

## June Last Week Current Affairs

### National News

#### National News

#### India signs a \$32 million loan agreement with the World Bank for improving healthcare services in Mizoram

- The Government of India, along with the **Government of Mizoram** and the **World Bank**, has signed a **\$32 million** loan agreement for the Mizoram health systems strengthening project.
- The project aims to improve the management capacity and quality of health services in Mizoram, particularly for the benefit of under-served areas and vulnerable groups.
- The World Bank has projected India's economy to grow at **3%** in **2021** and **7.5%** in **2022**.

#### Mizoram

- Capital: **Aizawl**
- Chief Minister: **Zoramthanga**
- Governor: **PS Sreedharan Pillai**

#### World Bank

- Headquarters: **Washington DC, United States**
- President: **David Malpass**
- Founded: **1944**

#### Odisha Government joins hands with UN World Food Programme to Empower, support women through SHGs

- The **Odisha** Government and the **United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)** have joined hands to improve household food and nutritional security by strengthening livelihood initiatives, reaching thousands of state-supported **Women's Self-Help Groups (WSHGs)** till **December 2023**.

#### Odisha

- Capital: **Bhubaneswar**
- Chief Minister: **Naveen Patnaik**
- Governor: **Ganeshi Lal**
- Festivals: **Dhanu Yatra, Budi Thakurani Yatra, Magha Saptami, Chhau, Dola Purnima**
- Lakes: **Kanjia Lake, Chilika Lake, Ansupa Lake, Pata Lake**

- Folk Dances: **Chhau, Gotipua, Ghumura, Ranappa, Chaiti Ghoda, Sambalpuri**
- Dams: **Hirakud dam, Indravati dam, Rengali dam, Jalaput dam, Mandira dam, Patora dam**
- National Parks: **Bhitarkanika National Park, Simlipal National Park, Nandankanan Zoological Park**

### World Food Programme (WFP)

- Founded: **1961**
- Headquarters: **Rome, Italy**
- Executive Director: **David Beasle**

### Goa becomes the first rabies-free state in India

- Chief Minister of Goa **Pramod Sawant** announced that **Goa** had not reported a **single rabies case** in the last **three years**. Goa became the **first rabies-free state** in India.
- The task of rabies control has been carried out by the '**Mission Rabies project**', which is being run through a Union Government grant.

### Goa

- Capital: **Panaji**
- Chief Minister: **Pramod Sawant**
- Governor: **Bhagat Singh Koshyari (Additional Charge)**
- National Park: **Mollem National Park**

### Delhi Government launches 'Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana'

- The **Delhi Government** has developed a new portal named '**Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana**'. The portal is to avail financial assistance for the families affected by COVID-19.
- Under the scheme, ex gratia of **50,000** will be provided to those who have lost a family member to COVID-19 and an additional **Rs. 2,500** pension per month if the deceased was the sole breadwinner of the family.
- Children who lost both their parents or single parent to COVID-19 will also be provided **2,500** per month till they achieve **25 years** of age and free education as well.

### New Delhi

- Chief Minister: **Arvind Kejriwal**
- Governor: **Anil Baijal**

### World Bank approves a \$125 million program to support a green and resilient Kerala

- The **World Bank** Board of Executive Directors has approved a **\$125 million** program to support **Kerala's** preparedness against natural disasters, climate change impacts, disease outbreaks and pandemics.
- The heavy monsoons of **2018** were the worst **Kerala** had seen in nearly a century, triggering devastating floods and landslides. It impacted more than 5 million people, mainly in the **Pamba River Basin**.

#### Kerala

- Capital: **Thiruvananthapuram**
- Chief Minister: **Pinarayi Vijayan**
- Governor: **Arif Mohammed Khan**
- National Parks: **Anamudi Shola National Park, Eravikulam National Park, Mathikettan Shola National Park, Pambadum Shola National Park, Periyar National Park, Silent Valley National Park**

### IFSCA forms a panel headed by Vandana Aggarwal to examine best practices in ship financing and leasing

- **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** formed a committee for the development of avenues for **ship financing and leasing**. This committee will be chaired by **Vandana Aggarwal**, former Senior Economic Advisor to the Government of India.
- This panel will examine global best practices in **ship financing and leasing**, identify opportunities and devise a roadmap to enable such activities from **GIFT IFSC**.

### Maharashtra signs an MoU with the UK Government to strengthen the start-up ecosystem

- **Maharashtra** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **British Government** under their '**ACT4Green**'. This programme aims to enable the **Indian and UK start-ups** to expand internationally through market entry support in their respective **cross-border** markets of interest.
- The MoU aims to strengthen the existing tech **start-up ecosystem** in

#### Maharashtra

- Capital: **Mumbai**
- Chief Minister: **Uddhav Thackeray**
- Governor: **Bhagat Singh Koshyari**
- National Parks: **Chandoli National Park, Gugamal National Park, Nawegaon National Park, Pench (Jawaharlal Nehru) National Park, Sanjay Gandhi (Borivilli) National Park**

### Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurates a mega quintal capacity seed processing plant in Jammu and Kashmir

- Union Minister **Jitendra Singh** has inaugurated a **mega quintal capacity seed processing plant** at **Kathua District** in **Jammu and Kashmir**. This plant will help in **doubling farmers' income** in India and the plant will cater to the entire Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir.
- This mega quintal capacity seed processing plant with **16 lakh** seed generation and **24 lakh** seed processing capacity is the first-of-its-kind to have come up in this entire region.

