

Weekly Current Affairs PDF June 12 to June 18, 2022

Current Affairs PDF- June 18, 2022

INTERNATIONAL

China became the biggest importer of India's broken rice

- China has emerged as the largest importer or buyer of broken rice from India. China takes over the largest importer of broken rice in India, which were the African countries. During the pandemic, China took the lead as the largest importer of broken rice in India. 7.7 percent has been imported to China which is 16.34 lakh metric tonnes, and India's total export is 212.10 Lakh metric tonnes in the year 2021-2022.
- According to the analysis of the trade, out of 16.34 LMT, 96 percent of the rice exported to China was broken rice. China has become the top buyer of broken rice from India. The total export for basmati and non-basmati altogether was 212.10 LMT in 2021-2022, which is 19.30 percent higher than the earlier export in 2020-2021 which stood at 177.79 LMT. During this time export of broken rice to China from India increased from 3.31 LMT to 16.34 LMT.
- In 2021-2022, the total export of rice from India for Basmati rice was 38.48 LMT, which has decreased from the export of 2020-2021, which was 46.30 LMT. non-basmati rice has the largest share in the Indian export of rice. In 2021-2022, other than Basmati rice, the export of rice was 172.56 LMT, which is an increase compared to the last year 2020-2021, which was 131.48 LMT, an increase of 31.27 percent. In 2021-2022, 38.64 LMT of broken rice was exported to 83 countries from India, and from these 83 countries, China imported 15.76 LMT which made 476.40 percent more than 2.73 LMT.

About China:

President: Xi Jinping

Capital: Beijing

Currency: Renminbi

Somali president nominates Hamza Abdi Barre as prime minister

- Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has appointed a former chairman of the Jubaland state election commission, Hamza Abdi Barre as the Prime Minister. The 48-year-old Hamza Abdi Barre from the semi-autonomous state of Jubaland replaced Mohamed Hussein Roble. Barre served in a number of public and political roles and from 2011 to 2017 was secretary-general of the Peace and Development Party (PDP), the precursor to the Union for Peace and Development (UDP) now led by Mohamud.
- Mohamud won the presidency for the second time in May, having previously served from 2012 to 2017, after a long-delayed election that took place against a backdrop of the worst drought in 40 years and a bloody armed rebellion.

About Somalia:

Capital: Mogadishu

Currency: Somali Shilling

President: Hassan Sheikh Mohamud

Japan is attending a NATO summit for the first time ever, prompted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine

- Japanese Prime Minister, Fumio Kishida will attend this month's NATO summit in Madrid, becoming the country's first leader to join a top meeting of the transatlantic alliance. The June 28-30 gathering is seen as a crunch moment for the 30 North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies, four months into Russia's war in Ukraine.
- Japan, a key U.S. ally and not a NATO member, has delivered defensive supplies to Ukraine and imposed tough sanctions on Russia in tandem with the other Group of Seven countries. Sweden and Finland, which have applied to join NATO, are sending delegations to the summit, and South Korea's new President Yoon Suk-yeol will also be the first leader from his country to attend.

About NATO:

Formation: 4 April 1949

Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium

Secretary General: Jens Stoltenberg

Total Member: 30

NATIONAL

Upper age limit for Agnipath scheme hiring raised to 23 for 2022

- Following widespread opposition to the Agnipath plan, the Centre announced a 10% reservation for Agniveers in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and Assam Rifles recruitment. The Ministry of Home Affairs also decided to grant a three-year age relaxation to Agniveers in the CAPFs and Assam Rifles who are between the ages of 17.5 and 21. Notably, the initial class of recruits will be given a five-year extension on the maximum age limit.
- The Agnipath short-term recruitment strategy for the armed forces was previously announced by the Centre. The plan, which is intended to be a reformative step, attempts to infuse more fresh blood into the three services.
- The Agnipath programme will allow young people aged 17.5 to 21 to be inducted into one of the Army's three services as agniveers for a four-year period.
- Agnipath has sparked protests in a number of states. During violent demonstrations by candidates, the central government increased the upper age limit for the scheme from 21 to 23 years in a one-time waiver.

About Assam Rifles:

Headquarters: Shillong, Meghalaya, India

Founded: 1835

Motto: Sentinels of the North East

Parent agency: Indian Army

IMPORTANT DAYS

Sustainable Gastronomy Day 2022: 18th June

- Every year, the world observes Sustainable Gastronomy Day on 18 June. The objective of this day is to recognise the practices associated with sustainable food consumption, especially with the art of collecting and preparing the food we eat. To make this day a memorable one, the organisations work in collaboration with global and regional bodies to observe the day.
- Gastronomy is sometimes called the art of food. It can also refer to a style of cooking from a particular region. In other words, gastronomy often refers to local food and cuisine.

Sustainability is the idea that something (e.g. agriculture, fishing or even preparation of food) is done in a way that is not wasteful of our natural resources and can be continued into the future without being detrimental to our environment or health.

- Sustainable gastronomy, therefore, means cuisine that takes into account where the ingredients are from, how the food is grown and how it gets to our markets and eventually to our plates.

International Day for Countering Hate Speech 2022: 18th June

- International Day for Countering Hate Speech falls on June 18. According to the UN, hate speech is any kind of speech or writing that attacks or discriminates against a person or a group based on religion, ethnicity, nationality, race, color, descent, gender, or any other identity factor. Speech should not be a weapon for creating more mayhem in this volatile world; thus, the International Day for Countering Hate Speech will help to stop hate-mongering.
- In July 2021, the UN General Assembly highlighted global concerns over “the exponential spread and proliferation of hate speech” around the world and adopted a resolution on “promoting inter-religious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance in countering hate speech”.

International Picnic Day 2022: 18th June

- International Picnic Day is celebrated annually on 18 June. On this day, people spend time with their loved ones and go for picnics to get a break from their monotonous everyday routine. A picnic is a very good way to not only spend some quality time but also explore new feast spots.
- While the actual origin of the day is unknown, it is usually marked by an informal eating festival that serves as a getaway from our day-to-day busy lives. It brings together friends and relatives who bring food and soft drinks to enjoy each other’s company.
- In recent times, the picnic affair has become very casual. Sometimes just a few pieces of bread and cheese are carried in a paper bag and eaten in a nearby park. Games and activities can also be planned when one goes for a picnic.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Ministers met on GST rationalisation fails to reach consensus

- According to insiders, a group of state ministers working on GST rate rationalisation was unable to achieve an agreement because some members were opposed to modifications to tax slabs and rates. They stated that the Group of Ministers will provide a status report to the GST Council on the consensus reached at the Group of Minister’s previous meeting on November 20, 2021.
- They added that the GoM will seek an extension to deliver its final report, and that tax rate problems will be discussed at the forthcoming Council meeting later this month.
- The GST Council, which is chaired by Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, will meet in Srinagar on June 28 and 29.
- Last year, the Council convened a seven-member council of state ministers, led by Karnataka Chief Minister Shri Basavaraj Bommai, to recommend measures to increase revenue by lowering tax rates.

About Karnataka:

Chief Minister: Shri Basavaraj Bommai

Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot

Capital: Bengaluru (Executive Branch)

47th GST council meet to be held in Srinagar on June 28-29

- The 47th meeting of the GST Council will be held on June 28 and 29, 2022 in Srinagar. The GST Council is chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. This is the second time that the GST Council meeting is being held in Srinagar. Before the launch of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on July 1, 2017, the 14th meeting of the Council was held on May 18 and 19 in the city.
- The Council had last year set up a seven-member panel of state ministers, headed by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, to suggest ways to augment revenue by rationalising tax rates. The GoM had last met in November 2021.
- The 47th GST Council meeting assumes significance as it is expected to discuss the report of the panel of state ministers on rate rationalisation and also the tax rate on casinos, race courses and online gaming.
- The Group of Ministers (GoM) is likely to discuss possible changes in tax slabs, the sources said, adding that the final report of the panel would take some more time.

