

## **Weekly Current Affairs PDF June 18 to June 24, 2023**

### **Current Affairs PDF- June 24, 2023**

#### **NATIONAL**

##### **DRDO and L&T Join Hands For AIP System For Navy's 'Kalvari' Class Submarines**

- Larsen and Toubro and DRDO have signed a contract for the realisation of two Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system modules for 'Kalvari' class submarines of the Indian Navy.
- The contract documents were exchanged between Arun T Ramchandani, Executive Vice President and Head-L&T Defence, and PT Rojatkhar, Director of the Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL), L&T informed stock exchanges on Thursday.
- L&T is the recipient of the Transfer of Technology (ToT) for this Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)-developed system. On realisation and integration of these modules in the submarines, India will join an elite club of a handful of nations that have indigenously developed fuel cell-based submarine 'AIP' technology, which is critical for increasing the endurance of conventional submarines.
- The manufacturing, integration, and factory acceptance trials of the systems will be undertaken in L&T's AM Naik Heavy Engineering Complex at Surat.

##### **Telangana CM inaugurates Medha Rail Coach factory at Sangareddy**

- Telangana Chief Minister K.Chandrababtu Naidu (KCR) inaugurated Medha Rail Coach Factory at Sangareddy district. In 2017, Medha signed an MOU with Government of Telangana for setting up Coach Factory in the state of Telangana.
- The government of Telangana through TSIC has allotted 100 acres of land for manufacturing rail and metro coaches. This state-of-the-art facility at Kondakal village, Medha also signed a joint venture (JV) agreement with Swiss railway rolling stock manufacturer Stadler Rail for a new rail coach manufacturing factory in Telangana.
- The Joint Venture Telangana Unit to cater to its tenders from the Indian Market and exports from customers across the Asia Pacific region. Medha Servo Drives Pvt Ltd (Medha), an R&D focused company, which have been supplying various products to Railways since 1990, now is the largest Propulsion equipment (Electronics) supplier to Indian Railways.
- An annual turnover of Rs. 2500 Crores, the company has employed about 5000 people, predominantly from the local regions. The only Indian company that has in-house R&D facilities, Medha which is also currently manufacturing Bogies for the Indian Railways, will soon commence manufacturing of the complete Mumbai monorail trainsets.

##### **Amit Shah lays foundation stone of 'Balidan Stambh' in Srinagar**

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of 'Balidan Stambh' in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, shortly today, Saturday, June 24. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha was also present at the park near the Lal Chowk city centre – the commercial hub of Srinagar city.
- The memorial, a project under the Srinagar Smart City, is a tribute to the martyrs' who sacrificed their lives for the nation. The minister also visited the Karan Mahal – the residence

of the last Yuvraj of Jammu and Kashmir, Karan Singh. Shah also met some select people at the Police Golf Course overlooking the Dal Lake here, before going back to Delhi.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

#### Kamal Kishore Chatiwal appointed managing director IGL

- Kamal Kishore Chatiwal has been appointed the new managing director of Indraprastha Gas Ltd – IGL, Chatiwal, a Chemical Engineer from IIT Delhi, has over 32 years of Oil & Gas Sector experience, particularly in Project Execution and Commissioning of Mega Petrochemical Projects, Operation & Maintenance of Gas Processing units, Natural Gas Compressor Station and cross-country LPG Pipeline. Chatiwal worked as Executive Director (O&M-JLPL) & Head of Zonal Marketing of GAIL in Jaipur previous to joining IGL.
- About: Indraprastha Gas Ltd - Indraprastha Gas Ltd. (IGL) is one of the leading natural gas distribution companies in India. Established in 1998, IGL is a joint venture between GAIL India, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and the Government of Delhi.

### SUMMIT'S & MOU's

#### Paytm inks MoU with Arunachal Pradesh for creating startup ecosystem

- PAYTM PAYMENT SERVICES Limited (PPSL) has signed an MoU with Arunachal Pradesh Innovation and Investment Park (APIIP) to create a start-up ecosystem for the youth in the northeastern state. According to the MoU, Paytm Incubation Centre will provide its product to early-stage start-ups at a discounted price and offer free credits through the Paytm Startup toolkit to aid the business ventures of youths in their early stage of growth.
- This will nurture the start-up ecosystem in the state and motivate the young entrepreneurs, an official communiqué informed here. The MoU was signed at the Arunachal Pradesh Innovation & Investment Park, the first state-owned marquee incubator here in the presence of its CEO Tabe Haidar.
- It enables commerce for small merchants and distributes various financial services offerings to its consumers and merchants in partnership with financial institutions,

#### NHPC signs MoU with GRIDCO Odisha, for developing 2 GW Pumped Storage Projects and 1 GW Solar Energy Projects

- NHPC Limited, the largest hydropower development organization in India, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with GRIDCO Odisha, Government of Odisha, for “Development of Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs) and Renewable Energy in the State of Odisha”. The MoU envisages setting up Self-identified Pumped Storage Projects of at least 2,000 MW and Renewable Energy Projects (Ground-Mounted Solar Projects / Floating Solar Projects) of at least 1,000 MW in the state.
- The MoU was signed on 23rd June, 2023, by Executive Director (Strategy Business Development and Consultancy), NHPC, Rajat Gupta and Managing Director, GRIDCO Limited, Trilochan Panda; in the presence of Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Energy, Govt. of Odisha cum Chairperson, GRIDCO, Nikunja B. Dhal; Director (Projects), NHPC Limited, Biswajit Basu; and other senior officers of both organizations.

### **BANKING AND ECONOMY**

#### **ADB approves USD 295mn loan to improve transport connectivity in Bihar**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$295 million loan to widen and upgrade around 265 kilometers of state highways, improving transport connectivity and safety in the state of Bihar in India. The highways will be upgraded with climate- and disaster-resilient design, road safety elements, and other features that will respond to the needs of the elderly, women, children, and people with disabilities.
- The project will also encourage women's participation by providing employment to female workers in construction works. Trainings in livelihood as well as awareness on road safety, health and hygiene, and abuse and harassment will be offered to women from communities in the project areas.
- Initiatives to strengthen transport planning, safety, and sustainability within Bihar State Road Development Corporation Limited will be implemented. These include developing a road asset management system which includes climate change and disaster risk information, establishing research laboratories with training equipment in the Bihar Road Research Institute, conducting studies on congestion management and climate adaptation, and creating guidelines for gender-inclusive practices in road safety measures.

#### **RBI imposes ₹2.5 crore penalty on Jammu & Kashmir Bank; Axis Bank, Bank of Maharashtra also penalized**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty on three private and public sector lenders on Friday. The central bank charged Jammu & Kashmir Bank with ₹2.5 crore penalty, while the BSE-S0003537" data-name="Bank of Maharashtra">Bank of Maharashtra faced a fine of ₹1.45 crore. Axis Bank received the least amount of penalty among them to the tune of ₹30 lakh.
- Jammu & Kashmir Bank - RBI imposed a ₹2.5 crore penalty on J&K Bank for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on 'Creation of a Central Repository of Large Common Exposures-Across Banks', read with 'Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) – Revision in Reporting', 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and other Restrictions' and 'Time-bound implementation and strengthening of SWIFT-related operational controls'.
- Bank of Maharashtra - This government-owned bank was imposed with ₹1.45 crore penalty for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions' and Advisory on 'Man in the Middle (MiTM) Attacks in ATMs' (the Advisory).
- Axis Bank - Axis Bank, one of the leading private sector lenders, was penalised with ₹30 lakh due to its non-compliance with certain provisions of the RBI directions on 'Prudential Norms on Income Recognition, Asset Classification and Provisioning pertaining to Advances – Credit Card Accounts'.

