

Weekly Current Affairs PDF June 11 to June 17, 2023

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INTERNATIONAL

Japan Raises Age Of Consent From 13 To 16, Redefines Rape In Landmark Law Change

- Japan's parliament has raised the age of consent from 13 to 16, a limit which had remained unchanged for more than a century and was among the world's lowest consent age.
- Lawmakers also broadened the definition of rape from "forcible sexual intercourse" to "non-consensual sexual intercourse".
- The expanded definition includes acts committed using drugging and intoxication. It also criminalized the grooming of minors.
- Sexual intercourse with someone below age 16 will be considered as rape.
- Japan's sexual consent age had been unchanged since 1907. Consent age is defined as the age below which sexual activity is considered as rape. Current consent age is 16 in Britain, 15 in France, 14 in Germany and China & 18 in India.

NATIONAL

Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society renamed Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society

- Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society: At a special meeting presided over by Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, who is Vice-President of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society, it was resolved to change the society's name to Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society. The decision was influenced by the completion of the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, a museum dedicated to all the Prime Ministers of India.
- The Executive Council of the NMML had approved the construction of the museum in 2016, based on an idea proposed by Prime Minister Shri Modi.
- However, they later felt that the name of the institution should reflect its new form, which now includes a Sangrahalaya showcasing the journey of democracy in Independent India and the contribution of each Prime Minister to nation-building.
- The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) was established in 1964 in the memory of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India. It is located in the Teen Murti Bhavan in New Delhi, which was the official residence of Jawaharlal Nehru.

Yoga at Office Chair-Centre introduces for employee stress relief

- The central government of India has recently taken a proactive step towards improving the well-being of its employees by introducing the "Y-Break – Yoga at Office Chair" protocol. This initiative, spearheaded by the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy), aims to help professionals relieve stress, rejuvenate their energy levels, and enhance

concentration. The protocol includes a series of simple yoga practices, such as asanas (postures), pranayama (breathing techniques), and dhyana (meditation), all of which can be easily incorporated into a short break from work.

- Recognizing the importance of employee well-being in fostering a productive and harmonious work environment, the personnel ministry has directed all central government ministries and departments to embrace and encourage this innovative yoga practice. The “Y-Break – Yoga at Office Chair” protocol offers a convenient solution for busy officials who may find it challenging to dedicate time to yoga outside of their office spaces. By practicing this short-duration yoga routine while sitting in their office chairs, employees can experience the benefits of relaxation, stress reduction, and improved focus.
- The “Y-Break – Yoga at Office Chair” protocol has been carefully developed by eminent experts in the field of yoga. The Ministry of AYUSH has collaborated with the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga to create this tested and effective protocol. The positive feedback received thus far from participants underscores its efficacy in combating workplace stress and enhancing overall well-being.

OBITUARY

Daniel Ellsberg, who leaked 'Pentagon Papers,' dies at 92

- Daniel Ellsberg, a U.S. military analyst, passed away at the age of 92. He became known for leaking the “Pentagon Papers,” which exposed how the U.S. government deceived the public about the Vietnam War. This revelation sparked a significant fight for freedom of the press. Ellsberg’s actions, predating figures like Edward Snowden and Wikileaks, revealed that the government could mislead and lie to its citizens. Later in life, he became an advocate for whistleblowers and his story was depicted in the movie “The Post” released in 2017.
- Ellsberg took a secret action in 1971 to share important information with the media, hoping to help bring an end to the Vietnam War more quickly. However, this made him a target of attacks by the Nixon White House, which tried to harm his reputation. Henry Kissinger, who was an important advisor to the president at the time, even called him “the most dangerous man in America” and wanted to stop him at any cost.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Day To Combat Desertification and Drought 2023:17th June

- The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is an annual observance held on June 17th. It is a global initiative aimed at raising awareness about the threats posed by desertification and drought and promoting efforts to combat these challenges.
- Desertification refers to the process of land degradation in arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid areas, often caused by various factors such as climate change, deforestation, unsustainable agricultural practices, and overexploitation of natural resources. Drought, on the other hand, is a prolonged period of inadequate rainfall, resulting in water scarcity, crop failure, and ecosystem disruption.

- This year, the theme of the International Day Against Desertification, and Drought “Her land. Her rights”, emphasizes that investing in women’s equal access to land and associated assets is a direct investment in their future and the future of humanity. It’s time for women and girls to be at the forefront of global land restoration and drought resilience efforts.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

SEACEN-FSI 25th Conference of Asia-Pacific Supervision Directors in Mumbai(Maharashtra)

- SEACEN-FSI 25th Conference of Asia-Pacific Supervision Directors: Banking supervisors are being urged by the Reserve Bank to keep up to date with technological advances in order to regulate and monitor the fast-evolving world of financial technology.
- The Reserve Bank’s deputy governor, Mukesh Jain, stated that as banks continue to adopt new technologies, it is essential that supervisors have access to the knowledge and resources needed to effectively supervise them.
- Jain also warned that the recent failure of banks abroad has added to the challenges faced by supervisors, who must maintain stability and minimise risks.
- He commented that supervisors must find a balance that ensures financial stability and minimises moral hazard risks.
- Both banks and banking supervisors must develop their capabilities to handle technological advancements and navigate uncertain waters, as there are inherent risks associated with handling data, including data breaches and privacy concerns, said Jain. Investment in technology with a long-term vision and upgrading knowledge and skills will be necessary.

