

Current Affairs: 29.06.2021

International Day of the Tropics – Observed on June 29

The **International Day of the Tropics** is observed every year on **29 June** to highlight opportunities, unique challenges faced by nations lying between the tropics and celebrates the diversity of tropical regions. **Theme** of this year is **‘Digital Divide in the Tropics’**. The day aims at promoting tropical regions on the planet and **raising awareness** about conservation strategies. The **Tropics are defined** as the area between the **tropic of Capricorn and the tropic of Cancer**. The tropics are regions of the Earth that lie roughly in the middle of the globe. The tropics between the latitude lines of the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. The **tropics include** the Equator and parts of North America, South America, Africa, Asia, and Australia.

National Statistics day – Observed on June 29

World Statistics Day is an international day Observed on June 29, to celebrate statistics. The **theme** of Statistics Day, **2021** is **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)- 2 (End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture)**. The **birth anniversary of PC Mahalanobis** is observed as National Statistics Day. Often referred to as the **‘father of Indian statistics’**, PC Mahalanobis, was born on June 29, 1893 in Calcutta (now Kolkata), West Bengal. He was a **key member of the first Planning Commission** of independent India and a **Padma Vibhushan awardee**. The **first National Statistics Day** was observed on **June 29, 2006**. The day is celebrated every five years. The **Chief Guest of the National Statistics Day 2021** event is **Rao Inderjit Singh**, Hon’ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) and Ministry of Planning.

Union Govt announced the Scheme FAME II extended till 2024

- The **scheme** has increased the demand incentive by 50 percent to **Rs 15,000 per kWh** compared to **Rs 10,000 per kWh**

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- The **maximum cap** is also increased at 40 percent of the e-two-wheeler cost compared to **20 percent**

The **FAME II scheme**, introduced to drive greater adoption of EVs in India, was launched with a massive budget outlay of Rs 10,000 crore in April 2019, to support **7,000 e-buses, 500,000 e-three-wheelers, 55,000 e-passenger vehicles and a million e-two-wheelers**. However, it seems to have missed its desired outcome by a huge count. The Union government has announced the extension of the **second phase of FAME India scheme** by two years till **March 31, 2024**.

About FAME India scheme:

The **FAME India (Faster Adoption and Manufacture of (Hybrid and Electric Vehicles) Scheme** is an **incentive scheme** for the promotion of electric and hybrid vehicles in the country. **Ultimate objective of the scheme** is to promote electric mobility and it gives financial incentives for enhancing electric vehicle production and creation of electric transportation infrastructure. The incentives are provided in the form of **subsidies to manufacturers of electric vehicles and infrastructure providers of electric vehicles**. Launched by the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises in 2015, the **first phase of the scheme** started in 2015 and was completed on **March 31st, 2019**. Phase I of the FAME-India Scheme was implemented with an outlay of INR 895 Cr. Approximately 2,18,625 Electric Vehicles were promoted by **FAME I till July 2018**. The **allocations for the scheme** during the periods 2019-20 and 2020-21 were approximately INR 1500 Cr and INR 5000 Cr, respectively. For the year 2021-22, the amount is **estimated** to be INR 3500 Cr.

Rajnath Singh inaugurates 63 bridges built by BRO in 8 states

With an aim to **strengthen the road connectivity in the border areas**, Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh inaugurated 63 bridges in six states** and two Union Territories built by **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**. Among the **63 bridges, 11 are** in Ladakh, four in Jammu & Kashmir, three in Himachal Pradesh, **six in** Uttarakhand, eight in Sikkim, one each in Nagaland and Manipur, and **29 in** Arunachal Pradesh. The **combined cost** of the projects is **Rs 240 crores**. With the inauguration of 63 bridges in one go, BRO has surpassed its own record of 44 bridges launched in **2020**. These **63 bridges**, combined with **12 roads** dedicated to the nation by Shri Rajnath

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Singh on June 17, 2021, form a bouquet of **75 infrastructure projects** completed by BRO when the nation is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its Independence.

