







**WEEKLY CA
JUNE 2021**

JUNE 8-15



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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. **NTPC** Limited, India's leading power utility under the Ministry of Power signed with **UN Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate**, an initiative to mobilize business leaders on water security and sanitation as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. The National Medicinal Plant Board (**NMPB**) and the National Botanical Research Institute (**CSIR-NBRI**) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the promotion of **cultivation and production of medicinal plants and herbs in India**.
3. **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)**, India's premier hydropower company under Ministry of Power along with **Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Ltd (JKSPDC)** has formed a joint venture company(JVC), "Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited" for the implementation of **850 MW Ratle Hydroelectric Project** in Jammu and Kashmir(J&K).
4. On Occasion of the **World Oceans Day (June 8)**, Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Prakash Javadekar launched an **2-month Awareness Campaign on Single-Use Plastic (SUP) & India Plastic Challenge – Hackathon 2021**. In 2019, Government of India had set a target of **phasing-out SUP in India by 2022**.
5. The Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT**) Bombay has established the Koita Centre for Digital Health (**KCDH**), India's first of its kind Center for Digital Health with the contribution from the **Koita Foundation**.
 - KCDH will collaborate with government organisations, healthcare technology companies and Healthcare NGOs.

STATES AFFAIRS

6. **Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur**, launched the **YounTab scheme for students**. Under the scheme, about 12,300 tablets were distributed to government school students virtually in Leh.

7. **Haryana** Chief Minister launched '**Pran Vayu Devta Pension Scheme (PVDPS)**', which is the 1st of its kind initiative in India and Oxy Van (Oxygen Forests) initiative.
8. **Gujarat** Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** launched '**e-Nirman**' portal and its mobile App for **Unorganised Sector Workers**.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

9. **Chile** hosts the most important **Clean Energy and Innovation Summit** of the year: 12th Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM 12) 2021 and 6th Mission Innovation Ministerial (MI-6) virtually from May 31-June 6, 2021.
 - **Theme** – 'Ambition into Action – Turning a Year of Ambition into a Decade of Delivery'.
 - CEM is a **high-level global forum** that helps in **promoting policies and programs** which advance clean energy technology. It provides a platform for all to demonstrate clean energy leadership to a global audience.
10. The **8th** triennial conference of the **International Nitrogen Initiative (INI)** held virtually from May 31-June 3, 2021, with a main focus on the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**).
 - Germany's Federal Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt–UBA) hosted the conference for the 1st time since its inception. The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety is supported the UBA.
 - UN Environment Programme, UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and UN Economic Commission on Europe, also addressed the conference.
11. **Pakistan** was retained on "**enhanced follow-up**" status for sufficient outstanding requirements by the **Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG)**, a regional affiliate of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
 - The country's rating was improved on 21 of the 40 technical recommendations of the global watchdog against money laundering and terror financing

12. **INTERPOL**, The International Criminal Police Organization, has launched a new global database named "**I-Familia**" to identify missing persons through family DNA. The I-Familia will support the police to solve the cold cases of the member countries.
13. India along with 17 other countries has been elected to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the **2022-24 term** beginning on January 1, 2022. India was elected in the **Asia-Pacific States Category** along with Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Oman.
- ECOSOC is one of the 6 main organs of the UN. It is the coordinating body for the economic and social work of UN agencies and funds
 - ECOSOC's 54 members are elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly.

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14. **G7** nations' Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting held in **London**, chaired by the **British finance minister, Rishi Sunak**, made an agreement to introduce a global minimum corporate tax rate of at least **15 percent** for multinational companies (MNCs).
- The G7 nations include the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada. The meet was held in Cornwall, southwest England.
 - **Objective:** To overcome the cross-border tax loopholes used by some of the world's biggest MNCs like Apple, Google and Amazon.
15. Maldives' Foreign Minister **Abdulla Shahid** elected as President of the **76th** session of the United Nations **(UN) General Assembly**.
- The 193-member General Assembly voted on June 07, 2021, to elect the President, who will preside over the 76th session of the UN body that will start in September 2021.
16. Turkish **Volkan Bozkır** is the president of the **75th** session of the UN General Assembly.
17. China's 'Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST)' project or known as 'Artificial Sun' set a new record by running at **216 million degrees Fahrenheit or 120 million degrees Celsius** for 101 seconds.

