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JUNE – 2021

COVID – 19 NEWS

Corbevax Covid-19 Vaccine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is India's indigenous Covid-19 vaccine which is currently undergoing Phase 3 clinical trials. ➤ Developed by: Indian biopharmaceutical firm Biological E. Limited, the American Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, United States, and American company Dynavax Technologies.
PanBio COVID-19	ICMR has approved 2nd home-based Rapid Antigen Test kit named "PanBio COVID-19" , developed by Abbott Rapid Diagnostics Division, Chicago
Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine	The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has granted permission to Mumbai-based pharma major Cipla to import Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine, making it the fourth vaccine in the country to be given the emergency use authorisation (EUA)
2-DG oral Vaccine	Dr Reddy's Laboratories has announced the commercial launch of drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG).
CoWIN	CoWIN is an extension of an electronic vaccine intelligence network, eVIN, which is used to collect real-time feedback of the vaccination programmes.
PRABANDH portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ PRABANDH (PRoject Appraisal, Budgeting, Achievements and Data Handling System) ➤ With COVID disruptions to education leading to higher levels of dropouts, the Centre has set up a module to map out-of-school children.
REGEN-COV2	Life-saving treatment for some of the most severely affected Covid-19 patients – clinical trial in UK
Lioness - died of suspected coronavirus infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A 19 yr old lioness died of suspected coronavirus infection on June 3 at the Arignar Anna Zoological Park (AAZP) in Vandalur ➤ Also, Nine more lions at the zoo have tested positive for COVID 19
Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan	Madhya Pradesh government to launch a new campaign aims to make people aware about the COVID 19 pandemic with the help of a youth power

TAMIL NADU

1) **New office-bearers of TN State Development Policy Council:**

J Jeyaranjan	Vice-Chairperson of Agricultural Policy and Planning division
R Srinivasan	Full-time member of the Plan Co-ordination division
M Vijayabaskar	Education and Employment
K Deenabandu	District Planning and Rural Development
Dr Sultan Ahmed Ismail	Land Use
TRB Rajaa	Agricultural Policy and Planning
Mallika Srinivasan	Industries, Power, and Transport
G Sivaraman, Narthaki Natarajan, Dr J Amalorpavanathan	Health and Social Welfare division

2) **The 1st Session of the 16th TN Legislative Assembly will begin on June 21: TN sets up Economic Advisory Council**

Handpicked experts | The Tamil Nadu government's Economic Advisory Council to the Chief Minister will have the following economic experts:



Esther DuFlo: A joint winner of the 2019 Nobel Prize in Economics, she is a professor of poverty alleviation and development economics at MIT, U.S. She has worked extensively in India over the last two decades, including in Tamil Nadu, where her research focuses on improving the well-being of the elderly, the learning outcomes of primary and pre-primary children and maternal health



Jean Drèze: A development economist, he is currently a visiting professor at Ranchi University in India. His recent books include *An Uncertain Glory: India and Its Contradictions* (with Amartya Sen) and *Sense and Solidarity: Jholawala Economics for Everyone*



Raghuram Rajan: He is a Katherine Dusak Miller Distinguished Service Professor of Finance at the University of Chicago's Booth School. He was the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India between 2013 and 2016, vice-chairman of the Board of the Bank for International Settlements (2015-16) and chief economist at the International Monetary Fund (2003-2006)



S. Narayan: A 1965-cadre IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, he was in public service till 2004. He was the Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister between 2003 and 2004. He is the author of *The Dravidian Years- Welfare and Politics in Tamil Nadu*



Arvind Subramanian: He was the Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) to the Government of India between 2014 and 2018, and is now a senior fellow at Brown University's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs and a distinguished senior fellow and professor at the Center for Global Development, Ashoka University