About Jammu & Kashmir:

Founded: 14 May 1954

Capital Srinagar (May–October): Jammu (Nov–April)

Lieutenant governors: Manoj Sinha

World's central banks unleash most hawkish campaign since 1980s

- Central bankers around the world are enacting what could be the most dramatic tightening of monetary policy since the 1980s, risking recessions and upsetting financial markets as they try to deal with an unexpected spike in inflation. The week began with a surprise move on Wall Street to price in a Federal Reserve rate hike of 75 basis points. Chairman Jerome Powell declared himself fully committed to bringing inflation back down, the greatest step by the US central bank since 1994.
- Switzerland surprisingly boosted rates, while the Bank of England raised rates for the fifth time, this time by 25 basis points, and indicated that it will soon double the rate.
- The bond market's reaction to the coordinated removal of stimulus was so ferocious that the European Central Bank called an emergency meeting on Wednesday to address rising yields in some euro-zone countries.
- Borrowing costs have risen in emerging markets from Brazil to Taiwan to Hungary, with Australia, South Korea, India, New Zealand, and Canada among those planning further action.

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INTERNATIONAL

UPI, RuPay Cards to Soon Be Accepted in France as NPCI's Overseas Arm Entered the European Country

- Union Communication Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that UPI and Rupay card services will be available in France soon, giving a huge boost to the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Rupay cards. The overseas branch of India's National Payments Corporation (NPCI) has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with France's Lyra Network for the acceptance of UPI and Rupay in the country.

- So far, countries such as Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, Bhutan, and Nepal have adopted India's UPI payment system.
- The NPCI International is in discussions to expand UPI services in the United States, Europe, and West Asia.
- Indian travellers will be able to make smooth payments throughout their trip to France thanks to an agreement between NPCI International and Lyra Network.
- Jawed Ashraf, an Indian ambassador in France, spoke about his experience with a seamless and transparent digital payment system and how beneficial it may be in France.

About France:

Currency: Euro

President: Emmanuel Macron

Capital: Paris

Prime Minister: Élisabeth Borne

APEDA organizes eight-day long mango festival in Bahrain to boost export of Mangoes

- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has organized an eight-day long mango festival in Bahrain to boost the export of Mangoes. 34 varieties of mangoes from eastern states of West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha, are being displayed at eight different locations of Bahrain's Al Jazira group supermarket.
- All the varieties of mangoes have been directly procured from farmers and two Farmer Producer Organizations. The mango show will continue till the 20th of this month. The mango show in Bahrain is part of APEDA's new initiatives to explore international markets for Indian mangoes under the 'Mango Festival 2022'.
- The mango show in Bahrain is part of APEDA's new initiatives to explore international markets for Indian mangoes under the 'Mango Festival 2022'. It's the outcome of APEDA's commitment to provide a global platform for Indian mangoes that for the first time 34 varieties of mangoes from eastern states have been showcased in Bahrain. Besides, mangoes as a whole, several mango preparations like mango cake prepared in Al Jazira bakery, juices, different varieties of mango shakes, etc. have also been showcased at the festival.

About APEDA:

Formation: 1986

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairman: M. Angamuthu

About Bahrain:

Head: Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

Capital: Manama

Currency: Bahraini dinar

NATIONAL

Mumbai's CSMIA launches first-of-its-kind Vertical Axis Wind Turbine & Solar PV system

- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA), Mumbai has become India's 1st airport to launch a one-of-its-kind Vertical Axis Wind Turbine & Solar PV hybrid (Solar Mill) to explore the possibility of utilization of wind energy at the airport. With this, Mumbai will become the first city in India to establish a one-of-its-kind hybrid power project at its airport.

- This sustainable initiative undertaken by CSMIA reduces dependence on conventional electricity which propels its journey towards 'Net Zero' emissions.
- This fully integrated, hybrid renewable energy product harnesses solar and wind energy merged to produce electricity.
- The energy produced through this technology can be customised on a need-specific basis. It's easy to mount the technology on any mobile or static rooftop due to its modular and scalable size.

About Maharashtra:

Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Capital: Mumbai

Chief Minister: Uddhav Thackeray

Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin launches Ennum Ezhuthum scheme to fill learning gap

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, MK Stalin launched the Ennum Ezhuthum scheme to bridge the learning gap that was caused due to the COVID pandemic among students aged below eight. The scheme aims to ensure foundational literacy and numeracy by 2025. It was launched at an event in Azhinjivakkam panchayat union middle school, Tiruvallur.
- The education department will distribute workbooks to students from Classes 1 to 3 to assess and bridge the learning gap.
- The State government has announced a slew of programmes and schemes for the academic year 2022-23, with the motive to improve the quality of education in the State.
- The children will be trained in 3 subjects – Tamil, English, and Mathematics in a classroom suitable for conducting lessons that are designed in the format of dance, songs, storytelling, and puppetry, and also videos.

About Tamil Nadu:

Capital: Chennai

Chief Minister: K. Stalin

Governor: N. Ravi

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Ex-Supreme Court judge Ranjana Desai is new Press Council of India Chief

- Former Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai is believed to have been chosen as the next head of the Press Council of India (PCI). Justice Desai recently served as the chairman of the Delimitation Commission on Jammu and Kashmir, which was established to redesign the Union Territory's assembly constituencies.
- The appointment of Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai as PCI chairwoman was accepted by a committee that included Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, and PCI member Prakash Dubey.
- Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai is the current chairperson of India's Delimitation Commission and a former Supreme Court judge.
- Before being appointed to the Supreme Court, she worked as a public prosecutor for the state of Maharashtra and as a judge on the Bombay High Court.
- Desai was the Chairperson of the Indian Appellate Tribunal for Electricity after her retirement from the Supreme Court.

About Supreme Court of India:

Established: 26 January 1950

Founded: 26 January 1950, New Delhi

Number of positions: 34(33+1; present strength)

Judge term length: Mandatory retirement at 65 years of age

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2022:17th June

- The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed on 17 June each year to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification. The day offers a chance to recognize that land degradation neutrality is achievable through problem-solving, strong community involvement and co-operation at all levels. The theme of 2022 Desertification and Drought Day “Rising up from drought together”.
- The global observance of the event will take place in Madrid, Spain, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has announced.
- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed June 17 as the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought through its resolution A/RES/49/115 which was adopted in December 1994.

About UNCCD:

Signed: 14 October 1994 – 13 October 1995

Drafted: 17 June 1994

Location: Bonn, Germany; New York, United States

Effective: 26 December 1996

Context: Environmentalism, Desertification

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

8th Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians kicks off in Egypt to address climate change

- The Eighth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians has been started in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt to address climate change. The two-day conference is being jointly organized by the House of Representatives and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Nagaland’s first woman elected as Member of Parliament to Rajya Sabha, S. Phangon Konyak is representing India at the Conference. She, along with two other young Lok Sabha MPs from India, will be sharing her thoughts on the ‘Young MPs for Climate Actions’.
- The 8th Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians provides a platform for young MPs from across the world to exchange learn and define common and innovative strategies to advance youth empowerment.
- This year in Egypt, around 200 young MPs, from 60 countries are participating to discuss strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change and ensure that global warming does not exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius in line with the Paris Agreement.
- According to official information shared by IPU, there are 35,177 Parliamentary seats globally but just 2.66 per cent of these are held by young MPs.

About Egypt:

Capital: Cairo

Currency: Egyptian pound

President: Abdel Fattah el-Sisi
Prime Minister: Moustafa Madbouly

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates Industrial Decarbonization Summit 2022 in New Delhi

- In New Delhi, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari kicks off the Industrial Decarbonization Summit 2022. Inaugurating the Industrial Decarbonization Summit 2022 (IDS-2022) – Road Map for Carbon Neutrality by 2070, he stated that developing alternative fuels is critical to overcoming electricity shortages. He believes that taking a one-sided, idiosyncratic attitude to these issues is harmful to the country.
- Shri Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, has stressed the importance of keeping a balance between ecology, environment, and development.
- The minister stated that in the future days, we must improve our economy while also protecting the environment.
- He stated that green hydrogen is our top goal, and that by using Biotechnology, we can boost the productivity of Biomass and use Biomass to generate Bio-ethanol, Bio-LNG, and Bio-CNG.