BOOKS & AUTHOR

“A Life Well Spent — Four Decades in the Indian Foreign Service” by Satish Chandra

- Ambassador Satish Chandra, an Indian diplomat, has penned a book titled ‘A Life Well Spent – Four Decades in the Indian Foreign Service,’ chronicling his extensive career in the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) from 1965 to 2005. The book delves into his journey from being an IFS probationer to assuming the role of Deputy National Security Advisor, providing valuable perspectives on Indian diplomacy and tracing the development of the National Security Council (NSC) framework. Published in May 2023 by Rupa Publications, this insightful work offers readers a deeper understanding of Ambassador Satish Chandra’s experiences and the evolution of Indian foreign policy.
- Satish Chandra is currently being the Vice Chairman of the New Delhi-based think tank, influential brains trust, Vivekananda International Foundation. Satish Chandra who joined the IFS in 1965 was posted in Indian missions till 1989. He served as India’s ambassador to the Philippines, its permanent representative to the UN Offices in Geneva, (Switzerland) and its High Commissioner to Pakistan. He was the chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee and, was the deputy national security advisor.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Finance Minister Sitharaman Receives Dividend Cheque Of Rs 5,740 Crore From SBI

- State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest public sector bank, has presented a dividend cheque of Rs 5,740 crore to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for the financial year 2022-23. The dividend payment was made by SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara, in the presence of Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi. This dividend amount marks the highest-ever dividend given by SBI to the Government of India for a financial year.
- The finance minister's office tweeted about the event, stating that Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman received the dividend cheque from SBI Chairman Shri Dinesh Kumar Khara. Also present at the ceremony was Secretary of Financial Services, Shri Vivek Joshi. The ceremony highlighted the significant contribution made by SBI to the government's revenue and emphasized the bank's strong financial performance.

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INTERNATIONAL

The United States of America announces its intention to rejoin UNESCO in July

- UNESCO has announced that the United States will rejoin the agency in July, four years after leaving due to allegations of bias against Israel. The move to rejoin will require a vote by member states, but is expected to pass easily. UNESCO promotes educational, scientific and cultural causes, and designates World Heritage Sites globally.
- The US stopped funding UNESCO, worth millions of dollars, in 2011 after Palestine became a member of the agency. This decision was made by then President Barack Obama, who halted the funding due to Palestine's status as a non-sovereign state, not recognized by the United Nations. Although Palestine was included as a non-member observer state in 2012, granting them participation in General Assembly proceedings, they lacked voting rights. Israel's ambassador to UNESCO, Nimrod Barkan, supported the US decision, objecting to the "politicisation of UNESCO" caused by Palestine's membership.

UK Names Jane Marriott As First Woman Envoy To Pakistan

- The United Kingdom has announced the appointment of senior diplomat Jane Marriott as the next British High Commissioner to Pakistan, making her the first female British envoy to Islamabad. Prior to this appointment, Jane Marriott, 47, was the high commissioner to Kenya since September 2019. She would be replacing Dr Christian Turner, who left Pakistan in January after serving as the envoy since December 2019. Ms Marriott brings a wealth of thematic and regional experience to her new role having joined the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) in 2001, following roles in the Cabinet Office and Home Office.

- The appointment of a female British High Commissioner to Pakistan is a significant milestone. It is a sign of the UK's commitment to gender equality and to strengthening its relationship with Pakistan.
- Marriott is a well-respected diplomat with a wealth of experience. She is a strong advocate for women's rights and has worked to promote gender equality in her previous roles.

NATIONAL

UNGA adopts resolution introduced by India to honour fallen peacekeepers

- The UNGA (United Nations General Assembly) has adopted by consensus a draft resolution piloted by India to establish a memorial wall in the UN headquarters to honour fallen peacekeepers.
- India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj introduced the draft resolution titled 'Memorial wall for fallen United Nations peacekeepers' in the UN General Assembly Hall and it was adopted by consensus.
- The resolution was submitted by 18 countries including Bangladesh, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, France, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Nepal, Rwanda and the US. It received a record 190 co-sponsorships.

SPORTS

Pakistan's women cricketer Nahida Khan announces retirement from international cricket

- Pakistan women's cricketer Nahida Khan has announced her retirement from international cricket, bringing an end to a remarkable career that spanned over a decade. The 36-year-old opening batter made her debut for the national team in February 2009 against Sri Lanka and went on to represent Pakistan in over 100 matches across formats. With numerous records and achievements to her name, Nahida leaves behind a legacy that will be remembered in women's cricket in Pakistan.
- Nahida Khan's retirement marks the conclusion of a remarkable journey that has left an indelible mark on the women's cricket scene in Pakistan. Over the course of her career, Nahida has represented her country with passion and dedication, earning her place as one of Pakistan's most respected cricketers.

Asia Cup 2023 jointly hosted by Pakistan and Sri Lanka

- The highly anticipated Asia Cup 2023 is set to ignite the cricketing world as arch-rivals India and Pakistan resume their epic rivalry ahead of the ICC World Cup 2023. The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has accepted the hybrid model, and the tournament will be jointly hosted by Pakistan and Sri Lanka. With a total of 13 thrilling One Day International (ODI) matches scheduled, the Asia Cup promises to be a captivating cricketing spectacle.
- The Asia Cup 2023 is scheduled to take place from 31st August to 17th September, offering nearly three weeks of intense cricketing action. The tournament will feature a hybrid model, with matches being held in both Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- Four matches of the Asia Cup will be hosted in Pakistan, while the remaining nine matches will be played in Sri Lanka. The distribution of matches showcases the

collaborative effort between the two countries to provide an exciting tournament for cricket enthusiasts.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Gopichand Hinduja takes over as chairman of \$34.5 billion-worth group

