

Weekly Current Affairs



1 June - 7 June, 2020

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NATIONAL NEWS

1. DRDO develops “Ultra Swachh” for disinfection of PPEs, electronic items, fabrics

- DRDO develops ‘Ultra Swachh’ for disinfection of PPEs, electronic items, fabrics Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has developed a disinfection unit named Ultra Swachh to disinfect a wide range of materials, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), electronics items, fabrics and others. Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences, the Delhi-based laboratory of DRDO has developed this product with industry partner Gel Craft Health care Private Ltd.
- The system uses an advanced oxidative process consisting of multiple barrier disruption approaches using Ozonated Space Technology for disinfection. Ultra Swachh is double-layered, with specialized Ozone sealant technology ensuring trapping of Ozone for the necessary disinfection cycle.
- It also has a catalytic converter to ensure environment friendly exhaust. Ultra Swachh comes in two variants namely Ozonated Space and Trinetra Technology. Trinetra technology is the combination of Ozonated space and radical dispenser.

2. Centre launches three new schemes to boost Electronics sector

- On June 2, 2020, the Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched three new schemes to boost electronics sector. They are Production linked incentive scheme, cluster scheme and component manufacturing scheme .
- The schemes are expected to attract investments. They will increase the manufacturing of mobile phones and their parts to around Rs 10 lakh crores by 2025. Also, the scheme will help generate 5 lakhs direct and 15 lakhs of indirect jobs.
- The scheme will provide an incentive of 4% to 6% to the goods manufactured in India.

3. Elections to 24 Rajya Sabha seats to be held on 19th of June

- Election Commission has announced that elections for 24 Rajya Sabha seats spread across 10 states will be held on June 19. Polling for 18 of these 24 seats were deferred due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Of these 18 seats, four each are from Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat, three each from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, two from Jharkhand, and one each from Manipur and Meghalaya. The EC also announced that Rajya Sabha polls for a total of six seats in Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Mizoram will also be held on June 19 along with the elections that were deferred from March.

4. Govt unveils PM SVANIDHI scheme to provide affordable loans to street vendors

- Union Government launched PM SVANIDHI - Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor’s Atmanirbhar Nidhi - a special micro-credit facility scheme for providing affordable loans to street vendors. The scheme is aimed at enabling the street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to COVID-19 lockdown.
- Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry launched the scheme in pursuance of the announcement made by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last month. The street vendors belonging to the surrounding peri-urban or rural areas are being included as beneficiaries under the urban livelihoods programme for the first time.
- Under the scheme, each of these streets vendors will be given a credit loan of Rs 10,000, which they can return as monthly installments within a year. Those who repay their loans on time will get 7 percent annual interest as subsidy which will be transferred in their bank accounts

5. Odisha, Sikkim, and Mizoram included in “One Nation-One Ration Card” scheme

- The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan informed that Odisha, Sikkim, and Mizoram have joined the ‘One Nation-One Ration Card’ scheme on ‘Integrated Management of Public Distribution System’(IM-PDS) a total of 20 states/Union Territories(UTs) in the scheme.

- Under this plan National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 ration cards that have recorded at least one Aadhaar authenticated transaction in the last 6-months shall be eligible for the national portability transactions.
- The scheme enables the NFSA ration cardholders to avail their subsidised foodgrains from any ePoS software-enabled Fair Price shop(FPS) anywhere in the country, by using the existing/same ration card after Aadhaar authentication on ePoS devices.

6. India ranked 23rd for world's best startup ecosystems 2020; US topped

- In accordance with the “Countries Global Ranking of Startup Ecosystem 2020” by global innovation mapping and research company StartupBlink, India ranked at 23rd position, a drop of 6 places from 17th position in 2019. The ranking has been topped by the United States (US), followed by the United Kingdom (UK), and Israel at 2nd and 3rd position.
 - It should be noted that India is home to the third-largest startup ecosystem.
 - Among the top 100 startup cities, only four India cities were named in “2020 Cities Global Ranking of Startup Ecosystem” while total of 38 cities made it to the world's top 1000 cities with startup ecosystems.
1. Bengaluru (down by three ranks to 14th position),
 2. New Delhi (up by three spots to 15th position)
 3. Mumbai (improved by seven spots to 22nd position)
 4. Hyderabad (falling 21 ranks to disappointing 96th position). Last year, seven cities were ranked in the top 100 list versus four this year.

7. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to Head Committee for Implementation of MSME Loan Scheme

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appointed a committee headed by Rajnath Singh to resolve any problem in the implementation of the Rs 3 lakh crore collateral-free loan scheme for MSMEs, said MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari.
- In an online interaction with the members of the Pune-based Mahratta Chambers of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA), Gadkari asked small businesses to email him directly in case of problems faced by them in securing credit under the scheme.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman earlier this month had announced the collateral-free loans scheme for MSMEs as part of the overall Rs 20 lakh crore Covid-19 relief package to uplift the economy.

8. India to be re-elected as a non-permanent member of UNSC

- India is set to be re-elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council during the elections in June 2020. India is assured to win from the Asia Pacific seat, as it will be the sole contender.
- India's candidature for the Asia Pacific seat in the non-permanent category was unanimously endorsed by the 55-member Asia Pacific grouping including Pakistan and China in 2019. India's name for non-permanent UNSC seat was proposed by the Asia Pacific countries for a two-year period, from 2021-2022.
- The UNSC elections to elect the five non-permanent members of the 15-member Security Council for the 2021-22 term will be held on June 17. The dates were announced on June 1, 2020 as France took over the Presidency of the 15-nation Council for the month of June. India is the sole candidate for the non-permanent seat from the Asia-Pacific seat for the 2021-22 term. Canada, Ireland and Norway will contest elections for the two seats in the Western Europe and Other countries category.

9. Kiren Rijiju, Arjun Munda inaugurate Khelo India e-Pathshala programme

- Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda inaugurated Khelo India e-Pathshala programme with a webinar, attended by young archers, archery coaches and experts of the discipline from across the country.
- The e-pathshala aims to provide online coaching and education to athletes living in far-off areas.
- The programme was launched by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), in association with National Sporting Federations (NSFs).

- The unique programme will connect athletes from secluded areas of India, who may not always have access to established players and coaches.
- The e-learning programme will cover 21 sporting disciplines, including, athletics, archery, boxing, cycling, fencing, football, gymnastics, hockey, judo, kayaking & canoeing, kabaddi, para games, rowing, shooting, taekwondo, table tennis, volleyball, weightlifting, wrestling and wushu.

10. Report on restructuring of the film sector submitted to I&B minister

- An Expert Committees on Rationalisation of Film Media Units and Review of Autonomous Bodies submitted its report to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The Committee was chaired by Bimal Julka.
- It has suggested an umbrella configuration with 4 broad verticals under which institutes should work. They are - Production, Festival, Heritage and Knowledge. It has recommended that these verticals be headed by professionals.
- It has also recommended creation of a Film Promotion Fund for independent filmmakers for making commercial films. Bimal Julka is the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of India.

11. Kerala becomes 1st state to provide free internet to poor

- Kerala Govt has declared that their ambitious broadband project: Kerala Fibre Optic Network (K-FON) project will roll out from December.
- This means that from December onwards, all the citizens below poverty live in Kerala will get free high-speed Internet. And those who cannot afford, will be provided high-speed Internet at a subsidized rate.
- Recently Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan held a meeting with all the heads of the companies of the consortium which will execute K-FON project. The roll out dates of December has been provided after this meeting.
- Rs 1500 crore has already been allocated for K-FON project, which will be spread the usage of Internet all across the state, and trigger a new digital economy.
- Kerala will be the first state to provide free high speed broadband to the poor people.