- 3) **A K RAJAN Committee:** To study the impact of NEET on admissions to medical colleges.
- 4) **D Murugesan Commission:** The panel will study the poor enrolment of government school students in professional courses like engineering, agriculture, veterinary, fisheries and law.
- 5) **Kakarla Usha Committee:** The Tamil Nadu school education department formed a ten-member panel headed by **Kakarla Usha** to decide on the evaluation criteria for state board Class XII students, whose exams have been cancelled due to the pandemic.
- 6) TN State appoints **Peter Alphonse as head of state minorities commission**
- 7) **C Sylendra Babu** appointed as new **Tamil Nadu DGP**
- 8) **Musical Excellence of Mridangam Book** was wrote by: **K. SIVARAMAN**
- 9) The Tamil Nadu public health laboratory planned to set up a **genome sequencing lab** for the state by the end of June.
- 10) Tamil Nadu has risen to **second rank in NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Index** for 2020-21 from the third position during 2019-20
- 11) Tamil Nadu has set up a **14-member task force chaired by former IAS officer R Poornalingam** to assist the expert committee headed by CM MK Stalin for management of Covid-19
- 12) Tamil Nadu has applied for the Geographical Indications (GI) tag to the famous **'Chedi Putta' handloom saree.**
- 13) **Kattur in Tiruvarur** district has become the **first village in Tamil Nadu to achieve 100% vaccination**

NATIONAL

- 1) **Beed Model of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana:**
 - The Maharashtra Government asked the Prime Minister for state-wide implementation of this scheme.
 - **Beed** - district of Maharashtra located in the drought-prone Marathwada region. □
 - 80-110 Formula is used in this model
- 2) **Kerala Knowledge Mission:** Kerala government has announced the launch of 'Kerala Knowledge Mission' to **provide employment to the educated 'knowledge workers'**
- 3) **NATRAX - the High Speed Track:** The Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises inaugurated NATRAX - the High Speed Track in Pithampur, Indore (Madhya Pradesh)
- 4) **Odisha government** has planned to **grow the mangrove forests along its coast**
- 5) **Goa** has become the **first state in the country to be free of Rabies**
- 6) Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II is making steady progress amidst Covid-19 with **1249 villages declared ODF Plus (Open Defecation Free)**
- 7) **Weyan village** in Bandipora district in Jammu and Kashmir had become the **first village in the country to vaccinate** all its adult population against Covid-19.
- 8) **Gujarat** Chief Minister launched the **Agricultural Diversification Scheme-2021**
- 9) The Union government has announced a special **"PM-CARES for Children" scheme** for all those orphaned due to Covid-19.
- 10) The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has launched the **Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (CDP)** in order to promote the export of horticultural produce.

- 11) Recently, the Union Minister for Food Processing Industries inaugurated the **Indus Best Mega Food Park at Raipur, Chhattisgarh.**
- 12) The government of India has dedicated a window **‘The Green Gold Collection’ on the GeM** (Government e-Marketplace) portal for the marketing of Bamboo Goods. **Bamboo: Green Gold, Poor man’s timber.**
- 13) The Indian Prime Minister announced the **‘Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors’ (YUVA) scheme** a mentorship programme to train young authors.
- 14) **Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS):** Railways has also approved an indigenously developed Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS). Also the Union Cabinet approved the allotment of **5 MHz spectrum in the 700 MHz frequency band** to the Indian Railways for improving its communication and signalling systems.
- 15) Recently, demanding **official language status to Tulu in Karnataka and Kerala** and include it in the eighth schedule of the Constitution.
- 16) The central government has advanced the target of 20% ethanol blending in petrol (also called as E20), by five years to 2025, from 2030.
- 17) **Assam government** has decided to introduce the two-child policy into eligibility norms for select government-run welfare schemes in the state.

INTERNATIONAL

- 1) The United Nations declared **“2020 as the International Year of Plant Health”**
- 2) **China** relaxed its **two child policy** and announced it will now allow three children per married couple.
- 3) **China** promoting **Red Tourism** on the occasion of 100th anniversary of Chinese Communist Party.

- 4) China to operationalise the **1st electric train** in the remote Himalayan region of Tibet
- 5) In **Turkey**, Sea of Marmara has witnessed the **largest outbreak of "Sea Snot"**
- 6) **FATF has refused to take Pakistan out of the 'Grey List'** yet again because it had failed to take appropriate action against UN-designated terrorists such as 26/11 accused Hafiz Saeed and JeM chief Masood Azhar.

