



CURRENT AFFAIRS 20th June 2022

National News

1. China launches most advanced 3rd aircraft carrier, eyes extended range into Indo-Pacific



- China launched its third aircraft carrier named 'Fujian' on Friday, the country's most advanced as well as the first "fully domestically built" naval vessel, as an aggressive Beijing sought to project its naval power in the strategic Indo-Pacific region.
- Official media reported the launching ceremony of ship 'Fujian' was held at the Shanghai's Jiangnan Shipyard.
- Fujian is the name of China's eastern coastal province of Fujian.
- The launch of the ship was delayed by two months due to the COVID lockdown of Shanghai.
- It was due to be launched on April 23 around the 73rd anniversary of the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN).

- China's first aircraft carrier, the 'Liaoning', was a refit of the Soviet-era ship commissioned in 2012 followed by the indigenously built 2nd aircraft carrier 'Shandong' in 2019.
- Liaoning and Shandong are names of two provinces of China.

2. Today is National Reading Day

NATIONAL READING DAY



- Today is the National Reading Day. The day is celebrated in honor of P N Panicker, considered the Father of Kerala's Library and Literacy Movement.
- It also marks the beginning of the month-long Digital Reading celebrations.
- Started as a Reading Day celebration on June 19, 1996, by the Government of Kerala in association with the P N Panicker Foundation, National Reading Day, became a mass movement to promote literacy and the culture of reading in the state.
- In 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Reading / Digital Reading Month in Kochi and gave a clarion call to the country's citizens to propagate the message, Read and Grow.

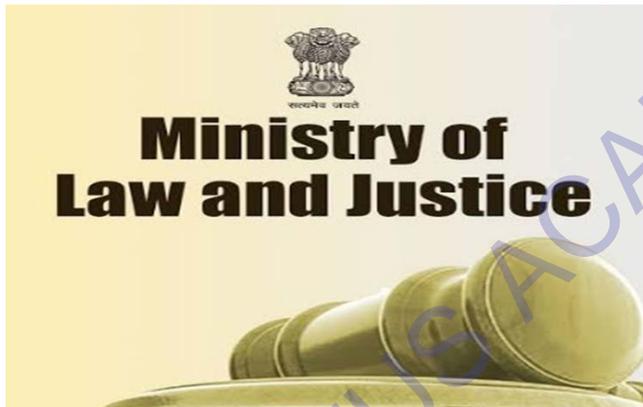
3. Gujarat becomes first State in the country to launch Balika Panchayat



- Gujarat is the first state in the country to launch Balika Panchayat. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid stress on women- led development instead of women's development. Balika Panchayat is a step in this direction.
- Presently, the girls participating in the Panchayat elections, not only vote for their own leader, they participate in electioneering, highlighting their aspirations and needs clearly.
- For sure, present empowered girls as future women will lead to women-led development not only at grassroots level, but also in nation building.
- Establishment of Balika Panchayat have strengthened girl power in Gujarat.

- It's a replicable model for other states where child marriage is prevalent or girls education is on the decline.
- Balika Panchayat have made girls vocal, which is proven by the Gujarat model.

4. Government clears the appointment of new chief justices in 5 high courts



- Government has cleared the appointment of new chief justices in five high courts. Law and Justice Ministry has notified the appointment for Uttarakhand, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gauhati.
- Justice Vipin Sanghi of the Delhi High Court will be appointed as the Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court, while Justice Ujjal Bhuyan of Telangana High Court to Chief Justice of Telangana High Court.
- Justice Amjad Ahtesham Sayed of the Bombay High Court will take over as the Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court and Justice Shinde Sambhaji Shiwaji of Bombay High Court has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court.

- Justice Rashmin M Chhaya of the Gujarat High Court has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court.
- The Ministry said, Telangana High Court Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma has been appointed to the Delhi High Court.

5. India-Bangladesh holds 7th Round of Joint Consultative Commission in New Delhi



- The seventh round of the India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission was held in New Delhi yesterday.
- It was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar and his Bangladesh counterpart Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen.
- The Ministers welcomed the further strengthening of bilateral ties with the unprecedented visits by both the President and the Prime Minister of India to Bangladesh last year.
- The visits were made to commemorate three epochal events - the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the fiftieth anniversary of the

independence of Bangladesh and the golden anniversary of India-Bangladesh diplomatic ties.