12. Power Minister launches the '#iCommit' initiative on World Environment Day

- Power Minister R K Singh on June 5, 2020 initiated the '#iCommit' campaign to commemorate World Environment Day. The initiative calls upon all stakeholders and individuals to continue working towards energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainability to create a robust and resilient energy system in the future.
- The '#iCommit' initiative, which will be driven by Energy Efficiency Services Limited, will unite a

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diverse set of players such as Governments, Corporates, Multilateral and Bilateral Organisations, Think Tanks and Individuals. Under the initiative, the government envisages a transformation of the entire energy value chain in the country, which will in turn ensure 24X7 energy access and security to all the citizens.

- The #iCommit initiative will bring together a diverse spectrum of government and private players to build a new energy future for India. The initiative is centered around the idea of building an energy resilient future.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. Switzerland launches world's first app "Swiss Covid" with Exposure Notification API of Apple and Google

- The developer team of Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne – EPFL) and ETH Zurich (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich) developed the "SwissCovid", first of its kind for digital contact tracing app utilizing the Exposure Notification API (Application Programming Interface) of Apple and Google and based on a decentralized approach to track the spread of coronavirus.
- The application was tested by the Swiss army, civil servants and hospital workers in its pilot phase and will be available to the users all around the world by the mid-June after the approval of Swiss parliamentarians.

2. Union Cabinet approved MoU between India and Bhutan on Cooperation in the areas of Environment

- The Union cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India & Bhutan to improve cooperation in the areas of Environment.
- MoU will help to establish & promote the long term cooperation between the two countries in the field of environment protection and management of natural resources based on equity, reciprocity and mutual benefits, taking into account the applicable laws and legal provisions in each country.
- MoU covers the following areas of the environment, namely- Air, Waste, Chemical Management, Climate Change, and any other areas jointly decided upon, by considering the bilateral interest of both countries.
- MoU enters into force on the date of signature & remain in force for a 10 years

New Appointments and Person in News

1. Virat Kohli, only cricketer in the Forbes top 100 highest paid athletes of 2020, Federer topped

- Virat Kohli, Indian Cricket Team Captain becomes the only cricketer and the only Indian to feature in the Forbes' Top 100 highest paid athletes of 2020. Kohli ranked 66 with Forbes Magazine estimated earning of around 26 million USD (24 million from endorsements and 2 million from salary/winnings).
- Tennis player Roger Federer tops the list for the first time with estimated earnings 106.3 million USD. He placed 4th in the 2019 list with the estimated earnings of 95 million USD.
- Naomi Osaka became the highest paid female athlete ranking 29 overtaking Serena Williams who ranks 33. Williams joined the ranking in 2017 and 2019. In 2018 no women entered the list.

2. Aiman Ezzat becomes new CEO of French Tech Giant Capgemini Group

- Aiman Ezzat has become the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of French technology major Capgemini Group. He has replaced the presently serving Paul Hermelin who will continue to serve as the Chairman of the Board.
- The appointment of Aiman Ezzat was made at the close of the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders.
- Aiman Ezzat was earlier serving as the Chief Operating Officer of the Capgemini Group and has also served as the Chief Financial Officer of the company in the past.

3. Pradip Kumar Tripathi Assumes Charge as Secretary in Ministry of Steel

- Shri Pradip Kumar Tripathi has assumed charge as Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India on 1 June 2020. He took over as Secretary upon the superannuation of present incumbent Binoy Kumar. The appointment was approved by the Appointment Committee of Cabinet.
- Binoy Kumar is a 1983 batch officer who had taken over as Secretary, Ministry of Steel on 1 September 2018. He retired on 30 May 2020.
- Pradip Kumar Tripathi is an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1987 batch of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) cadre. Prior to this appointment, Tripathi had been posted as Special Secretary and Establishment Officer in Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

4. R.K. Chaturvedi assumed charge as Secretary in Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals

- RK Chaturvedi assumed charge as Secretary in the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India. Chaturvedi has replaced P.Raghavendra Rao who superannuated on 31 May 2020.
- RK Chaturvedi is a 1987-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre. Prior to this, he served as an Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor in the Ministry of Culture. He has worked as Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and as DG in the National Skill Development Authority (NSDA).