ECONOMICS

- 1) **The Union Govt. unveils ₹6.28 lakh cr stimulus post second COVID wave:**
 - ✓ Relief measures target healthcare, tourism, exports, job creation
 - ✓ The central government package comes after many economists cut their India growth forecast for FY22

₹23K CR FOR PAEDIATRIC CARE & HOSPITAL BEDS

<p>ECO RELIEF Of ₹1.1L cr loan guarantee scheme, health to get ₹50k cr. Separately, ₹23k cr allocated for paediatric care/ paediatric hosp beds</p> <p>➤ Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) expanded by ₹1.5L cr to a total of ₹4.5L cr. Also, Credit Guarantee Scheme for micro-finance institutions</p>	<p>TOURISM Up to ₹10L loan to travel agencies and ₹1L loan to 10.7k tourist guides</p> <p>➤ Free 1 month tourist visa to first 5L tourists</p> <p>FOOD FOR POOR Free food-grain to poor till Nov 2021 to take total cost of PMGKAY to ₹2.3L cr</p>	<p>EXPORT, INFRA ₹33k cr for project exports through natl export insurance a/c; ₹88k cr for export insurance cover</p> <p>➤ ₹3L cr for reform-based result-linked power distribution scheme</p> <p>➤ ₹19k cr for broadband in all villages</p>
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“ Measures announced by FM will enhance public health facilities... boost pvt investment in medical infra & augment critical human resources – PM Modi

- 2) **El Salvador**, a small coastal country in Central America has become the **first in the world to adopt Bitcoin**, as legal tender
- 3) **Britain** bans **Binance** one of the world's largest crypto currency exchange
- 4) The World Bank has released its Global Economic Prospects where it has forecast **India's GDP growth to be 8.3% for the**

year 2021-22.

- 5) On World Environment Day (June 5), **Uttarakhand** became the first state in India to take into account **Gross Environment Product (GEP)** while calculating its Gross Domestic Product.
- 6) The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has proposed a new **regulatory regime for microfinance** with uniform set of guidelines for all lenders.

SPORTS

- 1) Indian Athlete **Milkha Singh** died of COVID – 19 complications. He was the 1st gold medalist at the commonwealth games and awarded Padma Shri in 1959
- 2) **New Zealand** defeated India by 8 wickets to win the **maiden World Test Championship** in Southampton, United Kingdom
- 3) **Tunisia's Ons Jabeur** becoming the ***first Arab woman to win a WTA title***

SCHEMES / YOJANAS

SCHEMES / YOJANAS	PURPOSE	MINISTRY / CABINET / STATE
Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 50 kWp Solar rooftop project ➤ The project further reinforces the 'Go Green' Initiative of the government envisaged in the Urban Distribution scheme. 	Himachal Pradesh

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

SUMMITS / CONFERENCES	PURPOSE / THEME / OUTCOME	PLACE / By
47th G7 Summit 2021	India, Australia and South Korea was invited to participate in the proceedings of the summit as “guest countries”	Summit was hosted by the UK
Arab-India Energy Forum	The forum explored potential and challenges of cooperation in the fields of energy transition, intraregional power trading, hydrocarbons and nuclear power generation	held under the co-chairship of India and Morocco
ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus)	It is an annual meeting of Defence Ministers of 10 ASEAN countries and eight dialogue partner countries.	Brunei
North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) summit	“NATO 2030” agenda. This agenda is a comprehensive initiative to make sure that the alliance remains ready to face future challenges.	Brussels, Belgium

DEFENCE & SPACE

DEFENCE & SPACE	PURPOSE	COUNTRY / ORGANIZATION
Agni-P (Prime)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A new generation nuclear capable ballistic missile Agni-P (Prime) ➤ Agni-P is a new generation advanced variant of the Agni class (under IGMDP - Integrated Guided Missile Development Program). ➤ It is a canisterised missile with range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 km. 	Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
Project Seabird	Project Seabird is naval infrastructure project which aims at providing fleet support and maintenance of warships. It involves construction of a naval base.	Indian Navy