About Ministry of road transport and highways:

Formed: July 1942; 79 years ago

Child agencies: NHAI; NHIDCL

Officeholders: Nitin Gadkari (Union Minister), Mansukh Mandaviya (Minister of State)

RANKING

India jumps 6 places to 37th rank on IMD's World Competitiveness Index

- India has seen the sharpest growth among the Asian economies, with a six-position jump from 43rd to 37th rank on the annual World Competitiveness Index 2022. The Index has been compiled by the Institute for Management Development (IMD). Meanwhile, the top-performing Asian economies are Singapore (3rd), Hong Kong (5th), Taiwan (7th), China (17th) and Australia (19th).
- India is also a driving force in the global movement to fight climate change and Mr. Modi's pledge of net-zero by 2070 at the COP26 summit in November 2021, sits in harmony with its strength in environment-related technologies in the ranking. The top five attractive factors of India's economy for business are – a skilled workforce, cost competitiveness, dynamism of the economy, high educational level and open and positive attitudes.
- Denmark has moved to the top of the 63-nation list from the third position last year, while Switzerland slipped from the top ranking to the second position and Singapore regained the third spot from fifth, a global study showed.
- Others in the top 10 include Sweden at the fourth position, followed by Hong Kong SAR (5th), the Netherlands (6th), Taiwan (7th), Finland (8th), Norway (9th) and the USA (10th).

BANKING AND ECONOMY

RBI lifts restrictions on Mastercard, allows onboarding of new customers

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) relaxed the limitations placed on Mastercard Asia/Pacific Pte Ltd on onboarding new domestic clients. For non-compliance with RBI standards for data storage in India, Mastercard has been barred from onboarding new domestic users (debit, credit, or

prepaid) onto its card network as of July 22, 2021. The RBI had given Mastercard almost three years to comply with the regulatory directives, but it was unable to do so.

- This irritated foreign participants because domestic payment companies, especially e-commerce firms, were exerting pressure on the government to store data within India.
- Under the Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007, Payment System Operators such as Mastercard, Visa, and the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) are authorised to operate a card network in India.
- The RBI is responsible for the regulation and supervision of payment systems in India under the Act.
- The RBI's payment system enables payments to be made between a payer and a beneficiary and includes the clearing, payment, and settlement processes, or any combination of them.

About RBI:

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Founder: British Raj

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

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INTERNATIONAL

Arati Prabhakar set to become Biden's science adviser and his pick to lead science office

- US president Joe Biden is expected to name Arati Prabhakar as the head of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). She will succeed Eric Lander who left the role nine months after his appointment after he admitted to bullying his staff and creating a hostile work environment during his tenure.
- Once the Senate approves the 63-year-old's appointment, Arati would be the first woman and the first person of color to serve as science adviser to the President of the United States. Her role will require advising Biden on how to compete with China, bring forth rules which will protect US-funded academic research from theft and aim to reduce inequality within the research community.
- Arati also served in top roles during the presidential tenures of Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. The Clinton administration picked her to lead the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Obama administration picked her to lead the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

About United States:

Capital: Washington, D.C.

President: Joe Biden

Currency: United States Dollar

About Office of Science and Technology Policy:

Headquarters: Washington, D.C., U.S

Parent agency: Executive Office of the President

Founded: 11 May 1976

NATIONAL

India's first private train service under 'Bharat Gaurav Scheme' flagged off

- The first train to be operated between Coimbatore and Shirdi by a private operator, under the 'Bharat Gaurav' scheme of the Indian Railways, was flagged off. Ministry of Tourism has informed that the first ever Bharat Gaurav Train has been flagged off on Coimbatore north to Sainagar Shirdi route. The train will cover several historical destinations on the route while giving the passengers an insight into the cultural heritage of the country.
- Indian Railways had launched the operation of theme-based Bharat Gaurav train in the month of November 2021. The objective of this theme is to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places to the people of India and the world, through Bharat Gaurav Trains. This scheme also aims to leverage the core strengths of the professionals of the tourism sector to run theme-based trains to tap the vast tourist potential of India.

Female labour participation rises to 25.1 per cent in 2020-21

- According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) annual report for July 2020-June 2021, the all-India female labour force participation rate (LFPR) in ordinary status grew 2.3 percent to 25.1 percent in 2021, up from 22.8 percent the previous year. In rural areas, female labour force participation has climbed by 3% to 27.7%, whereas in urban areas, female labour force participation has increased by 0.1 percent to 18.6%. The labour force participation rate (LFPR) is the proportion of people who work in the population.
- The usual status of a person was defined as the activity status on which he or she spent a significant amount of time in the 365 days prior to the survey date.
- The overall LFPR for people of all ages in typical status in India has grown slightly from 40.1 percent in 2019-20 to 41.6 percent in 2020-21.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

India will get 5G services by March 2023: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

- Union Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced at the Viva Technology 2022 event that India will have full-fledged 5G services by March 2023. Vaishnaw told that the 5G spectrum auction will be concluded by the end of July, adding that Telecom is the key source of digital consumption, and it is very vital to introduce trusted solutions in telecom.
- India has its own 4G infrastructure, including radios, equipment, and handsets. In March 2023, 4G will be ready for deployment in the field, while 5G will be ready in the lab.
- India should develop the technology and core network for 5G services; this would be a significant achievement for the country.
- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has finally approved the Department of Telecommunications' (5G) spectrum auction, in which bidders would be assigned spectrum to provide 5G services to the general public and businesses.

About Ministry of Communications and Information:

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 19 July 2016

Jurisdiction: India

Departments: India Post, Department of Telecommunications

Announcing Google for Startups Accelerator - India Women Founders

- Google announced a startup accelerator program for women founders. The program will help them address challenges such as fundraising and hiring. Google for Startups Accelerator India – Women Founders will run from Jul-2022 to Sep-2022. The program is part of a larger effort by Google towards improving the representation of women across different sections of India's digitally-trained workforce — be it entrepreneurship, professionals looking to upskill or young graduates seeking a headstart on their career.
- The inaugural batch of the 'Google for Startups Accelerator – India Women Founders' will accept up to 20 women-founded / co-founded startups in the country, and support them through a three-month program.
- The program will place special focus on areas like access to networks, capital, hiring challenges, mentorship, and other areas which, for a variety of social reasons and low representation, prove challenging for female founders.
- The selected Startups will receive mentorship and support around AI/ML, Cloud, UX, Android, Web, Product Strategy and Growth. In addition to mentorship and technical project support, the accelerator includes deep dives and workshops focused on product design, customer acquisition, and founders' leadership development.

About Google:

CEO: Sundar Pichai

Founded: 4 September 1998

Headquarters: Mountain View, California, United States

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Family Remittances 2022: Theme, History and Significance

- The International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and is observed on 16 June. The IDFR recognizes more than 200 million migrant workers, women and men, who send money home to over 800 million family members. This day further highlights the great resilience of migrant workers in the face of economic insecurities, natural and climate related disasters and a global pandemic.
- This year, the United Nations is continuing last year's theme for International Day of Family Remittances: recovery and resilience through digital and financial inclusion.
- IDFR is a universally-recognized observance adopted by United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA). The custodian of IDFR towards these objectives is the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). IFAD is a specialized United Nations (UN) agency that was one of the major outcomes of the World Food Conference 1974. Later in 1977, it was set up as an international financial institution.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

UPEIDA signs MoUs with SBI, BOB, PNB and SIDBI to boost investment in UP Defence Industrial Corridor

- To encourage investment in the UP Defence Industrial Corridor, the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) has inked MoUs with the State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda (BOB), Punjab National Bank (PNB), and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

- The bank would provide financial help in the form of ease of doing business to investors in the UP Defence Industrial Corridor, according to the deal.
- UPEIDA has now collaborated with three major nationalised banks in the country, State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda (BOB), Punjab National Bank (PNB), and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), as part of its continuous support to investors in the Corridor, according to a release.
- These are intended to assist investors interested in establishing a business in the UP Defence Industrial Corridor in obtaining financial support as part of the Ease of Doing Business initiative.
- Banks will provide these investors with tailored financial support on a case-by-case basis to assist them in establishing their businesses.

About Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA):

Headquarters location: Lucknow

Founded: December 2007

Key people: Nand Gopal Gupta; (Cabinet Minister); Awanish Awasthi; (CEO); Bishwajeet Rai; (CFO); Manoj Gupta; (Chief Engineer)

About State Bank of India (SBI)

Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 1 July 1955

About Bank of Baroda (BOB)

Chairman: Hasmukh Adhia

Headquarters: Alkapuri, Vadodara

Founder: Sayajirao Gaekwad III

Founded: 20 July 1908, Vadodara

About Punjab National bank (PNB)

Headquarters: New Delhi

CEO: Atul Kumar Goel (1 Feb 2022)

Founded: 19 May 1894, Lahore, Pakistan

Founder: Dyal Singh Majithia

RANKING

Kerala's Startup Ecosystem Ranked Best In Asia For Affordable Talent, In Global Report

- Providing a boost for Kerala's start-up ecosystem, the State has been ranked first in Asia in Affordable Talent in Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER). The State has also been ranked fourth in global ranking in the GSER, drawn up jointly by policy advisory and research organisation Startup Genome and Global Entrepreneurship Network. In the first GSER published in 2020, Kerala was ranked 5th in Asia and 20th in the world.
- As per the report released by the policy advisory and research firm Startup Genome, the city of Bengaluru has moved up to number 22 in the Global Startup Ecosystem ranking.
- Bengaluru's tech ecosystem value is at \$105 billion which is higher than that of Singapore at \$89 billion and Tokyo at \$62 billion, report showed.

About Kerala:

Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

BANKING AND ECONOMY

WPI inflation hits 30-year peak of 15.88% in May

- Wholesale price inflation spiked to 15.88% in May, the highest since September 1991 as a surge in price pressure in food and fuel overwhelmed a moderation in the dominant manufactured product segment. In April, the WPI inflation was recorded at 15.08%. Inflation based on the wholesale price index (WPI) has remained in double digits for 14 months now, mirroring elevated global commodity prices, especially of oil, according to the official data released.

Adani Transmission gets 'green loan' tag for \$700 mn revolving facility

- Adani Transmission Limited's, \$700 million revolving facility has been tagged as a 'green loan' by Sustainalytics. This assures the green loan framework for the revolving facility. Sustainalytics had issued the independent SPO on the alignment of the reviewed framework with the current market standards and the extent to which the eligible project categories are credible and impactful.
- A revolving loan facility is a flexible financing tool that provides the borrower with the ability to draw down or withdraw, repay, and withdraw again.
- The projects associated with the USD 700 million revolving facility are being implemented in Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- In October 2021, the company in a regulatory filing had announced raising USD 700 million for its under-construction transmission asset portfolio through the definitive agreements signed with leading international banks.
- MUFG Bank has acted as Green Loan Coordinator to the issuer for arranging the SPO on Green Loan Framework prepared by Adani Transmission.

About Adani Transmission Limited:

CEO: Anil Kumar Sardana

Founder: Gautam Adani

Founded: 9 December 2013

Headquarters: Ahmedabad

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NATIONAL

Government of India Announced 'Agnipath' recruitment scheme for armed forces

- The Indian government has introduced the Agnipath Military recruitment scheme, a 4-year tenure scheme for the defense troops. The scheme will facilitate the induction of more troops for shorter-term tenures. The scheme has been planned and is being implemented by the Department of Military Affairs.
- 'Agnipath' is a short-term service youth recruitment scheme for the armed forces that operates across India. Agniveers will be the name given to those chosen for the scheme, and they will serve in a variety of terrain such as deserts, mountains, land, sea, and air.

- Approximately 45,000 people between the ages of 17.5 and 21 will be inducted into the service for a four-year period under the scheme. The recruitment process will begin in the next 90 days, with the first batch expected to be completed by July 2023.
- The selection will be made using a centralised online method. Agniveers will be required to have the same educational requirements as normal officers in the armed forces.
- Women will be inducted in the 'Agnipath' scheme as well.

About Government of India:

Founder: Constitution of India

Ministries: 57

Founded: 26 January 1950

Seat: Rashtrapati Bhavan (Official Residence of the President of India)

Responsible to: Lok Sabha

Chief Justice: N. V. Ramana

Delhi government builds oxygen production facility in collaboration with UNDP

- To supplement oxygen supply capacities, the Delhi Government, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India, has built an oxygen producing facility at G. B. Pant Hospital in New Delhi. Kanni Wignaraja, UN Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, inaugurated the oxygen plant in the presence of G. B. Pant Hospital Medical Director Dr. Anil Agarwal. Ms. Wignaraja also paid a visit to the COVID-19 Vaccination Centre at Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital before to the opening. She talked with the personnel and observed Co-operations, WIN's which support one of India's largest vaccination programmes.
- The oxygen plant produces about 1,000 litres of oxygen per minute using pressure swing adsorption (PSA) technology. It will serve about 750 hospital beds, including ventilator-assisted beds and the Intensive Care Unit. The hospital is a multi-specialty tertiary care facility that receives referrals from all around the country.

About United Nations Development Programme:

Headquarters: New York, United States

Founded: 22 November 1965, United States

About Delhi:

Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal

Lieutenant governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena

Amara Raja bags NTPC contract for green hydrogen fuelling station in Leh

- In Leh, Ladakh, Amara Raja Power Systems will build the country's first green hydrogen fuelling station for the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). According to the Amara Raja company, the pilot project would create a minimum of 80 kg of 99.97 percent pure hydrogen each day, which will be compressed, stored, and delivered. The contract has been awarded to NTPC, which expects to operate five hydrogen fuel cell buses in the region.
- If completed successfully, the project will usher in an age of emission-free transportation in and around Leh, and India will join a select club of countries that are leading the way in green mobility.

- Amara Raja will run and maintain the fueling station for three years at a cost of Rs 41 crore. Fuel prices, according to business sources, cannot be discussed at this time.
- By dividing water into hydrogen and oxygen using an electrolysis process fueled by renewable energy sources, green hydrogen will be produced. There will be no carbon imprint from the hydrogen produced this way.
- The project will be set up in Leh's severe conditions, which include temperatures ranging from minus 14 to + 20 degrees Celsius at a height of 3,600 metres above sea level.
- This will be a prelude to large-scale green hydrogen mobility and storage initiatives, as well as a vital tool for analysing and deploying fueling stations around the country, as part of the National Hydrogen Energy Mission.

About NTPC:

Founded: 7 November 1975

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

About Amara Raja Group:

Founder: Ramachandra N Galla

Founded: 1985

SPORTS

India's Gurunaidu Sanapathi Wins Gold At At IWF Youth Weightlifting Championships

- At the IWF Youth World Championships in Leon, Mexico, Indian weightlifter Saanapathi Gurunaidu won gold in the men's 55 kilogramme category event. On the first day of the IWF competition, two other additional Indian weightlifters, Vijay Prajapati and Akansha Kishor Vyavhare also won medals, they won the silver medals.
- With a total lift of 230 kilogrammes, Saanapathi won gold in the men's 55 kilogramme event. He won Silver in Snatch with a lift of 104 kg, and Gold in Clean and Jerk with a lift of 126 kilogrammes.
- With a total lift of 175 kg, Vijay placed second in the Men's 49 kilogramme event. In the Snatch category, Vijay lifted 78 kilogrammes, while in the Clean and Jerk category, he lifted 97 kg.
- In the Women's 40 kilogramme division, Akanksha won the gold medal. She won the silver medal with a total of 127 kg after placing first in the Snatch section with a lift of 59 kilogrammes and third in the Clean and Jerk section with a lift of 68 kilogrammes.

