



CURRENT AFFAIRS 28th June 2022

National News

1. UN Ocean Conference kicks off in Lisbon

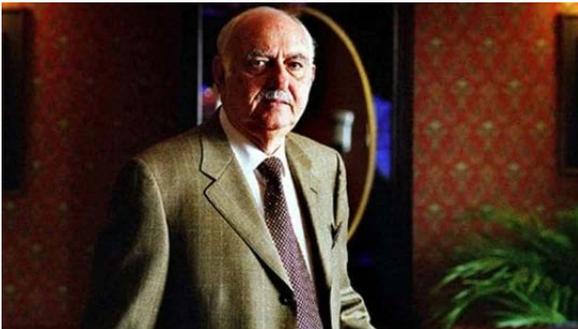


- A five-day UN Ocean Conference kicked off yesterday with the Kenya and Portugal being the co-hosts.
- Leaders from over 130 countries from across the world will deliberate for five days to find an international agreement on protecting the world's oceans, seas and marine resources.
- Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh is leading the Indian delegation. On the first day, the Minister had bilateral talks with a number of Ministers from different countries attending the meet.
- Today, Dr Jitendra Singh is scheduled to present India's statement before the full House of the UN meet.
- The Ocean Conference comes at a crucial juncture as the world is seeking to address many of the challenges

requiring structural transformations and Innovative and Green solutions to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14.

- The SDG calls for Conservation and Sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources.

2. Pallonji Mistry passes away



- Business tycoon Pallonji Mistry passed away at the age of 93 at his Mumbai residence Monday night.
- The construction magnate, who was born on June 1, 1929 in the metropolis, is survived by his four children – two sons and two daughters.
- Mistry was the chairman of the Shapoorji Pallonji Group, which was established in 1865.
- Headquartered in Mumbai, the conglomerate operates in sectors such as construction, real estate, textiles, home appliances, power, biotechnology etc.
- At 18.4%, Pallonji was the highest individual shareholder in Tata Sons.
- His son, Cyrus, headed Tata Sons from November 2011 to October 2016. Cyrus, after his removal from the post, fought a legal battle with Ratan Tata, the-then chairman of Tata Sons.
- In April 2021, the Bloomberg Billionaires Index estimated Pallonji Mistry's wealth to be USD 28 billion, making him the wealthiest person in Ireland.

3. Ambubachi Mela 2022 at Assam's Kamakhya Temple



- The doors of the Kamakhya Temple were opened today morning for the devotees to pay their obisieiance during the Ambubachi Festival.
- According to the rituals, the doors opened after four days and with this the Ambubachi Mela concluded for the season.
- The festival had begun on June 22 amidst many restrictions but nonetheless pilgrims poured in to seek the blessings of Goddess Kamakhya.
- The festival marks the celebration of the goddess who is believed to undergo her annual menstrual cycle during these days.
- An annual Hindu festival known as the Ambubachi Mela takes place at the Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati, Assam.
- This annual festival is held in the middle of June, when the Brahmaputra River is at its highest flow, during the

monsoon season, which also happens to fall within the Assamese month of Ahaar.

4. Tata Power Solar commissions India's largest floating solar power project



- Tata Power Solar Systems, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power, has accomplished a remarkable feat by commissioning India's largest floating solar power project in Kayamkulam, Kerala.
- On a 350-acre water body, backwaters area, having an installed capacity of 101.6 Megawatt Peak.
- Tata Power Solar successfully built a scaffolding platform on the water body to make the entire solar plant float on water.
- This project is the first one in the Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) through Power Purchase Agreement category. This plant boasts a floating inverter platform having a 5 Megawatt (MW) capacity.

- The entire array involving floats and solar panel modules had to be towed for 3 kilometers on a sea-linked National waterway, which was 15 meters deep, exposing the solar modules to high winds and gushing tides often reaching a height of about 3.5 meters.
- To operationalize the project, Tata Power Solar 's execution team was successfully able to synchronize the 33/220 Kilovolts Air Insulated Substation (AIS) with 220 Kilovolts existing Gas Insulated Substation (GIS).

