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International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking – Observed on June 26

The **International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking** is a United Nations International Day against drug abuse and the illegal drug trade. It has been observed annually on 26 June, since 1989. In 1987, the **United Nations General Assembly** decided to observe **26th June** as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse. This year, the **theme** of International Day Against Drug Abuse is **‘Share Facts On Drugs, Save Lives’**. Facts about **health risks** posed by drug abuse and solutions to tackle the problem will help us move towards a society free of drug abuse.

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture – Observed on June 26

The **United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture – 26 June** is an international observance held annually to speak out against the crime of torture and to honour and support victims and survivors throughout the world. The day was **first observed by United Nations General Assembly in 1997** to raise awareness about the suffering of people who undergo torture. Torture is a vile act of punishing someone and making them suffer. According to Human Rights Court, **torture** is a ‘deliberate inhuman treatment causing very serious and cruel suffering’. The UN strictly condemned such acts and considered them as a crime against humanity. The **main motto** of this day is to prevent all citizens from torture.

Gujarat govt initiates the policy for electric vehicles for next four years

The Gujarat government announced **‘Gujarat Electric Vehicle Policy 2021’** to promote use of electric vehicles in the state. **Chief Minister Vijay Rupani** stated it aims to bring at least 2 lakh electric vehicles on the state roads in the next four years.

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The **policy** aims to make Gujarat a hub for EVs and related components, encourage investments in electric mobility and reduce vehicular pollution. It is estimated that around **10 lakh electric two-wheel vehicles, 70,000 three-wheelers and 20,000 four-wheelers** will be used in the state in the next four years following the implementation of this policy, Rupani said. The **state government will provide a subsidy up to Rs 20,000 on purchase of an electric two-wheeler, Rs 50,000 for three-wheeler and Rs 1,50,000 on purchase of a four-wheeler.** The subsidy will be transferred **directly to the bank accounts** of owners through direct benefit transfer.

About Gujarat:

- Gujarat is a **state on the western coast of India** with a coastline of **1,600 km** – most of which lies on the Kathiawar peninsula.
- It is the **fifth-largest Indian state** by area and the ninth-largest state by population. Wikipedia
- **Capital:** Gandhinagar
- **Governor:** Acharya Devvrat
- **Chief minister:** Vijay Rupani

Centre unveiled full list of Smart Cities Awards 2020 winners

The **Central government declared Smart City awards 2020** in which Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Surat (Gujarat) won the **award** jointly for their overall development. Whereas **Uttar Pradesh** emerged on the **top among all states**, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu under the **Smart City award, 2020.** The **Smart City awards** were given across the **themes** of Social Aspects, Governance, Culture, Urban Environment, Sanitation, Economy, Built Environment, Water, Urban Mobility, the Ministry of Housing Affairs said. Surat, Indore, Ahmedabad, Pune, Vijayawada, Rajkot, Visakhapatnam, Pimpri-Chinchwad, and Vadodara were **awarded 4 star rating under Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework.** Chandigarh bagged the **award for union territories**, while Indore won the **“Innovative Idea Award”.** Ahmedabad bagged the **‘Smart Cities Leadership Award’**, followed by Varanasi and Ranchi in the second and third spots respectively. On **Governance aspect-**Vadodara, Thane and Bhubaneswar stood as **the top-3 cities in the country.**

Ministry of Defence, DRDO Successfully Test fires Subsonic Cruise Missile ‘Nirbhay’

On June 24, 2021, The subsonic cruise missile ‘Nirbhay’ was successfully test-fired off the Odisha coast. Nirbhay is a subsonic cruise missile designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the Ministry of Defence. The missile having a range of 1500 KM, it was fired from launchpad no.3 of the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur of Balasore district. The missile is capable of carrying nuclear warheads upto 200 kg.

- The first test flight of Nirbhay was held on 12 March 2013.
- This was the eighth test flight of the missile.

About the Missile ‘Nirbhay’ :

- Nirbhay is a long-range, all-weather, subsonic cruise missile.
- The missile can be launched from multiple platforms and is capable of carrying conventional and nuclear warheads.
- The missile has a length of 6 metres, a width of 0.52 metres, a wingspan of 2.7 metres and weighs about 1500 kg.
- The missile can reach speeds of 0.6-0.7 Mach.

About DRDO :

- **Founded:** 1958
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Chairman :** Dr G Satheesh Reddy

NTPC bags recognition of India’s best employers among Nation-Builders 2021

“NTPC is the only PSU to consistently feature in India’s Top 50 Best Workplaces. This year NTPC ranked 38th up from 47th position last year. It also won its first-ever recognition of India’s Best Employers

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among Nation-Builders 2021”.The Maharatna Community and Public Sector Unit (CPSU) have once again featured in India’s top 50 ‘Best Workplaces’.

About NTPC:

NTPC Limited, formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, is an Indian government electricity board engaged in the business of generation of electricity and allied activities.Headquarters: New Delhi, India

ISSF World Cup : Olympic-bound shooter Saurabh Chaudhary Wins bronze medal

On June 24, 2021, Tokyo-bound shooter Saurabh Chaudhary won a bronze medal at the 10m air pistol event at the ISSF World Cup in Osijek.Saurabh is 19 year old, he scored 220 in the final after qualifying with a score of 581.The event is the Indian shooting team”s final competitive outing before the Olympics in Tokyo.Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar finished seventh in the men’s 10m air rifle final.Manu Bhakrer finished seventh in the women’s 10m air pistol event with a score of 137.3.

Kaylee McKeown breaks 100-meter backstroke world record

Australian Swimmer Kaylee McKeown broke the 100-meter backstroke world record at the Australian Olympic trials.The 19-year-old McKeown had a time of 57.45 seconds at the South Australian Aquatic Centre.Emily Seebohm came second to qualify for her fourth Olympic Games.McKeown beat the previous world record held by the United States swimmer Regan Smith who made the record within a time of 57:57.