- For another 20 seconds, the 'artificial sun' also achieved a peak temperature of 288 million degrees Fahrenheit (160 million degrees Celsius), which is over 10 times hotter than the sun.

18. **Assimi Goita**, the transitional president of Mali named **Choguel Kokalla Maïga**, as the transitional Prime Minister(**PM**) of Mali. He is the president of the Strategic Committee of the Movement of June 5-Rally of Patriotic Forces (**M5-RFP**).

19. The 1st Edition of the Arab-India Energy Forum (AIEF) was held virtually from June 8-9, 2021. It was held under the **co-chairship of India & the Kingdom of Morocco**.

20. **El Salvador has become the first country in the world** to grant **legal tender status to bitcoin**. The use of bitcoin as a legal tender will become law in 90 days. The use of bitcoin will be totally optional.

- According to World Bank data, remittances from bitcoin to El Salvador account for \$6 billion in 2019. It is around a fifth of GDP in 2019 & a highest ratio across the world.

21. Former Mongolian Prime Minister **Ukhnaa Khurelsukh** has become the 6th democratically elected President of Mongolia. He was the Presidential candidate of the Mongolian People's Party. He will be replacing the incumbent President **Khaltmaa Battulga**

22. The **31st Edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) (Bi-Annual)** between the Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy was conducted from June 9-11, 2021 in the Andaman Sea.

- From the Indian side, **INS Saryu**, an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) took part in the exercise.
- From Thailand's side, **His Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) Krabi**, an OPV took part in the exercise. Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies took part in the exercise.

23. **China** launched 4 satellites into planned orbits aboard the **Long March-2D rocket** from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Northern Shanxi Province. The satellites will be used for ecological environment monitoring, asteroid resource exploration, disaster prevention and mitigation among others.

- The 4 satellites are Beijing-3 (BJ-3), HISEA-2 (HS-2), Yangwang-1 (YW-1) and Tianjin (TJ).

24. The **47th G7 Leaders' Summit 2021** (Outreach Session of the G7 meeting) took place in a Hybrid format from June 11-13, 2021 at Cornwall, United Kingdom (UK). It was **hosted by the United Kingdom (UK)** as it holds the Presidency of G7 for 2021. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually participated in the meeting.

- Theme for the Summit – '**Building Back Better**'.
- The UK invited Australia, India, South Korea and South Africa (jointly called 'Democracy 11') as Guest Countries to the 2021 summit.
- The 47th G7 Leaders' Summit has been called as the **1st ever net-zero G7** as all have committed to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

25. **Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** were elected by the 75th session of the General Assembly as the non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (**UNSC**) for the **2022-23** term.

- The elected 5 non-permanent members will take their seats on the 15-member body of the UNSC.

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REPORTS & INDICES

26. According to the **Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2019-20** for States & UTs released by Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education, the states of **Punjab, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands (A&N Islands) and Kerala** occupied the highest grade (Grade I++) for 2019-20 (i.e Scores are between 901-950).

- **Performance Grading Index** measures the progress made by States/UTs with regard to **school education** such as learning outcomes, access and equity, infrastructure and

facilities, and governance and management processes. For this, it uses around **70 Indicators**.

- The PGI 2019-20 is the **3rd edition of the report**, the 1st report was published in 2019.
- DoSEL has designed the PGI, the main objective of PGI is to speeden up transformational change in the field of school education.