About Border Roads Organization:

The **Border Roads Organization** is a **road construction executive force in India** that provides support to and is a part of the Indian Armed Forces. BRO develops and maintains road networks in India's border areas and friendly neighboring countries.

Director General: Gen. Rajeev Chaudhary

Headquarters: New Delhi

Ashgabat world's most expensive city for foreign workers

Turkmenistan's capital city Ashgabat has become the **world's most expensive city** for foreign workers, according to this year's Mercer Cost of Living Survey. The **annual report has ranked 209 cities** across five continents **by measuring** the comparative cost of more than 200 items, including housing, transportation, food, clothing, household goods, and entertainment. The survey used **New York City, ranked 14 on the list**, as the base city and currency movements were measured against the US dollar. **List of top 10 expensive cities** mostly features global financial hubs like Hong Kong, which was the priciest last year, Tokyo, Shanghai, Zurich and Singapore. **Mumbai remains India's most expensive city at 78th rank** but has **dropped 18 places** in this year's ranking "due to a relatively weak Indian rupee in comparison with other cities in the ranking." **Other Indian cities** on the list are New Delhi (117), Chennai (158), Bengaluru (170), and Kolkata (181).

About Turkmenistan:

Turkmenistan is a **country in Central Asia** bordered by the **Caspian Sea** and largely covered by the Karakum Desert. It's known for archaeological ruins including those at Nisa and Merv, major stops along the ancient trade route the **Silk Road**. **Ashgabat, the capital, was rebuilt in Soviet style in the mid-20th century** and is filled with grand monuments honoring former president Saparmurat Niyazov.

- **Capital:** Ashgabat
- **Currency:** Turkmenistani manat
- **President:** Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow

China replaced UAE became the 2nd Largest Export Destination of India in FY21

China overtook the UAE to emerge as India's second-largest export destination in FY21, behind only the US, for the **first time in recent memory**, despite the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic and a deadly border clash with outbound shipments to the neighbouring **country rising 27.53% to \$21.18 billion in the pandemic year**. The **US remained the country's top export partner**, according to government data, but shipments declined 2.78% to \$51.63 billion in a year when India's merchandise trade — **both exports and imports** — fell amid global lockdowns and disruption to logistics due to the pandemic.

Praveen Sinha take oath as Special Director of CBI

CBI Additional Director Praveen Sinha has been appointed as Special Director of Central Bureau of Investigation, a **post earlier** held by **Rakesh Asthana**. Special Director is the second **senior-most position** in the agency after the Director. The post was **vacant for the last three years**. The **Appointments Committee of the cabinet** appointed Praveen Sinha as the Special Director of CBI on the recommendations made by DoPT (Department of Personnel and Training).

About CBI:

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the **premier investigating agency** of India. **Operating under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (India)**, Originally set up to investigate bribery and governmental corruption, in **1965** it received expanded jurisdiction to investigate breaches of central laws enforceable by the Government of India, multi-state organized crime, multi-agency or international cases. **Headquarters:** New Delhi

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15-year-old boy from Delhi honoured with Diana Award for helping marginalised girls

A 15-year-old boy from Delhi has received the prestigious Diana Award for going above and beyond in his daily life to create and sustain a positive change.

Ishan Kapur, a student at Wellington College (UK), has been recognized with the highest accolade a young person can achieve for social action or humanitarian efforts – The Diana Award. Ishan works with the **Sri Ramakrishna Ashram** New Delhi. He helps a local school access uniforms for marginalized girls. The **Diana Award** was established in memory of **Diana, Princess of Wales.** The Award is given out by the **charity of the same name** and has the support of both her sons, The Duke of Cambridge and The Duke of Sussex.

About Diana Award:

- The **Diana Award** honors young people who work to **improve the lives of others.**
- The **Award** is the most prestigious accolade a **young person** aged 9-25 can receive for their social action or humanitarian work.
- Named after Diana, Princess of Wales, the award was **established in 1999** by a board chaired by Gordon Brown.