#### **Google to invest 10 billion dollars in India's digitisation fund; Amazon to infuse another 15 billion dollar**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today 24 June, separately met Google CEO Sundar Pichai, Amazon CEO Andrew Jassy, and Boeing CEO David Calhoun in Washington DC. After meeting Mr. Modi, Google CEO Sundar Pichai said, he shared with the Prime Minister that Google is

investing 10 billion dollars in India's digitisation fund. He also announced the opening of Google's global fintech operation centre in GIFT City, Gujarat.

- Mr. Pichai said, Prime Minister's vision for Digital India was way ahead of his time and he now sees it as a blueprint that other countries are looking to do. Amazon CEO Andrew Jassy said, his company is one of the biggest investors in India. He said, they have already invested 11 billion dollars and with an intention to invest another 15 billion dollars bringing the total to 26 billion dollars.

## Current Affairs PDF- June 23, 2023

### INTERNATIONAL

#### India joins Artemis agreement

- India joins NASA's Artemis agreement for collaborative lunar exploration. The focus is on returning humans to the Moon and expanding space exploration to Mars and beyond. Prime Minister Narendra Modi signed the agreement during his state visit to the United States.
- Grounded in the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, the Artemis Accords is a non-binding international agreement, designed to guide civil space exploration and use. India has decided to join Artemis Accord, the United States-led international agreement on civil space exploration, the White House said Thursday. US space agency the National Aeronautics and Space Administration or NASA and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have also agreed for a joint mission to the International Space Station next year.

### NATIONAL

#### Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurated Silica Reduction Plant at Bhilai Steel Plant's Dalli Mines

- Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia virtually inaugurated Silica Reduction Plant at Bhilai Steel Plant's Dalli Mines from New Delhi,
- The iron ore reserves in the 60-year-old mines of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Dalli and Rajhara group are depleting rapidly. The study revealed the need to refine iron ore of size less than one mm to achieve the desired grade for effective usage in the Blast Furnace. The Silica Reduction Plant, with an investment of over 149 crore rupees, is aligned with the existing Crushing, Screening and Washing wet plant at Dalli. This plant is equipped with state-of-the-art beneficiation equipment and aims to enhance the iron ore supplied to Bhilai Steel Plant.
- Steel Ministry is focused on promoting de-carbonization in the Indian Steel Industry and formulating a long-term roadmap for green steel production in collaboration with the steel industry.

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

#### Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launches PM Kisan Mobile App with Face Authentication Feature

- The PM-Kisan Mobile App with Face Authentication Feature was launched by Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar under the



central government's ambitious and popular scheme for income support to farmers "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi".

- With this unique mobile app, farmers can now complete the e-KYC, sitting at home by scanning the face without OTP or fingerprint. The mobile app was launched to register farmers under the Central government's ambitious scheme for income support to farmers - 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi'.
- Under the scheme, eligible farmers are provided with a financial benefit of Rs 6,000 per year in three instalments of Rs 2,000 each (every four months). The fund is directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries, However, a few farmer unions claimed that it was a step to devoid farmers of the Union government's benefits by introducing high-end technology to register themselves through this mobile application.

#### **Scientists from Gujarat institute develop biodegradable paper supercapacitor from seaweed**

- Scientists at Gujarat Energy Research and Management Institute (GERMI) have developed the thinnest, lightweight and biodegradable paper-based supercapacitor. A supercapacitor is an electrochemical charge storage device with a fast charging/discharging cycle, high power density and a longer lifecycle.
- This supercapacitor which can fully charge a device within 10 seconds, has been developed from seaweed (marine macroalgae). The device is of high tensile strength and performance, as well as cost-effective, according to the researchers. The product can be used in electronics, memory backup systems, airbags, heavy machines, electric vehicles, etc.; hence, it holds a huge business prospect.
- Scientists Priyank Bhutiya and Syed Zaheer Hasan extracted cellulose nanofibers from seaweed and reduced them into graphene oxide and zinc oxide. Nanowires were grown over the extracted seaweed cellulose nanofibers using hydrothermal methods to get the anodic paper supercapacitor.

#### **APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS**

##### **Ruby Sinha appointed as President of BRICS CCI WE Women's Vertical**

- The BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BRICS CCI) has appointed Ruby Sinha as the President of BRICS CCI WE, the women's vertical of the BRICS CCI for a period of three years. Sinha, the founder of SheAtWork and Kommune Brand Communications, will assume the role. BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry is dedicated to fostering trade, commerce, and entrepreneurship among the BRICS nations and other friendly countries. Sinha succeeds Shabana Nasim, who has transitioned to the position of Executive Director of BRICS CCI and Chief Patron of BRICS CCI WE.
- About the BRICS CCI - The BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry is a parent organization which promotes commerce and industry in the BRICS nations. The Chamber, founded in 2012 with the efforts of eminent professionals and entrepreneur, is a not-for-profit and non-governmental organization. BRICS CCI is a registered body under Societies Registration Act 1860, Government of India and

empaneled with NITI Aayog (highest policy-making body of Govt of India) and recognized by United Nations.

- The Women Vertical of BRICS CCI has been created with a prime focus on women empowerment initiatives and policies across geographies. The objective of the women's wing is to create an enabling support system for women entrepreneurs and professionals across geographies.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### International Widows Day

- International Widows Day (IWD) is observed annually on 23 June. The day is recognised to create awareness among people about the difficulties and challenges faced by widows worldwide,
- **History** - International Widows Day was first recognised and established by the United Nations on June 23, 2011. The day was officially recognized through a resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly, acknowledging the hardships faced by widows globally and the need to address their rights and welfare.
- The establishment of International Widows Day was driven by the efforts of various organizations, including the Loomba Foundation, an international charity that advocates for the rights of widows. The foundation, led by Raj Loomba, worked tirelessly to bring attention to the challenges faced by widows and campaigned for a designated day to raise awareness and promote action.

#### International Olympic Day

- World Olympic Day or International Olympic Day is observed globally on June 23 and this day commemorates the founding of the International Olympic Committee in the year 1894 by Baron Pierre de Coubertin.
- **History** - World Olympic Day was created in 1948 as a tribute to June 23, 1894, when the inception of the modern Olympic Games took place at the Sorbonne in Paris. The aim of Olympic Day is to foster global engagement in sports, irrespective of age, gender, or athletic aptitude.
- **Theme** – The theme of this year's Olympic Day is 'Let's Move' which aims to inspire people around the world to make time for daily physical activity. While the world is moving faster than ever, people are moving less with research showing over 80 per cent of young people fail to reach the daily activity level recommended for optimum mental and physical health. This 23 June is the start of a new global movement to make time to move.

