

Daily Current Affairs

21 June 2024

International Yoga Day

- **International Yoga Day** is celebrated on **June 21st annually** as a global celebration of well-being. This worldwide movement recognises the ancient Indian art of yoga and its significant effects on our mental, physical, and spiritual well-being, cutting across cultural and geographic barriers.
- 2024 International Yoga Day will be the **10th anniversary** of the event. The International Yoga Day in 2024 will be celebrated on its designated date of June 21st. The International Yoga Day 2024 **theme is “Yoga for Self and Society.”**



- This subject emphasises the double benefits of yoga practice: enhancing personal well-being and improving society at large. The theme recognises that inner serenity and self-care are the cornerstones of a happy and healthy existence.
- Prime Minister Modi suggested designating a global day to commemorate yoga in his **2014 speech to the UN (United Nations) General Assembly**. The UN General Assembly overwhelmingly approved a resolution in December 2014 designating June 21st as the International Yoga Day, recognising the appeal of yoga to all people.



- This particular day is particularly significant as the longest day of the year and the summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere. It symbolises a period of development, growth, and reestablished ties to the natural world and oneself.

112th International Labour Conference

- **112th International Labour Organization (ILC)** was held in **Geneva**.
- It was attended by more than **4,900 delegates** – representing Governments, and Employers' and Workers' organizations. The 113rd ILC will be held in June 2025.



- **Worker, employer and government delegates** from the ILO's 187 Member States will tackle a wide range of issues, including: a standard-setting discussion on protection against biological hazards, a recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of fundamental principles and rights at work and a general discussion on decent work and the care economy.

- The Conference will also elect members of the Governing Body for the 2024-27 term of office.

UK Become India's 4th Largest Export Market

- **United Kingdom (UK)** has overtaken China to become **India's fourth-largest export market in May 2024**, commerce department data showed.
- The UK was India's sixth-largest export destination in May last year. While exports to the UK grew by a **third to \$1.37 billion** in May, the shipments to China saw **3 per cent growth at \$1.33 billion** last month.



- The disaggregated data for May wasn't immediately available, but trends over the past few months showed that **exports to the UK were dominated** by items such as machinery, food items, pharmaceutical products, textiles, jewellery, iron, and steel, among other items.
- Commerce department data showed that India's top 10 key export markets witnessed positive growth in May, reversing the trend when exports to some of these countries contracted for more than a year. These 10 countries comprise **52 per cent of the country's total value of goods** exported in May. India's merchandise exports grew 9.13 per cent in May to \$38 billion. This came in after several months of tepid growth in outbound shipments, amid volatile global demand and uneven economic recovery.
- Export to the **Netherlands**, which is also **India's third-largest export market**, soared to \$2.19 billion with nearly 44 per cent growth in May.



- **Other countries that showed** positive growth include Saudi Arabia (8.46 per cent), Singapore (4.64 per cent), Bangladesh (13.47 per cent), Germany (6.74 per cent), France (36.94 per cent). The United States (US) continued to remain India's largest export destination, with 13 per cent growth, followed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which saw 19 per cent jump.