### Jammu and Kashmir

- Capital: **Srinagar (Summer), Jammu (Winter)**
- Lt. Governor: **Manoj Sinha**
- National Parks: **Hemis National Park, City Forest (Salim Ali) National Park, Dachigam National Park, Kishtwar National Park**
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: **Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary, Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary, Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary, Baltal-Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary, Karakoram (Nubra Shyok) Wildlife Sanctuary**
- Lakes: **Mansar Lake, Nagin Lake, Wular Lake, Surinsar Lake, Dal Lake**

### Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar addresses the CII Northern Region Food Processing Summit 2021

- Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Food Processing Industries, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj **Narendra Singh Tomar** virtually addressed the **3<sup>rd</sup> edition** of the **Northern Zone Food Processing Summit** organised by the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**.
- The **Government of India** has taken several initiatives to harness the **food and horticulture potential** of India to encourage investment and development in the **agriculture sector** as well as to provide a better environment to the existing enterprises.

### Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- President: **TV Narendran**

### IBRD approves a \$210 million loan for the implementation of SALT programme in Andhra Pradesh

- The lending arm of the **World Bank Group, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** has approved a **\$250 million** loan for Andhra Pradesh Government to support the implementation of the **Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation (SALT)** programme in the next **five years**.

- The main objectives of the programme called Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation (SALT) are strengthening **foundation schools** and **providing training** and **skill development** to teachers.

### International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

- Headquarters: **Washington DC, USA**
- Member Countries: **189**
- Established: **1944**
- Parent Organisation: **World Bank Group**

### NTPC commissions 910 MW capacity at Barauni, Tanda

- **NTPC Limited** (National Thermal Power Corporation Limited) has declared the commercial operation of the second unit of **660 MW capacity** at **Tanda Super Thermal Power Station** in Uttar Pradesh.
- Additionally, the second **250 MW** unit at **Barauni Thermal Power Station** in **Bihar** has also completed the trial operation and is consequently included in the installed capacity of NTPC.

### National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC)

- Headquarters: **New Delhi, India**
- Chairman and Managing Director: **Gurdeep Singh**
- Founded: **1975**

### NTPC sets target to install 60 GW renewable energy capacity by 2032

- State-owned **NTPC Limited (National Thermal Power Corporation Limited)** has set a target to install **60 GW** of renewable energy capacity by **2032**. India's largest power producer is also aiming at a **10%** reduction in net energy intensity by **2032**.
- NTPC became the first energy company in **India** to declare its energy compact goals as part of the UN **High-level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE)**.

### Jammu & Kashmir Chief Secretary inaugurates a mental health helpline initiative named 'SUKOON'

- Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir **Arun Kumar Mehta** inaugurated State Disaster Response Fund's (SDRF) first Battalion's 24×7 mental health helpline **'SUKOON'**.
- **'SUKOON'** is a mental health helpline initiative (toll-free number 1800-1807159) to offer **guidance to persons** who are experiencing anxiety, depression, stress, panic attack, mental health emergency and pandemic induced psychological stress.

### Jammu and Kashmir

- Capital: **Srinagar (Summer), Jammu (Winter)**

- Lt. Governor: **Manoj Sinha**
- National Parks: **Hemis National Park, City Forest (Salim Ali) National Park, Dachigam National Park, Kishtwar National Park**
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: **Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary, Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary, Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary, Baltal-Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary, Karakoram (Nubra Shyok) Wildlife Sanctuary**
- Lakes: **Mansar Lake, Nagin Lake, Wular Lake, Surinsar Lake, Dal Lake**

### Union Government extends Pradhan Mantri Grameen Kalyan Ann Yojana for five months until November 2021

- Union Government has now extended the **Pradhan Mantri Grameen Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY)** for **five months until November 2021**.
- Further allocation of 198.78 lakh MT food grains has been made under **PMGKAY-IV** for July to November.

### Principal Scientific Adviser K Vijay Raghavan launched the Atmanirbhar Krishi app

- Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) of the Government of India, **K Vijay Raghavan**, has launched the **“Atmanirbhar Krishi app”**.
- The **Atmanirbhar Krishi app** was created to equip **farmers** with actionable agricultural insights and **early weather alerts**.

### International News

#### Denmark signs framework agreement on the International Solar Alliance with India

- **Denmark** signed the **International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA)** and Instrument of Ratification with **India**.
- **Denmark** became the **first country** to ratify International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA) after amendments.

#### Denmark

- Capital: **Copenhagen**
- Currency: **Danish Krone**
- Prime Minister: **Mette Frederiksen**

#### International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- Headquarters: **Gurugram, India**
- Director-General: **Ajay Mathur**
- Alliance Member Countries: **121**
- The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** was launched by Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Former France Prime Minister **Francois Hollande** on **30 November 2015**.

## IFFCO to set up nano urea plant in Argentina

- Leading fertiliser cooperative **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)** will set up a nano urea liquid manufacturing plant in **Argentina** in partnership with the **Instituto Nacional de Asociativismo y Economía Social (INAES)** and Cooperative Confederation of Argentina “**Cooperar**”.
- The MoU was signed by Cooperar President **Ariel Guarco**, INAES President **Alexandre Roig** and IFFCO Marketing Director **Yogendra Kumar** in a virtual meeting.

## Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)

- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- Managing Director: **US Awasthi**
- Founded: **November 1967**

## Indian Air Force and Indian Navy conduct passage exercise with the US Navy in the Indian Ocean

- The **Indian Navy** and the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** began a two-day passage exercise with **US Navy Carrier Strike Group (CSG) Ronald Reagan** during its transit through the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- India was represented by **INS Kochi** and **Teg** along with **P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft** and **MiG 29K fighters**. The US was represented by the **Carrier Strike Group (CSG)** comprising Nimitz class aircraft carrier **Ronald Reagan**.

## NSA Ajit Doval attends SCO meeting in Dushanbe

- National Security Advisor **Ajit Doval** has attended the **16<sup>th</sup>** meeting of the Security Council Secretaries of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** in **Tajikistan, Dushanbe**.
- **Tajikistan** is the current President of the **SCO**. It conducted the meeting of the top national security officials of the eight-nation grouping of **SCO**.

## Tajikistan

- Capital: **Dushanbe**
- Currency: **Tajikistani Somoni**
- President: **Emomali Rahmon**

## Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- Headquarters: **Beijing, China**
- Secretary-General: **Vladimir Norov**
- Founded: **15 June 2001**
- SCO Countries: **China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan**

### India reviews bilateral cooperation with Indonesia under Comprehensive Strategic Partnership framework

- The sixth round of the **Foreign Office Consultations (FOC)** between **India** and **Indonesia** was held virtually. India reviewed the entire gamut of the bilateral relationship under the framework of **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**.
- **Riva Ganguly Das**, Secretary (East), led the Indian delegation while the Indonesian side was led by Director-General for the Asia Pacific and Africa, **Abdul Kadir Jailani**.

### India and Bhutan review development cooperation and agree to implement new projects

- **India** and **Bhutan** reviewed the entire gamut of their development partnership, with both sides agreeing to implement some new projects in the **Himalayan nation (Bhutan)** across various sectors such as **road infrastructure, water management and COVID-19 management**.
- The Third India-Bhutan Development Cooperation talks were held virtually. The Indian delegation was led by **Rahul Chhabra**, Secretary (Economic Relations) of the Union Ministry of External Affairs and the Bhutanese delegation was led by **Kinga Singye**, the Foreign Secretary of **Bhutan**.

#### Bhutan

- Capital: **Thimphu**
- Currency: **Ngultrum**
- Prime Minister: **Lotay Tshering**

### Ukraine and the US conduct “Sea Breeze” joint naval exercises in the Black Sea

- This exercise will involve around **5,000** military personnel from more than **30 countries**.

#### Ukraine

- Capital: **Kyiv**
- Currency: **Ukrainian Hryvnia**
- President: **Volodymyr Zelensky**

### World’s second-biggest hydropower dam in China starts making power

- **World’s second-biggest hydropower station** in **China** named **Baihetan Hydropower Dam** started its operation to generate power.
- The 289-metre (948 feet) high Baihetan Hydropower Station over the **Yangtze River** in southwest China is **second in the world** only to China’s **Three Gorges Dam** in terms of power generation, which began partial operation.



## China

- Capital: **Beijing**
- President: **Xi Jinping**
- Currency: **Renminbi**

## Union Ministry of External Affairs Secretary Riva Ganguly Das participates in the ASEAN Regional Forum Senior Officials' Meeting 2021

- Union Ministry of External Affairs Secretary **Riva Ganguly Das** has participated in the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** Regional Forum Senior Officials' Meeting 2021.
- **Brunei** holds the current chairmanship of **ASEAN** for **2021** and **Cambodia** is set to assume the chairmanship in **2022**.

## Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- Headquarters: **Jakarta, Indonesia**
- Founded: **8 August 1967**
- Secretary-General: **Lim Jock Hoi**
- Chairman: **Nguyen Xuan Phuc**

## Turkey and Azerbaijan conduct a joint military drill 'Mustafa Kemal Ataturk 2021' in Baku

- **Turkey** and **Azerbaijan** began a joint military drill named '**Mustafa Kemal Ataturk 2021**' in Azerbaijan's capital city **Baku**.
- This drill aims to improve the interaction between the army units of the two countries and to develop the commanders' military decision-**making skills** and their ability to **manage military units**.

## Azerbaijan

- Capital: **Baku**
- Prime Minister: **Ali Asadov**
- President: **Ilham Aliyev**
- Currency: **Azerbaijani Manat**

## Turkey

- Capital: **Ankara**
- Currency: **Turkish Lira**
- President: **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan**

## Mobile World Congress 2021 was held in Barcelona, Spain

- The **Mobile World Congress 2021** (MWC), the world's biggest mobile event was held in **Barcelona, Spain**, in a hybrid format. It is an annual trade show dedicated primarily to the mobile communications/telecom industry, organised by **GSMA** (Global System for Mobile Communications) in Barcelona since **2006**.

## Spain

- Capital: **Madrid**
- Currency: **Euro**
- Prime Minister: **Pedro Sánchez**

## Banking and Economy

### SBI Card partners with Fabindia to launch 'Fabindia SBI Card'

- India's second-largest credit card issuer **SBI Card** has partnered with retail platform **Fabindia** for a wide range of handcrafted products, to launch an exclusive co-branded **contactless credit card**, '**Fabindia SBI Card**'.
- This contactless credit card is designed with curated benefits and privileges to offer a **rewarding** shopping experience to its **premium customers**.