#### United Nations Public Service Day

- Every year, the United Nations celebrates the tremendous importance and noble nature of public service on June 23. This particular anniversary, strives to highlight the contribution of public officials and reflect on how they contribute to development and progress. It also aims to recognise their outstanding efforts and inspire the next generation to pursue professions in the public sector.
- **History** - On 20 December 2002, the General Assembly designated 23 June as Public Service Day by adopting a resolution, To boost the recognition of this day, the

United Nations established the UN Public Service Awards (UNPSA) programme in 2003, which was reviewed in 2016 to align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- **Theme** - There is no specific theme chosen for United Nations Public Service Day 2023. The day revolves around the value and virtue of public service to the community.
- **Significance** - This day intends to celebrate the value and virtue of public service to the community; highlight the contribution of public service in the development process; recognize the work of public servants, and encourage young people to pursue careers in the public sector. Since the first Awards Ceremony in 2003, the United Nations has received an increasing number of submissions from all around the world.

#### International Women in Engineering Day

- On June 23rd each year, International Women in Engineering Day highlights a profession that keeps on building. And when it comes to engineering, the profession fills roles across many sectors.
- **History** - The United Kingdom officially dedicated June 23 to lead a national campaign for women in the engineering field in 2014. Just two years later the day received UNESCO patronage thereby making awareness on a global scale. Finally, in 2017, the day was celebrated on an international level for the first time giving rise to the day that celebrates the vigilant efforts of women in the engineering society.
- **Theme** - Every year the day is attributed to different themes and this year will mark the 10th celebration of International Women in Engineering Day. The theme of the special day this year is reported to be 'Make Safety Seen'.
- **Significance** - The primary objective of the day is to raise awareness and encourage the participation of women in the engineering sector. International Women in Engineering Day recognizes the great contribution of female engineering pioneers who often go unnoticed. The awareness campaigns are to equip young girls with boundless opportunities to help them carve a niche for themselves.

#### SUMMIT'S & MOU's

##### GE Aerospace signs MoU with HAL for production of fighter jet engines for IAF

- US-based GE Aerospace on Thursday (June 22) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to produce fighter jet engines for the Indian Air Force. The announcement is a major milestone amidst Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official state visit to the US and a key element in strengthening defence cooperation between the two countries.
- GE Aerospace stated the agreement includes the potential joint production of its F414 engines in India, and GE Aerospace continues to work with the US government to receive the necessary export authorisation for this. The effort is part of the Indian Air Force's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk2 programme. For the unversed, US-based GE Aerospace is a world-leading provider of jet engines, components and systems for commercial and military aircraft.

### Indian Railways signs MoU with USAID/India

- Indian Railways signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United States Agency for International Development/India (USAID/India), The memorandum of understanding (MoU), signed on 14 June, envisages collaboration in the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Aim - It aims to incorporate clean energy sources into Indian Railways' operations. The parties involved will work together to develop an energy efficiency policy and action plan specifically tailored for Indian Railways' buildings.
- The collaboration also seeks to facilitate the procurement of clean energy solutions that align with Indian Railways' ambitious vision of achieving net-zero carbon emissions. To overcome potential regulatory and implementation barriers, technical support will be provided through the partnership.
- The expertise of USAID will assist in designing and managing bids for large-scale renewable energy procurement projects, ensuring a system-friendly approach. Additionally, the agency will extend its support to Indian Railways in promoting e-mobility, enabling the adoption of electric vehicles within the railway system.

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### INTERNATIONAL

### India-United States Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS X) launched in Washington DC

- India-United States Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS X) was launched at an event in Washington DC, USA on 21 June 2023. The INDUS X event was co-organised by Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), Ministry of Defence, and US Department of Defence (DoD) and hosted by US-India Business Council (USIBC).
- Shri Anurag Bajpai, Joint Secretary (Defence Industries Promotion), MoD, led the Indian delegation in the two-day INDUS-X event on 20-21 June 2023. A reception for Indian and US Government representatives, defence start-ups, think tanks, incubators, investors, industries and other stakeholders was organised on 20 June 2023. Amb. Eric Garcetti, the US Ambassador to India, gave the keynote address. Mr. Frank Kendall, US Secretary of the Air Force, gave the opening keynote address on 21 June at the INDUS-X event.
- The Joint Secretary stressed on the co-development and co-production of advanced technologies by Indian and US start-ups. He further asked the participants to develop mechanisms for future collaboration across industries, academia, and investors. The Joint Secretary also gave an overview of the Make in India initiative, focussing on Aatmanirbhar Bharat and the philosophy of "Make in India, for the world". The event also saw a first-of-its-kind joint showcasing of innovative technologies by Indian and US start-ups. 15 Indian start-ups and 10 US start-ups, from multiple domains of maritime, AI, autonomous systems, and space, showcased their technologies to Indian and US stakeholders



### NATIONAL

#### Rajnath Singh inaugurates integrated simulator complex 'Dhruv' at Southern Naval Command

- Defence Minister Mr. Rajnath Singh inaugurated DHRUV, an Integrated Simulator Complex (ISC), at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi.
- It hosts state-of-the-art indigenously built simulators, which will significantly enhance practical training in the Indian Navy. These simulators are envisaged to give real-time experience on navigation, fleet operations and naval tactics. These simulators will also be utilised for training personnel from friendly foreign countries.
- The ISC 'Dhruv' features a range of modern simulators aimed at enhancing practical training for naval personnel. These simulators will enable trainees to gain hands-on expertise in various aspects of naval operations. Among the simulators showcased during the inauguration were the Multi-Station Handling Simulator (MSSHS), Air Direction and Helicopter Control Simulator (ADHCS), and Astronavigation Dome.

### SPORTS

#### India's historic win over Pakistan: 2023 SAFF Championship, and more

- In SAFF Championship 2023, the Indian men's football team defeated arch-rival Pakistan 4-0 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru last night. For India, captain Sunil Chhetri scored a hat-trick while Udanta Singh Kumam scored the fourth goal in the 81st minute. Chhetri scored the first goal in the 10th minute, the second goal in the 16th minute and the third penalty goal in the 74th minute. With this, India has begun its tournament journey on a winning note.
- Earlier in the day, Kuwait defeated Nepal 3-1 in the tournament opener. The eight teams, which are taking part in the 14th edition of the SAFF Championship, have been divided into two groups. Group A comprises India, Kuwait, Nepal and Pakistan while Group B consists of Lebanon, Maldives, Bhutan and Bangladesh. Sunil Chhetri-led India are the highest-ranked team in Group A. They are 101st in the FIFA rankings. Kuwait are world No. 143 followed by Nepal at 174. Nepal were the runners-up in the last edition in 2021. Pakistan are ranked lowest at 195th.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

#### Hasmukh Adhia appointed as Chairman, GIFT City

- Senior retired bureaucrat and former Union Finance Secretary & Revenue Secretary, Hasmukh Adhia, has been appointed Chairman of GIFT City Ltd, the entity responsible for developing India's first smart city Gujarat International Finance-Tec City in Gandhinagar. As GIFT City Chairman, Adhia replaces Sudhir Mankad, former chief secretary of Gujarat.
- Besides GIFT City, Adhia has also been appointed Director and Chairman of the boards of State public sector undertakings Gujarat Alkalies & Chemicals Ltd (GACL) and Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd (GMDC) with immediate effect, the regulatory filings said. The appointments are as non-executive chairman.
- Adhia, a Gujarat cadre IAS officer of the 1981 batch, currently serves as an advisor to the Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. He was part of the panel appointed by

the Gujarat government to recommend measures for the post-Covid economic revival of the State. The panel had recommended divestment of state PSUs, except the ones in the strategic sectors.

