

# Weekly Current Affairs

15 June - 21 June, 2020

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## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **1. India gets its first infectious disease diagnostics lab**

- The first disease diagnostics lab in India is now ready. The mobile laboratory is a part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. The laboratory promotes and supports the idea of being self-efficient in difficult times.
- The laboratory has been reported to be built in the recorded time of just 8 days from the date of receipt of Automotive Chassis, from Bharat Benz. The lab has been built with the support of the Department of Bio-Technology.
- The first infectious disease diagnostics lab is a BSL-2 facility that has Biochemistry analysers, real-time reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), and on-site Elisa.

### **2. Odisha's unique festival Raja Parba begins**

- On Raja Parba, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has greeted the people Of Odisha.
- Raja Parba, Odisha's three-day unique festival celebrating the onset of monsoon and the earth's womanhood has begun.
- As a mark of respect towards the earth during her menstruation days, all agricultural works, like ploughing, sowing are suspended for the three days.
- Raja Sankranti is the first day of the Ashara month.
- It is celebrated on the day prior to the Sankranti, (Pahili Raja), the day of Sankranti, and the day after, known as Bhu Daha or 'Basi Raja'.
- The festival is essentially the celebration of the earth's womanhood. It is believed that during this time the Mother Earth or Bhudevi undergoes menstruation.

### **3. MB Lal Committee recommendations not implemented for a decade in oil fields: Assam fire**

- The recent massive fire at the Baghjan Oil field, Assam had caused serious environmental damages and led to migration of 1000s of people in the region.
- It is because the 118 recommendations made by MB Lal committee was not implemented in regards to the safety guidelines by the oil companies while installing oil wells.
- The Government of India has taken several measures to address the issues of such oil field fires.
- In 2009 GoI constituted the M B Lal Committee following the fire accident at the IOCL terminal in Jaipur.

### **4. 500-year old Temple "Mastaka" submerged in Mahanadi found**

- The Archaeological Survey team has recently claimed that a 500 year old temple that submerged in the waters of Mahanadi resurfaced.
- The Mahanadi river that changed its course due to flooding 150 years ago, had submerged the Padmabati village where the temple is located.
- There are more than 22 villages in the region that are submerged in the waters of Mahanadi. However, Gopinath Deba Temple was visible as it is the tallest of all.

- The temple is called “Mastaka”.

#### **5. MoS Home affairs G. Kishan Reddy launches “GermiBAN” robot to assist COVID-19 workers in Telangana**

- Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy launched a robot ‘GermiBAN’. The robot carries essentials products to frontline COVID-19 workers.
- The robot was developed by a Hyderabad-based company, namely AIC ALEAP of the WEHub.
- The device has the capability of killing 99.9% of surface and air microbes.

#### **6. CBIC Chairman M. Ajit Kumar launches “e-Office” application to automate internal file handling**

- The “e-Office” application has been launched in over 500 CGST and Customs offices across India by the Chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), M. Ajit Kumar.
- The launch of the application marks a fundamental change in internal office procedures that are so far based on manual handling of files and paper movement.
- The “e-Office” is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) under the National e-Governance of India. “e-Office” has been developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC) and is supported by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

#### **7. India ranked 6th in nuclear weapons increment since 2019; US topped: SIPRI’s Yearbook 2020**

- In accordance with the “SIPRI Yearbook 2020-Armaments, Disarmament and International Security” of Swedish think tank, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), from 2019 there is an increase in the nuclear weapons stockpile of India and China. However India’s overall possession of nuclear weapons is less than half of Beijing’s and also slightly lower than what Pakistan possesses.
- Importantly, in April 2020, SIPRI had identified India as the 3rd largest military spender in the world, behind the United States (US) and China.