### Northern Arc launches alternative investment platform 'AltiFi.ai' for retail investors

- Chennai-based non-banking finance company (NBFC) **Northern Arc Capital** announced the launch of '**AltiFi.ai**', an alternative investment platform for individual investors including **family offices, High Networth Individuals (HNIs)** and **corporate treasuries**.
- **ai** stands for both '**Alternative Financial Investments**' and '**Alternative Fixed Income**'. The main objective of the alternative investment platform is to democratise debt investing in India by offering **investment opportunities** in smaller units.

## Northern Arc

- Headquarters: **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**
- CEO: **Ravi Vukkadala**
- Founded: **1989**

### SBI launches Aarogyam Healthcare Business Loan for the healthcare sector

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has announced **Aarogyam Healthcare Business Loan** for the healthcare sector.
- This loan will cover the entire healthcare ecosystem such as hospitals, nursing homes, diagnostic centres, pathology labs, medical devices, equipment

manufacturers, suppliers, importers and logistics firms engaged in **critical healthcare supply**. They can avail loans of up to **100 crores** repayable in **10 years**.

### Afthonia Lab partners with YES Bank to support fintech companies in India

- **Afthonia Lab** has announced a strategic partnership with **YES Bank** to support **fintech companies** in India in their efforts to **innovate** and inject **new ideas** that would transform the **Indian financial sector**.
- Afthonia Lab's portfolio startups will be able to develop APIs in a **sandbox environment**, allowing them to experiment with **innovative ideas** and test their solutions in real-time.

### YES Bank

- CEO: **Prashant Kumar**
- Founder: **Rana Kapoor**
- Headquarters: **Mumbai**
- Tagline: **"Experience our Expertise"**

### BSE Institute inks an MoU with GIFT City for training in finance and capital markets

- **BSE Limited's** financial services training arm, **BSE Institute Limited**, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **GIFT SEZ Ltd.** to offer courses in **finance and capital markets**.
- Under the MOU, **BSE Institute** will develop, launch and conduct programs related to **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)** at GIFT City.

### Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)

- Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- Chairman: **Vikramajit Sen**
- MD & CEO: **Ashishkumar Chauhan**

### S&P revises India's FY22 GDP forecast to 9.5% from earlier 11%

- S&P Global Ratings has revised India's growth forecast for **FY22 (2021-2022)** to **9.5 per cent** from **11 per cent** earlier. The rating agency also warned of the risk to the outlook from further waves of COVID-19.
- It also projected India's growth forecast for **FY23 (2022-2023)** to **7.8 per cent**.

### NCAER expects the Indian economy to grow 8.4-10.1% in FY22

- Economic think-tank **NCAER** expected the Indian economy to grow **8.4-10.1 per cent** for the current financial year **FY22 (2021-2022)** from an earlier contraction of **7.3 per cent**.

## LIC launches “e-PGS” web portal for group business operations

- **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** has launched a new centralised, web-based and workflow-based IT platform “e-PGS” for its **group business operations**.
- This portal will provide very **innovative features** of seamless and **integrated banking** with **automatic reconciliations**.

## Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)

- Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- Founded: **1 September 1956**
- Chairman: **MR Kumar**

## RBI extends the regulatory restrictions on PMC Bank for six months till December 2021

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has extended the regulatory restrictions on **Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank** by another six months till **December 2021** to enable the completion of its takeover by Centrum Financial Services and **BharatPe**.
- The decision came a week after the RBI granted an “**in principle**” approval to **Centrum Financial Services** and **BharatPe** for setting up a **small finance bank (SFB)**.

## Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank

- Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- Founded: **1984**

## Ind-Ra revises India’s GDP growth to 9.6% for FY22

- **India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)** has projected India’s GDP growth rate to **9.6 per cent** from **10.1 per cent** for fiscal year **FY22 (2021–22)**.

## Mastercard partners with Instamojo to empower MSMEs and gig workers

- **Mastercard** has announced a strategic equity investment in **Instamojo**, a full-stack digital solutions provider to digitise and empower **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** and gig workers by providing **easy-to-use solutions**.
- This investment will help customers to rapidly digitize, such as setting up **online stores, equip** the stores with **digital payment** acceptance capabilities and reach out to customers.

## Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launches Indian Bank's 'MSME Prerana' in Maharashtra

- Union Minister of MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) and Road, Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** has launched **Indian Bank's** flagship business mentoring program named '**MSME Prerana**' in **Maharashtra**.
- '**MSME Prerana**' is a novel, unique and innovative business mentoring program, that is the first of its kind to empower MSME entrepreneurs.

### Indian Bank

- Headquarters: **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**
- MD and CEO: **Padmaja Chundururu**
- Establishment: **1907**
- Tagline: "**Your Own Bank**"
- **Allahabad Bank** was amalgamated with the **Indian Bank** on **1 April 2020**.

## Ujjivan Small Finance Bank partners with LoanTap to provide personal loans

- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** has partnered with digital lender **LoanTap** to provide **personal loans** to salaried professionals.
- This collaboration aims to extend the bank's services to its customers via LoanTap's **fast and convenient platform**.

### Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

- Headquarters: **Bengaluru, Karnataka**
- MD & CEO: **Nitin Chugh**
- Tagline: "**We believe in your belief**"

## Science and Technology

### India successfully tests fires Nirbhay cruise missile from Odisha coast

- **India** has successfully test-fired the indigenous subsonic cruise missile '**Nirbhay**' with a range of **1000 km** from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur off the **Odisha coast**.
- Nirbhay is a subsonic cruise missile that was designed and developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**. The missile can carry nuclear warheads up to **200 kg**.

### Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- Chairman: **G Satheesh Reddy**
- Founded: **1958**

### NSDC and WhatsApp launch “Digital Skill Champions Program” to improve skill development for youth

- The **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** and **WhatsApp** have announced an alliance to launch the **Digital Skill Champions Program** that aims to train India’s youth on digital skills.
- Under this program, school and university students would be coached to improve digital and online skills that would culminate with WhatsApp and NSDC awarding ‘**Digital Skill Champions**’

#### National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)

- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- CEO: **Manish Kumar**

### India’s first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier is set to be commissioned in 2022

- Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** announced that **India’s first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC)** is set to be commissioned in 2022. The aircraft carrier is set to be commissioned into the **Eastern Naval Command** as **INS Vikrant**.
- **INS Vikrant** is **262 metres** (860 ft) long and **62 metres** (203 ft) wide and displaces about **40,000 metric tons** (39,000 long tons).

### DRDO successfully test-fires enhanced Pinaka rocket off Odisha coast

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully test-fired an extended-range version of indigenously developed **Pinaka rocket** from a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher at Integrated Test Range, **Chandipur**, off the coast of **Odisha**.
- The enhanced range version of the Pinaka Rocket System can destroy targets at distances up to **45 kilometers**. The DRDO also successfully test-fired enhanced range versions of indigenously developed **122 mm Caliber Rocket**.

#### Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- Chairman: **G Satheesh Reddy**
- Founded: **1958**

### IIT Madras develops drone algorithms to understand how fire behaves in space stations and satellites

- Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** have developed algorithms for **drones** to help study how fire behaves in space stations, shuttles and satellites.

- According to the team, a **multirotor microgravity** platform can also simulate **reduced-gravity** environments similar to the Moon and Mars, thereby recreating those conditions on the Earth for experiments.

### India successfully test-fires 'Agni Prime' missile off the Odisha coast

- India successfully test-fired its new generation nuclear-capable **Agni Prime missile** from a defence base off the Odisha coast. The **surface-to-surface** ballistic missile has a range of **1,000 to 2,000**

### Appointments

#### Olympic medallist Karnam Malleswari was appointed as the first Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi Sports University

- India's first woman Olympic medal winner **Karnam Malleswari** was appointed as the **Vice-Chancellor** of **Delhi Sports University**. She won a bronze medal at the **Sydney Olympic Games** held in 2000.
- She has also conferred with the **Arjuna Award** in 1994 and the **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** in 1999.

#### Pardeep Singh Tiwana becomes the first Indian origin judge of the County Court in Australia

- **Pardeep Singh Tiwana** became the first Indian to be appointed as a judge of the County Court of **Victoria, Australia**.
- He had started as a criminal lawyer at **Melbourne university** in 2006.

### Australia

- Capital: **Canberra**
- Currency: **Australian Dollar**
- Prime Minister: **Scott Morrison**
- Deputy Prime Minister: **Barnaby Joyce**

#### Praveen Sinha was appointed as the Special Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

- The Union Government has appointed CBI Additional Director **Praveen Sinha** as the **Special Director** of the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**. He replaced **Rakesh Asthana**.
- He is a **Gujarat-cadre IPS officer** of **1988** He had earlier served as the superintendent of police, deputy inspector general, joint director and additional director in two stints between **2000** and **2021**.

### Suresh Patel was appointed as the new Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)

- **Vigilance Commissioner Suresh N Patel** to act as the **Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)** in the Central Vigilance Commission. He succeeded **Sanjay Kothari**.
- The CVC is headed by the CVC and can have a maximum of **two Vigilance Commissioners**.

### Meenesh Shah takes additional charge as the Chairman of the NDDB

- **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)**'s executive director, **Meenesh Shah**, was appointed as the Chairman of the NDDB for six months.
- He has taken over the additional charge as NDDB Chairman effective 1 June 2021 after **Varsha Joshi**'s tenure ended on 31 May 2021.

### Twitter appoints California-based Jeremy Kessel as Grievance Officer for India

- **Twitter** has appointed California-based **Jeremy Kessel** as the new Grievance Officer for **India**, as required under the new Information Technology Rules, 2021.
- **WhatsApp** had recently named **Paresh B Lal** as its Grievance Officer for India and **Facebook** appointed **Spoorthi Priya** as its Grievance Officer for

### Former Allahabad High Court judge Shambhu Nath Srivastava was appointed as the Chairman of the IFUNA

- Former judge of the **Allahabad High Court Shambhu Nath Srivastava** was appointed as the Chairman of the **Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA)**, a non-profit organisation to promote objectives of the **United Nations** and its specialised agencies.
- He is a former judge of the Allahabad High Court and the former **Chief Lokayukta of Chhattisgarh**.

### Justice Ravi Vijaykumar Malimath was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** has appointed **Justice Ravi Vijaykumar Malimath** as the next Chief Justice of the **Himachal Pradesh High Court**. He succeeded Justice **Lingappa Narayana Swamy**.

### Union Government extends Attorney General KK Venugopal's tenure by one year

- The Union Government has extended senior advocate and renowned constitutional expert **KK Venugopal's** tenure as the **Attorney General** for India till **30 June 2022**.
- He was first appointed as the Attorney General on **30 June 2017** for a three-year term after the then Attorney General **Mukul Rohtagi** resigned from office.



