

# Current Affairs

Week - 1(1<sup>st</sup> June to 7<sup>th</sup> June)

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## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ❖ **The Union Cabinet** at its **first** meeting, cleared an initiative for controlling **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)** and **Brucellosis** to support livestock rearing farmers.
  - ✓ The disease affects cattle, swine, sheep, goats and other cloven-hoofed ruminants.
  - ✓ **The Cabinet** has cleared a total outlay of **Rs 13,343 crores** to fully control these diseases amongst the livestock in the country in the next **five years** and subsequently eradicate these diseases.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** chaired by Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** has approved **Rs.3000 monthly pension scheme** for **small retail traders and shopkeepers** after they attain the age of **60 years**.
  - ✓ All small shopkeepers and self-employed persons as well as the retail traders with GST turnover below **Rs. 1.5 crore** and age between 18-40 years, can enrol for this scheme.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** has approved changes to the **Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme** for wards of deceased defence personnel under the **National Defence Fund**
  - ✓ It has been increased from **Rs.2,000** to **Rs.2,500** a month for boys and from **Rs.2,250** to **Rs.3,000** a month for girls.
  - ✓ Additionally, the ambit of the scheme was widened to cover the wards of State police officials martyred in **terror** or **Naxal attacks**.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** has approved the extension of the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)**.
  - ✓ The revised Scheme is expected to cover around **2 crore more farmers**, increasing the coverage of PM-KISAN to around **14.5 crore** beneficiaries.
  - ✓ **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi:**
    - The 2019 budget announced the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, guaranteeing direct income support for farmers.
    - The scheme provides a direct cash support of **Rs. 6000** to farmers, having cultivable land of up to 2 hectares
    - The programme would be made effective retrospectively from **December 1, 2018**.
    - It would be fully funded by the **Union Government**. The **Interim Budget (2018-19)** provides Rs. 75,000 crore for the present and the next year.
  - ✓ **Similar programmes by states:**
    - **Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana** in **Madhya Pradesh** was sought to provide relief to farmers by providing the differential between MSPs and market prices.
    - The **Rythu Bandhu scheme** of the **Telangana government** provides Rs 4,000 per acre for every season to all the farmers of the state. Similar initiatives have also be framed in Jharkhand and Odisha.
    - In December 2018, **Odisha** launched the **Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income augmentation (KALIA)**. KALIA is more complicated in design and implementation. It commits to give Rs 5,000 per SMF, twice a year, that is Rs 10,000 a year.
- ❖ **Union Government** has created new Ministry called '**Jal Shakti**' by merging **Ministries of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation** along **Drinking Water and Sanitation**. This move will bring all aspects of water management and regulation under one department.
  - ✓ Ministers: **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** has been appointed as minster of **Jal Shakti ministry** and **Ram Lal Kataria** as its **minister of state (MoS)**.
- ❖ Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (**MoEFCC**) has launched song '**Hawa Aane De**' to spread awareness about **Air pollution**. The song was launched ahead of **World Environment Day (WED)** which is celebrated every year on **5<sup>th</sup> June**. This year the theme of Environment Day is "**Air Pollution**".
  - ✓ **Hawa Aane De Song:** The song has been produced by Union Environment Ministry, in collaboration with Bhamla Foundation, Mumbai.
  - ✓ It is written by **Swanand Kirkire** and **sung** by Shantanu Mukherjee, Sunidhi Chauhan, Kapil Sharma and Shankar Mahadevan. Its film has been directed by **Romanchak Arora**.
- ❖ A 2-day **Yoga Mahotsava** which will be a Curtain Raiser for upcoming **International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2019** was inaugurated by **Shri Rajeev Kumar**, Vice-Chairman, NITI AYOJ at **New Delhi**. He also presented **theme** for IDY 2019 as '**Yoga for Heart**'.

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7046633255	7046416555	7046055566	9099864658	7046641555	7096237555	8140137555	7575003664

- ✓ Organised by: The Yoga Mahotsav-2019 is being organised by **Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY)** under **Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)**.
- ❖ Former ISRO chief **Dr. K Kasturirangan** led Committee has recently submitted the draft **National Educational Policy (NEP)** to HRD Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** in **New Delhi**.
  - ✓ The Draft Policy is built on foundational pillars of **Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability & Accountability**.
- ❖ Recent study conducted by **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** has found that '**Swachh Bharat (Grameen)**' initiative of the government has helped reduce **ground water contamination**. It was one of the two independent third-party studies conducted on **Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)** on behalf of Central Government. The other study was commissioned by **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**.
- ❖ The **Union government** has released the composition of **8 Cabinet Committees**, including two new ones — one on **Investment**, the other on **Employment and Skill Development**.
  - ✓ Cabinet Committees Formed:
 