#### **8. India ranked 43rd on IMD's World Competitiveness Index ; Singapore topped**

- India continues to remain ranked 43rd on an annual World Competitiveness Index compiled by Institute for Management Development (IMD).
- Singapore has retained its top position on the 63-nation list.
- Denmark has moved up to the second position (from 8th last year), Switzerland has gained one place to rank 3rd, the Netherlands has retained its 4th place and Hong Kong has slipped to the fifth place (from 2nd in 2019).
- WCI compiled by Institute for Management Development (IMD)

#### **9. India 9th largest recipient of FDI in 2019, US Topped: UN Report**

- India became the world’s 9th largest recipient of the foreign direct investment in 2019 scoring deals worth \$51 billion.
- World Investment Report 2020 is the 30th edition of the annual report.

- The United States is the largest recipient of FDI in 2019 at \$246 billion.
- China, Singapore, Netherlands and Ireland are the top 5 largest recipients of FDI in 2019 respectively.

#### **10. PM Narendra Modi to launch 'Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan' to boost livelihood opportunities in rural India**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch 'Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan' on June 20 to boost livelihood opportunities in rural India.
- The Government of India has decided to launch a massive rural public works scheme 'Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan' to empower and provide livelihood opportunities to the returnee migrant workers and rural citizens.
- The campaign of 125 days across 116 districts in 6 states aims to work in mission mode to help migrant workers.
- It will involve intensified and focused implementation of 25 different types of works to provide jobs and create infrastructure in the rural regions of the country.

#### **11. Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain tested positive for COVID-19**

- Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain has tested positive for COVID-19. He was admitted to a hospital following high fever.
- The first report of Mr. Jain was negative. The minister was tested again after 24 hours today and this time, he tested positive.
- On Sunday morning, Jain had attended the meeting chaired by Union home minister Amit Shah along with Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajaj, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia. "Social distancing was strictly adhered to in the meeting but whether others present in the meeting should get tested would depend on what the health officials recommend after the contact tracing exercise," said a senior government official.

#### **12. India elected as non-permanent member of UN Security Council for a two-year term**

- India was elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a two-year term after winning 184 votes in the 193-member General Assembly.
- Along with India, Ireland, Mexico and Norway also won the Security Council elections.
- India was a candidate for a non-permanent seat from the Asia-Pacific category for the 2021-22 term.
- Its victory was certain as it was the sole candidate vying for the lone seat from the grouping. India's two year term will begin on January 1, 2021.
- This is the eighth time that India will sit at the UN high-table, which comprises five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members.

#### **13. PM Modi pays tribute to Acharya Mahapragya on his birth centenary**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Acharya Mahapragya on his birth centenary celebration.
- He also described Acharya Mahapragya as the Swami Vivekanand of modern times.
- The Prime Minister said that Atal Bihari Vajpayee was also a follower of Acharya Mahapragya.
- Acharya Shri Mahapragya was the tenth head of the Shwetambar Terapanth order of Jainism.



- Mahapragya was a saint, yogi, spiritual leader, philosopher, author, orator, and poet.
- He has written more than 300 books in Sanskrit, Hindi, Gujarati, English on these subjects

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

### **1.External Affairs Minister of India is to hold a joint virtual conference with Russian and Chinese Counterparts**

- The External Affairs Minister of India Shri S Jai Shankar is to hold a joint virtual conference with his Russian and Chinese Counterparts on June 22, 2020.
- The Minister is expected to discuss the recent standoff between Indian and Chinese militaries at the border. The meeting is being convened with the initiative of Russia. The countries will also discuss regional issues and synchronize their views on regional stability.
- India and China have been engaged in a bitter stand off along the Line of Actual Control at the eastern Ladakh for more than 5 weeks. The countries are holding diplomatic and military level talks to resolve the dispute.
- Russia is expected to expand the discussion on SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization), Russia-India-China trilateral forum and BRICS. The leaders are also expected to discuss withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan.