- At present Adhia is a non-executive Chairman of Bank of Baroda, and also the Chancellor of Central University of Gujarat. He serves as a member of the Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore. He also serves as Vice-President in Gujarat Energy Research and Management Institute (GERMI) and Pandit Deendayal Energy University, Gandhinagar.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### World Rainforest Day

- June 22nd is celebrated as, World Rainforest Day. This global observance reminds us of the immense value and significance of rainforests, which are not only breathtakingly beautiful but also vital for the health of our planet. Today, we come together to celebrate these lush green ecosystems and raise awareness about the urgent need to protect and preserve them. Join us on this journey as we explore the wonders of rainforests, their essential role in maintaining biodiversity, and the collective responsibility we hold to ensure their survival.
- **History** - The roots of World Rainforest Day can be traced back to 2017 when the Rainforest Partnership, a non-profit environmental organization based in Austin, Texas, launched the global event. This initiative was aimed at raising awareness about the importance of rainforests and their invaluable contributions to the planet.
- **Theme** - The theme for this year's World Rainforest Day is "Conserve. Restore. Regenerate." It encapsulates the collective efforts required to ensure the long-term thriving existence of rainforests. The theme emphasizes the need for everyone to participate in the conservation and restoration of rainforests to guarantee their survival for centuries to come.

### SUMMIT'S & MOU's

#### A two-day G20 Labour Engagement Group meeting begin today ( 22 June ) in Patna, Bihar

- The two-day meeting of the G-20 Labour Engagement Group begins today at Patna in Bihar. Around 150 delegates from G-20 members and eight guest countries are going to participate in the meeting. Governor of Bihar Rajendra Viswanath Arlekar inaugurated the function organised at Ashoka Convention Centre in Patna.
- Union Minister for Labour and Employment Bhupendra Yadav and State Labour Resource Minister Surendra Ram also addressed the Inaugural session. The Chairman of L-20 Group, Hiranmaya Pandya told media persons that besides several issues the main agenda of discussion will be the universalisation of social security and enhancement of women's participation in the workforce which is around 32 per cent globally.

### **India and the (UNWTO) have signed MoU to enhance cooperation and identify areas of mutual interest**

- India and the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) have signed an agreement / MoU to enhance cooperation and identify areas of mutual interest, on the sidelines of the two key events of the influential bloc being hosted in Goa, Besides, nearly 15 bilateral meetings in total are planned to be held between India and various G20 member countries and international organisations on the sidelines of the these key events being held from June 19-22,
- A bilateral meetings were held with Oman and United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), a senior official said.
- The Ministry of Tourism on Tuesday tweeted that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Government of India and the UNWTO.
- "Government of India and United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) signed a MoU to enhance cooperation and identify.

### **BANKING AND ECONOMY**

#### **World Bank approves \$150-million loan for Resilient Kerala programme**

- The World Bank's Board of Directors has approved a \$150-million loan to support the Resilient Kerala programme designed to strengthen Kerala's preparedness for natural disasters, climate change impact, and disease outbreaks.
- "This additional financing will further deepen Kerala's resilience in the critical areas of coastal erosion and water resource management," the World Bank said in a statement.
- The loan, from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a final maturity of 14 years, including a grace period of six years. It complements the World Bank's earlier investment of \$125 million and the overall support is expected to protect nearly 50 lakh people from the impact of floods, the bank said.
- "Through this additional financing, the World Bank will continue supporting Kerala in increasing its resilience to climate change," Auguste Tano Kouame, the bank's Country Director for India said. "The project will focus on addressing coastal erosion along vulnerable areas of the State – impacting millions of lives.

#### **Axis Bank launches new feature to manage multiple accounts on one platform**

- Axis Bank has launched the 'one-view' feature on its mobile application which enables account management across multiple bank accounts, including non-Axis accounts.
- The feature has been launched using the open banking principle leveraging the account aggregator (AA) ecosystem-an industry-first initiative, the private sector bank said.
- AA or data aggregator platforms provide secure sharing of information while maintaining customer consent and data privacy.
- Customers can link their non-Axis Bank accounts and get a comprehensive view of their balance, transactions and statements on a real-time basis, thus simplifying the

process of managing finances and providing access to multiple bank accounts on one platform.

- The feature will eliminate the need for multiple mobile banking applications and also allow customers to download and e-mail transaction details from their linked accounts, the bank said.

## Current Affairs PDF- June 21, 2023

### INTERNATIONAL

#### Parliament elects conservative leader Petteri Orpo as PM

- Petteri Orpo, the leader of the conservative party in Finland, has been elected as the country's prime minister by the parliament. Orpo will lead a coalition government comprising four parties, including the far-right Finns Party, which intends to implement strict measures on immigration. With 107 members in favour, 81 opposed, and 11 absent, the parliament expressed its support for Orpo, who emerged victorious in the April elections. His victory initiated negotiations for a coalition government, which have been ongoing since then.
- President Sauli Niinisto is set to officially appoint Petteri Orpo as the new prime minister, replacing Sanna Marin, whose Social Democrats came in third place in the elections, behind Orpo's National Coalition Party (NCP) and the Finns Party.
- Finland is a Nordic country located in Northern Europe. It is bordered by Sweden to the west, Norway to the north, Russia to the east, and the Gulf of Bothnia and the Gulf of Finland to the south. Finland covers an area of 338,455 square kilometers (130,678 square miles) and has a population of 5.5 million. The capital and largest city is Helsinki.

### NATIONAL

#### Amit Shah to open public park built by Credai

- On the auspicious occasion of the Jagannath Rath Yatra, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, inaugurated various development works and performed Bhoomipujan in Ahmedabad. Among the inaugurated projects was the CREDAI Garden-People's Park, a beautiful park constructed by CREDAI with the aim of providing a comfortable and environmentally friendly space for people from all walks of life.
- Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the CREDAI Garden-People's Park, a sprawling park spread over 12,000 square meters. The park was constructed at a cost of approximately Rs 2.5 crore. In his address, Shri Shah emphasized that the park was designed to cater to the needs of the middle class, upper middle class, and underprivileged children. He lauded CREDAI for creating a beautiful and accessible space that would enhance the urban landscape while providing a comfortable retreat for the common citizen.



### **Estonia becomes first central European country to allow same-sex marriage**

- Estonia's parliament passed a law legalising same-sex marriage, making it the first central European nation to do so. While much of western Europe has already legalised same-sex marriage, it remains prohibited in many former communist central European countries that were once part of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact.
- The bill was passed with 55 votes in the 101-seat parliament, with support from the coalition of liberal and social democratic parties led by Prime Minister Kallas, who won the 2023 election.
- The new law will become effective in 2024. A recent poll by the Centre for Human Rights found that 53% of Estonians support same-sex marriage, compared to 34% a decade ago.
- However, many still consider homosexuality to be unacceptable, including a significant portion of the ethnic-Russian minority, which makes up one quarter of the country's population.

### **APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS**

#### **NEC Corporation's Aalok Kumar Joins Asian Development Bank's High-Level Advisory Group on Digital Technology for Development in Asian Countries**

- Aalok Kumar, the Corporate Officer and Senior Vice President, Head of Global Smart City Business at NEC Corporation, and President and CEO of NEC Corporation India, has been appointed as a member of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) High-level Advisory Group on Digital Technology for Development, effective May 1, 2023.
- The group is composed of eight members, including renowned industry leaders and academics, and is dedicated to increasing the utilisation of ICT technology in ADB activities for developing countries.
- Kumar takes on this role from former NEC Corporation Fellow and one of the founding members of the group, Katsumi Emura.
- Kumar brings his years of experience and broad knowledge to provide strategic suggestions for the optimal adoption of digital technologies for ADB to carry out its developmental work.
- Kumar expressed his humility and excitement to contribute to this esteemed group of industry luminaries and help develop robust strategies for ADB's developmental work in Asian countries.