Delhi Metro received ‘Japan Society of Civil Engineers’ award

The **Delhi Metro** has received the prestigious ‘**Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award**’ for the year 2020 from the Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE) for its “**High-Quality**” infrastructure development projects **under Phase I, II and III.** This award is given to selective projects in the field of **civil engineering technology development** across the world. Several countries participate and showcase their projects every year to bag the award.

About ‘Japan Society of Civil Engineers’ award:

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- **JSCE Award program** (founded in 1920) recognizes outstanding achievements, remarkable accomplishments, and significant contribution to civil engineering progress.
- **JSCE has developed the award program** to further promote the civil engineering profession, encourage civil engineers to achieve their goals, and to introduce technological innovations widely.
- The awards are conferred at the **JSCE General Assembly** in June every year.

INS Tabar Utilized for naval exercises in Africa, Europe

To enhance military cooperation with friendly nations, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tabar, which commenced its prolonged deployment on June 13, will visit a number of ports in Africa and Europe till September end, 2021. INS Tabar, is a Talwar-class stealth Frigate built for Indian Navy in Russia. The ship is commanded by Captain M Mahesh and has a complement of 300 personnel. The ship is also scheduled to participate in bilateral exercises like Ex Konkan with the Royal Navy, Ex Varuna with French Navy and Ex Indra with Russian Federation Navy.

The deployment will also see participation by the ship in the Russian Navy Day celebrations from July 22 to 27. This is to further strengthen maritime security in the region and to consolidate combined operations against maritime threats.

DRDO successfully test-fires Agni series' off Odisha coast – Agni-P

On May 28, 2021, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested a New Generation Nuclear Capable Ballistic Missile “Agni P” from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha, Balasore.

About Agni – P :

Agni P is a new generation advanced variant of the Agni class of missiles. The new ballistic missile, which has a range capability between



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1,000 and 2,000 kilometres. The new nuclear-capable missile is fully made up of composite material and it was a textbook launch.

Note :

- Agni I, India's first intermediate-range ballistic missile, was successfully test-fired for the first time in May 1989. It was inducted into service in 2004. It has a range capability between 700 and 900 kilometres.

CJI Releases Book by R V Raveendran On Evolving Legal System

On June 26, 2021, Chief Justice of India N V Ramana released a book called **Anomalies in Law and Justice Virtually**. The Book has been **Authored by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana**. Former Chief Justice of India MN Venkatachaliah, former Supreme Court docket Justice BN Srikrishna and senior advocate Arvind Datar also present the event.

The Book deals with various deficiencies in the law which require to be overcome. The book was an attempt to explain to a common man that the law and the legal system is still evolving.

First Female judge of the Supreme Court of India : Fathima Beevi (From 6 October 1989 to 29 April 1992). **Longest Serving female judge of the Supreme Court of India** : Ruma Pal

Shafali Verma Becomes the Youngest Indian Cricketer in all formats

- On June 27, 2021, Opener Shafali Verma became the **youngest Indian cricketer** to make debut across **all the formats** after being picked for the **first ODI against England Women**. The others are followed by former England women's team wicketkeeper Sarah Taylor, Australia Women all-rounder Ellyse Perry is third in the list, followed by Pakistan Mohammad Amir. Verma, on her ODI debut, **scored 15 runs off 14 balls before being dismissed by England's Katherine Brunt**. The Haryana girl took 17 years and 150 days to make her debut across all formats,

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making her the **fifth-youngest cricketer overall in the list**, headed by Afghanistan's Mujeeb Ur Rahman.



About Shafali Verma :

Shafali Verma is an **Indian cricketer who plays for the India women's national cricket team**. In **2019**, she became the **youngest cricketer to play in a Women's Twenty20 International match for India**. In **November 2019**, she became the **youngest half-centurion for India in international cricket against the West Indies** and she was named the **player of the series**.