Drone Terror Attack on Jammu Airport	The Indian Air Force (IAF) base in Jammu was attacked using two low-intensity improvised explosive devices (IEDs). These IEDs were dropped from two drones	
INDRAJAAL	Hyderabad-based Grene Robotics develops India's 1st indigenous drone defence dome - 'Indrajaal'	
INS Sandhayak	Hydrographic survey ship INS Sandhayak, the first of its class indigenously designed and built, was decommissioned after 40 years of service. The ship was commissioned to the Indian Navy in 1981.	
Airborne laser	Israel successfully tests laser that can shoot down drones mid-air	Israel
Mawya Sudan	Flying officer Mawya Sudan has become the 12th woman to be commissioned into the fighter stream of IAF	

MILITARY EXERCISES

EXERCISES	BETWEEN
IN-EUNAVFOR Joint Naval Exercise	Maiden Indian Navy - European Union Naval Force (IN-EUNAVFOR) Exercise
PASSEX	India - US Naval Exercise
Exercise Sea Breeze	Ukraine and US Naval Exercise
CORPAT	India - Thailand Naval Exercise

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NEW DISCOVERIES	PURPOSE	PLACE / By
World's first wooden satellite	The European Space Agency (ESA) has planned to put the world's first wooden satellite, WISA Woodsat , on Earth's orbit by the end 2021.	European Space Agency (ESA)

EnVision mission to Venus	The mission will carry a range of instruments to study the planet's atmosphere and surface, monitor trace gases in the atmosphere and analyze its surface composition.	European Space Agency (ESA)
CIBER - 2	The aim of CIBER-2 mission is to look for evidence of extra stars that may have been missed in stellar head counts.	National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
Artificial Sun	Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) achieved a peak temperature of 288 million degrees Fahrenheit, which is over ten times hotter than the sun.	China
AmbiTag	AmbiTag that records real-time ambient temperature during the transportation of perishable products, vaccines and even body organs and blood.	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar
World's first Genetically Modified (GM) rubber plant	Genetic modification (GM) technology allows the transfer of genes for specific traits between species using laboratory techniques.	Assam
"Five to 50" service	OneWeb has launched its next batch of 36 satellites as part of its programme, 'Five to 50' service, whose goal is to offer internet connectivity to all regions north of 50 degrees latitude.	
Two Missions To Venus	The two missions are: ➤ DAVINCI+ (Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble Gases, Chemistry and Imaging) ➤ VERITAS (Venus Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography and Spectroscopy).	NASA
World's first Nano Urea Liquid	It is developed to replace conventional urea and it can curtail the requirement of the same by atleast 50%.	Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)
Vajra Kavach	Vajra Kavach is a simple disinfection process that enables Corona Warriors to reuse their masks and PPEs.	The technology has been developed under the NIDHIPRAYAS program initiated by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

Ebola outbreak	World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared that the Ebola outbreak, that started in February 2021 in Guinea, is over now	Guinea
H10N3 Bird Flu	First case of human infection with the H10N3 strain of bird flu in Jiangsu province.	China
Shenzhou-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A Chinese spaceship “Shenzhou-12” carrying a three-person crew docked with China’s new space station module Tianhe-1. ➤ This has come after the launch of the Tianzhou-2 cargo spacecraft, which carried vital supplies for the space station. 	China
Fengyun-4B	China launches Fengyun-4B weather satellite into space aboard a Long March 3B rocket	China
Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant	Russian nuclear major Rosatom began construction of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) Unit 5 in India in cooperation with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL)	
Jivan Vayu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ a substitute for CPAP (Continuous positive airway pressure) machine ➤ 1st device that functions even without electricity and can function with both kinds of oxygen generation units like O₂ cylinders and oxygen pipelines in hospitals 	Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

SPECIES / ENVIRONMENT	TYPE / PURPOSE	PLACE / BY
Dehing Patkai National Park / Jeypore Rainforest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 7th National Park of Assam ✓ The oldest refinery of Asia in Digboi and ‘open cast’ coal mining at Lido are located near the sanctuary. 	Assam