5. IRARC's Avinash Kulkarni to head India Debt Resolution Company



- The chief govt of India Resurgence Asset Reconstruction Firm (IRARC), Avinash Kulkarni, has been chosen to head the India Debt Decision Firm (IDRCL).
- Kulkarni is a (SBI) veteran, having undertaken numerous roles on the public sector behemoth.
- His engagements on the SBI group have included assignments within the funding banking and advisory arm, Capital Markets.
- Kulkarni was selected from among a shortlist of about six candidates earlier this month.
- With this selection, the key executives are in place to start consolidating bad loans from banks through the NARCL.

- **Kulkarni's appointment follows another SBI veteran Natarajan Sundar being selected as CEO of the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) in April.**

6. World's biggest bacterium found in Caribbean mangrove swamp



- **In a Caribbean mangrove swamp, researchers found the largest bacterium known to science.**
- **While the majority of bacteria are tiny, this one is so large that it can be seen with the unaided eye.**
- **It is by far the largest bacterium known to date, according to Jean-Marie Volland, a marine biologist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and a co-author of a paper reporting the finding in the journal Science.**
- **The thin white thread is about the size of a human eyelash.**
- **The cell has a shape that is unusual for bacteria, according to the researchers, but they have not yet been able to develop it in lab culture.**
- **One significant distinction is that it includes a sizable central compartment, or vacuole, which enables some cell functions to take place there rather than all across the cell.**

7. Parameswaran Iyer to take over as Niti Aayog CEO as Amitabh Kant leaves



- **Former Drinking and water Sanitation Secretary, Parameswaran Iyer has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog for 2 years.**
- **He will succeed Amitabh Kant. Kant was appointed as the CEO of the National Institution for Transforming India (Niti Aayog) on February 17, 2016, for a fixed two-year term. Kant was later given an extension till June 30, 2019.**
- **His term was further extended for two years, till this month-end, in June 2019. In June 2021, Kant received another one-year extension.**

8. Tapan Deka is new IB chief, R&AW head Samant Goel gets another extension



- The Central government has appointed senior IPS officer Tapan Kumar Deka as Director of Intelligence Bureau.
- Tapan Kumar Deka, a 1988 batch Himachal Pradesh cadre IPS officer, was appointed for a tenure of two years from the date of assumption of the charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- Deka will succeed incumbent Intelligence Bureau Director Arvind Kumar, whose tenure ends on June 30.

9. India successfully conducts VL-SRSAM missile test off the coast of Odisha



- Off the coast of Chandipur, in the state of Odisha, India successfully tested the Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM).
- Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Indian Navy successfully conducted flight tests for the Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM).
- Off the coast of Chandipur, Odisha, the launch was carried out from an Indian Naval Ship.
- A ship-borne weapon system called VL-SRSAM is designed to eliminate close-range aerial threats such targets that skim the surface of the sea.
- A high-speed aerial target resembling an aeroplane was launched with the system, and it was effectively engaged.

- ITR, Chandipur deployed a variety of tracking sensors to track the vehicle's flight path and health indicators. Senior representatives from the Indian Navy and DRDO kept an eye on the test launch.
- Shri Rajnath Singh, the minister of defence, also expressed his gratitude to the DRDO, the Indian Navy, and the industry for the successful flight test and noted that the system's additional armour will improve the ability of Indian naval ships to defend themselves from aerial threats.

10. Goa celebrates 'Sao Joao' festival 2022



- The people of Goa has celebrated the Sao Joao festival, the feast of St John the Baptist with traditional enthusiasm after a two-year coronavirus-induced gap.
- The festival is dedicated to Saint John the Baptist, who baptised Lord Jesus on the river of Jordan and is celebrated at the onset of monsoon.
- Siolim, a village in North Goa, hosts a traditional canoe parade on the occasion of Sao Joao.
- A large number of people participated in the boat parade in Siolim village of Goa's Bardez taluka, marking the beginning of revelry in the 'Sao Joao' festival.
- Traditionally, people jump into the well but since the wells are fast disappearing, people prefer to celebrate it in swimming pools.
- The festival is marked to herald the monsoon season in the state every year in June.

- **People are often seen having a great time by enjoying and dancing in the artificial rain which adds charm to the celebrations**

By Sameer Singhal

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