- Gopichand Hinduja, 83, has taken over as the Chairman of the Hinduja Group after the recent demise of his brother Srichand P Hinduja. Earlier, Gopichand Hinduja was the co-chairman and was overseeing the diverse global business empire that straddles across sectors such as automotive, IT, media and entertainment, infrastructure, oil and speciality chemicals, power and real estate. Gopichand Hinduja is a strong leader with a wealth of experience. He is well-positioned to lead the Hinduja Group into the future and to continue to build on the group's success.
- Gopichand Hinduja is a well-respected businessman and philanthropist. He is a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Trade and Competitiveness and is a trustee of the Hinduja Foundation, which supports a number of charitable causes in India and around the world. Gopichand Hinduja has been associated with the Hinduja Group since its inception in 1914. He has held a number of senior positions within the group, including Co-Chairman and Chairman of the Hinduja Automotive Limited.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Family Remittances 2023: 16th June

- The International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) is a universally-recognized observance adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and celebrated every year on 16 June. The Day recognizes the contribution of over 200 million migrants to improve the lives of their 800 million family members back home, and to create a future of hope for their children. Half of these flows go to rural areas, where poverty and hunger are concentrated, and where remittances count the most.
- According to the United Nations, the theme of International Day of Family Remittances 2023 is "Digital remittances towards financial inclusion and cost reduction."
- International Day of Family Remittances advocates policies and measures to increase financial inclusions and creates an environment to enhance the remittance benefits for both the migrant workers and their families.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Historian Ramachandra Guha's book wins Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography 2023

- Historian and writer Ramchandra Guha's book *Rebels Against the Raj: Western Fighters for India's Freedom* has won the Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography 2023. Guha has been awarded £5,000 (₹5 lakhs approximately) and a bound copy of Elizabeth Longford's memoir. The jury was chaired by Roy Foster. The judging committee also included Antonia Fraser and Flora Fraser (daughter and granddaughter of Longford respectively), Richard Davenport-Hines and Rana Mitter.

- Rebels Against the Raj shows how historical biography can illuminate the temper of the times through immersion in individual lives. As Guha points out, oppression does not disappear with the ending of colonial rule, and the ideas and priorities incisively drawn out in this book deserve urgent attention in today's India,". The book has been published by Penguin Random House in India, William Collins in the U.K., and Alfred Knopf in the USA.

Ktr Lauds 5 Green Apple Awards To Telangana

- In the Urban and Real Estate Sector category, Telangana has been awarded with the International Green Apple Awards for Beautiful Buildings. For the first time any building or structure in India has received these prestigious awards. The awards are presented annually by The Green Organization, an independent non-profit organisation based in London, to recognize and promote global environmental best practices.

The five selected buildings and structures:-

1. Mozzam-Jahi Market (Heritage category)
2. Durgam Cheruvu Cable Bridge (Bridge category)
3. B R Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat Building falls under the aesthetically designed office and workspace category
4. Integrated Command Control Center of Telangana Police is a distinctive type of office.
5. Yadadri Temple (Excellent religious structures category)

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INTERNATIONAL

NATO Begins Largest Air Force Drills in Its History, Air Defender 23

- After six years of careful planning, NATO officially launched its 2023 Air Defender military exercise in Germany, NATO countries—including newest member Finland—will participate, as will nonmember Sweden, whose bid to join the alliance has been stalled by Turkey and Hungary. Japan, which last month began talks to establish the bloc's first liaison base in Asia to counter China, is also participating as an observer.
- The 12-day training includes more than 250 aircraft and 10,000 personnel, making it the largest air deployment exercise in the bloc's history. Officers will test how well aircraft from various nations communicate with one another as well as the effectiveness of cargo and fuel flight crews, both of which are used extensively by Ukrainian troops in Kyiv's war against Russia. According to German Air Force Lt. Gen. Ingo Gerhartz, who is overseeing the exercise, Air Defender will also include an "evacuation from an airfield"—a direct response to the United States' chaotic evacuation at Kabul's Hamid Karzai International Airport in August 2021.

World Bank launches its first road safety project in South Asia

- The World Bank (WB) launched its first dedicated road safety project in South Asia with a USD 358 million financing agreement signed in Dhaka with the government of

Bangladesh. The project seeks to improve road safety and reduce fatalities and injuries from road crashes in selected cities, high-risk highways, and district roads.

- Two national highways of Bangladesh, Gazipur-Elenga (N4) and Natore-Nawabganj (N6), will be taken up for the implementation of this project. The project will pilot comprehensive road safety measures, including improved engineering designs, signage and marking, pedestrian facilities, speed enforcement, and emergency care. These measures will help reduce road traffic deaths by more than 30 percent on these two highways.
- Road signs, dividers, footpaths, zebra crossings, speed breakers and bus bays will be constructed on the two highways passing through the five divisions of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Mymensingh to reduce accidents and fatalities.
- The project will pilot Ambulance services, including bike-ambulances, with a toll-free number to take road crash victims to the hospital quickly. Further, the project will upgrade trauma care facilities in selected district hospitals, and Upazila Health Complexes.
- To control speed, the project will Install CCTV on roads, and construct an electric messaging system. It will make provision for patrol vehicles and crash site cleaning equipment. It will also support the government to strengthen institutions to effectively manage road safety across the country.