### **IMPORTANT DAYS**

#### **World Sickle Cell Awareness Day 2023: 19<sup>th</sup> June**

- World Sickle Cell Awareness Day is observed annually on June 19th to raise awareness about sickle cell disease (SCD) and its profound impact on individuals, families, and communities worldwide. Sickle cell disease is a genetic blood disorder characterized by abnormal red blood cells that assume a crescent or sickle shape. These irregularly shaped cells can cause blockages in blood vessels, leading to a range of health complications.
- During World Sickle Cell Awareness Day, various activities are organized to promote understanding and solidarity. These include educational campaigns, community events, fundraisers, and blood drives. The focus is on highlighting the significance of

regular screenings, access to high-quality healthcare, and ongoing research aimed at improving the lives of individuals affected by sickle cell disease. The day serves as a platform to advocate for greater support, resources, and awareness to combat the challenges faced by those living with sickle cell disease.

- The primary objective of World Sickle Cell Awareness Day is to educate the general public about the unique challenges faced by individuals living with sickle cell disease. It aims to promote improved healthcare services, early diagnosis, and effective treatment options for those affected by the condition. By doing so, it seeks to dispel misconceptions and reduce the stigma associated with the disease, fostering empathy, support, and inclusivity towards individuals with sickle cell disease.

#### **International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice: 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023**

- Each year on June 21, the International Day of Celebration for the Solstice is observed. This holiday was established by the United Nations in order to raise awareness about various solstice celebrations across religions and cultures. Many cultures and religions have their own unique way of celebrating the solstice.
- While the significance, interpretations, and meanings behind the solstice (which occurs when the sun reaches its highest or lowest point in the sky at noon, resulting in the longest and shortest days) may differ based on culture, the International Day of the Solstice is a universally celebrated occasion that takes place during the summer solstice, between June 20 and 22.

#### **International Yoga Day 2023: 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023**

- International Yoga Day 2023 is celebrated every year on June 21st to promote the numerous benefits of practicing yoga. The chosen date coincides with the summer solstice, the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. This day serves as a platform to raise awareness about the holistic approach to well-being that yoga offers. It highlights the importance of finding balance in our fast-paced, modern lives and encourages physical, mental, and spiritual harmony. Yoga fosters mindfulness, stress reduction, and overall health and vitality.
- In its 9th edition, this year's International Day of Yoga will be led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the UN Headquarters on June 21st. This marks the first time a yoga session will be conducted by the Prime Minister at this location.
- The theme selected for this year's International Day of Yoga 2023 is "Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," which represents our shared desire for "One Earth, One Family, One Future."

### **AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

#### **Arundhati Roy wins the 2023 European Essay Prize for lifetime achievement**

- Writer and activist Arundhati Roy has been awarded the 45th European Essay Prize for lifetime achievement on the occasion of the French translation of her latest essay, 'Azadi'. The French translation 'Liberte, fascisme, fiction' appeared in Gallimard, a leading French publishing group. At a function to be held on September 11 at the European Essay Prize 2023 Round Table, in partnership with the University

of Lausanne (Unil), Theatre de Vidy, Lausanne, Arundhati Roy will discuss citizenship and identity, environment and globalisation, caste and language.

- The award ceremony will take place the next day (September 12) at the Lausanne Palace, where she will give a lecture. In this series of electrifying essays, Arundhati Roy challenges us to reflect on the meaning of freedom in a world of growing authoritarianism, it noted. The essays include meditations on language, public as well as private, and on the role of fiction and alternative imaginations in these disturbing times.

## RANKING

### Hurun India list: Reliance most valuable private company in India; Adani firms' combined value falls by 52

- The recently released Hurun India's '2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500' list highlights the changes in the valuation of India's top 500 companies. According to the report, Reliance Industries Limited, led by Mukesh Ambani, has claimed the title of the most valuable private sector company in India. Meanwhile, the Adani Group has witnessed a significant decline in its combined value. Let's delve into the details and explore the key findings of the report.
- In the latest Hurun India rankings, Reliance Industries Limited has emerged as India's most valuable company among the top 500. With a valuation of Rs 16.3 lakh crore, Reliance Industries has surpassed other industry giants. This showcases the consistent growth and strong market position of the company led by Mukesh Ambani.

## BANKING AND ECONOMY

### Union Bank launches four new deposit schemes targeted at women, pensioners and co-operative societies

- Union Bank of India has debuted four specialised bank accounts catering to different segments of the population, namely women, women entrepreneurs and professionals, pensioners, and cooperative housing societies.
- The first account, called Union Unnati, is a current account designed specifically for women entrepreneurs and professionals, providing free cancer care coverage, personal accident cover, discounts in loan interest rates, retail loan processing charges, and minimal service fees.
- Another account that targets women is the Union Samriddhi, which empowers women through a safe and convenient savings and financial management outlet, offering the same benefits as Union Unnati.
- The Union Samman, on the other hand, is a savings account intended for pensioners, with door-step banking, personal accident coverage, discounts in loan interest rates and processing fees, and free health check-ups.
- Lastly, Union SBCHS recognises the importance of cooperative housing societies, providing discounts in loan processing fees for purchasing solar lights, elevators, and other machinery, as well as concessional rates for home, vehicle, and education loans for society and flat owners.

## Current Affairs PDF- June 20, 2023

### INTERNATIONAL

#### United Nations adopt first-ever treaty to protect marine life in high seas

- Representatives from all 193 UN member nations joyfully approved the first-ever treaty to safeguard marine life in the high seas. UN Secretary-General António Guterres lauded the historical agreement for giving the ocean a chance to fight against the numerous threats that menace it.
- With unanimous support, Guterres highlighted the significant timing, noting that the oceans are experiencing a critical and multifaceted threat.
- He emphasised the treaty's significance in addressing these dangers and urged all nations to make an effort to sign and validate it as soon as possible.
- For over 20 years, the treaty explicitly designed to secure biodiversity in waters outside of the national borders-known as the high seas-covered almost half of the earth's surface, yet efforts to achieve consensus had repeatedly failed in the past.

#### Nusrat Chowdhury confirmed as first Muslim female federal judge in U.S. history

- Nusrat Chowdhury, a civil rights lawyer, has been confirmed by the Senate as the first Muslim female federal judge in US history. She will assume her lifetime appointment in Brooklyn federal court in New York after a 50-49 vote on Thursday along party lines. The confirmation drew praise from the American Civil Liberties Union, where she is the legal director of the ACLU of Illinois. Prior to that post, she served from 2008 to 2020 at the national ACLU office, including seven years as deputy director of the ACLU Racial Justice Programme.
- She has served on the Presidential Task Force on Building Public Trust in the American Justice System. Her appointment was consistent with President Joe Biden's pledge to emphasise diversity in background, race and gender in his judicial nominations. Two years ago, the Senate confirmed the nation's first federal Muslim judge, Zahid Quraishi, to serve as a district court judge in New Jersey. Quraishi's first day on the job at a New York law firm was September 11, 2001. He would go on to join the Army's legal arm and served two deployments in Iraq.