### Usha Natesan was appointed as the Director of the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training & Research (NITTTR)

- Anna University Professor **Usha Natesan** was appointed as the Director of the **National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training & Research (NITTTR), Chennai**, for a period of **five years**.

### WhatsApp appoints Manesh Mahatme to lead India Payments Business

- Facebook-owned messaging platform **WhatsApp** has appointed former **Amazon** executive **Manesh Mahatme** as the head of its payments business in India.
- Mahatme has over **17 years** of experience in **digital financial services** and payments across **Citibank, Airtel Money** and **Amazon Pay**.

### NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant's tenure extended till June 2022

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extended tenure of **NITI Aayog** Chief Executive Officer (CEO) **Amitabh Kant** by one year till **30 June 2022**. This is a **third extension** for the post.
- He is a **1980** batch retired IAS officer of **Kerala cadre**, who has been at the helm of the policy think tank of the Government of India since **2016**.

### NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)

- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- CEO: **Amitabh Kant**
- Chairperson: **Narendra Modi**
- Vice Chairperson: **Rajiv Kumar**

### RBL Bank appoints Chandan Sinha and Manjeev Singh Puri as the Directors on its Board

- Private sector lender **RBL Bank** has appointed **Chandan Sinha** and **Manjeev Singh Puri** to its Board of Directors. They will provide continued strategic direction and guidance to help **RBL Bank** achieve its objectives.
- **Chandan Sinha** is a career central banker and industry veteran with over 40 years of experience and **Manjeev Singh** is a former senior Indian diplomat and India's ambassador to several countries with over 38 years of experience.

### RBL bank

- Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- MD & CEO: **Vishwavir Ahuja**

### US appoints Indian-American diplomat Atul Keshap as its Interim Envoy to India

- The **US** has appointed Indian-American career diplomat **Atul Keshap** as the country's Charge d'Affaires in **Delhi**.
- He served as the **Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary** of State for the Bureau of **East Asian** and Pacific Affairs and as the US Ambassador to **Sri Lanka** and the **Maldives**.

### Umesh Sinha was re-appointed as the Deputy Election Commissioner of India for one year

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved an extension in the term of re-employment of **Umesh Sinha** as the Deputy Election Commissioner on a contract basis for a period of **one year** till 30 June 2022.
- He is a 1986-batch IAS officer of the **Uttar Pradesh** cadre and served as the **Secretary-General** in the Election Commission.

### Rankings

#### IIM Bangalore ranked Best in India: QS Executive MBA Rankings 2021 report

- The Post Graduate Programme in Enterprise Management (PGPEM) of the **Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB)** was ranked the **best** in India in the latest edition of **QS Executive MBA Rankings 2021**.
- IIMB has bagged the **39<sup>th</sup>** spot globally, making it the only Indian institute to feature in the list of the top **100**.
- **HEC Paris** retains its top rank, followed by **Wharton Business school** and Instituto de Estudios Superiores de la Empresa (**IESE**) at the second and third spots, respectively.

#### Indore and Surat bag the 2020 Smart Cities Award for Best Performance

- **Indore (Madhya Pradesh)** and **Surat (Gujarat)** were adjudged joint winners of the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry's **Smart Cities Award 2020**. The awards were announced to commemorate **six years** of the **Smart Cities Mission (SCM)**.
- **Uttar Pradesh** secured the first position in the state awards category, followed by **Madhya Pradesh** and **Tamil Nadu**.
- **Chandigarh** bagged the award for Union territories category, while **Indore** won the '**Innovative Idea Award**'.
- **Ahmedabad** bagged the '**Smart Cities Leadership Award**', followed by **Varanasi** and **Ranchi** in the second and third spots, respectively.

### Ashgabat is the world's most expensive city for foreign workers: Mercer Cost of Living Survey Report 2021

- According to the **2021 Mercer Cost of Living Survey**, Turkmenistan's capital city **Ashgabat** has become the **world's most expensive city for foreign workers**.
- Ashgabat was followed by **Hong Kong, Tokyo, Shanghai, Zurich** and **Singapore**.
- Mumbai remains India's most expensive city at the **78<sup>th</sup>** Other Indian cities on the list are **New Delhi** (117<sup>th</sup> rank), **Chennai** (158<sup>th</sup> rank), **Bengaluru** (170<sup>th</sup> rank) and **Kolkata** (181<sup>st</sup> rank).

### India ranks 31 among 46 countries on 'trust in news': Reuters Institute Digital News Report 2021

- According to the **Reuters Institute Digital News Report 2021**, **India** ranked **31** out of **46** countries on **'trust in news'**. **Finland** had the highest levels of overall trust in the news (65%), while **the US** had the lowest levels of trust in the news (29%).

### Bengaluru ranked as one of the top 5 technology centres in the Asia-Pacific: Colliers India Report

- According to the **Colliers India report**, **Bengaluru** was ranked as one of the **top 5 technology** centres in the **Asia-Pacific**.
- The top five technology centres in APAC are **Beijing, Shanghai, Bengaluru, Shenzhen** and **Singapore**.

## Awards and Recognitions

### Cochin International Airport wins ACI's roll of excellence honour

- The **Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL)** won the Airport Council International's (ACI) Director-General's **Roll of Excellence** honour in **Airport Service Quality (ASQ)**.
- The ACI is a global body of airport operators that established the **Roll of Excellence** recognition to those airports which, in the opinion of the passengers, have consistently delivered excellent services in the **Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Survey**.