SCIENCE & TEHNOLOGY

New flying gecko species found in Mizoram; named after state

- A new species of flying gecko, named Gekko mizoramensis after the northeastern Indian state, has been discovered by researchers from Mizoram University and the Max Planck Institute for Biology in Tübingen, Germany. It is a subgenus called Ptychozoon of the Gekko genus and is arboreal, nocturnal and glides from one tree to another.
- Researchers of Mizoram University and Max Planck Institute for Biology , Tübingen, Germany have discovered a new species of flying gecko in Mizoram.
- The new species has been named Gekko mizoramensis after the northeastern state.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

ACC appoints Sudhansh Pant, as the new health secretary and others

- Sudhansh Pant, a 1991-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Rajasthan cadre, has been appointed as the new health secretary, replacing Rajesh Bhushan who retires on 31 July.
- Meanwhile, TK Ramachandran, chairman of VO Chidambaranar Port Trust in Tuticorin, has been appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, succeeding Pant in his previous role.
- Chanchal Kumar, managing director of National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd, has been named as the new civil aviation secretary.
- Pankaj Agrawal, additional secretary and director general (acquisition) in the Ministry of Defence, has been chosen as the new power secretary. Agrawal will take

over as secretary of the Ministry of Power upon the retirement of Alok Kumar at the end of this month.

- Rameshwar Prasad Gupta, a retired 1987-batch Gujarat-cadre IAS officer, has been appointed as the chairman and managing director of the Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd. on a contract basis for two years.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Tata Steel signs MoU with Germany's SMS group to cut carbon emissions

- In a bid to cut carbon emission and achieve net zero carbon emission by 2045, Tata Steel signed an agreement with SMS Group. Indian steel major has signed this deal with the German company to collaborate on a technology that may cut carbon emission by more than 50 per cent during steel making process,
- As part of the agreement, the two companies will hold technical discussions and demonstrate a decarbonisation technology developed by the SMS group at a blast furnace in Tata's Jamshedpur plant,
- Tata Steel went on to add that major goal of this deal is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by more than 50% from the blast furnace's baseline operation,
- Steel production generates up to 9% of global carbon emissions, according to the World Steel Association, and producers across the globe are investing in technology that can help reduce their share of pollution.

G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting begin in Hyderabad

- The G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting is set to begin in Hyderabad. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of state for Agriculture and Farmers welfare Kailash Choudhary and senior officials of concerned departments will be present during the three-day event.
- About 200 delegates from G20 member countries, invitee countries and International Organizations will be attending the meeting. The Agriculture Ministers from various countries and the Director Generals from International Organizations will take part in the meeting.
- There will be multiple side events in which in-depth and focussed deliberations will be held on topics like Managing Agribusiness for Profit, People and Planet and Connecting the Digitally Disconnected: Harnessing the Power of Digital Technologies in Agriculture.
- Top Indian agriculture-based companies, start-ups and state and central government agencies relating to agri-business companies are likely to take part in these deliberations.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das Named 'Governor Of The Year' at Central Banking Awards 2023 ?

- The chief of the Reserve Bank of India, Shaktikanta Das was honoured with the title of 'Governor of the Year' for 2023 by Central Banking in London. Central Banking is an international economic research journal. The award recognised his role as the RBI

chief in managing inflation and skilfully handling India's banking system during crises like COVID pandemic and global turmoils.

- The RBI governor is behind critical reforms, and has ensured smooth management of world-leading payments innovation and led India through difficult times,
- Das has also received honorary doctorates from several universities, including Utkal University, the University of Madras, and the University of Mysore

BANKING AND ECONOMY

SBI Mutual Fund gets IRDAI nod to acquire up to 10% stake in ICICI Lombard

- Insurance regulator IRDAI has given its approval to SBI Mutual Fund, along with its group entities or body corporate under the same management, for acquiring up to 10% of the total paid up equity share capital of ICICI Lombard General Insurance through market purchase.
- Irdai advised SBI Mutual Fund to ensure that the total shareholding of SBI Mutual fund along with its group entities or body corporate under the same management should not exceed 10% of the total paid-up equity share capital of ICICI Lombard. "Further, the approval of Irdai is valid for a period of one year from the date of Irdai approval letter," according to the stock exchange filing.
- This approval is subject to compliance with applicable provisions of IRDAI (Registration of Indian Insurance Companies) Regulations, 2022, Indian Insurance Companies (Foreign Investment) Rules, 2015, Insurance Act/Rules/Regulations, Orders, Circulars etc.

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INTERNATIONAL

India and UAE Target \$100 Billion Non-Oil Trade by 2030

- India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have set an ambitious target to increase their non-oil bilateral trade from the current USD 48 billion to USD 100 billion by 2030. The decision was reached during the first meeting of the Joint Committee of India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Both countries aim to double their non-petroleum trade in the next seven years, emphasizing the need to enhance trade cooperation beyond the oil sector.
- However, India's petroleum exports globally are on a decline due to lack of consumer demand in western countries that have driven prices lower. Petroleum products exports, which was a key growth driver of overall Indian exports during the last financial year, registered a sharp 23% decline in April compared to the previous month.

NATIONAL

Kari Ishad mango of Ankola in Uttar Karnataka gets GI tag

- The Kari Ishad mango prominently grown in Ankola taluk of Uttara Kannada has bagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications Registry under the Union Government.

- It is said that the mango variety has been cultivated for the last 400 years.
- It has two variants — Kari Ishad, which has thin skin, more pulp and is sweeter, and Bili Ishad, which has thick skin and less pulp and sweetness, The Kari Ishad is accepted as one of the finest quality mangoes due to its unique aroma, luscious taste, high amount of pulp, shape, and size.