• <b>Appointments Committee</b> of the Cabinet,	Cabinet Committee on <b>Accommodation</b> .
• Cabinet Committee on <b>Economic Affairs</b> ,	Cabinet Committee on <b>Parliamentary Affairs</b> .
• Cabinet Committee on <b>Political Affairs</b> ,	Cabinet Committee on <b>Security</b> .
• Cabinet Committee on <b>Investment and Growth</b> ,	Cabinet Committee on <b>Employment &amp; Skill Development</b> .
  - ✓ **Note:** Cabinet Committee on Accommodation is headed by the Union Home Minister and Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs is headed by Union Defence Minister. **All other** committees are headed by **Prime Minister**.
- ❖ **Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF)** has declared an area around the **Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Gurugram** and **Faridabad** as **Eco-sensitive zone**.
  - ✓ Activities such as commercial mining, setting up of industries, and establishment of major hydro-electric projects will be prohibited.
  - ✓ **Eco-sensitive zone:**
    - Eco-Sensitive Zones or Ecologically Fragile Areas are areas within 10 kms around Protected Areas, **National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries**.
    - ESZs are notified by MoEFCC, Government of India under **Environment Protection Act 1986**.
    - In case of places with sensitive corridors, connectivity and ecologically important patches, crucial for landscape linkage, even area beyond 10 km width can also be included in the eco-sensitive zone.
- ❖ The **Minister of State for Housing & Urban Affairs** has launched the **Swachh Survekshan 2020** league, a quarterly cleanliness assessment of **cities and towns** in India.
  - ✓ The **5<sup>th</sup>** edition of the annual cleanliness survey of urban India to be conducted from **January – February 2020**.
- ❖ The **Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA)** has ruled out any extension of the last date for filing the **e- form ACTIVE**, which was primarily introduced to weed out shell companies.
  - ✓ E-form ACTIVE stands for Active Company Tagging Identities and Verification.
- ❖ The Minister of State for Culture & Tourism, **Shri Prahalad Singh Patel** inaugurated exhibition "**Unknown Masterpieces of Himachal Folk Art**", at National Museum, **New Delhi**.
  - ✓ The exhibition is organized by the National Museum, New Delhi and Home of Folk Art of Tribal, Gurugram among other dignitaries.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ❖ **India** is elected to the Executive Board of the first **UN-Habitat Assembly** at the Plenary Session of the Assembly being held in **Nairobi, Kenya**. Theme:- "**Innovation for Better Quality of Life in Cities and Communities**".
  - ✓ **UN-Habitat:** is the United Nations programme working towards a better urban future. Its mission is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.
- ❖ The **US Treasury Department** has removed **India** and **Switzerland** from its **currency monitoring watch list** of major trading partners.
- ❖ As per 2019 edition of the **IMD World Competitiveness Rankings**, India is **43<sup>rd</sup>/63** most competitive economy in the world, India: has moved one notch higher to 43<sup>th</sup> rank (from its 44<sup>th</sup> position in 2018, 45<sup>th</sup> in 2017 and 41<sup>st</sup> in 2016.).
  - ✓ **Singapore, Hong Kong SAR and USA** are **top** three Economies in terms of competitiveness.