6. Twitter appoints ex-Google CFO “Patrick Pichette” as new board chairman

- Twitter has appointed ex-Google chief financial officer (CFO) Patrick Pichette as the company's new chairman of the board.
- Pichette who joined Twitter's board of directors in 2017, previously served as Google's CFO from 2008 till 2015.
- Pichette will take over from Omid Kordestani who will remain on Twitter's board.

7. Krishnendu Majumdar becomes new chairman of BAFTA

- Award-winning television producer Krishnendu Majumdar has been named as the chairperson of BAFTA. Majumdar, who succeeds Pippa Harris to the post, is the youngest to be appointed as head in last 35 years of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA).
- Majumdar has been deputy chair for one year and is due to remain as chair for the next three years.
- Majumdar previously served as the chair of the Learning and New Talent Committee (2006-2010), the chair of the Television Committee (2015-2019) and a member of the board of trustees for nine years.

8. Former Miss World Manushi Chhillar joins Rohit, Hima as a brand ambassador of Adidas

- The former Miss World 2017 Manushi Chhillar joined Rohit Sharma, Indian star batsman, Hima Das Sprinter from Assam, and Actor Ranveer Singh as the brand ambassador of Adidas.
- Chhillar becomes Adidas's forerunner in their mission to inspire women to embrace fitness and to create a beneficial social impact through sports.
- She supports the #HOMETEAMHERO challenge of Adidas to stay physically and mentally fit in the lockdown due to COVID-19 and use sports as a platform to inspire and encourage the women and children to take up sports. Adidas encourages the people around the world to participate in the #HOMETEAMHERO to support WHO's Covid-19 Response fund.
- Adidas will donate 1 USD for every hour clocked in the Adidas Running and Training apps till 7th June.

9. Gaitri Kumar appointed India's next High Commissioner to the UK

- Seasoned diplomat Gaitri Kumar has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.
- Kumar, a 1986-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, succeeds Ruchi Ghanashyam.
- At present, Kumar is serving as Indian Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union.

- Her appointment to the high-profile post comes at a time India is looking at further expanding ties with the UK after it came out of the powerful European Union.

BANKING

1. Centre to discontinue 7.75% savings bonds scheme

- The Reserve Bank of India recently announced that the Government of India has discontinued 7.75% savings bonds.
- The 7.75% savings bonds that are also called government bonds or RBI bonds were issued in 2018. They were available for the resident citizens of India alone. The value of one bond was Rs 1000 and there was no maximum limit of investment. The interests of the bonds were taxed under Income Tax Act, 1961.
- The rates of Small Savings scheme were cut. Also, the rates of PPF were cut from 7.9% to 7.1%. On the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, the rates were cut from 8.4% to 7.6%. RBI also reduced the repo rates twice after COVID-19.

Books and Awards

1. Rohit Sharma nominated for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award

- BCCI nominated Rohit Sharma for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards. The Award is considered to be the highest sporting honour award in India.
- The period of consideration for a person to get nominated is from January 2016 to December 2019. Rohit has become the first T20 cricketer to score four centuries. Also, he holds record of 150 plus score in around 8 ODIs. He also holds the greatest number of centuries in ODI matches since 2017, that numbered to 18.
- He was also the ICC ODI Cricketer of the year, 2019. He received this award as he was the first player to score five ODI centuries in a single edition of the World Cup.
- The award is the highest sporting honour of India. The award is presented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and sports. The award is presented for outstanding performance for a period of 4 years. The award comprises of cash prize of Rs 7.5 lakhs.

2. South African AIDS researcher “Quarraisha Abdool Karim” wins France’s Christophe Merieux Prize


- A South African HIV researcher Quarraisha Abdool Karim, who found that a topical gel could stop many women catching the virus has been awarded one of France's top science prizes.
- She won the half a million-euro (\$551,000) Christophe Merieux Prize for her work for the Durban-based Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA), which she heads.
- The Christophe Merieux Prize is one of France’s top science prizes.