SPORTS

India win one Gold, 3 Silver & 3 Bronze medals in U-17 Asian Wrestling Championships

- In wrestling, India wrapped up their campaign in the U-17 Asian Wrestling Championships with one gold, three silver and three bronze medals on the final day in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- Ankush won India's only gold medal of the day in the freestyle 55kg weight category, defeating Iran's Amirreza Ali Teymorizad.
- Dhanraj Bharat Shirke lost to Iran's Ahora Farhad Khateri of Iran. Rupesh bagged the other silver after losing to Iran's Sam Reza Sayar in the freestyle 48kg final.
- With this, all 10 freestyle wrestlers won medals in the competition as India finished second in the freestyle team rankings behind Iran.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Uttam Lal takes charge as Director (Personnel) at NHPC

- Shri Uttam Lal has taken over as Director (Personnel) at NHPC Limited, India's premier hydropower company.
- Prior to his appointment at NHPC, Shri Lal was serving as Chief General Manager (HR-CSR/R&R/LA) at NTPC Limited. He has over 35 years of vast and rich experience in the area of Personnel Management, Industrial Relations and Corporate Social Responsibility. Known for his expertise and long experience in the power sector, he is a core HR professional seeking to amalgamate human resource potential in the service of the organization's goal and vision.

Bihar Minister Santosh Kumar Suman resigns from Nitish Kumar's Cabinet

- In Bihar, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Welfare Minister Santosh Kumar Suman resigned from Nitish Kumar Cabinet, Mr Suman is son of former Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi and also the president of Hindustani Awam Morcha (Democratic) party.
- The senior party leader of Morcha, Prafulla Manjhi said there was enormous pressure from JD(U) for merger of HAM with it. Talks were held between top leaders of the two parties but it could not materialize.
- Following this, the HAM president resigned from the state government. The development is considered a big blow to the ruling Grand Alliance led by chief minister Nitish Kumar, ahead of 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Epson India signs Rashmika Mandanna as brand ambassador

- Printer company Epson India has signed actor Rashmika Mandanna as its brand ambassador. The actress will collaborate with the company to promote its products

in a multi-media campaign for its 'EcoTank' printers this month. In collaborating with the actress known for her performances across Kannada, Telugu, Hindi and Tamil cinema, the company said in a statement that it hopes to leverage her popularity to reach a wider audience across the country, particularly the younger generation.

- Through this campaign we hope to reach a wider audience to spread awareness about the printers and their benefits. This association will help us communicate how our products deliver purposeful value that enriches lives and helps create a better world.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Blood Donor Day

- The World Blood Donor Day is celebrated every year on June 14 to thank the altruistic acts of selflessness of voluntary blood donors and celebrate life and humanity. Blood is the most precious gift that anyone can give to another person – the gift of life. A decision to donate blood can save a life, or even several lives, if the blood is separated into its components – red cells, platelets and plasma – which can be used individually for patients with specific conditions.
- **History** - In 2004 World Blood Donor Day was first distinguished by the WHO. In the 58th World Health Assembly, 2005 it was declared as an annual global event to raise awareness about the importance of blood donation.
- **Theme** - The slogan or theme of the World Blood Donor Day 2023 is "Give blood, give plasma, share life, share often." The theme highlights the importance of giving blood or blood plasma regularly to create a safe and sustainable supply of blood and blood products that can be always available, all over the world, so that all patients in need can receive timely life saving treatment.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Guwahati railway station awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification by FSSAI

- The Guwahati Railway Station of N F Railway has been awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification by FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) in recognition of providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.
- The station has been able to qualify the guidelines established by FSSAI and becomes the first railway station in N F Railway to get this status. This certification has been awarded for the period of June 2, 2023 to June 2, 2025. Further, in its endeavour to ensure safe and hygienic food to passengers, N F Railway has planned to take up more stations in future like Rangiya, Lumding, Tinsukia, Alipurduar Jn. and Katihar to qualify as 'Eat Right Station'.

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INTERNATIONAL

Indo-Maldives joint military exercise commences

- The 12th edition of the joint military exercise "Ex Ekuverin" between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force has commenced at Chaubatia,

Uttarakhand. The exercise, which started on 11 June, will continue until 24 June, 2023.

- Ekuverin meaning 'Friends' is a bilateral annual exercise conducted alternatively in India and Maldives.
- The primary objective of the exercise is to enhance interoperability in counter insurgency/counter terrorism operations under the UN mandate. Additionally, it aims to facilitate joint humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations,
- A platoon strength contingent from the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force will be participating in the 14-day exercise. The focus is to share best practices, enhance coordination and cooperation between both the forces at tactical level.
- The previous edition of the exercise, the 11th edition, was held in the Maldives in December 2021.

SPORTS

ICC Player of the Month for May 2023

- Harry Tector has been voted the ICC Men's Player of the Month after a stunning month in May, Ireland's first Men's POTM award. He beat out tough competition from Pakistan superstar Babar Azam, and Bangladesh's young rising batter Najmul Hossain Shanto.
- On the other hand, the ICC Women's Player of the Month for May 2023 has been awarded to Thipatcha Putthawong (Thailand), a talented 19-year-old player. She follows in the footsteps of her compatriot Naruemon Chaiwai, who won the award last month.