- ✓ World Competitiveness Ranking: The list is compiled by the Switzerland-based **International Institute for Management and Development (IMD)**'s **World Competitiveness Center (WCC)**.
- ❖ **Foreign direct investment (FDI)** inflows from **Singapore** were twice that from **Mauritius** during the last financial year (**1<sup>st</sup> April, 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2019**) as companies opted to route funds into the country via the southeast Asian city-state, instead of the island nation in the Indian Ocean, the most preferred route for overseas flow so far, after the **tax treaty** with both the countries was reworked.
  - ✓ India's Foreign Direct Investment equity inflows **declined** for the **first** time in **six years** in 2018-19.
  - ✓ Data released by the **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and internal trade** showed FDI equity inflows into India declined 1% to \$44.4 billion in the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- ❖ The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** recently released its second global report, titled **Women in Business and Management: The business case for change**.
  - ✓ The average global labour force participation rate of women in 2018 stood at **48.5 %** while that of men was **75 per cent**. This equates to a **26.5 percentage point gender gap** in labour force participation.
  - ✓ Just for Asia and the Pacific, the average female labour force participation rate has declined from 52.9 in 1991 to 45.3 per cent in 2018, dropping by 7.6 percentage points.
  - ✓ **ILO: Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland, **Head:** Guy Ryder.
- ❖ **Sri Lanka, Japan and India** signed an agreement to jointly develop the **East Container Terminal** at the **Colombo Port**.
  - ✓ The concerns grew louder after **China** took over Sri Lanka's **Hambantota port** on a 99-year lease.
  - ✓ **Sri Lanka: Capital:** Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, **Currency:** Sri Lankan rupee.
  - ✓ **Japan: Capital:** Tokyo, **Currency:** Japanese yen.
- ❖ **United States** has officially announced termination of preferential trade treatment to **India** as a beneficiary developing nation under **Generalised System of Preferences (GSP)** trade programme from **June 5, 2019**.
- ❖ The **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)** meeting was recently held in **Bangkok, Thailand** for consultations on their collective efforts to advance a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. It was attended by senior officials from US, Australia, India, and Japan.
  - ✓ **Thailand: Capital:** Bangkok, **Currency:** Thai baht.
- ❖ The **14<sup>th</sup>** summit of the **Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** held in **Mecca, Saudi Arabia** was hosted by Saudi King **Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud**.
  - ✓ The summit, titled as "**Mecca Summit: Together for the Future**", aimed at developing a unified stance on events in the Islamic world.
  - ✓ **Saudi Arabia: Capital:** Riyadh, **Currency:** Saudi riyal.
- ❖ The **2<sup>nd</sup>** edition of **Global Disability Summit** was held in at **Buenos Aires, Argentina** from 6-8 June 2019. It is being organised by **International Alliance Disability (IDA)** and **Latin American Network** of Non-Governmental Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families.
  - ✓ Deliberate on issues across the world concerning empowerment and inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (**PwDs**) and to work out mechanism for enabling them to **live an independent and dignified life**.
  - ✓ The **1<sup>st</sup> Global Disability Summit** was held in **London** in July 2018.
- ❖ **India** was ranked at **95<sup>th</sup>** among **129 countries** in first edition of **SDG Gender Index**, a new index to measure global gender equality.
  - ✓ The **Sustainable Development Goals Gender Index** has been developed by UK-based **Equal Measures 2030**, a joint effort of regional and global organisations including **African Women's Development and Communication Network**, Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and International Women's Health Coalition.
  - ✓ **Denmark** was ranked at the **first place** and **Chad** at 129<sup>th</sup> place. **China** ranked at **74** position, **Pakistan** at **113** while **Nepal** and **Bangladesh** at **102** and **110** respectively.
- ❖ UAE's Federal Authority for **Identity and Citizenship (ICA)** has issued the **first** Golden Residence Permit in **Abu Dhabi**.
  - ✓ It has been provided as a part of the **Investors Permanent Residence System** aimed to attract investors, entrepreneurs and qualified individuals who meet its criteria.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will visit **Maldives** and **Sri Lanka** from June 8 and June 9.





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- ✓ **Maldives: Capital:** Male, **Currency:** Maldivian rufiyaa.
- ❖ Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** will attend the two-day meeting of **G-20** Finance Ministers and Central Bank governors at **Fukuoka in Japan**.
  - ✓ The main aim is to focus on the risks and challenges of overseas trade and investment in infrastructure which are faced by our country.
- ❖ The **6<sup>th</sup>** India-China Bilateral Dialogue on **Disarmament and Non-Proliferation** was held in **New Delhi**. The Indian delegation was led by **Shri Indra Mani Pandey**, Additional Secretary (Disarmament & International Security Affairs) and the Chinese delegation was led by Ambassador **Fu Cong**, Director General, Department of Arms Control of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
  - ✓ **China: Capital:** Beijing, **Currency:** Renminbi.
- ❖ According to a **new immigration rule** in US, the visa applicants are now required to provide **social media details dated back to five years** from the application date, to enhance the screening process of the applicants and **ensure national security**.
  - ✓ **USA: Capital:** Washington, D.C., **Currency:** United States Dollar.
- ❖ **World Environment Day** is observed on the **5<sup>th</sup> of June** every year for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment.
  - ✓ World Environment Day 2019 is being hosted by **China** with a theme of **"Air Pollution"**. India hosted World Environment Day 2018 emphasizing on prevention of **'Plastic Pollution'**.
  - ✓ The Government launched **#SelfiewithSapling** campaign as part of the World Environment Day celebrations, urging people to plant a sapling and post a selfie with it on social media.
- ❖ The recent study **"Traffic Index 2018"**, analysis of the current status of **traffic mobility** was conducted by location technology specialist **TomTom**.
  - ✓ According to the findings, **Mumbai** ranked **first** in the study among 403 cities in 56 countries with a congestion level of 65 percent, while **New Delhi** ranked 4<sup>th</sup> with congestion of **58 percent**.