### **2.Kyrgyzstan's Prime Minister Mukhammedkalyi Abylgazyev resigns due to corruption charges**

- On June 15, 2020 Kyrgyzstan's Prime Minister Mukhammedkalyi Abylgazyev(52 years) resigned, amid ongoing criminal investigation into whether the government illegally sold radio frequencies. He was appointed as Prime Minister by President Sooronbai Jeenbekov after succeeding Saparlsakov in April 2018.
- Mukhammedkalyi Abylgaziev mentioned that the government may not work well due to the uncertainty caused by the investigation as there is compelling work due to COVID-19 pandemic. He took a 2 week leave on May 27 so as to avoid interference with a corruption investigation over radio frequency resources.
- Currently, First Deputy Prime Minister Kubatbek Boronov coordinates the work of the Government.

### **3. Nepal's President approves controversial bill to revise national map including three Indian territories**

- Nepal's President Bidhya Devi Bhandari on June 18, 2020 approved the Constitution Amendment Bill that seeks to update the nation's political map by including areas claimed by India. The bill was passed earlier in the day by Nepal's upper house of the Parliament, National Assembly with unanimous support. All 57 members of the house voted in favour of the bill.
- The New Map Amendment Bill(Coat of Arms) was approved by Nepal's House of Representatives last week. The lower house had also given its unanimous approval to the bill. The controversial bill proposes to include three Indian territories in Nepal's revised map.
- As per government sources, India is disappointed with the manner in which Nepal went ahead with revising its map without trying to create a conducive atmosphere for talks. India has rejected Nepal's claim to the three Indian areas of Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura in Uttarakhand, saying that the artificial enlargement of their national map

is not based on historical facts and evidence and violates their current understanding to conduct talks on outstanding border issues.

### **5. Kazakhstan's First President ,Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev, Tests Positive for COVID-19**

- First president of Kazakhstan, Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev tested positive for COVID-19 coronavirus infection.
- The report said that Nazarbayev continues carrying out activities via videoconferencing.
- Currently, the First President of Kazakhstan is self-isolating.
- The first two cases of coronavirus infection were detected in Kazakhstan among those who arrived in Almaty city from Germany on March 13, 2020.
- The total number of coronavirus cases confirmed in Kazakhstan since the virus was first confirmed in the country amounted to 15,877 cases.

### **6. Former NASA Astronaut & Geologist Kathy Sullivan becomes 1st Woman to Reach Deepest Point of Ocean**

- The 68-year-old Kathy Sullivan, Former NASA astronaut and Geologist became the first woman to reach the Challenger Deep, the deepest point in the ocean. It is located in the Mariana Trench, 7 miles below the surface of the Pacific Ocean which is 200 miles southwest of Guam.

## **New Appointments and Person in News**

### **1.Volkan Bozkir Becomes the 1st Turkish to be Elected as the President of 75th UN General Assembly**

- Volkan Bozkir(69) from Turkey was elected as the president of the 75th United Nations(UN) General Assembly. He is the 1st turkish to hold this post. He will hold the post for 1 year. Volkan Bozkir will succeed Tijjani Muhammad-Bande when the annual session opens on September 15, 2020.
- He won unopposed with the support of 178 UN member states by secret ballot.

### **2. Pankaj Tripathi becomes brand ambassador of Bihar's Khadi**

- Pankaj Tripathi, Bollywood Actor, was appointed as the brand ambassador of Bihar's Khadi by the Government of Bihar. He will promote the usage of Khadi product as well as the Patna's Khadi Mall.
- The Khadi Mall in Patna is India's first ever Kadhi mall & it was inaugurated by Nitish Kumra, Chief Minister of Bihar in November 2019.
- Tripathi mentioned that he would not take any salary for this role.

### **3.Attorney General K. K. Venugopal to get 1-year extension**

- Noted constitutional expert K.K. Venugopal will continue as the Attorney General of India for one more year.
- He has accepted the government's request to serve as the top law officer of the country beyond June 30 when his current three-year tenure expires.
- Venugopal, a leading lawyer of the country, was appointed as Attorney General and succeeded Mukul Rohatgi on June 30, 2017.

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- Known as a doyen of Indian Bar, Venugopal has appeared for the Centre in Aadhaar and Rafale cases, among others, in the Supreme Court.
- He is defending the Union government in other important cases including those related to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution.

