

Current Affairs:25.06.2021

Day of the Seafarer – Observed on June 25

25 June of each year is the “**Day of the Seafarer**”, recognizing the invaluable contribution seafarers make to international trade and the world economy, often at great personal cost to themselves and their families. The **theme** for **2021** Day of the Seafarer “**Seafarers: at the core of shipping’s future**”. The theme “seeks to increase the visibility of seafarers by drawing attention to the invaluable role they play now and will continue to play in the future. This year the **campaign** for Day of Seafarer calls for a “**fair future for seafarers.**” The Day of the Seafarer has now been **included** in the **annual list of United Nations Observances**. On this day, people pay respect to Seafarers and sailors who help the entire world function by conducting sea transport.

World Vitiligo Day – Observed on June 25

The **World Vitiligo Day**, observed on **June 25**, is an **initiative aimed to build global awareness** about vitiligo. The **theme** for **2021** is “**Embracing Life with Vitiligo**”. Another key **theme** for **2021** – “**Patients with vitiligo have the same COVID experience as anybody else and should not fear vaccination**”. Vitiligo occurs in 1-2% of the population worldwide; a **loss of color in the skin creating a variety of patterns on the skin from loss of pigment**. It was established to raise awareness for **vitiligo**, a disfiguring autoimmune disease that causes white spots on the skin. The **25th of June** was selected in remembrance of Michael Jackson, who suffered from **vitiligo** and died on that **day** in 2009.

Central Govt employees can claim HBA benefit

With an aim to help **central government employees who want to construct their own house**, the center is offering **House Building Advance (HBA)** benefits to all central government servants (CGS). The **basic interest rate charged** on this HBA is **7.9 percent** and the benefit will remain available **till 31st March 2022**. Keeping **7th pay commission** pay matrix

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and 7th CPC approval provisions in focus, the center has already updated the HBA guidelines for the central government servants.



About House Building Advance:

The **Central Government employees**, who wish to construct their own home, can avail the **House Building Advance (HBA)**. The HBA amount for expansion of the house is **capped at Rs.10 lakh or 34 months of basic pay** or cost of the expansion of the house or amount according to repaying capacity, whichever is the least. The total amount that a **central government employee** can avail of under House Building Advance is up to his or her **34 month basic monthly salary or Rs 25 lakh or cost of the house** or the amount as per the repaying ability of the employee, whichever is lower for new construction or purchase of new house or flat.

MoTA and NCERT jointly initiates NISHTHA Capacity Building Programme

MoTA and NCERT join hands for **NISHTHA Capacity Building Programme**. The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)** and the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**, recently collaborated on a joint mission for the **NISHTHA** capacity-building programme for **Eklavya school teachers and principals**. Under the programme, teachers and principals from **120 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs)** from 3 States (Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh) participated in the first batch of the programme.

About NISHTHA Programme:

NISHTHA stands for **National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement**. **NISHTHA** is a capacity-building programme for improving the quality of school education through integrated teacher training. It **aims to build competencies** among all the teachers and school principals at the elementary stage. It was **launched** by the **Department of School Education and Literacy** as a national mission under the Samagra Shiksha Scheme in 2019-20. It is also the world's largest teachers' training programme of its kind.

About Eklavya Model Residential Schools:

Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) is a Central government scheme initiated in 1998-99 for setting up a model residential

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school from Class VI to XII for imparting quality education to tribal children in their own environment. It is a Government of India scheme for **model residential school for Indian tribals (ST, Scheduled Tribes) across India.**



S&P Global Ratings cut India's FY 22 GDP Growth Forecast to 9.5%

S&P Global Ratings cut India's **growth forecast** for the current fiscal to **9.5 percent, from 11 percent earlier**, and warned of risk to the outlook from further waves of COVID pandemic. The agency lowered the growth outlook, saying that a severe second COVID-19 outbreak in **April and May** led to **lockdowns** imposed by states and sharp contraction in economic activity. "S&P forecast growth of **9.5 per cent** this fiscal year from our **March forecast of 11 per cent**". Stating that permanent damage to private and public sector balance sheets will constrain growth over the next couple of years, it projected India's growth at 7.8 per cent in the next fiscal ending March 31, 2023.

About S&P Global Ratings:

S&P Global Ratings is an **American credit rating agency** and a division of S&P Global that publishes financial research and analysis on stocks, bonds, and commodities. S&P is considered the **largest of the Big Three credit-rating agencies**, which also include Moody's Investors Service and Fitch Ratings.

Headquarters: New York, United States

Founder: Henry Varnum Poor

President: John L. Berisford

IAF & Indian Navy begin 2-day passage exercise with US Carrier Strike Group in Indian Ocean

On **June 23, 2021**, **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and the **Indian Navy** commenced **two-day Passage exercise**. The exercise will be held **two days, June 23, 2021 and June 24, 2021**. It is the **joint operational passage exercise** with the **US Navy Carrier Strike Group** in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.

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It will be carried out south of Thiruvananthapuram, on the western seaboard.

9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable Hosted by India in 2022

On June 22, 2021, the International Energy Forum (IEF) informed India that it has agreed to host the 9th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER9) in 2022. It will take forward the understandings reached in the previous meeting in Abu Dhabi during 2018. The Summit was co-hosted by India. The Summit Focusing on global energy security in the age of change.

About International Energy Forum :

The International Energy Forum (IEF) is the world's largest energy organisation with 71 member countries, accounting for 90% of the global energy market. The Forum holds energy dialogue promotes energy security, market stability and transparency in the transition to a sustainable and inclusive future.

- Secretary-General : Joseph McMonigle
- Founded: 1991
- Headquarters: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

India Organize BRICS Green Hydrogen Summit

Under the Ministry of Power, NTPC Limited, organised a two-day workshop on Green Hydrogen. The event will be anchored by India's state-run power major NTPC. The online event will be held through a video conference from June 22, 2021 to 23, 2021. Experts from Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) countries participated. In addition to that, the Central government also launched a National Hydrogen Mission this year.

Green Hydrogen has no carbon footprint. Green Hydrogen is one of the most popular and demanding fields in the current times and considered to be the next carrier of energy. Green hydrogen has a great amount of potential to ensure sustainable energy supply. It would increase the level of



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energy available at the same time and minimize the negative impact on the environment.

The Reuters Institute Digital News Report, 2021, India Ranks 31

Out of 46 countries, India ranked 31 in the Reuters Institute Digital News Report, 2021. Finland had the highest levels of overall trust in news (65%) while the US had the lowest levels of trust (29%). Only 38% of the respondents from India informed they trust the news overall. The Asian College of Journalism (ACJ) provided logistical support for surveying the Indian market. The survey shows India is one of the strongest mobile-focused markets. The 10th edition of the Digital News Report featured India for the first time in the main report. The report is based on an online survey of 46 media markets to understand how news is consumed in different countries. The 2021 report focuses on trust in news, the pandemic induced economic pressure on news publishers, misinformation and COVID-19.