27. As per the **State of India's Environment Report, 2021**, which was released by the Centre for Science and Environment (**CSE**), India's rank has dropped by 2 places from last year's 115 to **117** on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**), which are adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by 193 United Nations(UN) member states in 2015.

- The overall SDG score of India is **61.9** out of 100 and it ranks below four South Asian countries viz, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.
- **State-wise preparedness: Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh** were the **best states** with an overall score which are on the path to achieving the SDGs.
- **Jharkhand and Bihar** were the least prepared states to meet the SDGs by the target year, 2030. Jharkhand and Bihar lag in 5 and 7 out of the 17 SDGs.

28. Global Wind Energy Council released the report "**Global Wind Workforce Outlook 2021-2025**" with a focus on the job market and workforce needs in the wind energy sector. The report highlights the increase of job opportunities across the supply chain with the increase in the global wind industry.

- The report is the global forecast for the training needs which also examines the training needs of 10 countries: **Brazil**, India, Vietnam, Japan, USA, China, South Africa, Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Morocco.

29. According to the **Global Liveability Index 2021** released by the **Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU)**, New Zealand's **Auckland** has been named as the World's Most Liveable City due to its ability to control the spread of COVID-19 pandemic faster and lift restrictions earlier than other cities in the world even though city had more COVID-19 cases.

- Osaka (Japan), and Adelaide (Australia) came 2nd and 3rd respectively.
- Auckland has replaced Vienna (Austrian Capital) as the most liveable city. Vienna had topped the list since 2018.

30. According to the '**Child Labour Global Estimates 2020, trends and roads forward**' released by **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) & International Labour Organization (ILO)**, for the 1st time in two decades, **160 million children (63 million girls and 97 million boys) were in child labour globally** at the beginning of 2020, accounting for almost 1 in 10 of all children worldwide.

- The Child Labour (160 million) registered an increase of 8.4 million over 4 years (2017-20). The number of children put to work fell by 94 million during 2000 and 2016.

31. Union Minister for Education Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' released the report of **All India Survey on Higher Education 2019-20 (AISHE 2019-20)**.

- **AISHE Report** is released annually by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education.
- It provides **key performance indicators on the current status of Higher Education (HE)** in India.
- AISHE 2019-20 is the **10th edition** in the series of AISHE reports.
- It is a web-based survey that calculates Indicators of education development such as Institution Density, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR), Gender Parity Index (GPI) and Per Student Expenditure are calculated from the data.

32. The report '**The Costs of Climate Change in India: a review of the climate-related risks facing India, and their economic and social costs**' released by the **Overseas Development Institute(ODI)**, a London-based global think tank, stated the possibility for India to lose **3-10 percent** of its gross domestic product (GDP) annually by **2100** due to **climate change**.

- It also estimated the poverty rate of India to rise by **3.5 percent** in 2040 due to climate change.

33. According to the 2021 edition of **UNCTAD's** (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) '**Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures**' report, Due to pandemic, **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)** experienced an estimated fall in **GDP of 9% in 2020**, compared with a **3.3% decline in other developing countries** (Based on IMF data).

- The report has been published ahead of UNCTAD's 15th Quadrennial ministerial conference to be held virtually from October 3-7, 2021. It will be hosted by Barbados.

- SIDS are already facing extreme risk from global warming.
- COVID-19 has affected all spheres of life in SIDS including health, the economy and trade. One of the **severely hit sectors is the services exports**, which is heavily reliant on tourism and contributes on average 25 percent to SIDS' GDP.

34. As per the 'Global Skills Report 2021' released by Coursera, India has been ranked **67th** overall globally. **Switzerland topped the rankings** followed by Luxembourg & Austria.

- India has been ranked number 55 in business and at number 66 in both technology and data science categories.
- At the Asia level, Japan has topped the rankings (Global Rank – 4). India has been ranked 16th in the Asian region ahead of Philippines & Thailand.
- The report is based on performance data of about 77 million learners (from across 100 countries) on the platform collected since the onset of the pandemic. It benchmarks skills proficiency across 3 categories – Business, Technology and data science.