### Taj Hotel was named as the strongest hotel brand in the world: Brand Finance Report

- According to the world's leading brand valuation consultancy **Brand Finance's report**, **Taj Hotel** was named as the **strongest hotel brand** in the world.
- Taj received an overall Brand Strength Index of **3** out of **100**, with a corresponding **AAA rating** for customer familiarity, employee satisfaction and corporate reputation, as well as its world-class customer service.

### Journalist P Sainath was awarded Japan's Fukuoka Grand Prize for 2021

- Renowned journalist and founder of **PARI** (People's Archive of Rural India) **P Sainath** was awarded the **Fukuoka Grand Prize for 2021** of Japan.
- He will receive the '**Grand Prize**' of the 2021 Fukuoka Grand Prize, while the Academic Prize and the Prize for '**Arts and Culture**' will go to **Kishimoto Mio** of Japan and filmmaker **Prabda Yoon** of Thailand, respectively.

### Delhi Metro wins 'Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award' for 2020 from JSCE

- **Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE)** has awarded the **Delhi Metro's** Phase I, II, and III projects with the prestigious '**Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award**' for 2020.
- The Delhi Metro project was dubbed a "**High-Quality Infrastructure Development Project**" by the JSCE.

### Deepti Pillay Sivan's documentary 'Decoding Shankar' wins the Best Film Award at the Toronto International Women Film Festival 2021

- Actress-turned-filmmaker **Deepti Pillay Sivan's** documentary, "**Decoding Shankar**" won the **Best Film Award** in the Documentary section (Best Biographical) at the **2021 Toronto International Women Film Festival**.
- The 52-minute 'Decoding Shankar' documentary is about the life and career of the celebrated musician **Shankar Mahadevan**.

### Books and Authors

#### Union Minister Harsh Vardhan releases a book titled 'My Joys and Sorrows – as a Mother of a Special Child' authored by Krishna Saksena

- Union Health and Family Welfare Minister **Harsh Vardhan** has unveiled **Krishna Saksena's** new book titled "**My Joys and Sorrows – as a Mother of a Special Child**".
- This book is the epitome of the bravery and endurance of a **mother** in the best tradition of **Indian motherhood**.

#### A new book titled "The Startup Wife" was authored by Tahmima Anam

- Award-winning writer, novelist and columnist **Tahmima Anam's** new book is titled "**The Startup Wife**". The book is published by **Penguin Random House India**.

A new book titled “Policymaker’s Journal: From New Delhi to Washington D.C.” was authored by Kaushik Basu

- **Kaushik Basu’s** new book titled “**Policymaker’s Journal: From New Delhi to Washington D.C.**” was released. This book was published by **Simon & Schuster India**.

### Sports News

India’s official Olympic theme song ‘Lakshya Tera Samne Hai’ was released

- India’s official Olympic theme Song, ‘**Lakshya Tera Samne Hai**’, was launched ahead of the **Tokyo Olympics Games 2020**.
- The event was organised by the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**. **Mohit Chauhan** has composed and sung the song titled ‘**Lakshya Tera Samne Hai**’.

**Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**

- Founded: **1927**
- President: **Narinder Dhruv Batra**
- Secretary-General: **Rajeev Mehta**

**Saurabh Chaudhary wins bronze medal in the men’s 10 metres air pistol in the ISSF Shooting World Cup 2021 in Croatia**

- Indian shooter **Saurabh Chaudhary** won a bronze medal in the **men’s 10 metres air pistol** event at the ISSF Shooting World Cup 2021 held in **Osijek, Croatia**.
- Iran’s **Javad Foroughi** won the gold medal with a total of 243.0 points and Serbia’s **Damir Mikec** bagged the silver medal with 241.7 points.

**International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)**

- Headquarters: **Munich, Germany**
- President: **Vladimir Lisin**
- Founded: **1907**

**Max Verstappen won the 2021 F1 Styrian Grand Prix**

- Red Bull driver **Max Verstappen** won the **2021 Formula One Styrian Grand Prix**. This was also his 14<sup>th</sup> race win. **Lewis Hamilton (United Kingdom)** came at the second position and **Valtteri Bottas (Finland)** came at the third position.

**Sajan Prakash becomes the first Indian swimmer to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics 2021**

- Indian swimmer **Sajan Prakash** sets national record in a 200 metre Freestyle event at the **Sette Colli Trophy in Rome, Italy**.

- He created history by becoming the **first-ever Indian swimmer** to qualify for the **Tokyo Olympics 2021**.

### **Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary won a silver medal in the mixed team event at ISSF World Cup 2021 in Osijek, Croatia**

- Indian shooters **Manu Bhaker** and **Saurabh Chaudhary** won a silver medal in the **mixed team event** at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup 2021 held in **Osijek, Croatia**.
- The Indian troika of **Manu Bhaker, Yashaswini Singh Deswal** and **Rahi Sarnobat** claimed the bronze medal in the **10 metre air pistol women's team** event of the ISSF Shooting World Cup 2021.

### **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)**

- Headquarters: **Munich, Germany**
- President: **Vladimir Lisin**
- Founded: **1907**

### **Indian archer Deepika Kumari claims No. 1 spot in World Archery ranking**

- Indian archer **Deepika Kumari** regained the **number one position** in the World Archery Global Rankings following her hat-trick of **gold medals** at the **World Cup** held in **Paris, France**.
- The 27-year-old from **Ranchi** had achieved the top spot for the first time in **2012**, claimed gold medals in three recurve events — **women's individual, team** and **mixed pair**.