## STATES HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ YSR Congress party president **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** has taken oath as Chief Minister of **Andhra Pradesh**. Governor **ESL Narasimhan** administered him the oath of office and secrecy at **Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium** in **Vijayawada**.
- ❖ **Naveen Patnaik** took oath as the Chief Minister of **Odisha** for the **5<sup>th</sup>** time after a decisive victory in the state elections that were held along with **national elections**.
- ❖ **Punjab Government** has made mandatory for **all online food** aggregators to ensure that food supplied by them have **hygiene rating** as per guidelines of **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**.
  - ✓ **FSSAI: Founded:** August 2011, **Headquarter:** New Delhi, **Chairman:** Rita Teotia.
  - ✓ **Punjab: Capital:** Chandigarh, **Chief minister:** Amarinder Singh, **Governor:** V.P. Singh Badnore.
- ❖ Multi-lateral funding agency **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved **US \$350 million** loan for road project in **Chhattisgarh**. The project aims at rehabilitating and upgrading state highways and major district roads in Chhattisgarh, which will improve connectivity and access to basic services and livelihood opportunities.
  - ✓ **Chhattisgarh: Capital:** Raipur, **Chief minister:** Bhupesh Baghel, **Governor:** Anandiben Patel.
- ❖ **Kerala** becomes the **first** state to impose **1% flood cess** on GST, The **calamity cess on GST**, aimed at raising funds to **rebuild Kerala** from the devastation caused by last year's floods.
  - ✓ **Kerala: Capital:** Thiruvananthapuram, **Chief minister:** Pinarayi Vijayan, **Governor:** Palanisamy Sathasivam.
- ❖ The **10<sup>th</sup>** edition of **National Science Film Festival of India (NSFFI)** is scheduled to be held in **Agartala, Tripura** on January and February **2020**. This the **2<sup>nd</sup>** time the show will be held in a **North Eastern city**. The film festival is being held with the objective of highlighting science, technology, innovation, energy, environment, agriculture and traditional knowledge in a simple way that would bring science closer to common people through simple ways of explanation.
  - ✓ The film festival would include films produced by **UNICEF, UNESCO** and filmmakers from different countries.
  - ✓ **UNICEF: Headquarter:** New York, United States, **Formation:** 11 December 1946, **Head:** Henrietta H. Fore.
  - ✓ **UNESCO: Headquarter:** Paris, France, **Founded:** 16 November 1945, **Head:** Audrey Azoulay.
- ❖ **Chandrani Murmu**, a tribal woman, has made history after winning the **Lok Sabha** seat from **Keonjhar** in **Odisha**. She has become the **youngest** Member of Parliament (MP) at the age of 25 years and 11 months.



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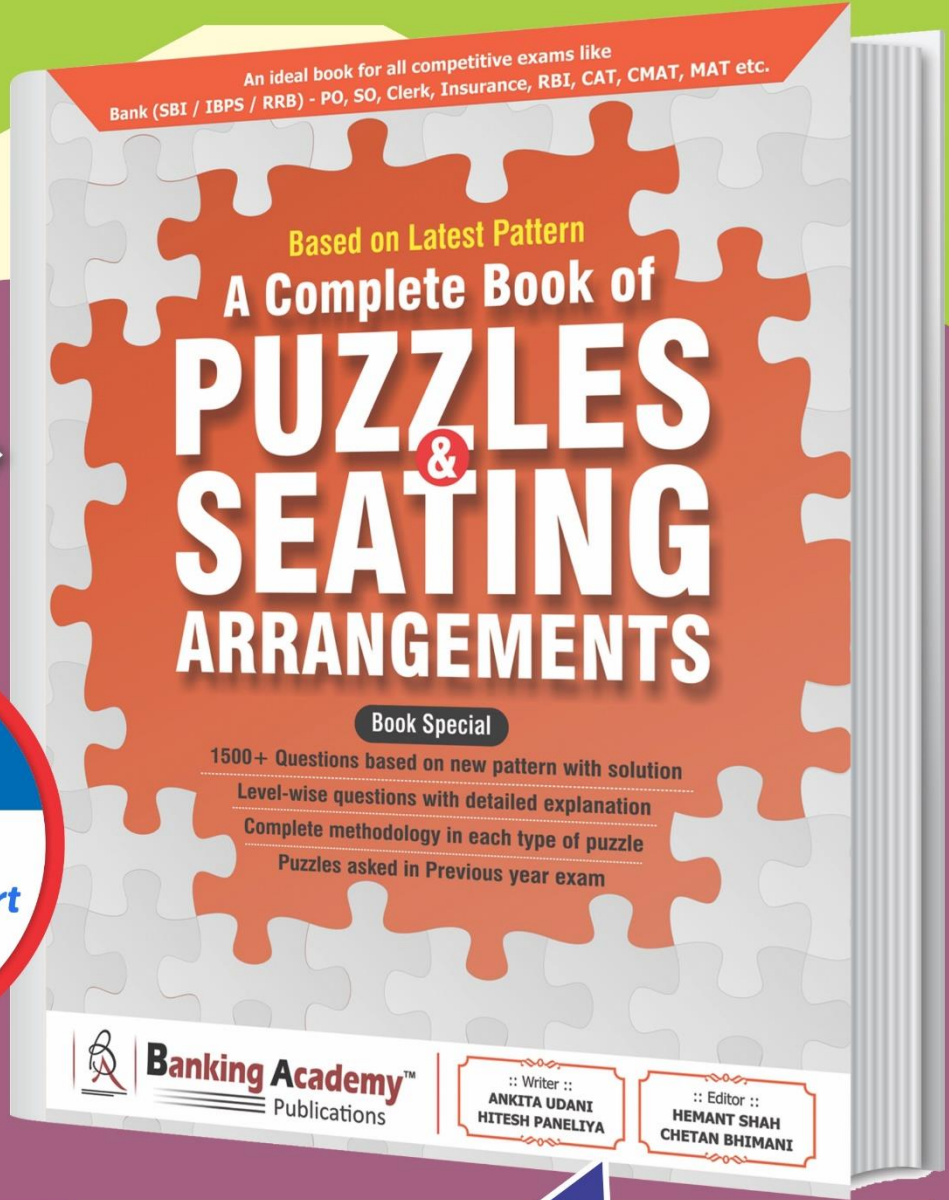