#### **4.Imtaiyazur Rahman appointed as the CEO of UTI mutual funds**

- Board of Unit Trust of India(UTI )Mutual Fund had appointed Imtaiyazur Rahman as Chief Executive Officer (CEO ) of the UTI Asset Management Company (AMC). He had been already serving as the interim CEO for the past two years. He will succeed Leo Puri whose 5-year tenure was over in August 2018.
- The appointment will help the funding company to accelerate the process of launching its long-pending initial public offer (IPO).
- This would also address concerns of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on the position of CEO that has been lying vacant for quite some time

#### **5.Anmol Narang becomes first observant sikh to graduate from US Military Academy**

- Second Lieutenant Anmol Narang is all set to create history. She will become the first observant Sikh to graduate from the United States (US) Military Academy.
- The graduation ceremony will take place at the US Military Academy at West Point.
- In 1987, the US Congress passed a law that prohibited Sikhs and several other religious communities from maintaining their articles of faith while in the military, despite a history of diverse service and simple accommodations.

#### **6.Shambhu S Kumaran appointed India's next envoy to Philippines**

- Diplomat Shambhu S Kumaran has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Philippines.
- Kumaran is presently Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Morocco.
- During January 2016-May 2019, he was on deputation to the Ministry of Defence as Joint Secretary (Planning and International Cooperation).

#### **7.DK Jain, BCCI's 1st Ever Ombudsman Gets a 1-year Extension as Ethics Officer and Ombudsman**

- The tenure of former supreme court judge DK Jain as the ethics officer and ombudsman of Board of Control for Cricket in India(BCCI) got a 1year extension in June 2020 due to the current covid-19 situation. He was the first-ever ombudsman of BCCI appointed by the supreme court in February 2019.
- He was appointed as the He took additional changes as the ethics officer of BCCI. His tenure as the ethics officer and ombudsman of BCCI ended on 29th February 2020 and he resumed office after the renewal of his contract in June 2020.

## **BANKING**

### **1.RBI Releases modified Framework For Financial Market Infrastructure and Retail Payment System**

- India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made some changes to the monitoring structure of Financial Markets Infrastructure (FMI) and Retail Payment Systems (RPSs) with the aim to ensure the security and stability of the payment structure.
- According to the document, the Reserve Bank will monitor existing and planned systems, financial market infrastructure, and retail payment systems through assessment. It will also change it if necessary for improvement
- This document will increase transparency in surveillance and disclosures and improve regulatory compliance by payment system operators & will also increase customer awareness, which will result in better security, stability and betterment of our payment system.

### **2.RBI Proposes to Set Age Limit of CEOs, Whole-Time Directors of Banks to 70 Years**

- India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its Discussion Paper on 'Governance in Commercial Banks in India' proposed to set the age limit of Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and whole time directors (WTDs) belonging to the promoter group of banks to 70 years and maximum tenure of 10 years. This offer has been made to improve administration in the banking sector.
- The tenure has been limited in order to strengthen the culture of consistent governance and to adopt the principle of separating management from ownership

### **3.Airtel Payments Bank launches "Surakhsha salary account" for MSMEs**

- Airtel Payments Bank launched a new salary account for micro, small and medium enterprises.
- Called the Surakhsha Salary account, it will enable MSMEs and other organisations to make cashless payments and provide a financial security blanket to their employees.
- The account has no minimum balance condition.
- It offers no charges on cash withdrawals of upto Rs 50,000 and deposits of upto Rs 20,000 in one month.
- The account holder also gets two free cardless cash withdrawal via IMT at ATMs across the country.
- The account holder can make online money transfers to any bank across India.

### **4.AIIB approved 750 million USD loan to India to fight coronavirus**

- On June 17, 2020, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved 750 million USD loan to India. The fund granted is to be used by the GoI to strengthen battle against the impact of COVID-19 on the poor and vulnerable.
- The aid was co financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The funds are to be used for improving informal sector, safety nets for the needy and strengthen health care system of the country.
- The total sovereign loans to India that were already approved by AIIB amounts to 3.6 billion USD. This includes the recent emergency response of the bank that amounted to 500 million USD.