Uruguay Win FIFA U20 World Cup 2023, Beat Italy 1-0 in Final to Clinch Title for First Time

- Uruguay beat Italy 1-0 to win its first Under-20 World Cup title held in Argentina. The Celeste's victory ends a streak of four consecutive wins of European teams in the tournament. Luciano Rodríguez scored the winning goal in the 86th minute in a header from close range. Meanwhile, Israel beat South Korea 3-1 to finish in third place, FIFA President Gianni Infantino was also present.

OBITUARY

Silvio Berlusconi, former Italian PM passes away at 86

- Former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has passed away at the age of 86 after battling serious health issues that led to his hospitalisation in recent months. He was first hospitalised in 2020 for a lung infection after contracting COVID-19, Having held significant political power in Rome, Berlusconi's health had deteriorated significantly in the later stages of his life. Earlier this year, he was diagnosed with chronic leukemia and was admitted to Milan's San Raffaele Hospital, where he ultimately passed away.
- About: Silvio Berlusconi - Born in 1936 to a middle-class family, Berlusconi's journey to power is a tale that could inspire many, despite his unconventional choices in life.

As the owner of the broadcasting company Mediaset, he entered the media industry in 1973 by establishing TeleMilano, a small cable television company. Over time, this venture grew, leading to the creation of Canale 5 and eventually positioning him as a media mogul with Mediaset, which also fueled his political aspirations.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers appointed as Chair-elect of IATA's Board of Governors

- IndiGo on Sunday announced that its CEO, Pieter Elbers, has been elected as the chair-elect of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Board of Governors. He will succeed present Chair, Yvonne Manzi Makolo, the CEO of Rwandair with effect from June 2024.
- Pieter Elbers' appointment comes at a significant time for the Indian aviation industry, which is experiencing unprecedented growth and development. As the chair-elect of the IATA BoG, Elbers will play a pivotal role in further shaping the global aviation landscape, advocating for the industry's interests, and driving innovation and sustainability initiatives, IndiGo said.
- Pieter Elbers with his visionary approach and deep industry expertise has not only propelled IndiGo's growth in international markets but is also playing a crucial role in the overall advancement of the Indian aviation landscape.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Albinism Awareness Day

- International Albinism Awareness Day is observed annually on 13th June to create awareness about a genetic skin condition called Albinism,
- Albinism is an inherited genetic condition which leads to the absence of melanin production in the body. Melanin is a pigment that gives colour to our hair, skin and eyes. Absence of it makes our skin, hair and eyes look white or yellowish and makes us vulnerable to the sun and any bright sources of light. Albino people suffer from visual impairments and have a tendency to get skin cancer. They face a lot of ostracism from society due to various misconceptions about albinism, as well. Below, we look at the day's theme, its history and significance.
- Theme - The theme of this year's celebration of International Albinism Awareness Day is "Inclusion is strength." The theme is an extension of 2022's theme, "United in making our voice heard," which emphasised on creating greater awareness of the albinism. 2023's theme focuses on the importance of inclusion of not only people of all races and ethnicities affected by albinism, but also young people, women, children, elderly persons, and LGBTQ+ communities.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

ADB Approves \$130 Million Loan for Horticulture in Himachal Pradesh

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$130 million loan to increase agricultural productivity and promote horticulture agribusinesses to raise farmers' income in Himachal Pradesh, India.

- The project interventions will help increase the income and resilience to the effects of climate change of at least 15,000 farm households across seven districts of the state namely Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Sirmour, Solan, and Una,
- The project will improve on-farm irrigation and water management in about 6,000 hectares of farmland by rehabilitating or building new irrigation schemes and strengthening the capacity of WUAs for micro-irrigation management through joint efforts from the state's Jal Shakti Vibhag. The project will also help create an ecosystem to enhance farmers' access to markets of subtropical horticulture.

In a first, IOB launches 'My Account My Name' for SB account holders

- In a first of its kind initiative in the banking industry, the Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) Introduced "My Account My Name" for SB account customers,
- According to this the account holder can choose any easy to remember 7 digit / character account name for their savings account number with IOB.
- The schemes were launched from Central Office, Chennai, virtually by IOB MD and CEO Ajay Kumar Srivastava with all the 49 Regional Offices spread over India.
- The account name can be a combination of 7 letters only, or 7 numbers only or 7 alpha numeric only like, AJIT007, PRADHAN or 2424707 etc. So the Customers will not be required to remember their 15 digits account numbers, To begin with, this facility of "My Account My Name" is available for IOB SB HNI and IOB SB salary account customers.

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NATIONAL

GeM to organise District level Buyer-Seller workshops in Uttar Pradesh

- Government e-Marketplace (GeM), India's premier online procurement platform, is organizing Buyer-Seller Workshops in all the 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh from 12 June to 31st August, 2023. These workshops aim to enhance the understanding of GeM's functionalities among buyers and sellers in the state, as well as provide a platform to address any queries or concerns they may have.
- The Buyer-Seller Workshops are a significant step towards ensuring accessibility and participation from every corner of the state. GeM believes in empowering buyers and sellers in the remotest districts of Uttar Pradesh by providing them with the necessary knowledge and resources to leverage the benefits of the platform effectively. These workshops will serve as a platform to address queries, provide guidance, and discuss any issues faced by the users at the district level.
- During the workshops, participants will receive comprehensive training on GeM's features, registration processes, and various aspects of online procurement. GeM experts will be available to provide hands-on assistance and address specific concerns faced by buyers and sellers.
- The workshops will also facilitate networking opportunities, enabling participants to connect with potential partners and explore business collaborations.

