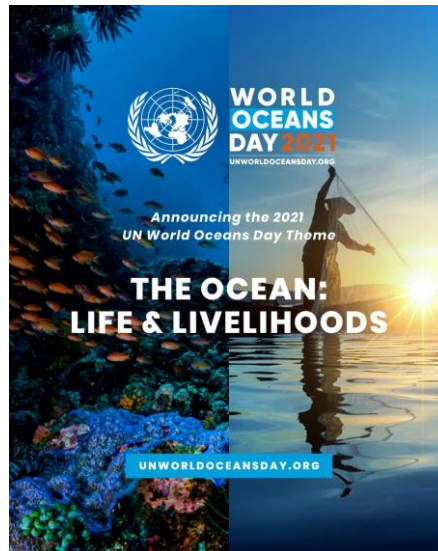
Source: Indian Express



June 08, World Oceans Day 2021

Why in the News?

- World Oceans Day is observed on June 8. Oceans play a major role in everyday life of people globally.



Key Points

- The **theme** of World Oceans Day 2021 is **‘The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods’**.

History

- In 2008, the United Nations General Assembly decided that 8 June would be designated by the United Nations as “World Oceans Day”.

Note:

- Over three billion people rely on the ocean for their livelihood.
- Only one per cent of the ocean is legally protected.
- About 70 percent of the oxygen, we breathe is produced by the oceans.
- According to the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS), there are currently at least 236,878 named marine species.
- 90 percent of all volcanic activity occurs in the oceans.

Source: NDTV