35. The Independent appraisal report '**Aspirational Districts Programme: An Appraisal**' released by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India, has appreciated India's Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) as '**a very successful model of local area development**' and stated that it can be a best practice for other parts of the world, where regional disparities in development status exist.

- The UNDP has appreciated ADP after analyzing its 49 Indicators across **5 key sectors of ADP** – health and nutrition; education; agriculture and water resources; basic infrastructure; and skill development and financial inclusion.
- The report is based on quantitative analysis of publicly available data, interviews with stakeholders (such as district magistrates, central prabhari officers and others).



36. **Madhya Pradesh** with a score of 64.1 has been ranked 1st in the **Anemia Mukht Bharat Index 2020-21**. Odisha (59.3) came 2nd followed by Himachal Pradesh (57.1) in the 3rd position.

- The score card and rankings in Anemia Mukht Bharat Index are based on parameters like coverage of **Iron-Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation** across beneficiaries to support assessment of progress and performance of the programme.
- The Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) strategy was launched in **2018** to reduce prevalence of Anemia all over India. It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) & United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**.

37. As per the report of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (**ICAN**), titled '**Complicit: 2020 Global Nuclear Spending**', the worldwide Nuclear-armed countries' overall spending on atomic weapon arsenals in 2020 was increased by **\$1.4 billion** (1.2-billion-euro) to \$72.6 billion from \$71.2 billion of 2019.

- The 9 Nuclear-armed countries include The **United States (US), China, Russia**, The United Kingdom (UK), France, India, Israel, Pakistan, and North Korea.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

38. Union Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar**, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), launched the **Seed Minikit Programme** for distributing seed mini-kits (higher-yielding varieties of seeds) to farmers.

- The mini-kits are being provided by the central agencies National Seeds Corporation (NCS), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.(NAFED), and Gujarat State Seeds Corporation.
- The programme was **wholly funded** by the **Centre** through the National Food Security Mission.

39. The Central Government has announced the extension of the Scheme to distribute Free of cost – Wheat & Rice Under **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)** to around 80 Crore people till November 2021. Earlier, the scheme was applicable for the months of May & June 2021 only.

- Under **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)**, the Central government is distributing 5 Kg free food grains per person per month to 80 Crore beneficiaries covered under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)**.
40. The Ministry of Jal Shakti under Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G) Phase 2 is set to support around **2 lakh villages to achieve Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) arrangements** through an investment of INR 40, 700 Crore during the FY 2021-22.
- Objective – SBM (G) Phase 2 aims to achieve comprehensive cleanliness in villages (also called Open Defecation Free Plus Status – ODF Plus Status) by focusing on ODF sustainability and ensuring SLWM arrangements in villages).
41. The **Ministry of heavy industries and public enterprises(MoHI&PE)** made partial modifications over the 'Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles in India Phase II' (FAME India Phase II) scheme, which began on 1 April 2019. The FAME scheme was administered by the department of heavy industries (**DHI**)
- MoHI&PE has decided for the aggregation of electric three-wheelers and electric buses component of the scheme via state run **Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL)**, to bring down the cost of electric 3 Wheelers to that of ICE-3 Wheelers.
 - For Electric Buses, EESL will generate demand in 9 cities with over 4 million-plus population like Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Chennai, Surat and Pune.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

42. As per the data of the Ministry of Commerce, India's merchandise exports in May 2021 increased by 67.39 percent to **USD 32.21 billion**, against USD 19.24 billion in May 2020, due to healthy growth in sectors such as engineering, pharmaceuticals, petroleum products, and chemicals. (May 2019 export – USD 22.86 billion).
43. In its June 2021 Global Economic Prospects, **World Bank** revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY22 to **8.3 percent** from its earlier estimate of **10.1 percent**, (the forecast has been revised up by 2.9 percentage points). It has also projected India's growth in FY23 at **7.5 percent** due to the impact of COVID-19.