About International Weightlifting Federation:

Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

Interim President: Dr. Michael Sheriar Irani (Interim)

Founded: 1905

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

After 27 Years Of Service, Microsoft's Internet Explorer Finally Retires

- Microsoft has announced the retirement of 27-year-old Internet Explorer (IE) as the firm's oldest browser will be completely phased out from June 15. Microsoft released the first version of Internet Explorer in 1995 as an add-on package for Windows 95, the antediluvian era of web surfing dominated by the first widely popular browser, Netscape Navigator.
- A year ago, Microsoft said that it was putting an end to Internet Explorer on June 15, 2022, pushing users to its Edge browser, which was launched in 2015. The company made clear then it

was time to move on. Estimates for Internet Explorer's market share in 2022 are about 0.38% across all platforms, or by StatCounter's numbers ranked 10th.

- Microsoft spent over US\$100 million per year on Internet Explorer in the late 1990s, with over 1,000 people involved in the project by 1999.
- On March 17, 2015, Microsoft announced that Microsoft Edge would replace Internet Explorer as the default browser "for certain versions of Windows 10". This makes Internet Explorer 11 the last release.

About Microsoft Corporation:

CEO: Satya Nadella (4 Feb 2014)

Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States

Founded: 4 April 1975, Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States

Founders: Bill Gates, Paul Allen

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2022:15th June

- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is annually observed on 15 June. The day aims to draw attention to the impact of elder abuse. It also highlights how the abuse is perpetuated and what can be done to combat it. This year theme of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2022 "Combatting Elder Abuse".
- It was officially recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 66/127, December 2011, following a request by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), who first established the commemoration in June 2006.

Global Wind Day 2022:15th June

- On 15th June, Global Wind Day is celebrated across the world, annually and it is marked as a day of discovering the possibilities of wind power. It is a day for discovering wind, its power and the possibilities it holds to reshape our energy systems. This day is dedicated to learn about wind energy and its potential to reshape energy systems, decarbonizing economies and boosting employment as well as growth. The purpose of this day is to increase public knowledge of wind energy and its uses.
- Global Wind Day 2022 is based on the theme is celebrate to enjoy the benefits of Wind energy and providing education to the individuals about the power and potential of wind energy to change the world.
- The First Wind Day was commemorated in 2007 by the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA). In 2009 the EWEA collaborated with the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) and made it a global event. WindEurope and GWEC from then celebrate this day together. In 2012, the clubs promoted photography competition where people were encouraged to capture the best picture keeping in mind the theme of the year.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

First-Ever India-EU Security & Defence Consultations Held In Brussels, Both Sides Agree For Increased Cooperation

- First-ever India-European Union (EU) Security and Defence Consultations held in Brussels, Belgium. The consultations were held in accordance with the decision taken at India-EU Summit

in July 2020. Consultations were co-chaired by Joint secretary of Ministry of Defence Somnath Ghosh and Joint Secretary (Europe West) of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Sandeep Chakravorty from India and Director Security and Defence Policy, from European Union.

- Discussions covered the evolving security situation in Europe, Indo-Pacific and India's neighbourhood. Both the sides noted number of positive developments in security and defence cooperation area in recent years.
- The Maritime Security Dialogue met in February 2022, for the second time. First-ever joint naval exercises between India and EU were held in June 2021.
- The two sides also discussed various means of increasing India-EU cooperation on maritime security, implementation of the European code of conduct on arms export to India's neighbourhood, cooperation in co-development and co-production of defence equipment including India's participation in Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO).

About European Union:

Founded: 1 November 1993, Maastricht, Netherlands;

Headquarters: Brussels;

President of the Commission: Ursula von der Leyen;

President of the Parliament: Roberta Metsola;

President of the Council: Charles Michel.

RANKING

Kerala tops in national e-governance service delivery among states, J&K among UTs: NeSDA 2021 report

- The National e-governance service delivery assessment (NeSDA) report 2021 was published recently. The report was released on June 13, 2022. NeSDA helps the respective governments improve their delivery of citizen centric services and shares best practices across the country for all States, UTs and Central Ministries to emulate. DARPG embarked on the second edition of NeSDA study in January 2021.
- NeSDA helps the respective governments improve their delivery of citizen centric services and shares best practices across the country for all States, UTs and Central Ministries to emulate.
- Top Rankers: Overall, in NeSDA 2021, Kerala had the highest overall compliance score amongst all the States and UTs.
- Among UTs: Jammu and Kashmir, assessed first time in NeSDA 2021, scored highest among all UTs for six sectors.
- Among North-east and Hill States: Meghalaya and Nagaland are the leading state portals with an overall compliance of 90% across all assessment parameters.
- Among Remaining State Category: Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh had a compliance of more than 85% among the remaining state category.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Indian Bank launches digital renewal scheme for Kisan credit card holders

- Indian Bank launched its KCC Digital Renewal scheme, enabling eligible customers to renew their Kisan Credit Card accounts via digital modes. The initiative is part of the bank's digital transformation under project 'WAVE' – World of Advanced Virtual Experience. The account renewals can be done using Indian Bank's IndoASIS mobile app and internet banking. Out of the

total agriculture portfolio of Rs 88,100 crores, KCC constitutes Rs 22,300 crores with 15.84 lakh customers.

- The bank expects the digital initiative to come in handy for customers and intend to enhance the threshold limit to cover more KCC account holders. In April this year, the bank had launched its first end-to-end digital product – Pre-Approved Personal Loan.

About Indian Bank:

Founded: 15 August 1907

Headquarters: Chennai

CEO: Shri Shanti Lal Jain

Tagline: Taking Banking Technology To The Common Man.

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INTERNATIONAL

38th India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol begins in Andaman Sea and Straits of Malacca

- The 38th India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) between the Indian Navy Units of Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC) and Indonesian Navy is being conducted from June 13 to 24 2022 in the Andaman Sea and Straits of Malacca. The 38th CORPAT is the first post pandemic Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) between the two countries. It includes a visit by the Indonesian Navy units to ANC at Port Blair from June 13 to 15, 2022 followed by a Sea Phase in the Andaman Sea and visit by IN Units to Sabang (Indonesia) from June 23 to 24, 2022.
- As part of Government of India's vision of SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region), Naval Component under the aegis of HQ ANC undertakes coordinated patrols with other littoral countries of the Andaman Sea along respective Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) towards enhancing regional maritime security.
- The two Navies have been carrying out CORPAT along their International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) since 2002. This has helped build understanding and interoperability between both the Navies and has facilitated measures to prevent and suppress Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy, etc. The IND-INDO CORPAT contributes towards forging strong bonds of friendship across the Andaman Sea and Straits of Malacca.

About Indonesia:

Capital: Jakarta

Currency: Indonesian rupiah

President: Joko Widodo

About Malacca Strait:

Location: Andaman Sea-Strait of Singapore

Max.Length: 930 km (580 mi)

Islands: Kundur Island, Rupert Island, Bintan Island, Batam Island, Mendol Island

Bridges: Bunting Island Bridge

Madhya Pradesh: Cheetah donors to visit Kuno wildlife sanctuary; Namibia yet to sign MoU

- The Indian government has finalized deals with South Africa and Namibia to get the planet's fastest animals, cheetahs that became extinct in India and will be released into the wild at Kuno

Palpur, Madhya Pradesh, by the end of 2022. Initially, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed for 10 years, which can be extended for another five years. There will be 12 cheetahs from South Africa and 8 from Namibia and more will be followed in subsequent years.

- The project to translocate cheetahs from Africa to India is a long-term, one-time project being implemented by the environment ministry with the help of the Wildlife Institute of India to reintroduce the cheetah into wild, which became extinct in India in the 1950s. The Supreme Court had appointed an expert panel, which approved Kuno Palpur as the possible location for cheetah relocation. In the past six months, the Madhya Pradesh forest department has prepared a 10 sq km enclosure with round-the-clock surveillance for reintroduction of cheetahs.

About Madhya Pradesh:

Capital: Bhopal (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel

NATIONAL

Karnataka launches software for farmer schemes to expedite delivery of sops

- The Karnataka government has launched 'The Farmer Registration & Unified Beneficiary Information System' or FRUITS software for Aadhar-based, single-window registration for the schemes. FRUITS software will facilitate single registration using an Aadhar card and Karnataka's Bhoomi digitized land record system for authenticating ownership.
- Through the creation of single digital identification through FRUITS, farmers can access benefits of hosts of schemes such as Direct Benefit Transfer under PM Kisan, payment for Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for crops, special financial assistance, caste certificate authentication, and ration cards. To ensure that the farmers get easy access to benefits distributed under various government schemes, the Karnataka government has launched software for Aadhar-based, single-window registration for the schemes. The state departments of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, revenue, food, civil supplies and fisheries departments of the state government are covered under the initiative.