#### Ethiopia-Lebanon labour agreement contains little protection for domestic workers

- Hundreds of thousands of Ethiopian workers in Lebanon could be left without legal protections and minimum wage requirements, as revealed by a recently signed bilateral labour agreement between the two countries.
- The undisclosed agreement, signed in April, was publicly promoted by officials from Ethiopia and Lebanon, but a leaked 12-page draft and eight-page worker contract seen by Middle East Eye has raised concerns regarding the rights of workers.
- The document does not include a minimum wage, relies on Lebanese laws that exclude protection for migrant workers, and may allow for passport confiscation.



- Human Rights Watch has reviewed the agreement and stated that it provides “weak and non-existent” privileges and protections for Ethiopian workers compared to other foreign nationals in Lebanon.

### NATIONAL

#### 17.88 lakh new workers added under ESI Scheme in the month of April, 2023

- The latest provisional payroll data from the Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) for April 2023 reveals a remarkable increase in the number of employees and establishments registered under the ESI Scheme. The data highlights the significant impact of the scheme in generating employment opportunities for the youth while promoting inclusivity by extending benefits to transgender employees. This article delves into the key findings of the data, emphasizing the scheme’s positive contributions to the workforce.
- Surge in Employee Registrations: In April 2023, a staggering 17.88 lakh new employees were added to the ESI Scheme, signifying substantial growth in employment opportunities. This increase reflects the expanding reach and effectiveness of the scheme in providing social security benefits to workers across various sectors.

#### National Yoga Olympiad organised in Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh)

- The National Yoga Olympiad, a prestigious event showcasing the best of yoga, is currently being organised in Madhya Pradesh leading up to the main event on the 9th International Yoga Day on June 21st in Jabalpur.
- The three-day Olympiad was ceremoniously inaugurated by Governor Mangu Bhai Patel in Bhopal on the previous day.
- Interestingly, this is the first time that the National Yoga Olympiad is being organised outside of New Delhi, the national capital.
- This event promises to be a wonderful display of the art and practice of yoga and is sure to captivate all those in attendance.
- International Yoga Day has been celebrated on June 21 every year since 2015. This day was declared as International Yoga Day by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014, recognizing the importance of yoga in promoting healthy living and overall wellbeing.

#### 18 new courses for young professionals now on govt's iGOT platform

- The Personnel Ministry announced that the central government has launched a new collection of courses called “Dakshta” (Development of Attitude, Knowledge, Skill for Holistic Transformation in Administration) on the iGOT Karmayogi Platform.
- The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has established Karmayogi Bharat, a government-owned not-for-profit special purpose vehicle, to steer the mission’s fundamental goals.
- It’s charged with the ownership, management, maintenance, and enhancement of the iGOT Karmayogi platform.
- Mission Karmayogi (National programme for civil services capacity building), in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of building a ‘Viksit Bharat’, plays an

important role in nurturing a smart, citizen-friendly, and future-ready public workforce.

### SPORTS

#### Max Verstappen wins Canadian Grand Prix and gives Red Bull 100th victory

- Max Verstappen, the reigning world champion, showcased an outstanding performance at the Canadian Grand Prix, securing a dominant victory and marking the 100th Formula One win for his Red Bull team. Fernando Alonso, driving for Aston Martin, claimed the second position, while Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes completed the podium in Montreal. Verstappen, who started from pole position, clinched his sixth win out of eight races this season, further extending his lead in the championship standings and reinforcing his pursuit of a third consecutive world title. Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz, representing Ferrari, secured the fourth and fifth positions respectively.
- Fernando Alonso, currently positioned third in the championship, shared his thoughts on the challenging duel he had with his former rival, Lewis Hamilton, for the second-place position. Hamilton, representing Mercedes, expressed that their team is progressively making efforts to develop a competitive car that can contend for race victories. The seven-time champion made these remarks following his appearance on the podium alongside Max Verstappen and Fernando Alonso.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### National Reading Day 2023: 19<sup>th</sup> June

- The National Reading day commemorates the death anniversary of PN Panicker, widely recognized as the 'Father of the Library Movement' in the state of Kerala. The day is observed on 19th June every year. Through his leadership in the Kerala Grandhashala Sangham, he spearheaded various initiatives that sparked a cultural revolution in Kerala, leading to the achievement of universal literacy in the state during the 1990s. This day serves as a tribute to PN Panicker's tireless efforts in transforming society through his literacy movement in India. PN Panicker, revered as the Father of Reading, passed away on June 19, 1995. He was the founder of the Sanadana Dharma Library, which played a pivotal role as the epicenter of the library movement in Kerala.
- Reading is a crucial activity that offers numerous benefits, including relaxation, learning, concentration, and the improvement of communication skills. In an era before the dominance of the internet and television, reading served as a primary medium of communication. National Reading Day, observed on the anniversary of P.N. Panicker's death, pays homage to his visionary ideals, immense passion, and unwavering dedication to promoting reading as a catalyst for personal and societal development. The day encourages individuals to embrace the pleasures of reading, delve into the vast knowledge contained within books, and acknowledge the transformative impact of reading on individuals and communities alike.

### SUMMIT'S & MOU's

#### Intel to build \$33-billion chip plant in Germany after government pledges to cover 1/3rd of cost

- Intel has committed to invest \$32.8 billion in Magdeburg, a city in Germany for the establishment of two cutting-edge semiconductor facilities. This collaboration, with financial support from Berlin, represents the largest foreign investment ever made in Germany. The German government, recognizing the strategic importance of the semiconductor industry, has pledged to provide approximately 10 billion euros in financial support toward Intel's overall investment in the country. The deal is poised to bolster the country's semiconductor industry and solidify Intel's position as a leading player in the market.
- Intel acquired the land for two semiconductor facilities in Magdeburg in eastern Germany in November, and the company says the first of them is expected to start production in four or five years. The investment in Germany means a significant expansion of Intel's production capacity in Europe and is the biggest investment ever made by a foreign company in Germany. If all investment plans currently being considered are implemented, and we are working on this, including today, Germany will become one of the big global semiconductor production sites.

## Current Affairs PDF- June 19, 2023

### INTERNATIONAL

#### To Get More Funds From IMF, Bangladesh Floats Currency For First Time

- In a historic move, Bangladesh's central bank has decided to allow its currency, the taka, to float freely for the first time. The decision comes in response to demands from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and aims to unlock additional funds from a \$4.7 billion loan program. While Bangladesh is not heavily indebted, the country joins a growing list of nations, including Pakistan, Egypt, and Lebanon, that have opted to loosen control over their local currencies to secure financing from the Washington-based lender.
- The new market-driven exchange rate regime is expected to bring greater transparency and efficiency to foreign exchange transactions, benefiting businesses, individuals, and the overall economy. Despite concerns of depreciation, the central bank does not anticipate a significant decline in the value of the taka, which has already experienced a slight 5% decrease this year.

#### IREDA participates in "Intersolar Europe 2023" Exhibition

- IREDA, a Mini Ratna (Category – I) enterprise under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, participated in the prestigious three-day "Intersolar Europe 2023" exhibition held in Munich, Germany.
- The inauguration of the pavilion was carried out by CMD, IREDA, Pradip Kumar Das, who expressed the firm's dedication towards a greener future.