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- ❖ On the occasion of **2019 World No Tobacco Day (WNTD)** on May 31, **Rajasthan** Chief Minister **Ashok Gehlot** has banned production, distribution, advertisement and sale of Electronic-cigarette in the state.
- ❖ **Assam government** has hiked the **parental income** limit to **waive admission fees** for students taking admission up to **Post Graduate level**. Student's whose parental income is less than **2 lakh rupees** per year can avail the benefits.
  - ✓ All provincialized government colleges and 5 universities are incorporated under the scheme.
  - ✓ **Assam: Capital:** Dispur, **Chief minister:** Sarbananda Sonowal, **Governor:** Jagdish Mukhi.
- ❖ The deadly brain-damaging **Nipah virus** has resurfaced in **Kerala** a year after it killed 17 people. In recent case 23-year-old student tested **positive** for the virus and four other people showed Nipah-like symptoms.
- ❖ **World Bank** has approved **US \$287 million** for **Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Program** aimed at improving health care in the state. In this regard, Central Government (Union Finance Ministry), State Government and World Bank has signed loan agreement.
  - ✓ **Tamil Nadu: Capital:** Chennai, **Chief minister:** Edappadi K. Palaniswami, **Governor:** Banwarilal Purohit.
- ❖ The **Elephanta Festival of art and culture** was held at Gharapuri island in **Mumbai**. The event is being organised on the **Elephanta Island** by the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (**MTDC**).
- ❖ **Madhya Pradesh Cabinet** has passed a resolution to increase reservation quota for **Other Backward Classes (OBC)** from existing **14 per cent** to **27 per cent**.
  - ✓ **Madhya Pradesh: Capital:** Bhopal, **Chief minister:** Kamal Nath, **Governor:** Anandiben Patel.
- ❖ The **Telangana Government** has issued a notification to extend the **Rythu Bandhu scheme** for 2019-20 by enhancing the amount from **Rs 4000** to **Rs 5000** per acre per season..
- ❖ The **Rajasthan government** has increased the financial assistance given to school girls under the '**Aapki Beti**' scheme.
  - ✓ The amount has been increased to **Rs 2,100** from **Rs 1,100** for the girls studying in **class 1 to 8** and for the girls in **class 9 to 12**, the financial aid has been increased to **Rs 2,500** from **Rs 1,500**.
  - ✓ Under the Aapki Beti scheme, girls living under the **Below Poverty Line (BPL)** and whose mother or father or both have died get annual financial assistance in the state.
- ❖ A non-banking financial institution **L&T Finance Services Ltd.** (Larsen & Toubro Financial Services) recently launched "**Digital Sakhi**", an educational program aimed at **financial inclusion** of rural women in Villupuram District, **Tamil Nadu**.

## **ECONOMY AWARENESS**

- ❖ **The Reserve Bank of India** has constituted a **six-member** committee on the Development of **Secondary Market for Corporate Loans** to come up with recommendations to increase the efficiencies of the debt market and aid in the resolution of stressed assets.
  - ✓ The committee, headed by **TN Manoharan**, Chairman, Canara Bank, will make recommendations on required policy/regulatory interventions for facilitating the development of the secondary market in corporate loans, including loan transaction platform for stressed assets.
- ❖ **The National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC)** signed an **MoU** with **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** for the year 2019-20. The MoU envisages provision of **enhanced services** by NSIC under its **marketing, financial, technology**, and other support services schemes for **MSMEs** in the country.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** has extended timings for customer transactions in the **Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)** system to **6:00 pm** from **4:30 pm**. The new time window for RTGS will come into effect from **01<sup>st</sup> June 2019**.
- ❖ State-owned **Corporation Bank** has launched '**SMESuvidha**' scheme to **provide loans** to the **GST-registered MSMEs** at affordable interest rates. The product is designed as a part of the lender's efforts to improve service and provide the best products to the **MSME sector**.
  - ✓ The bank is actively participating in the government's flagship programmes including '**MUDRA**' and '**Stand-up India**' to provide the much-needed push to the MSME sector.
- ❖ The Market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has proposed framework for **Regulatory Sandbox** for financial institutions for **fintech testing** in its recently released discussion paper.
  - ✓ Definition of **Regulatory sandbox**: It is defined as live, testing environment where new products, processes, services and business models can be deployed on limited set of eligible customers for specified period of time, with certain relaxations in the regulations and guidelines.