About Karnataka:

Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot

Chief Minister: Basavaraj Bommai

Capital: Bengaluru

SPORTS

Max Verstappen wins Azerbaijan F1 GP as Ferrari suffer double disaster

- Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the Azerbaijan Formula One Grand Prix 2022 (his fifth victory of the season). In the process, Verstappen became the most successful driver in the Red Bull of all time. Red Bull's Sergio Perez came second and Mercedes' George Russell came at the third spot.
- However, the day was all about Max Verstappen who had one of the best races in his season, finishing on the podium after starting from number three. In the process, Verstappen became the most successful driver in the Red Bull of all time. The 24-year-old now has 66 podiums for Red Bull and is tied ninth for the most race wins alongside Jim Clark and Niki Lauda.

About Azerbaijan:

Capital: Baku

Currency: Azerbaijani manat

President: Ilham Aliyev
Official language: Azerbaijani
Continent: Europe, Asia

Angelo Mathews and Tuba Hassan Named ICC Player of The Month Winners For May 2022

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced that Sri Lanka's batting star Angelo Mathews and Pakistan's debutante spin sensation Tuba Hassan have been voted the ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month for May 2022. Fans can continue to vote every month for their favourite male and female cricketers across all formats of international cricket as part of the ICC Player of the Month initiative by registering at www.icc-cricket.com/awards.
- Mathews was selected the stand-out male player after piling on runs over the course of his side's impressive ICC World Test Championship series victory against Bangladesh. Mathews becomes the first Sri Lankan player to be named the Player of the Month since its inception in January 2021, scooping the award ahead of fellow nominees Asitha Fernando (Sri Lanka), and Mushfiqur Rahim (Bangladesh).
- On the other hand, Hassan was awarded the to honour after enjoying significant success with the ball during her debut international series. The 21-year-old leg spinner was instrumental in restricting scores set by opponents Sri Lanka in the three-game T20I series in Pakistan, where she captured the Player of the Series award, taking five wickets at an average of 8.8 and an economy rate of 3.66. In securing this month's award, Hassan overcomes fellow nominees in compatriot Bismah Maroof, and Jersey's Trinity Smith. Tuba is the first female player from Pakistan to win in the award.

About ICC:

Founded: 15 June 1909
ICC Chairman: Greg Barclay
ICC CEO: Geoff Allardice
ICC Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Khelo India Youth Games 2021: Haryana beat Maharashtra to regain crown

- Hosts Haryana won the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2021 title with 52 gold medals on the final day. Haryana also won 39 silver and 46 bronze medals, taking their overall medal tally to 137 medals – the highest cumulative haul by any state. The late surge helped Haryana leapfrog the 2020 champions Maharashtra on the KIYG medals table.
- Maharashtra, meanwhile, managed 45 gold, 40 silver and 40 bronze medals to come second with 125 medals.
- Karnataka, with 22 gold, 17 silver and 28 bronze, finished third with 67 medals.
- The Khelo India Youth Games 2021 started on June 4 across multiple venues with Haryana's Panchkula hosting the bulk of the events. The Games, which are a part of the Indian government's Khelo India initiative, concluded on June 13.
- This was Haryana's second KIYG title. Haryana won the inaugural title in 2018 but finished second to Maharashtra in the next two seasons.

About Khelo India Youth Games:

Headquarters: New Delhi
First event: 2018

Abbreviation: KIYG
Last event: 2022
Occur every: Annual

About Haryana:

Capital: Chandigarh
Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya
Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar
Founded: 1 November 1966

OBITURY

Hari Chand, India's Long-Distance Running Legend, Dies Aged 69

- Long distance great Hari Chand, a two-time Olympian and a double Asian Games gold medallist, passed away in Jalandhar. He was 69. Chand won the 5000 and 10,000m gold at the 1978 Bangkok Asiad and also the 10,000m title at the 1975 Asian Championships in Seoul.
- Chand, who hailed from Ghorewaha village in Punjab's Hoshiarpur District, made waves with his barefoot running and broke the 10,000m National record at the 1976 Montreal Olympics which stood for 32 years before falling to Surendra Singh. He was eighth in his heats in Montreal, clocking 28:48.72s. And in the next Olympics, in Moscow 1980, he was 10th in the 10,000m heats and finished 31st in the marathon which had 74 runners.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Blood Donor Day 2022: 14th June

- World Blood Donor Day is observed globally on 14 June every year. The day is celebrated to promote awareness about the need for blood donation and thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood. The day aims to promote regular blood donations to ensure that all individuals have access to affordable and timely supplies of safe blood in times of emergency needs. The host nation for World Blood Donor Day 2022 is Mexico. The global event will be held in Mexico City on June 14, 2022.
- The Theme for World Blood Donor Day 2022 is "Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives". It is focused on drawing attention to the roles that voluntary blood donors play in saving. The theme aims to highlight the need for committed donors to regular year- blood donation, to maintain adequate supplies and achieve universal and timely access to safe blood transfusion.

RANKING

In the 2021 Global Hunger Index, India ranks 101st out of the 116 countries with sufficient data to calculate 2021 GHI scores

- India's rank has dropped to the 101st position among 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021. In 2020, India was placed at 94th spot, out of 107 countries. The 2021 GHI score of India is recorded at 27.5 out of 50, which comes under the serious category. Neighbouring countries like Nepal (76), Bangladesh (76), Myanmar (71) and Pakistan (92) are also in the 'alarming' hunger category but have fared better at feeding its citizens than India, according to the report.

- A total of 18 countries, including China, Kuwait and Brazil, shares the top rank. The GHI score of these 18 nations is less than 5. This means that these countries suffer very less from hunger and malnutrition.
- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) measures and tracks hunger at global, regional, and national levels. The index is published jointly by Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and Concern Worldwide. Based on current GHI projections, the index states that the world as a whole will not achieve a low level of hunger by 2030.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

India's retail inflation eases to 7.04%

- According to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India's headline retail inflation rate eased to 7.04 percent in May from April's near-eight-year high of 7.79 percent thanks to a favourable base effect. The fall in inflation in May is unlikely to do much to slow down the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) rate hike cycle. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation was 7.79 per cent in April. In May 2021, the retail inflation stood at 6.3 per cent.
- Meanwhile, a rise in price across all items from fuel to vegetables and cooking oil pushed WPI or Wholesale Price Inflation to a record high of 15.08 per cent in April and retail inflation to a near eight-year high of 7.79 per cent.
- Retail inflation tracked by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures changes in prices from a retail buyer's perspective.
- The Reserve Bank, which factors in the CPI in its monetary policy, had earlier this month raised the inflation forecast for the current financial year to 6.7 per cent from its previous estimate of 5.7 per cent.

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INTERNATIONAL

UNGA adopts India sponsored resolution on multilingualism mentions Hindi language for first time

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted an India-sponsored resolution on multilingualism that mentions the Hindi language for the first time. The resolution passed encourages the UN to continue disseminating important communications and messages in official as well as in non-official languages, including in Hindi language. The resolution also mentions Bangla and Urdu for the first time.
- As part of these efforts, 'Hindi @ UN' project was launched in 2018 with an objective to enhance the public outreach of the United Nations in the Hindi language, and to spread greater awareness about global issues among millions of Hindi-speaking populations around the world.
- Multilingualism is an essential factor in harmonious communication among peoples and an enabler of multilateral diplomacy. It ensures effective participation of all in the Organization's work, as well as greater transparency and efficiencies and better outcomes.
- Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are the six official languages of the United Nations; English and French being the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat.