3. Ministry of I&B released “One Year of Modi 2.0 – Towards A Self-Reliant India” e-book

- A 92-page e-booklet called ‘One Year of Modi 2.0 –Towards A Self-Reliant India’ on the key achievements of the Modi government during its second term was released by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B).
- This marks the first anniversary of the second term of the government.

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4. PM Modi took part in “India-Australia Virtual Summit” with Australian PM

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi took part in India-Australia Virtual Summit with his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison. This is the first time that Prime Minister Modi has held a Bilateral Virtual Summit.
- The Strategic Partnership between the two countries was strengthened in 2014 - with the visit of the then Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott to India and the visit of Prime Minister Modi to Australia in November 2014. Framework for Security Cooperation between Australia and India signed in November 2014 during Mr Modi's visit to Australia.
- The economic engagement has also been growing. In 2018-19, the trade between the two countries was around 21 billion dollars.

5. Indian NGO SEEDS wins “World No Tobacco Day Award 2020”

- The World Health Organization(WHO) has accorded the World No Tobacco Day Award 2020 to Socio-Economic and Educational Development Society(SEEDS), an Indian non-governmental organization(NGO), one among the 3 South East Asian Region awardees, for its efforts to ban pan masala, gutkha, e-cigarettes and hookah in Bihar and Jharkhand.
- SEEDS has been working closely with the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to prevent & control smokeless tobacco use. Deepak Mishra, executive director of the SEEDS has been nominated by the ministry as a member of the task force on the de-addiction campaign.
- Every year on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day on May 31 the WHO selects organisations and individuals from its 6 regions(African region, American region, Eastern Mediterranean region, South-East Asia region, Western Pacific region) for their exceptional contribution & accomplishment in the field of tobacco control.

6. Luke Coutinho’s new book “The Dry Fasting Miracle: From Deprive to Thrive” on benefits of ‘dry fasting diet’ released

- From Deprive to Thrive, a book on the benefits of dry fasting diet by the famous personal lifestyle coach and author, Luke Coutinho and co-authored by a member of UAE’s Ajman royal Family, Sheikh Abdulaziz Bin Ali Bin Rashid Al Nuaimi, published under the Ebury Press a division of Penguin Random House and the ebook version is available on Kindle.
- The book speaks on the benefits of the dry fasting diet – the superior form of fasting and cleansing, which is restraining the intake of food and water for twelve or more hours and its role in achieving good health.

7. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw wins EY World Entrepreneur of the year award 2020

- Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Founder and Chairperson & Managing Director of Biocon, has been named EY World Entrepreneur for the year 2020.
- The award is to recognize her contribution to improving universal access to affordable life-saving medicine and thus transforming the world. She became only the third Indian to receive this prestigious award after Uday Kotak and Narayana Murthy. Shaw became only the second woman to receive this award. Olivia Lum of Hyflux Limited from Singapore is the first person to have won the title in 2011.

8. Indian writer Kritika Pandey wins 2020 Commonwealth short story prize in Asian Region

- Kritika Pandey, a 29-year-old Indian Writer from Ranchi, was announced as the winner of regional award for Asia in 2020 Commonwealth short story prize for her story “The Great Indian Tee and Snakes” – about love in an age of hatred and prejudice.



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- She is currently doing her MFA degree at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

1. Google launches app ‘Sodar’ to help people maintain social distancing

- Google has launched ‘Sodar’ app that will help people maintain distance in real life using augmented reality. The app has been developed under Experiments with Google and is not available on the Google Play Store but can be side-loaded separately.
- The app called ‘Sodar’, will create a visual boundary using the user’s smartphone camera and constantly show who’s breaching that distance. The company claims Sodar uses “WebXR to help visualise social distancing guidelines in your environment.
- Using Sodar on supported mobile devices, create an augmented reality two meter radius ring around you. Once another person breaches the circle, the screen will visually alert the user.