### **BCCI confirms ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 to be held in UAE**

- Earlier, the event was scheduled to be held in **India** in October–November 2021. The second part of the **Indian Premier League (IPL)** is also being planned to be held in the UAE in September–October 2021.

### **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)**

- Headquarters: **Mumbai**
- President **Sourav Ganguly**
- Secretary: **Jay Shah**
- CEO(Interim): **Hemang Amin**

### **International Cricket Council (ICC)**

- Headquarters: **Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)**
- Chief Executive Officer: **Manu Sawhney**
- Chairman: **Greg Barclay**
- Motto: **"Cricket for Good"**

### Madhya Pradesh allrounder Anshula Rao becomes the first woman cricketer to fail a dope test

- **Madhya Pradesh** allrounder **Anshula Rao** was handed a **four-year** ban by the **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)** for failing a dope test, backdated to **July 2020**.
- She became the **first woman cricketer** to have been punished for doping. She is a registered cricketer with the **BCCI** and has taken part in several domestic tournaments.

### India's Rahi Sarnobat wins gold medal in women's 25 metres pistol event at the 2021 ISSF World Cup

- Indian shooter **Rahi Sarnobat** won a gold medal in the **women's 25 metres pistol** event at the **ISSF World Cup 2021** held in **Osijek, Croatia**.
- **Mathilde Lamolle** of France shot 31 in the final to win silver, while Russia's **Vitalina Batsarashkina** took home bronze with a total of 28.

### International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)

- Headquarters: **Munich, Germany**
- President: **Vladimir Lisin**
- Founded: **1907**

### Important Days

#### World Vitiligo Day - 25 June

- **World Vitiligo Day** is observed on **25 June** every year to raise awareness for **vitiligo**, a disfiguring **autoimmune disease** that causes white spots on the skin. This day was observed in remembrance of **Michael Jackson**, who suffered from vitiligo and died on **25 June 2009**.
- The first **World Vitiligo Day** (also known as Vitiligo Awareness Day or Vitiligo Purple Fun Day) was observed on **25 June 2011**.

#### International Day of the Seafarer - 25 June

- **International Day of the Seafarer** is observed globally on **25 June** every year. This day is observed to acknowledge and spread awareness about the importance of the invaluable contribution of **seafarers** to the **worldwide commerce** and **economic system**.
- This day was first celebrated by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on **25 June 2011**.

## International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking – 26 June

- The **International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking** is observed globally on **26 June** every year since 1989. This day aims to spread awareness about the **global drug problem** and **eliminate drug misuse**.
- 2021 Theme: **“Share Drug Facts to Save Lives”**

## International Day in Support of Victims of Torture – 26 June

- The **International Day in Support of Victims of Torture** is observed annually on **26 June** to speak out against the **crime of torture** and to honour and support victims and survivors throughout the world.
- This day was declared by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** on **12 December 1997**.

## International MSMEs Day – 27 June

- **International Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Day** is celebrated annually on **27 June** to recognise the contribution of MSMEs industries in the implementation of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- 2021 Theme: **“MSME 2021: The key to an inclusive and sustainable recovery”**

## International Day of the Tropics – 29 June

- The **International Day of the Tropics** is observed annually on **29 June** from **2014** to highlight opportunities, unique challenges faced by nations lying between the tropics and celebrates the diversity of the tropical regions.
- This day aims at promoting the **tropical regions** on the planet and raising awareness about **conservation strategies**.
- 2021 Theme: **“The Digital Divide in the Tropics”**

## National Statistics Day – 29 June

- **National Statistics Day** is celebrated on 29 June to commemorate the birth anniversary of late Professor **Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis**.
- This day marks the birth anniversary (29 June 1893) of the Father of Indian Statistics, Professor. **PC Mahalanobis**. This day is also celebrated in recognition of his invaluable contribution in establishing the **National Statistical System**

## International Asteroid Day – 30 June

- **International Asteroid Day** (also known as World Asteroid Day) is observed globally on **30 June**. This day is observed to raise awareness about asteroids and what can be done to **protect the Earth**, its families, communities and future generations from a **catastrophic event**.



- This day marks the anniversary of the Siberian Tunguska event that took place on **30 June 1908**, which is considered the most harmful known asteroid-related event on Earth in recent history.

### International Day of Parliamentarism – 30 June

- The **International Day of Parliamentarism** is observed on 30 June every year. This day was designated by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in **2018**.
- This day celebrates parliaments and recognises the significance of **parliamentary systems** of government in shaping **modern societies**.

### Obituary

#### Founder of McAfee antivirus software John McAfee passed away at 75

- British-born US technology entrepreneur **John McAfee** passed away at the age of 75. He is the founder and creator of **McAfee Antivirus Software**.

#### Former Philippine President Benigno Aquino passed away at 61

- Former Philippine President **Benigno Aquino III** passed away after a prolonged illness. He served as the **15<sup>th</sup> President** of the Philippines from **2010 to 2016** and was succeeded in office by the incumbent, **Rodrigo Duterte**.

### Philippines

- Capital: **Manila**
- Currency: **Peso**
- President: **Rodrigo Duterte**

#### National Award winning cinematographer and director Sivan passed away at 89

- National Award winning cinematographer and veteran director **Sivan** passed away in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**. He has won the **National Award** three times in his career.