About The United Nations General Assembly:

Formation: 1945

President: Abdulla Shahid

Headquarters: New York, United States

NATIONAL

FM Sitharaman inaugurates Dharohar – National Museum of Customs and GST in Goa

- Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated the National Museum of Customs and GST “Dharohar” in Goa as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Iconic week of the Ministry of Finance, being celebrated from June 6 to 12. The two-storey ‘Blue building’, which was earlier known as Alfandega, during the period of Portuguese rule in Goa, has been standing on the banks of the Mandovi River in Panaji for more than 400 years.
- Dharohar is one of its kind museum in the country that showcases not only the artefacts seized by Indian Customs but also depicts various aspects of work performed by the Customs Department while safeguarding the economic frontiers of the country, its heritage, flora & fauna and the society.
- Dharohar has 8 galleries viz: Introductory gallery, History of Taxation Gallery, Guardians of our economic frontiers gallery, Guardians of our Art & Heritage, Guardians of Flora & Fauna, Custodians of our social well being, Journey of Indirect taxes -Salt Tax to GST and the GST gallery.
- The Museum provides the rare opportunity of having a peep into the working of the Department over the years ushering in change in its methodologies to meet the emanating challenges while at the same time providing yeomen service to the Nation.

About Goa:

Capital: Panaji

Chief Minister: Pramod Sawant

Governor: S. Sreedharan Pillai

Karkinos Healthcare opens advanced cancer diagnostics, research centre in Kochi inaugurated by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan

- Kerala Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated a cancer diagnostics and research centre here, which is slated to be the country’s first oncology laboratory for comprehensive cancer diagnostic services. Karkinos Healthcare’s advanced centre for cancer diagnostics and research will serve as a central lab for analysing specimens at molecular and genomic levels to aid in personalised targeted therapy, predicting possible response to treatment and evaluate response by liquid biopsy.
- Karkinos Healthcare has installed the most advanced high-throughput HPV assay equipment, Cobas 6800, in this centre with the ability to test over 1,200 Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) assays of all high-risk types.
- It has partnered with organisations such as Kerala Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecologic to support the World Health Organization’s mission of eliminating cervical cancer by 2030.

About Kerala:

Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

SPORTS

19-year old player Rahul Srivatshav becomes India's 74th Chess Grandmaster

- Rahul Srivatshav P of Telangana has become India's 74th Grandmaster, achieving the title after breaking the 2500 (Elo points) barrier in live FIDE ratings during the 9th Cattolica Chess Festival 2022 in Italy. The 19-year old player reached the 2500 Elo live rating mark after drawing his 8th round game against Grandmaster Levan Pantsulaia in the Cattolica event. His current Elo rating is 2468. Srivatshav had already secured five GM norms and achieved the title when he crossed the rating threshold of 2500.

About Indian Grandmasters:

Bharath Subramaniam had become the country's 73rd GM in January

The legendary Viswanathan Anand is India's first GM, which he became way back in 1988.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Bangladesh Permanent Representative to UN Rabab Fatima appointed Assistant Secretary General

- Ambassador Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations has been appointed as the Under Secretary General of the United Nations. Secretary General Antonio Guterres has announced the appointment of Ambassador Fatima. She succeeds Courtenay Rattray of Jamaica who was appointed as the Chef de Cabinet.
- Ambassador Rabab Fatima is the first woman diplomat from Bangladesh to be appointed to this post.
- With her appointment as Assistant Secretary General to the UN, Rabab Fatima has become the highest ranking official of Bangladesh under the UN system.
- The appointment of Rabab Fatima is testimony to Bangladesh's close engagement with the multilateral diplomatic system and a recognition of the professionalism of Bangladeshi diplomats.

About United Nations:

Founded: 24 October 1945, San Francisco, California, United States

Headquarters: New York, United States

Secretary General: António Guterres

About Bangladesh:

Capital: Dhaka

Currency: Bangladeshi taka

President: Abdul Hamid

Prime minister: Sheikh Hasina

SUMMIT'S & MOU'S

WTO's 12th ministerial meeting opens in Geneva to tackle key issues

- The 12th World Trade Organization's (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC12) opened at WTO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. During the four-day meeting, members of the trade organization will hold discussions on such issues as TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) waiver for COVID-19 vaccines, pandemic response, fishery subsidies, agriculture, food security, as well as the WTO's reform and its future work priorities.

- Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, addresses the opening ceremony of the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, on June 12, 2022.
- The Ministerial Conference, which is attended by trade ministers and other senior officials from the organization's 164 members, is the WTO's highest decision-making body, and is generally held every two years. Kazakhstan was originally scheduled to host MC12 in June 2020, but the conference was postponed due to the pandemic.

About World Trade Organization's (WTO):

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Founded: 1 January 1995

Official languages: English, French, Spanish

Director-General: Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Maharashtra Governor presents Honorary Doctor of Literature to industrialist Ratan Tata

- Industrialist and philanthropist, Ratan Tata was presented with Honorary Doctor of Literature by Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari at Raj Bhavan Mumbai. The Honorary doctorate was presented to Mr. Ratan at the First Special Convocation of the HSNC University. The Governor said the honour for Ratan Tata is in effect the honour of the entire Tata family and Tata Group.
- The HSNC University is a Cluster university comprising existing colleges from the Mumbai vicinity, namely, H.R. College, Kishinchand Chellaram College (KC College), and Bombay Teachers' Training College (BTTI) as the constituent colleges with HSNC Board as its parent body.

About Maharashtra:

Capital: Mumbai

Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Chief Minister: Uddhav Thackeray

BANKING AND ECONOMY

RBI raises limit for individual housing loan extended by coop banks

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to increase the existing limits on individual housing loans provided by cooperative banks, taking into account the rise in housing prices since the limits were last revised and considering customers' needs for larger loans. RBI has also permitted the Rural Cooperative Banks (RCB) for financing residential real estate projects, in a bid to support affordable housing and inclusive growth.
- Accordingly, the limits for tier 1/tier 2 urban cooperative banks (UCBs) stood revised from ₹30 lakh/ ₹70 lakh to ₹60 lakh/ ₹140 lakh. As regards rural cooperative banks (RCBs), the limits have been increased from ₹20 lakh to ₹50 lakh for RCBs with assessed net worth less than ₹100 crore; and from ₹30 lakh to ₹75 lakh for the rest. These limits were last revised for UCBs in 2011 and for RCBs in 2009.

About RBI:

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Headquarters: Mumbai (Bombay), Maharashtra, India

Founder: British Raj

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Fino Payments Bank partners exclusively with Go Digit for shop insurance policy

- Fino Payments Bank Limited has partnered with Go Digit General Insurance Limited, one of India's fastest growing general insurers, to provide small and medium business owners with shop insurance coverage. Fino Payments Bank serves as a corporate representative for Go Digit. Through the partnership, small and medium businesses are allowed to take advantage of Digit's My Business Policy in the case of a catastrophe.
- The insurance is for one-year that will cover loss or damage to inventory or goods caused by burglary, earthquakes, fire, lightning, storms, floods, and riots.
- The customers of Fino Bank can join Go Digit's coverage for Rs 550 per year (for a sum insured of Rs 3 lakh), which will rise to Rs 2,600 per year (for a sum insured of Rs 15 lakh).

About Fino Payments Bank:

Founded: 4 April 2017

Headquarters: Juinagar, Navi Mumbai

MD & CEO: Rishi Gupta

Current Affairs PDF- June 12, 2022

INTERNATIONAL

China releases world's most detailed moon map yet

- China has released a new geological map of the moon, which it says is the most detailed to date, registering even finer details of the lunar surface than mapped by the US in 2020. The new map, which has details of craters and structures not charted before, will assist in further research of the moon. The world's most detailed map of the moon released by China is expected to make a great contribution to the scientific research, exploration, and landing site selection on the moon.
- The new comprehensive geological map of the moon released by China is to a scale of 1:2,500,000. It is the most detailed moon map to date.
- The moon map includes the 12,341 impact craters, 17 rock types, 81 impact basins, and 14 types of structures.
- The new significant details of moon map have provided abundant information about the geology of the moon and its evolution.
- The most detailed map of the moon was published by Science Bulletin on May 30, 2022.