- The Ministers appreciated that the trust and mutual respect shared between the two countries has only strengthened in the last decade.
- A recent testimony of this was the launch of the trailer of 'Mujib - making of a nation' at the Cannes Film Festival in May this year. It was jointly produced biopic on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

6. Women soldiers participate in 4-day 'Women Peace and Security' Seminar in Mongolia



- Women soldiers of the Indian Army participated in the four-day 'Women Peace and Security' Seminar at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- The four-day event kicked off on Thursday and is being held under the auspices of Mongolian President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh.
- Mongolian President said that the country will bolster the participation of women in the United Nations peacekeeping operations.

- Khurelsukh made the remarks during the opening ceremony of an international conference of female peacekeepers under the theme of "Women, Peace, and Security" in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- This year marks the 20th anniversary of the first deployment of Mongolian peacekeepers to UN peacekeeping operations.
- The Union Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju interacted with the Indian diaspora.

7. India, EU to re-launch negotiations for Free Trade Agreement after nine year lull



- After a nine year lull, India and European Union are to re-launch negotiations for India-EU Free Trade Agreement.
- Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission have also announced the launch of negotiations for an Investment Protection Agreement and a Geographical Indicators (GI) Agreement at a joint event at the EU headquarters at Brussels.
- Among the most significant FTAs for India as EU is its 2nd largest trading partner, India-EU merchandise trade

registered an all-time high value of 116.36 Billion US dollars in 2021-22 with a year-on growth of 43.5 per cent.

- The Delhi visit of the European Commission President Ms. Ursula von der Leyen in April this year and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Europe accelerated the FTA discussions and helped in defining a clear roadmap for the negotiations.

8. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates National Yoga Olympiad 2022



- Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan today inaugurated National Yoga Olympiad - 2022 and quiz competition in New Delhi.
- The National Yoga Olympiad is being organised jointly by the Ministry of Education and the National Council of Educational Research and Training from today till the 20th of this month.
- This year about six hundred students from 26 states and UTs and Demonstration Multipurpose Schools of Regional Institutions of Education will be participating in the forthcoming National Yoga Olympiad.

- Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Pradhan highlighted that to encourage healthier choices and bring people closer, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has suitably chosen this year's theme as **Yoga For Humanity**.
- The Minister said, Yoga is uniting the world in the pursuit of good health and wellness.

9. PM releases Ram Bahadur Rai's book 'Bhartiya Samvidhan: Ankahi Kahani'



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said, the constitution is not just a book but an idea, a commitment and a belief in freedom.
- He said, synergy of rights and duties make our constitution so special. The Prime Minister released Ram Bahadur Rai's book 'Bhartiya Samvidhan: Ankahi Kahani' and addressed the event through a video message yesterday.
- He said that from the formation of the Constituent Assembly to its debates, from the adoption of the Constitution to its present stage, we have consistently seen a dynamic and progressive constitution.

- He noted that it was on 18 June that the President Rajendra Prasad signed first amendment of the constitution.
- He said it marks the first day of the democratic dynamism of the Constitution, which is our biggest strength. Mr Modi said, we have argued, raised questions, debated and made changes.
- He expressed confidence that this will continue in our masses and in the minds of the people.
- The Prime Minister also emphasized the need for widespread awareness about the constitution. Dwelling upon the living nature of the constitution the Prime Minister elaborated India has by nature been a free-thinking country and inertia is not part of our basic nature. free-thinking country and inertia is not part of our basic nature.

10. Retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai becomes first women chairperson of Press Council of India



- Retired judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai has been appointed as the chairperson of the Press Council of India. Justice Desai is the first lady chairperson of the council.
- Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai had recently headed the Delimitation Commission on Jammu and Kashmir which was set up to redraw the assembly constituencies of the Union Territory.

By Sameer Singhal

PLUTUS ACADEMY