## **Books and Awards**

### **1. Chef Angad Singh Rana won the QualityNZ Culinary Cup 2020**

- Chef Angad Singh Rana has won QualityNZ Culinary Cup 2020.
- The award was announced by Cricket legend and Chennai Super Kings coach Stephen Fleming.
- Chef Angad Singh Rana grabbed the QualityNZ Culinary Cup 2020 alongside INR 50,000 worth of QualityNZ lamb and seafood and a Weber BBQ valued at over INR 46,000.
- The panel of judges included the heads of the Culinary Association, Chef Davinder Kumar, Chef Salil Fadnis, Chef Jugesh Arora and Stephen Fleming.

### **2. Hyderabad's Deccan Development Society wins Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation Award**

- Hyderabad-based Deccan Development Society has won the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation Award.
- It is one of the most coveted environmental awards in the world for the year 2020.
- This is in recognition of the individuals who dedicate their actions and organisations for their deep commitment to preserving our planet, in each of the Foundation's three priority areas: limiting the effects of climate change, preserving biodiversity, managing water resources and fighting against desertification.
- The award of 40,000 Euros (approximately Rs 35 lakhs) has been given to the society "in recognition of the work of DDS women to rehabilitate degraded lands and promote biodiversity".

### **3. Two Indian firms in WEF list of tech pioneers for 2020**

- Two Indian firms – Zest Money and Stellapps - figure in a new list of Tech Pioneers released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- The list described these 100 entities as future headline-makers addressing global issues with cutting-edge technology.
- From artificial intelligence (AI) to carbon capture, these companies are using innovations to protect the climate, improve healthcare and much more, helping us to reset society and build towards a better future.
- This year's class of Technology Pioneers are improving society and advancing their industries around the world.

### **4. The Debut Novel of Megha Majumdar – “A Burning” released**

- The Penguin Hamish Hamilton released the “A Burning”, debut novel of Megha Majumdar. The 32-year-old New York's writer who was born and raised in Kolkata.
- A Burning: The book is about the lives of three characters, Tommy Orange, Yaa Gyasi and Jhumpa Lahiri who want to rise to the middle class, to political power, to gain fame in the film industry and how their lives changed in Indian society. The book was published on 2nd June 2020 by Knopf Doubleday publishing Group.

## **SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE**

### **1. IAF proposes to acquire 21 MiG-29, 12 Sukhoi fighter jets from Russia**

- The Indian Air Force has submitted a proposal to the central government to acquire 33 new fighter aircraft from Russia. The proposal comes amid India's heightened tensions with China following the violent clash at the Galwan Valley in Eastern Ladakh.
- As per government sources, the Air Force was working on the proposal since some time but they have now fast-tracked the same. The proposals estimated to be worth around Rs 6000 crore are likely to be placed before the Union Defence Ministry for its final approval during a high-level meeting next week.
- The IAF proposal includes acquiring of 21 MiG-29s and 12 Su-30MKIs. The 12 Su-30 MKIs have been sought to replace the number of aircraft lost by the Indian Air Force in different accidents.

## **2. 'Air-Venti' App to provide information on ICU beds, ventilators launched in Mumbai**

- In Maharashtra, amid the COVID-19 crisis, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) has launched a mobile application "Air-Venti" to help residents in the city to know about the availability of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds and Ventilators.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the acute shortage of ventilators for the 'Respiratory Intensive Care Unit' for severely ill patients.
- The mobile app 'Air-Venti' launched by the civic body in Mumbai aims to provide overall statistics of ICU beds and ventilators that are occupied and vacant in both govt and private hospitals besides location map, ability to contact hospital through telephonic call and email is also available.