About China:

Capital: Beijing;

Currency: Renminbi

President: Xi Jinping

Queen Elizabeth II Becomes World's Second-Longest Reigning Monarch

- Britain's Queen Elizabeth II overtook Thailand's King to become the world's second-longest reigning monarch in history, after France's Louis XIV. The UK has been celebrating the 96-year-old Queen's Platinum Jubilee to mark 70 years of service to the nation with grand events. After four days of royal parades, street parties, pageantry and other events held across the UK and the Commonwealth to mark the Platinum Jubilee milestone.

- Crowned in 1953, Queen Elizabeth II became the longest-serving British monarch in September 2015, surpassing her great-great grandmother Queen Victoria. Now she has overtaken Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who reigned for 70 years and 126 days between 1927 and 2016, to set another record. Louis XIV of France remains the longest-reigning monarch, with a 72-year and 110-day reign from 1643 until 1715.

About United Kingdom:

Capital: London

Prime minister: Boris Johnson

Currency: Pound sterling

NATIONAL

Jagan CM of Andhra Pradesh launched Yantra Seva to reduce cultivation cost

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched YSR Yantra Seva Scheme and flagged off the distribution of tractors and combine harvesters at Chuttugunta Centre in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. Chief Minister YS Jagan Reddy flagged off the state-level mega distribution of tractors and combine harvesters under YSR Yantra Seva Pathakam in Guntur.
- Around 3,800 tractors and 320 combined harvesters would be made available at Rythu Bharosa Centres (RBKs) across AP. A subsidy of 175 crores has been credited into 5,260 farmer group bank accounts.
- The government of Andhra Pradesh aims to establish a total of 10,750 YSR Yantra Seva Kendras (CHCs).
- YSR Yantra Seva Pathakam initiative was taken up to overcome the shortage of farming machinery to farmers and to provide them with the much-needed support in renting machinery at affordable prices which will help reduce the input cost.

About Andhra Pradesh:

Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan

Chief Minister: Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy

Capital: Amaravati

SPORTS

Indian GM Praggnanandhaa wins title in Norway chess open

- Young Indian Grandmaster, R. Praggnanandhaa emerged winner in the Norway Chess Group A open chess tournament here with 7.5 points from nine rounds. The 16-year-old GM, the top-seed, was in fine form and remained unbeaten through the nine rounds. He finished the tournament with a win over fellow Indian V Praneeth, an International Master. Praggnanandhaa finished a full point ahead of second-placed IM Marsel Efoimski (Israel) and IM Jung Min Seo (Sweden).
- The Indian teenaged star has been putting in impressive performances in recent times and had beaten world number one Magnus Carlsen for a second time in the Chessable Master online event and lost a close final to China's Ding Liren. Praggnanandhaa's coach R. B. Ramesh congratulated him after the win and said it will help boost his confidence.

About Norway Country:

Capital: Oslo

Currency: Norwegian krone

Prime Minister: Jonas Gahr Støre

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Anocovax: India launches its first COVID-19 vaccine for animals

- Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar has launched the country's first homegrown COVID-19 vaccine "Anocovax" for animals, developed by Haryana-based ICAR-National Research Centre on Equines (NRC). Anocovax is an inactivated SARS-CoV-2 Delta (COVID-19) vaccine for animals. The immunity induced by Anocovax neutralises both Delta and Omicron variants of SARS-CoV-2.
- The vaccine contains inactivated SARS-CoV-2 (Delta) antigen with Alhydrogel as an adjuvant. It is safe for dogs, lions, leopards, mice and rabbits, it added.
- The COVID-19 vaccine for animals, Anocovax, is effective and capable of neutralising both Delta and Omicron variants of SARS-CoV-2.

About Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare:

Founded: 1947

Headquarters: Krishi Bhavan; New Delhi

Officeholders: Parshottam Rupala (Minister of State)

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

RBI approves appointment of R Subramaniakumar as MD and CEO of RBL Bank

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed R Subramaniakumar as the MD & CEO of RBL Bank. He has been appointed at RBL for three years from the date of taking charge. He is a former managing director and chief executive director of state-run Indian Overseas Bank. He was appointed the administrator of Dewan Housing Finance Co Ltd after the mortgage financier's board was superseded.
- Subramaniakumar's tenure will begin from the date of his taking charge, under Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act 1949.
- Subramaniakumar's appointment came nearly six months after RBL Bank's long-term MD and CEO Vishwvir Ahuja had stepped down In December 2021.
- Subramaniakumar's appointment as the RBL Bank chief comes in the backdrop of the bank reporting a net loss of Rs 74.74 crore in FY2022, as against a profit of Rs 50.77 crore in FY2021.
- The RBL bank had also reportedly come under regulatory lens, with the RBI, in December 2021, appointing its chief general manager Yogesh K Dayal as an additional director of the private lender for two years.

About RBL Bank:

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: August 1943

About RBI:

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Founder: British Raj

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Tencent Buys Stake Worth Rs 2,060 Crore in Flipkart from Binny Bansal

- Chinese technology conglomerate Tencent has bought stake worth USD 264 million (about Rs 2,060 crore) in Flipkart from its co-founder Binny Bansal through its European subsidiary, according to official documents. Singapore-headquartered e-commerce firm Flipkart has operations in India only. Bansal holds around 1.84 per cent stake in Flipkart after selling part of his stake to Tencent Cloud Europe BV.
- Post the transaction, Tencent arm holds 0.72 per stake in Flipkart which is valued at around USD 264 million, as per last valuation of USD 37.6 billion disclosed by the e-commerce firm in July 2021. The company's valuation surged to USD 37.6 billion after raising USD 3.6 billion (about ₹26,805.6 crore) in funding round led by Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC, CPP Investments, SoftBank Vision Fund 2 and Walmart.

About Tencent:

Founded: 11 November 1998

Headquarters: Shenzhen, Guangdong, China

Chairman, CEO: Pony Ma

President: Martin Lau

Ather Energy partners with SBI to provide financing options to electric scooter buyers

- Electric two-wheeler manufacturer Ather Energy has partnered State Bank of India to provide customers with vehicle financing. As part of the association Ather Energy customers will get instant loans at interest rates as low as 9.55 percent per annum. Pre-approved loans will also be administered, depending on the buyer's creditworthiness. SBI will offer the vehicle loans on their YONO mobile application as well as at their branch network, as the public sector lender ensures ease of adoption for the buyers.
- With this collaboration, the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) aims to accelerate the growth of the electric vehicle (EV) ecosystem in the country. The customers, depending on their profiles, will be eligible to avail loans up to 85 percent of the on-road prices of the electric two-wheelers. The approved loan amount will be credited directly to the dealer's account. Customers can avail the loan through YONO at an EMI of as low as Rs 251 per Rs 10,000 under SBI Easy Ride loan.

About Ather Energy

Owner: Hero MotoCorp

Headquarters location: Bengaluru

Founders: Tarun Mehta, Swapnil Jain

ICICI Bank Teams Up with ZestMoney to Expand Cardless EMI Facility

- ICICI Bank has announced that it has partnered with digital EMI/pay-later platform ZestMoney, to expand its 'Cardless EMI' facility for purchases on retail and e-commerce platforms. The partnership enhances affordability of customers of the Bank who can use pre-approved cardless credit to instantly buy products/ services using ZestMoney and take care of the cost into Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs).
- Customers can convert transactions up to Rs 10 lakh into EMIs by simply putting their registered mobile number, PAN and OTP (received on registered mobile number) at the check-out of the e-commerce website/app or at the PoS machine in retail outlets, without using cards.

- The facility, in partnership with ZestMoney, is live on select e-commerce websites and will soon be available at retail stores.
- With this partnership, the Bank's customers will be able to use ZestMoney's wide merchant base. They will also be able to use ZestMoney's flagship 'Pay-in-3' offering, where they can split the bill into three EMIs without extra cost.

About ZestMoney:

CEO & Co-Founder: Lizzie Chapman

Established: 2015

Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka

About ICICI Bank:

CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi (15 Oct 2018)

Headquarters: Vadodara

Founded: 1994, Vadodara

Founder: Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India