- During the exhibition, IREDA officials attended meetings with KfW Development Bank and Commerz Bank to review current progress and explore partnership opportunities.
- IREDA officials also visited RCT GmbH to discuss the technology, milestones, and costs related to the Indosol Solar Manufacturing project.
- IREDA's participation highlights their ongoing dedication to the global Renewable Energy landscape and sustainable development practices, contributing towards India's Renewable Energy goals and climate change challenges.

### NATIONAL

#### **Akashvani and Doordarshan emerge as most trusted electronic media organization in country as per Reuters Institute's Digital News Report 2023**

- DD India and All India Radio have been acknowledged as the most dependable electronic media entities in the nation in accordance with the 2023 issue of the Reuters Institute's Digital News Report. The report indicates that although overall news trust has decreased by 3 percentage points, public broadcasters and print brands have managed to preserve a comparatively higher level of credibility among the public.
- DD India and All India Radio are specifically highlighted as electronic media organizations with the greatest level of trust, which highlights their significance in the media ecosystem and their influence on shaping public opinion.
- This recognition reflects the trust that these public broadcasters have gained from their audiences and is a reflection of their long-standing reputation for providing precise and-unbiased news coverage.

#### **146th Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath starts in Ahmedabad**

- The 146th Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath commenced in the city of Ahmedabad, Gujarat, with tight security measures in place. A large number of devotees gathered along the 18-kilometer procession route to catch a glimpse of the deity. This year, the Gujarat Police employed advanced 3D mapping technology to monitor the entire route and utilized anti-drone technology to prevent the unauthorized use of drones during the event.
- In the morning, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel performed the 'Pahind Vidhi,' a symbolic ritual of cleaning the path for the chariots, using a golden broom. Subsequently, the chariots carrying Lord Jagannath, his brother Balbhadra, and sister Subhadra began the yatra from the 400-year-old Jagannath Temple located in Jamalpur. These preparations were made prior to the commencement of the annual event.

### SPORTS

#### **Egypt wins Squash World Cup title**

- Egypt have been crowned the SDAT (Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu) WSF(World Squash Federation) Squash World Cup Champions after beating Malaysia.
- The championship was held from 13 to 17 June in Express Avenue Mall in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.



- Eight countries including India participated in the tournament – Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Egypt, South Africa, Australia, and Colombia.
- Egypt beat Malaysia 2-1 in the final. Malaysia secured the silver medal in the championship. Third place was shared jointly by hosts India and Japan.
- The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister awarded the winning team with the golden cup.

### **Indonesia Open 2023: Satwik-Chirag script history, beat world champions for men's doubles title**

- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty emerged as men's doubles champions in the Indonesia Open after beating Malaysian world champion duo of 'Aaron Chia' and 'Soh Wooi Yik' by 21-17 & 21-18 respectively.
- The 2023 Indonesia Open took place at the Istora Gelora Bung Karno in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 13 to 18 June 2023.
- World's no. 6 pair 'Satwiksairaj Rankireddy' & 'Chirag Shetty' from India beat World's no. 3 pair 'Aaron Chia' and 'Soh Wooi Yik' from Malaysia. The final match was completed in 43 minutes.

### **OBITURY**

#### **Telugu choreographer Rakesh Master passes away at 53 in Hyderabad**

- Renowned Tollywood choreographer S. Rama Rao, widely known as Rakesh Master, has sadly passed away. With an impressive portfolio of choreographing around 1,500 movies and creating numerous popular songs, Rakesh Master initially started his career in dance reality shows. Born as S. Rama Rao in Tirupati, he gained experience working with Master Mukku Raju in Hyderabad before embarking on his journey as a dance master. He was 53 years old at the time of his demise.
- Master was born in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, in 1961. He started his career as a dancer in the early 1980s, and soon became one of the most sought-after choreographers in Telugu cinema. He worked on over 500 films, and his work was known for its energy, creativity, and technical precision.

### **APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS**

#### **Kamal Kishore Chatiwal takes over as IGL Managing Director**

- Kamal Kishore Chatiwal began his role as Managing Director of Indraprastha Gas Ltd. (IGL), the country's largest CNG distribution company with City Gas Distribution networks operating across 30 districts in four states, including NCT of Delhi.
- Chatiwal, a Chemical Engineer from IIT Delhi, has over 32 years of Oil & Gas Sector experience, particularly in Project Execution and Commissioning of Mega Petrochemical Projects, Operation & Maintenance of Gas Processing units, Natural Gas Compressor Station and cross-country LPG Pipeline. Chatiwal worked as Executive Director (O&M-JLPL) & Head of Zonal Marketing of GAIL in Jaipur previous to joining IGL.
- Chatiwal also has experience in Corporate planning and strategy, Project Development and Corporate training. Sanjay Kumar previously held the role of Managing Director and has taken on the role of Director (Marketing) in GAIL (India)

Ltd. IGL is a collaboration between GAIL (India) Ltd. and BPCL, while the Govt. of NCT of Delhi owns a 5% equity stake.

#### **IPS officer Ravi Sinha appointed as new RAW chief**

- Ravi Sinha, a senior IPS officer, has been appointed as the new chief of India's external intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW). Sinha will take over from Samant Kumar Goel, who is completing his four-year term on June 30. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Sinha's appointment as Secretary of RAW for a period of two years.
- Ravi Sinha, a senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the 1988 batch of the Chhattisgarh cadre, is presently serving as the Special Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat. With over two decades of experience, Sinha has been associated with the intelligence agency for a significant period. Prior to his promotion, he held the position of heading the operational wing of RAW. Sinha has gained extensive experience through his work in regions such as Jammu and Kashmir, the northeast of India, as well as other countries.

#### **IMPORTANT DAYS**

##### **International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict: 19th June 2023**

- International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is a United Nations observance on June 19 to raise awareness of the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence.
- The theme of this year is "Bridging the gender digital divide to prevent, address and respond to conflict-related sexual violence".
- This day is commemorated every year to mark the date of adoption of first UN Security Council resolution to recognize conflict-related sexual violence as a threat to international peace and security.
- It highlights the issue of conflict related to sexual violence and inspire efforts to prevent it.
- According to the United Nations, 'conflict-related sexual violence' includes sexual slavery, forced prostitution, rape, forced pregnancy, forced marriage, enforced sterilization, forced abortion and other forms of sexual violence that are carried out against men, women, girls or boys.

## **Current Affairs PDF- June 18, 2023**

#### **NATIONAL**

##### **Google Doodle honours Dr Kamala Sohonie, an Indian biochemist on her 112 birthday**

- Kamala Sohonie, born on June 18, 1911, in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, was a trailblazing Indian scientist. She became the first Indian woman to earn a Ph.D. degree in a scientific discipline. Despite facing gender bias within the scientific community, including opposition from Nobel laureate CV Raman, Sohonie persevered and made significant contributions to the field of biochemistry.

- Kamala Sohonie's groundbreaking research on Neera, a palm extract with the potential to combat malnutrition among tribal communities in India, earned her the prestigious Rashtrapati Award.
- Kamala Sohonie's father, Narayanarao Bhagvat, and his brother Madhavrao Bhagvat, were both chemists who had studied at the Tata Institute of Sciences (now the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru). Inspired by their footsteps, Kamala graduated in 1933 with a B.Sc. degree in Chemistry (principal) and Physics (subsidiary) from Bombay University, where she topped the merit list. Her pursuit of higher education led her to apply for an M.Sc. degree at the Indian Institute of Science, which was then headed by CV Raman.