## **SPORTS**

### **1.4th edition of Asian Youth Para Games to be Held in Bahrain in December 2021**

- The Asian Paralympic Committee(APC) announced that the 4th Asian Youth Para Games will take place in Bahrain from December(1-10) 2021. The event will be organised in partnership with the National Paralympic Committee(NPC) of Bahrain with the support of the local government.
- This is the 1st time Bahrain will host a big para-sport event
- The competition will take place across numerous venues in Khalifa Sports City, a multi-use stadium in Isa Town, and Isa Sports City.

### **2.AIFF recommends Indian Football Legend I.M. Vijayan for Padma Shri**

- The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has recommended former Indian skipper I.M. Vijayan for India's fourth-highest civilian award, Padma Shri.
- The legendary Indian striker had debuted in the early 90s and scored 40 goals in 79 matches. He was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 2003.
- I.M. Vijayan had led the Indian team between 2000 and 2003 and formed a formidable pair with fellow striker Bhaichung Bhutia.
- Vijayan had scored one of the fastest international goals in just 12 seconds during a match against Bhutan in the 1999 SAF Games.

### **3.Mamedyarov wins Sharjah Online Chess championship**

- Azerbaijan's Shakhriyar Mamedyarov bagged top honours at the World Stars Sharjah Online International Chess Championship.

- Grandmaster Mamedyarov won the coveted title and pocketed \$3000 with 7.5 points from 10 rounds Indian Grandmaster Pentala Harikrishna finished second with 6.5 points after losing his 10th and final round game to Radoslaw Wojtszek.
- Both Mamedyarov and Harikrishna had chances to win the title as at the start of the final round they were on 6.5 points each.
- Luck eluded the Indian as he lost his 10th and final round game to Poland's Radoslaw Wojtszek. Harikrishna finished second with 6.5 points.
- Mamedyarov, who remained the only unbeaten player in the double round-robin tournament, got the better off UAE Grandmaster Salem Abdulrahman Mohamed Saleh to grab the victory.

## **OBITUARIES**

### **1. Former New Zealand cricketer Matt Poore dies at 90**

- Former New Zealand Test cricketer Matt Poore, who is remembered for catching a stray dog during a match in Bangalore in 1955, has died at the age of 90.
- He was featured in 14 Tests for New Zealand, scoring 355 runs and picking up nine wickets between 1953-1956.
- He also played 61 Tests for Canterbury and scored 2,336 runs and ended up with 68 wickets.

### **2. Army officer and two soldiers martyred during violent face off with Chinese Army in Ladakh**

- A violent face-off reportedly took place between Indian and Chinese troops at Galwan Valley in Ladakh Monday night during de-escalation process. One Indian Army officer and two soldiers were martyred. Senior military officials of both nations are currently conducting talks at the place to defuse the situation.
- This unprecedented escalation at the border is the first between the two sides along the India- China border since 1975. According to an ANI tweet quoting Editor In Chief of a Chinese Newspaper, the Chinese side also suffered casualties during the physical clash at Galwan.

### **3. Maha Vir Chakra awardee and 1971 war hero, Lt Gen Raj Mohan Vohra dies of COVID-19**

- Lt Gen (retd) Raj Mohan Vohra, who was a 1971 war hero and a Maha Vir Chakra awardee, has died due to COVID-19.
- Then a lieutenant colonel, Vohra commanded the elite Hodson's Horse in the Shakargarh Sector during the Indo-Pak War of 1971 and was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra for his conspicuous bravery and leadership.
- During the Battle of Basantar, the regiment came under heavy fire from the enemy and faced huge resistance, but 27 enemy tanks were destroyed under his able command.
- The Maha Vir Chakra (MVC) is the country's second highest gallantry award.
- It is awarded for acts of conspicuous gallantry in the presence of enemy whether on land, at sea or in the air.
- Vohra had received the coveted award in 1972.

