

## Current Affairs:20/21.06.2021

### India Ranks 43rd on IMD's World Competitiveness Index 2021; Switzerland tops

India has retained its rank at **43rd position** among 63 nations, in the annual **World Competitiveness Index** for the year 2021 compiled by **Institute for Management Development (IMD)**. India was at 43rd spot in 2019 and 2020 as well. The World Competitiveness Index 2021 list has been topped by **Switzerland**. Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands and Singapore are the top five countries respectively. Among the BRICS nations, India is ranked second after China (16), followed by Russia (45th), Brazil (57th) and South Africa (62th).

### World's Third-Largest Diamond Unearthed in Botswana

A **1,098-carat diamond** has been discovered in **Botswana**, by **Debswana Diamond Company**, a joint venture between the government of Botswana and the South African diamond company De Beers. The newly discovered diamond is believed to be the **third-largest gem-quality stone** ever to be mined in the world. The stone has been presented by Debswana Diamond Company to President of Botswana, Mokgweetsi Masisi. The largest diamond to be recovered till date is **3,106 carat Cullinan stone in South Africa in 1905**, followed by the **1,109 carat Lesedi La Rona** unearthed by Lucara Diamonds in Botswana in 2015.

### Ebrahim Raisi wins Iran's 2021 Presidential Election

**Ebrahim Raisi** has won the **2021 Iranian presidential election**, winning 62 percent of the vote with about 90 percent of ballots counted. The 60-year-old Raisi will succeed **Hassan Rouhani** in August 2021, to begin his four year term. He is also the Chief Justice of Iran since March 2019.

Iran – Capital: Tehran; Currency: Iranian rial

### Ireland All Rounder Kevin O'Brien announces retirement from ODI cricket

**Ireland all rounder Kevin O'Brien** has announced his retirement from **One-Day international cricket**, after playing his final match for the country against the Netherlands on June 7, 2021. The 37-year-old O'Brien, will continue to represent Ireland in both T20s and Tests.

The legendary player featured in **153 ODIs** for Ireland, accumulating 3619 runs from his 141 innings at the strike rate of 88.79. He is the third-highest run-getter for Ireland in ODIs, behind Stirling and Porterfield. Apart from this, he picked 114 ODI wickets, which is the highest by any Irish player. He also holds the record of most catches by an Irish player, pouching 68 catches in total.

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## The Flying Sikh 'Milkha Singh' passes away at 91 after long battle with Covid

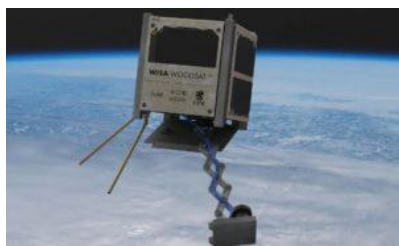
The legendary Indian sprinter **Milkha Singh** has passed away due to post-Covid complications. He was **91-year-old**. Milkha Singh was being treated at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh. Last week, he had lost his former national volleyball captain wife Nirmal Kaur due to same Covid-complications.

## World Refugee Day: 20 June

The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) observes the **World Refugee Day** on **June 20** each year to raise awareness of the situation of refugees throughout the world. 2021 Theme: **Together we heal, learn and shine.**

The United Nations General Assembly recognised the day on 4 December 2020. **United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) headquarter – Geneva, Switzerland**

## European Space Agency Set to Launch World First Wooden Satellite WISA Woodsat by 2021 End



The **European Space Agency (ESA)** is planning to launch the **world's first wooden satellite, dubbed as WISA Woodsat**, into orbit by the end of the year 2021. The basic goal of this experiment is to discover whether a substance like wood can withstand the vacuum, heat, cold, and radiation of space.

The wooden satellite is being designed by **Finnish company Arctic Astronautics**, after being proposed by its co-founder, **Jari Mäkinen**. WISA Woodsat is a nanosatellite, made of **birch plywood**, in the shape of a cube. The length, height, and breadth of the WISA Woodsat is **10x10x10 cm**. It will include Sensors produced by the ESA, to assess how it survives the severe conditions of lower Earth orbit. While, mostly all parts of this satellite has been developed by plywood, the only non-wooden elements of the WISA Woodsat will be a metal selfie stick and corner aluminium rails that allow the satellite to be launched into orbit. The WISA Woodsat will be launched from **New Zealand** on a rocket called the **Electron**, which was created by the American aerospace company Rocket Lab.

## India Ranks 135 in Global Peace Index 2021; Iceland Tops

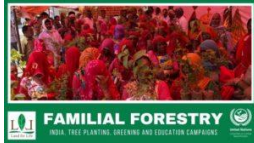
**India** has moved up two places to rank **135** among **163** countries on the **Global Peace Index (GPI) 2021**. The GPI is released by **Australian think tank, Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)** to rank independent states and territories according to their level of peacefulness. **Iceland** has retained the **top spot** in the index as most peaceful country since 2008. **Afghanistan** is the **least**

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peaceful nation at 163. The 2021 index is the **fifteenth edition** of the Global Peace Index (GPI).

## Rajasthan-based Environmental Organisation ‘Familial Forestry’ wins prestigious UN Award



The **2021 Land for Life Award** has been won by **Familial Forestry of Rajasthan**, a unique concept that relates a tree with a family, making it a green “family member.” The **UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** organises

the Land for Life Award every two years to recognize excellence and innovation in efforts towards land in balance. The theme for 2021 Award is “**Healthy Land, Healthy Lives**”.

The Land for Life Award was launched at the UNCCD COP (Conference of Parties) 10 in 2011, and is considered as the world’s highest reward regarding land conservation and restoration. Familial Forestry is an environment conservation concept by **climate-activist Shyam Sunder Jyani, an Associate Professor for Sociology in Rajasthan**, who has been campaigning for Familial Forestry for over 15 years.