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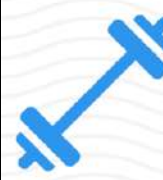
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**WEEKLY CA  
JUNE 2021**

**JUNE 1-7**



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## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has introduced the **world's first Nano Urea Liquid** for farmers during its 50<sup>th</sup> annual general body virtual meeting. The production of Nano Urea Liquid will commence by June 2021.
2. The **Common Services Centres (CSC) E-Governance India Ltd** has unveiled a unique Agri Services Portal that will act as a one-stop destination and marketplace for small farmers.
  - To empower small and marginal farmers, who constitute 86 per cent of India's farming community.
  - The portal "www.cscagri.in" will provide services to Small and marginal farmers, who do not have easy access to the digital world can avail essential agri services.
3. **The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has sanctioned a **Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of Rs 254 crore** for setting up two mega piped drinking water supply projects in **Odisha**.

## STATES AFFAIRS

4. Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister of Goa has launched a solar based Electrification Programme to provide clean affordable and reliable energy for the rural households of Goa.
5. Punjab Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh approved to create a special purpose vehicle (SPV) – **Punjab Rural Water (Utility) Company** for the operation and maintenance of multi village surface water supply schemes across Punjab.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

6. 74th session of the **World Health Assembly (WHA)** of World Health Organization (WHO) held virtually from Geneva, Switzerland amid COVID-19, from 24th May to 31st May 2021. The theme of

the 74th WHA is “**Ending this pandemic, preventing the next**: building together a healthier, safer and fairer world”.

- Mrs. Dechen Wangmo, Health Minister of Bhutan has been elected as the President of the 74th WHA.
7. The World Health Organisation (**WHO**) has named the **B.1.617.1** and **B.1.617.2** variants of COVID-19 that were first identified in India as ‘**Kappa**’ and ‘**Delta**’ respectively.
  8. On 3rd June, China National Space Administration (**CNSA**) successfully launched “**Fengyun-4B**” (**FY-4B**) Meteorological satellite to Earth’s Geostationary Orbit. FY-4B is the **1st of China’s New-Generation Meteorological Satellites**, which has an improved measurement resolution of **250 meters** to scan Earth.
  9. **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** plans to implement two new missions **DAVINCI+ and VERITAS to Venus**, Earth’s nearest also called sister planet. NASA will spend \$500 million for each mission. Both missions will be expected to launch between 2028-2030.

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## REPORTS & INDICES

10. The Controller General of Accounts’ (**CGA**) revenue-expenditure data of the Union government for FY21 reported India’s **fiscal deficit** for FY21 at **9.3 percent** / Rs 18.21 lakh crore of the gross domestic product (GDP), which is about Rs 27,194 crore lower than the Finance Ministry’s revised estimation(RE) of **9.5 percent**.
11. On June 03,2021, **NITI Aayog** (National Institution for Transforming India) released the **3rd** edition of **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)** India Index and dashboard for 2020–21 in New Delhi.
  - Report Title: ‘**SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21: Partnerships in the Decade of Action**’.

- The index was launched by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman **Rajiv Kumar** along with other members.
  - **State wise Top Rank: Kerala** has retained its rank as the top state with a score of 75 and Bihar has been adjudged as the worst performer.
  - **Union Territories (UTs) wise Top Rank: Chandigarh** topped among the **UTs**, followed by Delhi, Puducherry. Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu has been adjudged as the worst performer.
12. **Manama**, the Capital city of Bahrain topped the **AIRINC Global 150 Cities Index for Financial Attractiveness ranking** for the 3rd consecutive time. Indian Cities of **New Delhi & Mumbai** were the only two to be listed in the Index.
13. International Labour Organisation (**ILO**) released a report titled “World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2021(WESO Trends 2021)” stating **global unemployment rate will be 5.7% in 2022**, 6.3% in 2021 & there will no recovery in global jobs until 2023.
14. According to the “**Scientific review of the impact of climate change on plant pests**” report of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (**FAO**), globally around 40% of agricultural produce is damaged due to invasive pests every year.
15. Food and Agriculture Organization (**FAO**) and UN Environment Programme’s (**UNEP**) has released a report titled, “**Becoming #GenerationRestoration Ecosystem Restoration for People, Nature & Climate**”. The report states, to avoid biodiversity loss, land equivalent to **size of china** or **one billion hectares** of degraded land should be restored by **2030**.

## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

16. Ministry of Finance has extended the validity of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for another 3 months till September 30, 2021 or till guarantee for an amount of Rs 3 lakh crore is issued.
- Additionally, the scope of ECLGS has been widened through the introduction of ECLGS 4.0 for on-site oxygen generation.



17. The Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, launched an Author Mentorship programme '**YUVA (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors)** – Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors' to Train Young and Budding Authors (Below 30 Years of age).
- Objective: To promote reading, writing, and book culture of Indians; to project Indian writings globally.
  - Implementing Agency: The National Book Trust, India under the Ministry of Education will be the Implementing Agency of the scheme
18. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a new scheme under **PM-CARES for children** who affected in COVID-19. Children who have lost both parents or surviving parent or legal guardian/adoptive parents due to Covid 19 will be supported under 'PM-CARES for Children' scheme.
- Each child will receive a monthly financial support once they attain 18 years of age for next five years and they will get a fund of Rs.10 lakh when they turn 23.

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19. Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, **Narendra Singh Tomar** virtually launched the **Horticulture** Cluster Development Programme (**CDP**). Initially, the programme will be implemented in a **pilot phase** in **12** horticulture clusters out of the total **53** clusters selected for the programme.
20. To reduce India's dependence on costly oil imports, the government (govt) has brought forward the target year for achieving 20 percent ethanol-blending with petrol by 2 years to April 2023 from **2025**. It was reported by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG).
- India is the 3rd biggest oil importer in the world and relies on foreign suppliers to meet more than 80 percent of demand.
21. Union Minister Harsh Vardhan, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) launched the revamped, digitized version of **Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS)**, Umbrella schemes

of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN), and Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG) on National Health Authority's (NHA) IT platform.

- **Objective:** Digitization of healthcare services to enable the poor and needy people to avail the benefits of the health schemes on time.

22. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (**MoSJ&E**) Minister, **Thaawarchand Gehlot** virtually launched **Seniorcare Aging Growth Engine (SAGE) initiative & portal** to help old aged people. These benefits to the elderly people will be given by the Startups.

## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

23. The National Statistical Office (**NSO**), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, estimated India's Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**) growth for **Q4 FY21** at **1.6 percent** with a contraction of **7.3(-7.3) percent** for **FY21** (Earlier projection 8(-8) percent) against 4 percent expansion in FY20

24. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (**OECD**), in its Economic Outlook, reduced India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast in 2021 to **9.9 percent** from its earlier projection of 12.6 percent (March 2021).

25. The Bombay Stock Exchange (**BSE**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (**ESC**) to create awareness among Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and startups about the benefits of listing on the BSE SME & Startup platform.

26. India's largest private sector general insurer **ICICI Lombard** has partnered with **Microsoft** to strengthen and automate the quality control processes

27. The Ministry of Labour and Employment has constituted an expert group led by Professor **Ajit Mishra**, director of the Institute of Economic Growth to provide technical support and recommendations to fix the minimum wages and national floor minimum wages.

- This decision is a part of the centre's implementation of the Code of Wages, 2019, which mandates a statutory national level floor wage

## FINANCE & BANKING

28. The **43rd** Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council met virtually under the Chairmanship of Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** recommended the '**Amnesty Scheme**' to reduce the **late fees** payable for pending returns by **small taxpayers** & medium-sized taxpayers (aggregate turnover upto Rs 5 crore).
29. **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of Pune-based Shivajirao Bhosale Sahakari Bank** as the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.
30. Under sections 10(4) and 11(1) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (42 of 1999), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had fixed the limits for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) investment in Government securities (**G-secs**) and State Development Loans (**SDLs**) unchanged at **6 percent** and **2 percent** respectively, of outstanding stocks of securities for FY22.
31. India's largest crypto exchange, **WazirX** has announced its own **Non-Fungible Token (NFT)** marketplace, a first of its kind for India and South Asia.
- NFTs are digital tokens that exist on a blockchain and represent ownership of digital items, like artwork, music, etc.
  - It will have no listing price and "minimal gas fees" of \$1 for transactions.
  - The WazirX marketplace will run on the Binance Smart Chain and will use the company's own WRX token.
32. After its partnership with **SWIFT**, **ICICI** (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India) Bank became the **1st** bank in Asia-Pacific and the **2nd** globally to offer the facility called '**SWIFT gpi** (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication Global Payments Innovation)**Instant**', the facility for **cross border inward payments**.
33. Digital payments provider **Paytm** is going to launch its **Initial Public Offering (IPO)** and raise about **\$3 billion (around Rs 21,800 crore)**, which would be **India's largest IPO** debut ever.
34. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) and the Luxembourg Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (**CSSF**) signed a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for mutual co-operation and technical assistance.
- To strengthen cross border cooperation in the area of securities regulation.