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- ✓ **Objective of sandbox:** It is intended to serve as testing ground for new business models and technologies that benefits investors, Indian markets and Indian economy at large.
- ❖ **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** constituted six member committee on Development of **Housing Finance Securitisation Market**. It is tasked to review existing state of **mortgage backed securitisation** in India and suggest ways to deepen housing finance securitisation market.
  - ✓ Composition of Committee: It will be headed by Bain & Co Senior Advisor **Harsh Vardhan**.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is going to observe **Financial Literacy Week** across the country from **3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019**. Theme of Financial Literacy Week 2019 : 'Farmers and how they benefit by being a part of the formal banking system'.
- ❖ The **SWIFT India and South Asia Conference** held at the **St Regis Mumbai**. The conference saw the participation of 500 delegates representing financial institutions, regulators, market infrastructure experts, multinational corporations, to discuss the most pertinent issues concerning the nation's financial market.
  - ✓ The theme of the conference was "**Digitisation in transition: The future of innovation and cyber security**."
- ❖ According to data released by **World Gold Council (WGC)**, **India** has entered league of world's **top-10 gold holding central banks**. RBI currently holds 612.6 tonnes of gold as part of its foreign exchange reserves and was ranked 10<sup>th</sup> largest gold holding central bank. **United States** top this list, followed by **Germany**.
- ❖ The **World Bank** retained its forecast of **India's growth rate at 7.5 per cent** for the **current financial year**.
  - ✓ In its **Global Economic Prospects report**, the World Bank also said growth rate is expected to remain the same for the next two fiscals.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the appointment of **Rakesh Makhija** as chairman of the **Axis Bank**.
- ❖ **Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI)** launched a dedicated center in Bengaluru to provide **hazal free services** to small business owners and startups.
  - ✓ **ICICI: Headquarter:** Mumbai, **CEO:** Sandeep Bakhshi, **Tag line:** Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka.
- ❖ According to the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, the **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in the **services sector** grew at **36.5%** amounting to **\$9.15 billion** in 2018-19. **Services sector** comprises of finance, banking, insurance, outsourcing, R&D, courier, tech testing and analysis.
- ❖ In its **2<sup>nd</sup> bi-monthly monetary policy** statement for 2019-20, the Reserve Bank India's **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** has unanimously decided to **cut** the policy repo rate by **25 basis points** and change the monetary policy stance from '**neutral**' to '**accommodative**'.
  - ✓ This is the third time successively that the six-member MPC has decided on a 25-basis points rate cut. The last time the RBI had to cut rates three times in a row was in 2013.
  - ✓ **Repo Rate:** 5.75%, **Reserve Repo Rate:** 5.50%, **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)/Bank Rate:** 6%.
- ❖ **The Government** has approved the reconstitution of **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog**.
  - ✓ The **Prime Minister** will serve as the **Chairman** of Niti Aayog.
  - ✓ Vice-Chairman **Rajiv Kumar** continues in his post along with Permanent members VK Saraswat, Ramesh Chand and VK Paul.
  - ✓ The ex-officio members now include Defence Minister, the Home Minister, the Finance Minister and Agriculture Minister.
  - ✓ Special invitees to NITI Aayog include Minister of Road, Transport and Highways, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Minister of Railways and Minister of Statistics.

## **CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

- ❖ The **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)** allowed the board of **Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS)** declare '**amber**' companies as '**green**' companies.
  - ✓ The new board at IL&FS had classified IL&FS group companies into three categories, namely 'green', 'amber' and 'red' based on their financial health and ability to service debt obligations to secured and unsecured creditors.
    - **Red Companies:** are those with no cash and not in a position to pay any creditor.
    - **Amber companies:** are those with enough to pay secured creditors but not unsecured creditors.
    - **Green companies:** are those firms which have enough money to service all their debts, to the secured as well as unsecured creditors.



સુરત (H0)	વરાછા	અમદાવાદ	વ્યારા	નવસારી	ભરૂચ	વલસાડ	વાપી
7046633255	7046416555	7046055566	9099864658	7046641555	7096237555	8140137555	7575003664