SPORTS

Asia Cup 2023: India clinches maiden Women's Junior title

- The Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team achieved a remarkable triumph in the Women's Junior Asia Cup 2023, which took place in Kakamigahara, Gifu Prefecture, Japan. They secured the championship title by defeating Korea in a captivating final match on Sunday.
- For India, Annu and Neelam scored a goal each while Park Seoyeon breached the net once for Korea.
- At the end it was a combined efforts of the entire team that ultimately paved the way for their victorious outcome in this crucial encounter.
- In a remarkable feat, the Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team has achieved their first-ever victory in the Women's Junior Asia Cup, marking a historic milestone.
- In acknowledgment of the team's exceptional performance and their undefeated streak in the tournament, leading them to secure a spot in the FIH Women's Junior World Cup 2023 in Chile, the Hockey India has declared a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh for each player, while the support staff will receive Rs 1 lakh each as a token of appreciation.

FIH Pro League 2023: India beat Argentina 2-1 in final

- The Indian hockey team beat Argentina 2-1 in its final FIH Pro League 2022-23 match in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, on 11 June. Akashdeep Singh and Sukhjeet Singh scored goals for India while Lucas Toscani netted the only goal for Argentina.
- With the win in this tie, India have further consolidated their top spot in the FIH Pro League 2022-23 points table with 30 points from 16 matches. While Argentina are fifth in the table with 13 points from 14 matches.
- India now lead second-placed Great Britain by four points in the FIH Pro League 2022-23 standings but the European team still has four games to play.
- The Indian men's hockey team finished fourth in their maiden FIH Pro League campaign in 2020-21. At the same time, in this competition, it achieved the third position in the 2021-22 season, performing best.

Australia wins the World test championship :2023

- Australia won the title of World Test Champions 2023 in a commanding fashion, securing a resounding 209-run victory over India in the thrilling WTC Final at The Oval.
- Travis Head and Steve Smith's remarkable centuries in the first innings laid the foundation for Australia's early control of the Test. Despite India's valiant response, the match extended to a fifth day, but they fell short of an extraordinary record chase, ultimately being bowled out for 234. Australia scripted history on Sunday, June 11 as they became the first men's team in world cricket to win an International Cricket Council (ICC) world title in all three formats.

- **Player of the Match:** Travis Head (163 off 174 balls in 1st innings, 18 off 27 balls in 2nd innings). Australia won the ICC Test Championship made for the first time, and were also awarded the cash prize of US\$1.6 million, while India won US\$800,000.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Amit Agrawal appointed UIDAI CEO, Subodh Kumar Singh named DG NTA

- Senior IAS officers Amit Agrawal and Subodh Kumar Singh have been appointed as CEO Unique Identification Authority of India and director general of the National Testing Agency, respectively, as part of a bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre. Both Agrawal (1993 batch) and Singh (1997 batch) are Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers of the Chhattisgarh cadre.
- Agrawal, additional secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, has been appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Unique Identification Authority in the rank and pay of additional secretary to the Government of India,
- Singh, who is currently additional secretary in the Department of Food and Public Distribution under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, has been named as the NTA's director general,

Nitin Agarwal Kerala cadre IPS officer appointed as new DG of BSF

- Nitin Agarwal, an IPS officer of the 1989 Kerala cadre, has been appointed as the new director general of the Border Security Force (BSF) on Sunday night. This appointment comes after a vacancy of over five months in the position, Presently serving as the Additional DG of operations at the headquarters of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Delhi, Agarwal will now assume the role of leading the BSF.
- About: BSF - Border Security Force is India's leading security agency responsible for safeguarding the 4,096-kilometer-long international borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh. In addition, it carries out various responsibilities in the realm of internal security. The BSF comprises a workforce of over 2.65 lakh personnel serving in diverse roles.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Day Against Child Labour

- The World Day against Child Labour has been observed annually on 12 June since 2002. This significant day was established by the International Labour Organization (ILO), and all United Nations member countries have since been commemorating it.
- World Day against Child Labour serves as a call to action, urging individuals, organizations, and governments to take decisive steps in combating child labour and promoting awareness about its detrimental effects. It is a reminder for collective efforts to be made towards eradicating child labour and creating a better future for children worldwide.

- **Theme** - This year, the theme for World Day Against Child Labour is 'Social Justice for All. End Child Labour!'. It emphasized the link between social justice and child labour.
- **Significance** - This day holds significance because it serves as a platform to amplify the message of ending child labour. By supporting and observing this day, individuals and organizations can contribute to the global movement against child labour, advocating for the rights and well-being of children.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Second summit of Supreme Audit Institutions of G20 countries began in Goa

- The second summit of the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of the G20 countries began on 12 June in Panaji, the capital city of Goa. The inaugural address at the summit was delivered by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu. Goa Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai and India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant also attended the meeting.
- SAIs from Australia, Brazil, Indonesia, South Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Nigeria, Oman, Spain, UAE, Morocco and Poland participated in the summit.
- Apart from the proceedings of the summit, the CAG is expected to sign MoUs with SAIs of Indonesia and Turkey to strengthen cooperation and knowledge sharing.
- Apart from SAI, over 80 national and international delegates as well as representatives from Think20 and Youth20 Engagement Groups are participating in the three-day summit.
- The two primary areas of focus at the summit are Blue Economy and Responsible Artificial Intelligence, with Girish Chandra Murmu discussing these topics.