### SPORTS

#### India beats Lebanon to win Intercontinental Cup title 2023

- India lifted the Intercontinental Cup as it tamed a young Lebanon side by two second-half goals at the Kalinga Stadium. India beat Lebanon 2-0 in the Intercontinental Cup final at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar to win the title. Sunil Chhetri's 46th minute goal broke the deadlock before Lallianzuala Chhangte made it 2-0 in the 66th minute as India beat Lebanon for the first time since 1977.
- India made a strong start to the match, dominating 57% possession in the first half. It was in the first minute of second half that the deadlock was broken, with Lallianzuala Chhangte providing an assist for Sunil Chhetri. Chhangte turned scorer in the 66th minute as India increased their lead. This was also the Indian team's sixth consecutive clean sheet, equalling a record dating back to 1952. This is India's first win over Lebanon since 1977.
- There are two Intercontinental Cups in football. One was an annual competition between the winners of the European Cup/UEFA Champions League and the Copa Libertadores, from 1960 to 2004. The other is a four-nation tournament organized by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) in India, from 2018 to present.

#### Goa launches 37th National Games mascot, Moga

- Goa's Chief Minister Pramod Sawant launched 'Moga' at a launch ceremony held at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium in Taleigao, Goa. 37th edition of the national games of India will be held in various locations in the state of Goa.
- It will feature competitions in a total of 43 disciplines. It will also feature 'Gatka', a traditional martial art form associated with Punjab.
- National Games in India are organised by the Indian Olympic Association. The Indian sports ministry, has affirmed that the National Games will be held every two years, except in years where the Olympics and Asian Games are held.
- PT Usha is the president of Indian Olympic Association which is headquartered in New Delhi.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### International Father's Day 2023: Third Sunday of June

- Father's Day is a celebration of fathers and fatherhood. It is celebrated on the third Sunday of June in many countries around the world, including the United States,

Canada, and the United Kingdom. The day is a time to honour fathers, grandfathers, and other male role models who have made a significant impact in the lives of their children. This year Father's Day held on 18th June.

- Father's Day is a time to honour and celebrate fathers and fatherhood. Whether you are a father, grandfather, or someone who has been influenced by a special father figure, take a moment to reflect on the importance of this holiday. Let's use this day to express our gratitude to the fathers in our lives and to acknowledge the important role that they play in our families and communities.
- Father's Day is a day to honor fathers and father figures for their love, support, and guidance. It is a time to celebrate the special role that fathers play in our lives. There are many ways to celebrate Father's Day. Some people like to go out to eat, while others prefer to have a cookout at home. Some people give their fathers gifts, while others simply spend time with them doing something they enjoy.

#### **International Day for Countering Hate Speech: 18<sup>th</sup> June**

- The annual observance of the International Day for Countering Hate Speech on June 18 serves as a crucial reminder to address the pressing global problem of hate speech. In an era where communication technologies have magnified its influence, hate speech remains a catalyst for violence, intolerance, and fragmentation. This significant day emphasizes the need for united efforts to combat the dissemination of divisive language and foster mutual understanding, respect, and inclusivity.
- The International Day for Countering Hate Speech is a significant global initiative designed to address the alarming surge of hate speech worldwide. In July 2021, the United Nations General Assembly underscored the urgent necessity to combat hate speech and adopted a resolution emphasizing the importance of fostering inter-religious and intercultural dialogue as a means to counter this phenomenon.
- The resolution acknowledges that discrimination and hate speech present substantial threats to human rights and social cohesion. It urges all relevant parties, including governments, to enhance their efforts in countering hate speech while upholding international human rights law.

#### **Sustainable Gastronomy Day: 18<sup>th</sup> June**

- Sustainable Gastronomy Day which takes place on June 18 every year, highlights the important role that food plays in promoting sustainable development and the crucial choices about what we eat. According to the United Nations, gastronomy is sometimes called the art of food. It also refers to a style of cooking from a particular region.
- Sustainability is the concept that ensures particular activity, like fishing or food preparation is carried out in a manner that reduces the waste of natural resources and can be maintained in the long term without impacting the environment or our well-being. By accepting sustainable practices, we can contribute to a greener future.
- The theme for this year's celebrations is 'Local Flavours, Preserving Global Heritage.'
- Sustainable gastronomy promotes practices that reduce the environmental impact of food production. By using organic farming methods, diminishing greenhouse gas



emissions, preserving water, and protecting biodiversity, sustainable gastronomy helps to conserve ecosystems and reduce climate change. It also encourages the consumption of nutritious, fresh, and locally sourced ingredients.

### SUMMIT'S & MOU's

#### Centre sets up panel led by former Law Secy T K Vishwanathan to recommend reforms in arbitration law

- The Indian government, through the Department of Legal Affairs, has taken a significant step towards improving the arbitration process by forming an expert committee. Led by former law secretary T K Vishwanathan, the committee aims to recommend reforms to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act of 1996. With a focus on reducing court intervention, enhancing cost-effectiveness, and ensuring timely resolution, the committee is expected to submit its recommendations within 30 days.
- One of the primary objectives of the expert committee is to thoroughly examine the functioning of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. By assessing its strengths, weaknesses, and challenges in comparison to foreign jurisdictions, the committee seeks to identify areas for improvement. This critical analysis will serve as a foundation for drafting proposed amendments and making other recommendations to the government.
- To make arbitration a truly party-driven process, the committee aims to propose solutions that limit the requirement for parties to seek judicial intervention. By addressing this issue, the committee aims to streamline the arbitration process and minimize delays caused by court involvement. The objective is to create a more efficient and time-bound framework for resolving disputes through arbitration.

### AWARDS & RECOGNITION

#### Gandhi Peace Prize 2021 to be conferred on Gita Press: Govt

- The Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021 will be conferred on Gita Press, Gorakhpur, in recognition of its "outstanding contribution towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods", the ministry of culture announced. The decision to confer the award on Gita Press was taken by a jury headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by Government of India in 1995, on the occasion of 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi as a tribute to the ideals espoused by Mahatma Gandhi. The award is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or gender.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1 crore, a citation, a plaque and an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item. The past awardees include organisations such as ISRO and Ramakrishna Mission.
- The past awardees include organisations such as ISRO, Ramakrishna Mission, Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari, Akshaya Patra, Bengaluru, Ekal Abhiyan Trust, India and Sulabh International, New Delhi among others.

### **Mp Bags Top Award For Water Conservation**

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar presented the fourth National Water Awards in New Delhi on Saturday, recognizing and encouraging the commendable efforts made by individuals, organizations, districts, and states in water conservation. The awards, announced by the Jal Shakti Ministry, aim to create awareness about the significance of water and inspire the adoption of best water use practices. Madhya Pradesh emerged as the top-performing state in the Best State category, demonstrating its commitment to water conservation.
- Madhya Pradesh was honored with the first prize in the Best State category at the National Water Awards 2022. This recognition underscores the state's exceptional dedication and innovative measures toward water conservation. The government, along with various stakeholders, has implemented strategies to ensure efficient water management and promote sustainable practices across the state. Madhya Pradesh's achievement serves as an inspiration for other states to prioritize and enhance their efforts in conserving this vital resource.