- ❖ **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI's)** economic outlook survey projected **India's** median **GDP** (Gross Domestic Product) **7.1%** for FY20 and **7.2%** for FY21.
  - ✓ The survey was conducted among economists belonging to the industry, banking and financial services sectors. of Survey for 2019-20:
  - ✓ **FICCI: Headquarter:** New Delhi, **President:** Sandip Somany.
- ❖ The **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** overtook **India Oil Corporation (IOC)** by regaining crown of being India's **most profitable** Public Sector Undertakings (PSU).
  - ✓ In fiscal year 2018-19, ONGC's net profits increased by 34% to Rs.26,716 crore in comparison to it IOC registered a net profit of Rs.17,274 crore for fiscal year ended March 31, 2019.
- ❖ **Google and Amazon** are under **Scrutiny** for their influence on consumer privacy, labor conditions, public discourse and violation of **antitrust law**.
  - ✓ U.S. government's antitrust enforcement agencies, the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice are carrying out Antitrust Investigations against Amazon and Google respectively.
  - ✓ **Antitrust law** also referred to as competition laws aims to protect trade and commerce from unfair restraints, monopolies and price fixing.
- ❖ **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)** signed an agreement to form a **Joint Venture (JV)** in **New Delhi** for laying the world's longest **Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)** pipeline from **Kandla, Gujarat to Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh**.
- ❖ **Ashok Leyland, Hinduja Group** flagship firm, partnered with **Suryoday Small Finance Bank** to provide **vehicle loans**.

## DEFENCE & SECURITY

- ❖ The **Indian Air Force's (IAF)** Flight Lieutenant **Mohana Singh** became **first** ever woman pilot to fly by day on **Hawk advanced jet aircraft**.
- ❖ An Anti-ship version of supersonic cruise missile **BrahMos** was successfully test fired from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR)** at **Chandipur in Odisha**. The test was conducted by **Defence Research and Development (DRDO)**.
  - ✓ BrahMos Missile: It is joint venture between India (**DRDO**) and Russia (**NIPOM**). It is named after India's **Brahmaputra** and Russia's **Moscow** rivers.
- ❖ The joint **Indian Army, Air force** exercise- **Kharga Prahar** was held in **Punjab** from May 27 to June 4, 2019. The week-long exercise was undertaken by various units and formations of **Kharga Corps**.
- ❖ **Indian Army** has commissioned "**Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (CAAQMS)**" at its Eastern Command headquarter in William Military Station, **Kolkata, West Bengal** as part of its countrywide '**Go Green**' initiative. It will **monitor air pollution of city** on real time basis and its readings will be considered a benchmark of quality.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- ❖ **Union Ministry of AYUSH** has launched '**Yoga Locator**' mobile application to enable people locate **yoga events** and **centres** providing training. It was launched ahead of the **International Yoga Day** observed every year on **June 21**.
  - Yoga Locator: It is map-based location app aimed at encouraging and helping people to adopt yoga.
- ❖ The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has signed an agreement with the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** for **crew selection and training** for the prestigious **Ganganyaan**, the country's maiden **manned mission**.
- ❖ **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati** signed an **MoU** with the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** to set up an **IITG-ISRO Space Technology Cell (STC)** at the institute where Assam Governor **Jagdish Mukhi** inaugurated a new academic complex and research and development building.
- ❖ **Facebook** plans to launch its **cryptocurrency** by the first quarter of **2020**. The company is expected to reveal more details about the currency before testing begins later in 2019.
  - ✓ The currency, which is being referred to internally as "**GlobalCoin**," will reportedly be available in around a dozen countries at launch, where it's expected to offer people affordable and secure payments without the need for a bank account.





सुरत (H0)	पराछा	अमदावाड	व्यारा	नवसारी	ભરૂચ	વલસાડ	વાપી
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- ❖ **Delhi Metro** has become the **first** ever metro project in the country to receive power generated from a **waste-to-energy** plant. It achieved this feat after receiving **2 MW power** from **12 MW** capacity waste-to-energy plant set up in **Ghazipur**.
- ❖ Recently an exhibition of art created by a **humanoid AI robot**, named **Aida** was held at **University of Oxford**.
  - ✓ Aida is the **world's first** ultra-realistic humanoid artist, able to draw creatively due to in-built artificial intelligence (AI) technology.
  - ✓ Ai-Da is named after Ada Lovelace, the English mathematician and writer often called the world's first computer coder.
    - In 2017, social robot **Sophia** was given citizenship of **Saudi Arabia** – the first robot to be given legal personhood anywhere in the world.
- ❖ **Army** launched an online platform, **Retired Officers Digital Records Archive (RODRA)**, <https://rodra.gov.in> with an aim to have a **better connection** with armed forces veteran officers and **family pensioners**.
  - ✓ The website provides facilities such as updating records, registration, and tracking of documents and pension-related grievances and communicating regarding various issues.

## SPORTS

- ❖ **India** is one of the **3 countries** which have expressed interest to host the **Asian Football Confederation (AFC)'s Asian Cup football tournament for Women** to be held in **2022**.
  - ✓ **Chinese Taipei** and **Uzbekistan** are the other countries in contention to host Asia's premier women's competition.
  - ✓ The three countries will now be invited to nominate their proposed venues for the tournament, with the host expected to be announced by the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020.
- ❖ **Gianni Infantino** re-elected as President of **Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)**, a global governing body of football for second term.
  - ✓ **FIFA: Headquarter:** Zurich, Switzerland.