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NATIONAL

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal lays Foundation Stone of Cochin Fisheries Harbour worth 169.17 crores

- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shri Sarbananda Sonowal and Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Shri Parshottam Rupala laid the foundation stone of Modernisation and Upgradation Works of Cochin Fishing Harbour at Thoppumpady, Kerala.
- This project is being developed at an estimated cost of 169.17 crores. The overall project is funded through Grants from Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) Scheme under the Department of Fisheries (Rs.50 Crores) and the Sagarmala Project scheme of MoPSW (Rs.50 Crores) and investment of PPP Operator is Rs.55.84 Crores.
- The first stage of the project includes construction of three air-conditioned Auction Halls, one non-air-conditioned hall, one fish dressing unit and other ancillary units. Under this project, internal roads will be constructed, loading and unloading platforms will be built, waste management area will be developed and there will be

canteen facilities, drivers' waiting area, dredging work, areas machinery and equipment etc. The construction of four temperature-controlled auction halls of 60mx18m with mechanical retrieval and conveyance will increase the capacity of the fishing harbour by 415 tonnes of fish per day.

SPORTS

Paris Diamond League 2023: Murali Sreeshankar secures third spot in long jump

- In yet another major sporting achievement for the country, India's Murali Sreeshankar finished third in the men's long jump event at the Paris Diamond League 2023 in France on Saturday.
- With his best finish of 8.09m, the 24-year-old Indian athlete bagged a coveted third position in the annual league behind only Olympic medallist Miltiadis Tentoglou (8.13m) and World Athletics Championships bronze medallist Simon Ehammer (8.11m).

French Open: Novak Djokovic reaches record 23 grand slam titles after French Open final win

- Novak Djokovic scripted history on Sunday as he became the first man to win 23 Grand Slam titles in Open Era, following his triumph over Norwegian Casper Ruud in the French Open men's singles final. He outclassed the fourth-seed Ruud 7-6 (7-1), 6-3, 7-5 in just over three hours at Court Philippe-Chatrier. Djokovic's triumph took him past Nadal's tally of 22 to set a new record in men's singles tennis. Overall, he is at par with Serena Williams for most majors won in Open Era.

French Open: Iga Swiatek of Poland wins Women's Singles title

- In French Open tennis, World No 1 and top seed Iga Swiatek of Poland has won the Women's Singles crown. She defended her title against unseeded Czech Karolina Muchova 6-2, 5-7, 6-4. This is her third French title in just 5 years. She also became the first woman since 2007 to win back-to-back French Open titles.
- The 22-year-old Swiatek is just the third woman in the Open era to win each of her first four Grand Slam finals. Monica Seles and Naomi Osaka are the only other players to achieve this feat.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Supriya Sule and Praful Patel Appointed NCP Working Presidents

- Supriya Sule and Praful Patel will now operate as the working presidents of the party. This is the first time that the NCP will have the post of 'working president,
- As the working presidents, Sule was given the responsibility of Maharashtra, Haryana and Punjab whereas Patel got Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Both leaders represent the NCP in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and also have contacts across parties.
- Considering his age, Pawar is of the opinion that he should delegate some responsibilities to other leaders. This decision to appoint two working presidents is a

big step for Pawar but it indicates that he has started working on a plan of succession.

- The first step of this plan was to delegate responsibilities that are with him to other leaders. So, by appointing two working presidents, Pawar has given them responsibilities of different states. The next step was to mentor a leader, so that after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, they run the show when Pawar steps down.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

PM Modi Inaugurates First-Ever National Training Conclave For Civil Services In Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday – 11 June. inaugurated the first-ever National Training Conclave at the International Exhibition and Convention Centre, Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. Over 1,500 representatives from training institutes, including Central Training Institutes, State Administrative Training Institutes, Regional and Zonal Training Institutes, and Research institutes are participating in the conclave.
- Civil servants from central government departments, state governments, local governments, along with experts from the private sector will also participate in the discussions.
- The conclave will have eight panel discussions with each focusing on key concerns pertinent to Civil services training institutes such as faculty development, training impact assessment and content digitisation, among others.
- The conclave will focus on the exchange of ideas, identifying the challenges being faced and opportunities available, and generating actionable solutions and comprehensive strategies for capacity building.

India to host G-20 development ministers' meeting in Varanasi from June 11-13

- The holy city of Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh is all set to host the G20 group countries development ministers meeting starting from 11 June, which will continue till 13th June. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar will chair the Meeting. Prime Minister Narendra Modi to deliver a special video address at the beginning of the meeting, under the G20 Indian Presidency.
- The Varanasi Development Ministers' Meeting is taking place amidst mounting developmental challenges. The G20 Development Ministerial meeting will be an opportunity to collectively agree on actions for accelerating achievement of the SDGs and foster synergies between the development, environment and climate agendas while avoiding costly trade-offs that hold back progress for the developing countries.

53rd Director General Level Border Co-ordination Conference between BSF & BGB begins in Delhi

- The 53rd Director General Level Border Co-ordination Conference between India's Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard of Bangladesh (BGB) being held in Delhi from 11 -14 June. During the four-day conference, BSF delegation of India led

by Director General, BSF, Dr. Sujoy Lal Thaosen, will meet BGB delegation headed by Maj Gen A K M Nazmul Hasan.

- The conference is being organized to discuss the border-related issues and better coordination between both border guarding forces. During the course of conference, discussions will also be held on how to jointly curb the various trans-border crimes and timely sharing of information between both the border guarding forces. There will also be deliberation on developmental and infrastructural works, joint efforts for effective implementation of Co-ordinated Border Management Plan and Confidence Building Measures. The last BSF-BGB Co-ordination Conference was held at Dhaka in 2022.