2. Indian Navy launched Next phase of Operation Samudra Setu on June 1

- The Indian Navy started the next phase of Operation Samudra Setu from June 1 to repatriate Indians who are stranded overseas amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- In this phase, Indian Navy Ship Jalashwa will repatriate 700 personnel from Colombo, Republic of Sri Lanka to Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu and subsequently repatriate another 700 personnel from Male, Republic of Maldives to Tuticorin.
- The Indian Navy has already repatriated 1,488 Indian nationals from Male to Kochi during the previous phases of the operation. After disembarkation at Tuticorin, the evacuated personnel will be entrusted to the care of the state authorities.

3. WHO launches ‘C-TAP’ for equitable access to life-saving tech

- WHO has launched the ‘COVID-19 Technology Access Pool’ for equitable access to life-saving tech.
- This comes after at least 37 countries jointly appealed to the World Health Organisation for common ownership of vaccines, medicines and other diagnostic tools to combat the global health crisis.
- C-TAP aims to accelerate the development of vaccines and medicines through the sharing of research and information and to increase manufacturing capacity for any products that are developed.
- WHO has also issued a ‘Solidarity Call to Action’ urging other stakeholders of the UN health agency to join the cause.

4. France assures timely delivery of Rafale aircraft to India

- France reaffirmed its commitment to ensure timely delivery of Rafale Aircraft to India despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The IAF is likely to get the delivery of the first batch of four Rafale jets from France by July-end.
- The four fighters were supposed to fly to their home base in India in May 2020, but the plan was delayed due to the Covid-19 outbreak.
- Dassault Aviation had handed over the first of 36 Rafale aircraft, which India had ordered in 2016, during a visit by Rajnath Singh to France last year.
- India had signed an inter-governmental agreement with France in September 2016 for procurement of 36 Rafale fighter jets at a cost of around ₹ 58,000 crore.

5. Astronomers of IFA unveil Solar Corona’s magnetic field

- The researchers at the University of Hawaii Institute of Technology (IFA) have been studying the solar corona. It is an outermost atmosphere of the sun that expands into interplanetary space.
- A new study has been published in Astrophysical Journal on June 3 by IFA graduate student Benjamin Boe that used total solar eclipse observations to measure the shape of the coronal magnetic field along with a higher spatial resolution and over a large area than never before.
- The corona has been most easily seen during a total solar eclipse, it is when the moon is directly between the Earth and Sun which blocks the bright surface of the Sun.

SPORTS

1. India to host AFC 2022 Women's Asian Cup

- India is to host the 2022 Women's Asian Cup. The hosting rights have been awarded to India by the Asian Football Confederation. This is the second time India will be hosting the event. India hosted the event for the first time in 1979. The information was passed by the All India Football Federation.
- Women's Asian Cup will be held in the second half of the year 2020. Women players are expected to bring social revolution in the event.
- The football tournament will feature 12 teams. The number of participating teams has been expanded from the previous slot of eight teams. As India hosts the tournament, India will qualify directly in the tournament.
- The event will serve as the final qualification tournament for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.

OBITUARIES

1. Famous Music composer Wajid Khan dies due to COVID-19

- Music composer, director and singer Wajid Khan died due to COVID-19.
- The 42 year old music composer was also suffering from kidney ailments and had undergone a kidney transplant a few months ago.
- Wajid Khan, of the famous Sajid-Wajid music composer duo, composed most of the songs of actor Salman Khan's movies.

2. Former Tamil Nadu BJP president KN Lakshmanan passes away

- Former two-time Tamil Nadu State BJP president K N Lakshmanan died.
- Born in Salem on October 20, 1930, he completed schooling at the Gokulnatha Hindu Mahajana school and did his BA at what was then the Salem Municipal College.
- In 1944, he joined the RSS and in 1957 started the Jana Sangh in Salem district along with nine others.
- In 1969, he and senior RSS leader Vasudevan started the Vidya Mandir school at Shevapat in Salem city. From 1970 to 1974, he started branches of the school in 24 towns across the State.
- When the Jana Sangh became the BJP, Lakshmanan was appointed the party's State president and held the post from 1984-89.
- He also held the post from 1996 to 2000. In 2001, he was elected to the State Assembly from the Mylapore constituency in Chennai.