## AWARDS & HONOURS

- ❖ Former President of India **Pratibha Patil** was conferred the "**Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca**" (Order of the Aztec Eagle) - the highest civilian award of **Mexico** given to foreigners, She was presented with this award by Ambassador of Mexico to India, **Melba Pria** in **Pune**.
- ❖ Medical and Health Department of **Rajasthan Government** was awarded **World No Tobacco Day Award for 2019** by **World Health Organisation (WHO)** for its contribution in the field of **tobacco control**. It was one of the two organisations from India (in the South-east Asian region) awarded this award. The other one from India is **Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute**, New Delhi.
- ❖ Google's India-born CEO **Sundar Pichai** and NASDAQ President **Adena Friedman** were chosen for the prestigious **Global Leadership Awards 2019**. They were selected by business advocacy group **US-India Business Council (USIBC)** in recognition of the two companies' contribution as the **leading technology-driven platforms**.
- ❖ Veteran actress, director, screenwriter **Sheela** was chosen for prestigious **J C Daniel Award 2018**, the Kerala government's highest honour for outstanding contribution to **Malayalam cinema**.
- ❖ **The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and partners announced the winners of the **10<sup>th</sup> Equator Prize 2019**. It recognized 22 local and indigenous communities from across the world.

## PERSON APPOINTED/RESIGNED

- ❖ Nigeria's **Muhammadu Buhari** sworn in for second term as **president**.
- ❖ Low-cost carrier SpiceJet's Chairman and Managing Director **Ajay Singh** was elected to **Board of Governors (BoG)** of **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**.
- ❖ Indian-origin **Anita Bhatia** was appointed as Deputy Executive Director of **United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)** for Resource Management, Sustainability and Partnerships.
- ❖ Admiral **Karambir Singh** assumed charge as **24<sup>th</sup> Chief** of the **Naval Staff**. He will be Navy chief till November 2021 and succeeded **Admiral Sunil Lanba** who retired from office on **May 31, 2019**.



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- ❖ Renowned scientist **Mrutyunjay Mohapatra** was appointed as Directed General- General of Meteorology, India **Meteorological Department (IMD)**.
- ❖ **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Rajiv Mehrishi** was elected as external auditor of the **World Health Organization (WHO)** for four years from 2020 to 2023.  
✓ **WHO: Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland, **Head:** Tedros Adhanom.
- ❖ Union Government has reappointed **National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval** for another five years. He also has been given Cabinet Rank for contribution to national security domain.
- ❖ **Nayib Bukele**, a conservative businessman sworn in as the **President of El Salvador**, a small Central American nation, by the speaker of National Assembly.
- ❖ Nigeria's Ambassador to the UN **Tijjani Muhammad-Bande** was elected as the President for the 74<sup>th</sup> session of **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**. He will be succeeding **Maria Fernanda Espinosa**.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

- ❖ President of Oscar Academy, **John Bailey** e-launched the Hindi translation of an Academy Publication, "**Digital Dilemma**", at a function in Delhi.  
✓ The translation of the Academy publication into Hindi is important in order to reach out to film fraternity in India.  
✓ This book will help filmmakers in understanding and planning the storage of born-digital material.
- ❖ The chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board, **Tom Harrison** launched the book – **Cricket World Cup: The Indian Challenge**, a book on world cup from Indian perspective by veteran broadcaster and writer Ashis Ray.

## OBITUARY

- ❖ **Carmine Caridi**, known for roles in The **Godfather franchise**, has died at the age of 85.
- ❖ Bengali actress and singer **Ruma Guha Thakurta** passed away.
- ❖ The Finance Minister of Uttarakhand, **Prakash Pant** passed away.
- ❖ Actor and Padma Shri awardee (2019) **Dinyar Contractor** passed away.
- ❖ **Brij Mohan Khaitan**, a veteran industrialist passed away in Kolkata.
- ❖ **Dr. Patricia Bath**, pioneering ophthalmologist the first African American female doctor to invented a more precise treatment for cataracts died.
- ❖ **Jaspal Inder Singh Kalra** known as **Jiggs Kalra**, celebrated chef and culinary revivalist passed away.

## Days|Week|Year

- ❖ **1<sup>st</sup> June 2019:- World Milk day.**  
✓ **Theme:-** Drink Milk: Today & Everyday.
- ❖ **1<sup>st</sup> June 2019:- Global Day of Parents.**
- ❖ **2<sup>nd</sup> June 2019:- International Whores' Day or International Sex Workers Day.**
- ❖ **3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019:- World Bicycle Day.**
- ❖ **4<sup>th</sup> June 2019:- International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression.**  
✓ **Theme:-** Zero Violence against Children by 2030.
- ❖ **5<sup>th</sup> June 2019:- World Environment Day.**  
✓ **Theme:-** Air Pollution.
- ❖ **7<sup>th</sup> June 2019:- World Food Safety Day.**  
✓ **Theme:-** Food Safety, everyone's business.