



## CURRENT AFFAIRS 18th June 2022

### National News

#### 1. Zomato and Jio-bp tie-up for EV



- Zomato and Jio-bp have entered into an agreement to support Zomato's commitment towards "The Climate Group's EV100 initiative of 100 per cent EV fleet by 2030."
- The collaboration is poised to accelerate EV adoption in the rapidly growing Indian delivery and transportation segment.
- Jio-bp, the fuel and mobility joint venture between Reliance Industries Ltd and bp, will provide EV mobility services to Zomato and access to 'Jio-bp pulse' battery swapping stations for last-mile delivery.
- As per reports, Jio-bp constructed and launched India's two largest EV charging hubs last year.
- The company has been teaming up with construction firms and EV companies to enhance the battery charging ecosystem, as per reports.

- Its pulse mobile app enables customers to find nearby charging stations and charge their EVs.

## 2. Indian American Sowmyanarayan Sampath named Verizon Business CEO



- According to a Verizon news release, Sowmyanarayan Sampath, an Indian American, will be the new CEO of Verizon Business.
- Sampath joined Verizon in 2014 and will continue in his present role as Chief Revenue Officer for Verizon Business until June 30.
- According to the press release, Sampath has demonstrated strategic planning prowess in several roles during his stint with the organisation.
- Sampath will report directly to Verizon Chairman and CEO Hans Vestberg.
- Sampath has in-depth understanding of Verizon's products and the company's role in supporting enterprise development and global security, according to Vestberg, with more than two decades of experience in key network infrastructure and digital transformation.

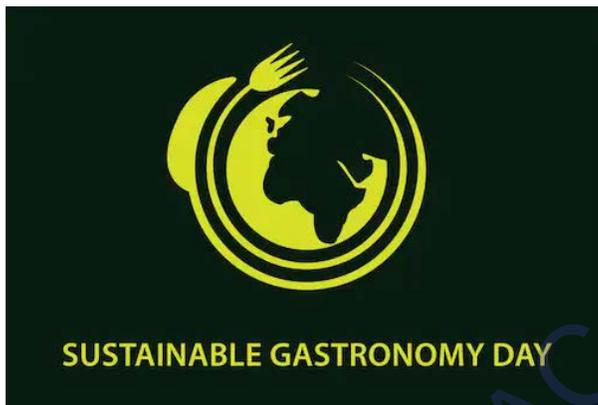
- **Sampath worked at KPMG and Boston Consulting Group before joining Verizon. He graduated from St. Xavier's College in Kolkata with a bachelor's degree in accounting, a Chartered Accountancy from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, and an MBA from Boston University.**
- 

### **3. Japan is attending a NATO summit for the first time ever, prompted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine**



- **Japanese Prime Minister, Fumio Kishida will attend this month's NATO summit in Madrid, becoming the country's first leader to join a top meeting of the transatlantic alliance.**
- **The June 28-30 gathering is seen as a crunch moment for the 30 North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies, four months into Russia's war in Ukraine.**
- **Japan, a key U.S. ally and not a NATO member, has delivered defensive supplies to Ukraine and imposed tough sanctions on Russia in tandem with the other Group of Seven countries.**
- **Sweden and Finland, which have applied to join NATO, are sending delegations to the summit, and South Korea's new President Yoon Suk-yeol will also be the first leader from his country to attend.**

#### 4. Sustainable Gastronomy Day 2022



- Every year, the world observes Sustainable Gastronomy Day on 18 June.
- The objective of this day is to recognise the practices associated with sustainable food consumption, especially with the art of collecting and preparing the food we eat.
- To make this day a memorable one, the organisations work in collaboration with global and regional bodies to observe the day.
- Gastronomy is sometimes called the art of food.
- It can also refer to a style of cooking from a particular region.
- In other words, gastronomy often refers to local food and cuisine. Sustainability is the idea that something (e.g. agriculture, fishing or even preparation of food) is done in a way that is not wasteful of our natural resources and can be continued into the future without being detrimental to our environment or health.

- Sustainable gastronomy, therefore, means cuisine that takes into account where the ingredients are from, how the food is grown and how it gets to our markets and eventually to our plates.

## 5. ICC Retains Nitin Menon in Elite Panel, Set for Maiden Neutral Appearance in Sri Lanka



- Renowned Indian umpire Nitin Menon has retained his place in the ICC Elite Panel of umpires, making him the only Indian among 11 members.
- The 38-year-old is set to make his debut as a neutral umpire where he will officiate in Sri Lanka later this month.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) recently gave a one-year extension to Menon who has been a leading umpire over the last three to four years.
- He was promoted to the Elite Panel at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, becoming the third Indian to enter the club after S Venkataraghavan and S Ravi.
- However, he was limited to officiating international matches only within India with the ICC allowing local umpires due to the travel restrictions in place.
- “Menon has got a one-year extension from the International Cricket Council. He has been our leading umpire over the last three to four years.

- You will also see him making his debut as a neutral umpire later this month,” news agency PTI quoted a BCCI official as saying.

## 6. India is China’s top rice supplier during January–August this year



- China has emerged as the largest importer or buyer of broken rice from India.
- China takes over the largest importer of broken rice in India, which were the African countries.
- During the pandemic, China took the lead as the largest importer of broken rice in India.
- 7.7 percent has been imported to China which is 16.34 lakh metric tonnes, and India’s total export is 212.10 Lakh metric tonnes in the year 2021-2022.
- According to the analysis of the trade, out of 16.34 LMT, 96 percent of the rice exported to China was broken rice. China has become the top buyer of broken rice from India.
- The total export for basmati and non-basmati altogether was 212.10 LMT in 2021-2022, which is 19.30 percent higher

than the earlier export in 2020-2021 which stood at 177.79 LMT.

- During this time export of broken rice to China from India increased from 3.31 LMT to 16.34 LMT.

## 7. World's biggest plant discovered off Australian coast



- The world's largest living plant has been identified in the shallow waters off the coast of Western Australia.
- The sprawling seagrass, a marine flowering plant known as *Posidonia australis*, stretches for more than 112 miles (180 kilometers) in Shark Bay, a wilderness area protected as a World Heritage site.
- Using genetic testing, scientists have determined a large underwater meadow in Western Australia is in fact one plant. It is believed to have spread from a single seed over at least 4,500 years.
- The seagrass covers about 200 sq km.
- The plant is so large because it clones itself, creating genetically identical offshoots.
- This process is a way of reproducing that is rare in the animal kingdom although it happens in certain

**environmental conditions and occurs more often among some plants, fungi and bacteria.**

**By Sameer Singhal**

PLUTUS ACADEMY