Raimona National Park	✓ 6 th National Park of Assam	Assam
Ramgarh Vishdhari wildlife sanctuary	4 th Tiger reserve of Rajasthan	Rajasthan
Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve	Provide protection to Megamalai, the Vaigai's primary catchment, in turn helping water levels to rise in the river.	Tamil Nadu
Hindu Himalayan mountain Kush (HKH)	✓ Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) mountain ranges could lose up to two-third of its ice by 2100. ✓ About 2 billion people may face food, water shortages by 2100.	UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)
Operation Oliva	To protect Olive Ridley turtles	Indian Coast Guard
Great Barrier Reef	The UNESCO World Heritage Committee has recommended that the Australia's Great Barrier Reef should be added to a list of "in danger" World Heritage Sites.	
World's Biggest Second Hydropower Dam	➤ Baihetan Dam ➤ It is on the Jinsha River, a tributary of the Yangtze (the longest river in Asia). ➤ It has been built with a total installed capacity of 16,000 megawatts.	China
Gangetic Dolphin	During the Lockdown times, the population of Gangetic dolphins and gharial in the Chambal river has increased significantly	Madhya Pradesh
Southern Ocean	National Geographic Society recognized the southern ocean as the "world's 5th Ocean"	National Geographic Society
"Dragon man" skull	Scientists discovered 140,000 years old massive fossilized skull which is a new species of ancient human.	China
Horticulture Cluster Development Programme (CDP)	To ensure holistic growth of horticulture	Union Agriculture Minister
Yellow Gold 48	first-ever yellow watermelon variety	Germany

REPORTS / INDICES

REPORTS / INDICES	RANK
Global Liveability Index	Top Rank: Auckland (New Zealand)
World Competitiveness Index	India's Rank: 43 rd Rank
Global Cybersecurity Index	India's Rank: 10 th Rank
World Giving Index	India's Rank: 14 th Rank

APPOINTMENTS & PERSONS IN NEWS

PERSONS	POSITION / DESIGNATION
Maldives Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid	President of the 76 th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly(GA)
Antonio Guterres	The United Nations General Assembly appointed Antonio Guterres as the ninth UN Secretary General (UNSG) for a second term
K.K. Venugopal - Attorney General of India	The central government has extended his term for one more year
Naftali Bennett	Israel's new Prime Minister
Rebecca Grynspan	Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION (GI) TAG

GI TAG - PRODUCTS
JALGAON BANANA - Maharashtra

APPS & PORTAL

APPS & PORTAL
Itat E-dwar Portal: The Union Government launched e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) named 'itat e-dwar'.

AWARDS / PRIZES

AWARDS / PRIZES	PERSON / ORGANIZATION
Fukuoka Prize 2021	P. Sainath
India smart cities awards (ISCA) 2020	Uttar Pradesh emerged on the top among all states, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
	Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Surat (Gujarat) won the award jointly for their overall development.
	Ahmedabad bagged the 'Smart Cities Leadership Award' and Chandigarh, the award for union territories, while Indore won the "Innovative Idea Award"

IMPORTANT DAYS

DAYS	EVENTS	THEMES / SIGNIFICANCE
JUNE 1	World Milk Day	THEME: "focus on Sustainability in the dairy sector"
JUNE 7	World Food Safety Day	THEME: "Safe Food for a Healthy Tomorrow"
JUNE 8	World Oceans Day	THEME: "The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods"
JUNE 12	World Day against Child Labour	THEME: "Act Now: End Child Labour"
JUNE 17	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	THEME: "Restoration. Land. Recovery. We build back better with healthy land"
JUNE 19	World Sickle Cell Disease	
JUNE 21	International Day of Yoga	THEME: "Yoga for wellness"
JUNE 23	International Olympic Day	THEME: "Stay healthy, stay strong, stay active with the #OlympicDay workout"

JUNE 25	International Day of Seafarer	THEME: “Seafarers: at the core of shipping’s future”
JUNE 26	International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	
JUNE 27	International MSME’s Day	THEME: “MSME 2021: Key to an inclusive and sustainable Recovery”
JUNE 29	National Statistics Day	THEME: “Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)- 2 (End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture)”