35. The Financial Stability and Development Council (**FSDC**) has constituted the first of its kind inter-regulators' panel to **address the regulatory challenges posed by the fintech** (financial technology) industry.
- The committee includes officials from the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**), finance ministry, the Securities Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) and the Insurance and Regulatory Authority of India (**IRDAI**).
36. Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) enhanced the overseas investment limit for a mutual fund house to **USD 1 billion** from the existing **USD 600 million**. The overall MF industry limit for investing overseas remained unchanged at USD 7 billion.
37. The Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) and the **Government of India** has signed a **\$2.5 million (~Rs 18.28 crore) project readiness financing (PRF) loan** to support preparation and design activities to upgrade major district roads in **Sikkim**
38. **India's largest private lender, HDFC Bank** has planned to become **carbon neutral by 2031-32**. Bank is now looking to reduce its emissions, energy, and water consumption. The bank is working on a framework of issuing green bonds

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39. After successfully providing VISA Virtual Debit Cards to more than 4.5 million customers, Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) has announced issuing of **physical debit cards by Visa**.
40. As per the data of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**), the United States became the **2nd largest source of foreign direct investment(FDI) into India** during FY21 by replacing Mauritius.

- Singapore remained the top largest source of FDI into India for the 3rd consecutive fiscal year.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

41. Notion Press authors **Nitin Rakesh and Jerry Wind** won **the International Business Book of the Year Award 2021** for their recently launched book **Transformation in Times of Crisis**.
42. World Health Organisation (WHO) has awarded **Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan** with **'WHO Director-General Special Award'** for banning E-cigarettes & heated tobacco products.

## PERSON IN NEWS

43. **Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra (J B Mohapatra)**, a 1985-batch Indian Revenue Service officer, was appointed as **the interim chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**.
44. The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has elected **Tata Steel Ltd Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) T.V. Narendran**, as its **President** for the year 2021-22.
45. **Tsang Yin-Hung** from **Hong Kong** broke the record and became the **fastest female climber** to reach the peak of Mount Everest, she scaled the peak in **25 hours 50 minutes**, (the shortest time taken by any woman).
46. **Former Justice of Supreme Court, Arun Kumar Mishra** appointed as the **Chairperson** of the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India**. He was appointed as the Chairperson for a period of **3 years**.
47. Indian Born British Writer **Salman Rushdie** has authored a new book titled **"Languages of Truth: Essays 2003-2020"** a collection of nonfiction essays, criticism and speeches with a focus on his view and imaginations of the change in literature and culture written between 2003 and 2020
48. **Dr. R S Sodhi, Managing Director**, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (**GCMMF**) popularly known as '**Amul**' was selected to the Board of International Dairy Federation (IDF). The decision has been taken in IDF General meeting on June 1, 2021 i.e. World Milk Day.

## OBITUARIES

49. Former Mauritius PM **Anerood Jugnauth** dies at 91.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

50. **World Milk Day** is annually observed across the globe on **June 1** to create awareness about milk and to highlight the importance of milk and dairy products as a global food.

51. United Nations (UN)'s **World Environment Day** is annually observed across the globe on **5th June** to promote and encourage the involvement of the government, businesses, celebrities and citizens to focus on environmental issues.

- World Environment Day 2021 is focused on ecosystem restoration and its theme is **"Reimagine. Recreate. Restore."**
- **Pakistan** is the host of 2021 World Environment Day, they host the day with the theme "Ecosystem restoration".

## SPORTS

52. **Sifan Hassan** of the Netherlands sets women's 10,000m world record of 29 min 6.82 sec.

53. Red Bull driver **Sergio Perez** wins Formula One Azerbaijan Grand Prix in **Baku**.

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