- WB estimated India's economy to have contracted by 7.3 (-7.3) percent in 2020. It also estimated India to grow at 7.5 percent and 6.5 percent in calendar years 2023 and 2024.
- **Global Growth:** WB increased its global growth forecast in 2021 from 4.1 percent (January 2021, forecast) to **5.6 percent**, the fastest post-recession pace in 80 years.

44. India's export of agriculture and allied products (including marine and plantation products) increased by **17.34 percent to USD 41.25 Billion** during 2020-21 (in INR terms the increase was 22.62 percent). Exports during 2020-21 amounted to INR 3.05 lakh crore compared to INR 2.49 lakh crore during 2019-20.

- **India's Agricultural & Allied Imports** for 2020-21 stood at USD 20.67 billion compared to USD 20.64 billion in 2019-20.
- India's export figures during 2019-20 stood at **USD 35.16 billion**.

45. Digital Payment application **BharatPe** has acquired 100 percent stakes of multi-brand loyalty platform **PAYBACK** India from American Express and ICICI Investments Strategic Fund which hold 90 percent and 10 percent stake respectively in the entity.

- This is the first-ever acquisition by BharatPe.
- Payback India becomes a wholly-owned subsidiary of BharatPe

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FINANCE & BANKING

46. **Public sector banks** have sanctioned **95 percent of the total loans under PM SVANidhi scheme** to Street Vendors.

- PSU Banks have sanctioned **23,16,207 loans** under this scheme as on 31st May 2021.
- The Government of India launched the PM Street Vendors' Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme on June 1, 2020.

- Under the scheme, collateral-free working capital loan of up to Rs 10,000 of one-year tenure is being provided. The scheme aims at financing approximately 50 lakh street vendors.
- **A collateral free loan** is a loan provided to the borrower without any security.

47. The **World Bank's(WB)** Board of Executive Directors has approved a **\$500 million programme** named '**Raising and Accelerating Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Performance (RAMP)**', to support the Government of India's nationwide initiative to strengthen the MSME sector, which has been heavily impacted due to COVID-19.

- **Maturity:** The \$500 million loan, which will be provided from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (**IBRD**), an arm of the world bank group, has a maturity of **18.5 years** including a 5.5-year grace period.

48. As per the recommendations of the Committee on automated teller machines (ATM) Pricing headed by **VG Kannan**, under Section 10(2) read with Section 18 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (Act 51 of 2007), the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has made certain modifications over the ATM interchange fee, Free transaction limit and Customer charges.

RBI's Modifications in Brief:

- **Interchange Fee:** RBI has increased the **interchange fee** that banks could charge on **ATM per transaction** from **Rs 15 to Rs 17** for **financial transactions**, and from **Rs 5 to Rs 6** for **non-financial transactions** in all centres. This could be effective from August 1, 2021.

49. The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) **extended** the Risk-Based Internal Audit (**RBIA**) **system** for all deposit-taking Housing Finance Companies (**HFCs**), irrespective of their size, and for non-deposit taking HFCs with asset size of **Rs 5,000 crore and above** to enhance the quality and effectiveness of their internal audit system.

- The HFCs are directed by RBI to implement the RBIA framework by June 30, 2022.
- The RBIA system was earlier imposed on Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs).

50. The **Housing Development Finance Corporation** Limited Mutual Fund has launched the **New Fund Offer (NFO)** of HDFC Banking and Financial Services Fund for retail investors.

- The NFO runs from June 11, 2021 to June 25, 2021.

- The main objective of this fund is to provide long-term capital appreciation by investing predominantly in equity and equity related instruments of companies engaged in banking and financial services

51. Bombay Stock Exchange (**BSE**), Asia's 1st & the world's fastest Stock Exchange, has set up its wholly-owned subsidiary company named – '**BSE Administration & Supervision Ltd (BASL)**' for carrying out the administration and supervision activities of all **SEBI** (Securities and Exchange Board of India)- Registered Investment Advisors (**RIA**).