### **4. Former Goa minister Achyut Usgaonkar passes away**

- Former Goa minister Achyut Kashinath Sinai Usgaonkar passed away following age-related ailments.
- Usgaonkar was a leader of the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP), the oldest regional outfit in Goa.
- He served as a cabinet minister from August 13, 1977 to April 27, 1979 in the then Shashikala Kakodkar government of Goa, Daman and Diu.
- Before serving as a minister, Achyut Usgaonkar was the deputy speaker of Goa during the Dayanand Bandodkar-led government.
- Bandodkar was the first chief minister of the coastal state.

### 5. Malayalam filmmaker Sachidanandan passes away

- Malayalam writer-director KR Sachidanandan, popularly known in the industry as Sachy, passed away. Sachy was on ventilator support prior to his death for almost two days.
- He suffered a cardiac arrest and hypoxic brain damage, wherein the brain does not get enough oxygen. Sachy debuted in the film industry as a writer, collaborating with fellow writer and screenwriter Sethunath.
- The duo, known as Sachy-Sethu, went on to write hits such as Chocolate, Makeup Man, Robin Hood, and Seniors.
- Sachy started off as a writer in the Malayalam film industry, and then moved on to direction, debuting as a director in 2015 with the Prithviraj-starrer Anarkali.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### 1. International Day of Family Remittances observed on 16 June

- International Day of Family Remittances 2020 aka IDFR is celebrated each year on June 16 across the world.
- The day is organised by the United Nations and is universally accepted.
- This day is celebrated to recognise the efforts of migrants who help to improve the lives of their family members back home.

### 2. World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought: 17th June

- The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is a United Nations observance each June 17.
- Its purpose is to raise awareness of the presence of desertification and drought, highlighting methods of preventing desertification and recovering from drought.
- The World Day to Combat Desertification And Drought was declared in the United Nations General Assembly resolution on January 30, 1995, after the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
- This year the theme for World Day to Combat Desertification And Drought is "Food. Feed. Fibre".

### 3. Sustainable Gastronomy Day: 18 June

- Sustainable Gastronomy Day is observed globally on 18th June every year.
- This day is observed to acknowledge gastronomy as a cultural expression related to nature as well as the cultural diversity of the world.



- As the COVID-19 pandemic is still unfolding across the globe, sustainable gastronomy - celebrating seasonal ingredients and producers, preserving wildlife as well as our culinary traditions - is today more relevant than ever.

#### 4. International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict: 19 June

- International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is observed globally on 19th June every year.
- The day honours all the victims and survivors of sexual violence around the world and pays tribute to the brave hearts who have devoted and lost their lives in raising voices.
- According to UN, conflict-related sexual violence is defined as a term that "refers to rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilization, forced marriage, and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity perpetrated against women, men, girls or boys that is directly or indirectly linked (temporally, geographically or causally) to a conflict".

#### 5. Karnataka Government observed "Mask Day" on 18 June

- The Karnataka government observed June 18 as "Mask Day".
- The day was observed to spread awareness about the use of masks, sanitisers, washing hands with soap, and maintaining social distancing among other things aimed at controlling the spread of COVID-19.
- To observe "Mask Day", the Karnataka government organised a march which featured the participation of public representatives, dignitaries and medical staff.

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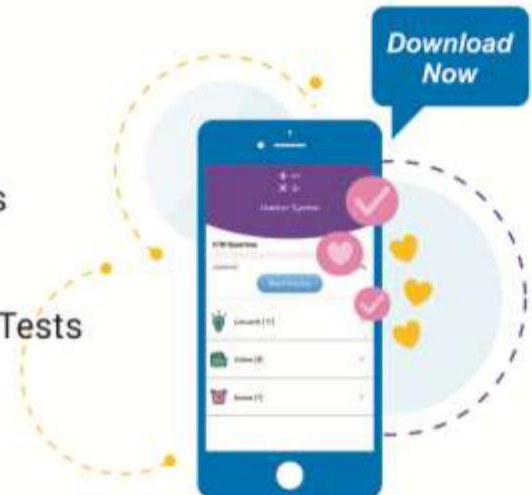


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