3. NBA legend "Wes Unseld" who played for Washington Wizards dies at 74

- NBA legend Wes Unseld, who played for the Washington Wizards died following lengthy health issues. Unseld who led Washington Wizards (the then Baltimore Bullets) in 1978 to its only NBA championship is considered as one of the greatest players in league's history.
- A five-time All-Star selection, Unseld spent his entire 13-year career with the same team and appeared in a franchise-record 984 games, averaging 10.8 points, 14.0 rebounds and 3.9 assists over his career.
- He was inducted into 'The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame' as a player in 1988 and was voted as a 'top 50 player in league history' in 1996.

4. Veteran filmmaker Basu Chatterjee passes away at 93

- Veteran filmmaker Basu Chatterjee, known for his soulful cinema, passed away following age related health issues. He was 93.
- The veteran filmmaker's cinema was progressive, unhurried and a slice of everyday life. He preferred actors like Vidya Sinha, Amol Palekar and Zarina Wahab for his inspiring middle-class stories. Some of his best known works are "Us Paar", "Chitchor", "Rajnigandha", "Piya Ka Ghar", "Khatta Meetha", "Baton Baton Mein", Swami, Apne Paraye and Shaukeen.

- His work with Amitabh Bachchan in “Manzil”, Rajesh Khanna in “Chakravyuha”, Dev Anand and Tina Munim in “Man Pasand” has developed cult classic status over the years.
- In 1992, Basu Chatterjee won the National Film Award for best film on family welfare for Durga.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Milk Day is observed on 1 June

- World Milk Day is observed on 1 June every year. The day aims to provide an opportunity to bring attention to activities that are connected with the dairy sector. This year’s theme is “20th Anniversary of World Milk Day”.
- 2020 Milk day marks the 20th year since the initiative and the entire world celebrates the day to mark the significance of milk intake in the diet.
- World Milk Day aims to provide information about the need and importance of milk in a human being's life. The day will raise awareness about milk and its products. The day also aims to educate people about the nutrients that are present in milk like calcium, protein, vitamin B2, potassium, iodine, etc.

2. PM Modi greets people on 6th Telangana State Formation Day

- Telangana is celebrating the 6th anniversary of its Formation Day on 02 June.
- The Government of India declared this historic day for Telangana, the youngest state in India in 2014.
- This day signifies the sustained Telangana Movement history through the years for a separate state.

3. World Bicycle Day is observed on 3 June

- World Bicycle Day is observed on 3 June. The day aims to motivate and inspire people towards having more tolerance, understanding, and respect for one another. Bicycle signifies a sustainable means of transport which is good for the environment and economy.
- World Bicycle Day aims to devote special attention to the bicycle in cross-cutting development strategies. It also aims to include the bicycle in international, regional, national, and subnational development policies and programs. The day aims to adopt best practices and means to promote the bicycle across the world.

4. International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression: 4 June

- International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is observed globally on 4th June every year.
- This day affirms the UN’s commitment to guard the rights of children. This day is to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the planet who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse.
- The main aim of celebrating today is to spread the notice about the pain and sufferings faced by the victims as children.

5. World Environment Day observed on 5 June

- World Environment Day is observed on 5 June. The day aims to create awareness and action for the protection of the environment.
- The theme for the 2020 World Environment Day is 'Biodiversity'. The theme focuses on a concern that is both urgent and existential. The theme was based on the recent events including bushfires in Brazil, the United States, and Australia; locust infestations across East Africa; a global disease pandemic COVID-19. These have demonstrated the interdependence of humans and the webs of life, in which they exist.

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