- BASL has received recognition from SEBI to administer and supervise investment advisors (**IAs**) registered with SEBI.
- All existing SEBI-registered IAs and new applicants desirous of obtaining registration as investment advisor will be required to register with BASL as a member.
- BASL members will be supervised and administered in accordance with the capital markets regulator SEBI's rules.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

52. **Dr. Rupinder Singh Sodhi (RS Sodhi)** is Managing Director of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation(**GCMMF**), Ltd., (**AMUL**) was honoured with the Asia Pacific Productivity Champion 2020, the regional award of Asian Productivity Organization (**APO**), Tokyo, Japan.

- The award recognises India's enhanced productivity and efficient milk supply chain in the world.
- He was nominated for the award by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
- R S Sodhi became the **first Indian** to receive this award in the past 20 years.

53. The winners of the **2021 Pulitzer Prizes** for Journalism, Books, Drama and Music were announced over a virtual ceremony.

- The winners of the 2021 Pulitzer prize constitute the **105th class of Pulitzer Prize winners**. Aminda (Mindy) Marqués González and Stephen Engelberg were the co-chair of the Pulitzer Prize board.

- Darnella Frazier, who recorded the murder of Floyd by police officer Derek Chauvin, received a special citation from the Pulitzer Prize Board.
- The **New York Times** won the Public Service Pulitzers for its extensive coronavirus coverage that exposed racial and economic inequities, government failures in the United States and beyond.
- **Louise Erdrich** won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize under the fiction category for his book titled "**The Night Watchman**".
- **Late Les Payne and Tamara Payne** won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize under the **Biography** category for the book titled "**The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X**".

54. Noted **Zimbabwean** novelist **Tsitsi Dangarembga** has been declared as the winner of the 2021 **Pen Pinter Prize** for charting the development of Zimbabwe from a British colony to an autocratic and troubled free state through her writing career of 30-years.

- She will receive the award at a ceremony hosted by British Library and English PEN in October 2021.

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PERSON IN NEWS

55. In June 2021, **Ranjitsinh Disale**, a school teacher from Maharashtra was appointed as the **Educational Advisor of the World Bank** from June 2021 till December 2024.

- He was one of the 12 advisors from the World to be appointed by the World Bank.
- Notably, Ranjitsinh Disale was the **winner of 2020's Global Teacher Prize** and also the 1st Indian to win the prize.

56. The co-founder of **upGrad**, India's largest online higher education company and Film producer, **Ronnie Screwvala** authored a book titled "**Skill It, Kill It**".
- This book is published by **Penguin Random House** and it will be released in July, 2021.
57. The Government of India has appointed **Anup Chandra Pandey**, retired IAS officer of 1984 batch, Uttar Pradesh Cadre as the **Election Commissioner of India** with effect from the date he assumes the office. He will retire in February 2024.
58. Nobel laureate **Amartya Sen**, authored a new book titled "**Home in the World**" which is set to be published by Penguin Random House in July 2021.
- The book describes the early life of Amartya Sen and explores the idea of 'home'.
59. Former Vice President of **Costa Rica** and Economist **Rebeca Grynspan** became the **first woman secretary-general** of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**).
- She was nominated by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.
 - She is the first woman and Central American to be appointed as UNCTAD's secretary-general. and will succeed Mukhisa Kituyi of Kenya
60. **Naftali Bennett** was sworn in as the **13th Prime Minister of Israel**. He succeeds Benjamin Netanyahu who has been serving as the PM of Israel for the past 12 years.
- Israeli parliament Knesset elected him as the Prime Minister by a 60-59 vote of confidence in the 120-member house.

OBITUARIES

61. Eminent **Assamese Litterateur**, Padma Shri **Dr Lakshmi Nandan Bora** passed away at the age of 91 in Guwahati, Assam. He was born on 15th June 1932, in Nagaon, Assam.
62. Eminent **Educationist Munirathna Anandakrishnan**, former Vice Chancellor of Anna University passed away at the age of 93 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He was born on 12th July 1928 in Vaniyambadi, Tamil Nadu.
63. Padma Shri awardee **environmentalist** and Odisha's former information commissioner **Professor Radha Mohan** passed away on June 11, 2021. He was born in 1943 in Nayagarh, Odisha.

64. **Prominent neurologist and Padma Shri awardee Dr Ashok Panagariya** passed away due to post-Covid complications in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
65. India's **Olympic Marathoner Surat Singh Mathur**, the first athlete from Independent India to complete the Olympic marathon race, at the 1952 Helsinki Games, passed away in Delhi.
- He was born in Mohammadpur Majri Village (Karala), Delhi.

IMPORTANT DAYS

66. The United Nations (UN)'s **World Food Safety Day** is annually observed across the globe on **7th June** to create awareness about the methods to prevent and detect foodborne risks, and to ensure food security, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism and sustainable development.
- The **theme** of the World Food Safety Day 2021 is **"Safe food today for a healthy tomorrow"**.
 - The **slogan** of the World Food Safety Day 2021 is **"Food safety is everyone's business"**.
67. The United Nations's **World Oceans Day** is annually observed across the globe on **8th June** to focus on the major role of the oceans in everyday life.
- The day aims to create awareness about the impacts of human activity on the Ocean and to promote sustainable management of the Oceans.
 - The theme of World Oceans Day 2021 is **"The Ocean: Life and"**
68. Kiren Rijiju Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy (**AYUSH**) formally launched the **"Namaste Yoga"** mobile application, dedicated to Yoga.
- The app was launched during the virtual curtain raiser event of the 7th International Day of Yoga (**IDY 2021**).
 - IDY has been annually on **21st June** since **2015**.
 - The event was organised by the Ministry of AYUSH in association with the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (**MDNIY**).

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SPORTS

69. Red Bull Racing's **Sergio Perez (Mexico)** won the **Formula One Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2021** held at Baku City Circuit, Baku, capital of Azerbaijan.
70. **The International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced that it has entered into a strategic partnership with **BharatPe** for being its **global tournament sponsor from 2021 to 2023**.
71. The International Cricket Council (ICC) inducted 10 cricket icons, including India's **Vinoo Mankad**, into the illustrious **ICC Hall of Fame 2021**. With this now there are 103 players in the ICC Hall of Fame.
- The special edition intake of 10 cricket icons into the ICC Hall of Fame is to celebrate the prestigious history of Test cricket, and to coincide with the first ever ICC World Test Championship Final.
72. The **125th Edition of French Open 2021** (also known as Roland Garros) took place from May 30-June 13, 2021 at Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France.
73. It is organized by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).
- **Novak Djokovic (Serbia)** defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece) to win the Men's Singles Title French Open 2021. It is Djokovic's **2nd French Open Title & 19th Grand Slam Title**.
 - Djokovic became the **1st player in the Open Era to win all 4 Major Grand Slams twice** (which is called a double career Grand Slam).
 - **Barbora Krejckova (Czech Republic)** defeated Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (Russia) to win the Women's Singles Title of the French Open.
 - It is her maiden Grand Slam Title, she became the 1st woman from Czech Republic to clinch the French Open Singles title since Hana Mandikolikova in 1981.

- **Barbora along with her partner Katerlina Siniakova (Czech Republic)** defeated Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA) & Iga Swiatek (Poland) to win the **Women's Doubles Title of French Open 2021**.
- With both wins (singles & doubles), Barbora became the **1st woman** since Mary Pierce in 2000 **to win the Singles and Doubles Title** in the same year at French Open.

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