NHAI To Use Miyawaki Plantation

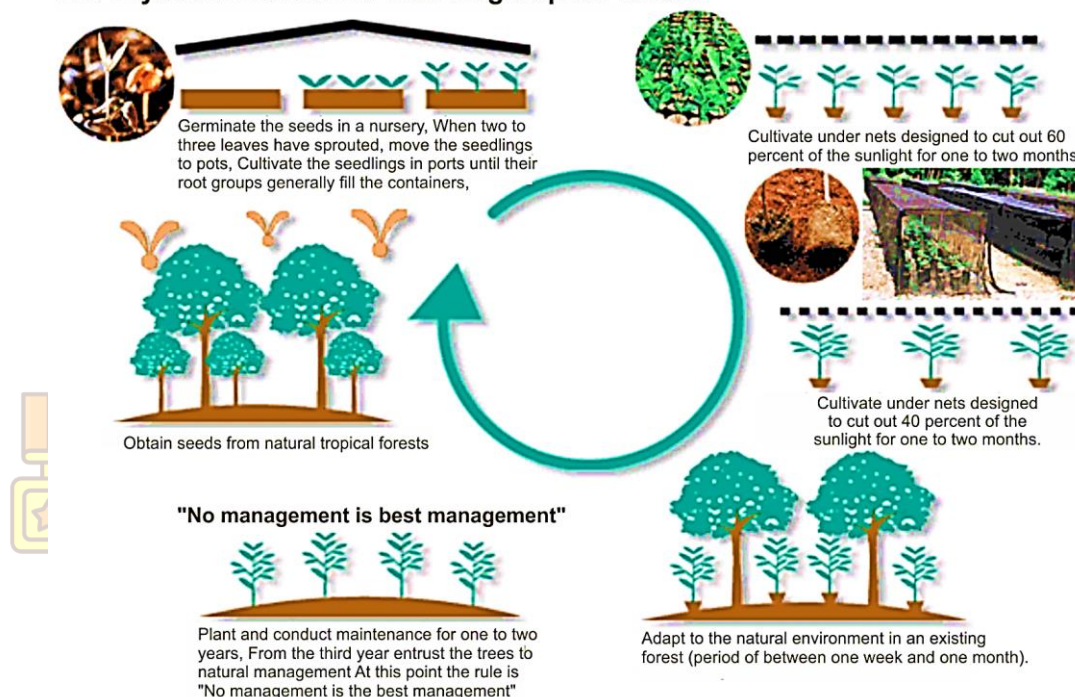
- To realise the vision of **saturating National Highways with green cover**, NHAI will undertake a unique initiative to plant **Miyawaki plantation** on land parcels adjacent to National Highways at various locations.
- Total land area of over **53 acres** has been identified at different places in and around Delhi-NCR to establish the Miyawaki plantations.



- Miyawaki plantations, also known as Miyawaki method is a unique Japanese approach to ecological restoration and afforestation development.

- This method aims to create dense, native, and biodiverse forests in a short period of time. These forests retain ground water and helps to recharge the ground water table.
- With this method, **trees grow ten times faster** and the plantations act as a sound and dust barrier. For successful implementation of the Miyawaki Plantation method, focus will be on plantation of indigenous species of plants that can survive in the local climate and soil conditions.

The Miyawaki method for restoring tropical forests



Ports Of India Makes To Global Top 100 By World Bank

- **India's port development programme**, as many as 9 ports of India made it to the Global Top 100 in the latest edition of Container Port Performance Index (CPPI), 2023.
- This report is prepared by the **World Bank and S&P Global Marketing Intelligence**). The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal gave credit to the ambitious **Sagarmala programme**, envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for modernisation of the ports and improving their efficiency.
- There has been a significant **improvement via operational efficiency** and service delivery in the efficient handling of ships and cargo. This has helped us build resilience, incorporate new technology, and green infrastructure to ensure stability of global markets and sustainability of India's maritime industry.



National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme

- Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has sanctioned the Central Sector Scheme titled “**National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES)**” with a comprehensive financial allocation of Rs. **2254.43 crore** spanning from 2024-25 to 2028-29.
- This initiative, spearheaded by the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, aims to bolster India’s forensic capabilities through strategic investments in infrastructure and manpower.



- **New campuses** across the country to expand educational facilities for forensic sciences. Creation of Central Forensic Science Laboratories (CFSLs).
- Setting up new **CFSLs nationwide to augment forensic examination** capacities. Enhancement of Delhi Campus Infrastructure . Upgradation of infrastructure at the Delhi campus of the National Forensic Sciences University.

Wind Energy Projects

- Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the **Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme** for the implementation of offshore wind energy projects in India.
- This decision marks a significant step towards harnessing the vast **offshore wind energy potential** within the country's exclusive economic zone. The total financial outlay for this **scheme is ₹7,453 crore**.

Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme for implementation of Offshore Wind Energy Projects

- Installation and commissioning of **1 GW offshore wind projects, 500 MW each** off the coast of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu
- Will produce renewable electricity of about **3.72 billion units annually**
- Will result in annual reduction of **2.98 million ton of CO₂**
- Total outlay of the scheme is **Rs.7453 crore**

- The VGF scheme is a major step towards implementation of the **National Offshore Wind Energy Policy** notified in 2015 with an aim to exploit the vast offshore wind energy potential that exists within the exclusive economic zone of India.
- The VGF scheme includes **₹6,853 crore allocated** for the installation and commissioning of 1 GW of offshore wind energy projects, divided into two projects of **500 MW each off** the coasts of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.
- Additionally, **₹600 crore has been earmarked** for the upgrading of two ports to support the logistics requirements for these projects. The introduction of this

scheme is a crucial move towards the realization of the National Offshore Wind Energy Policy, which was announced in 2015.

- The **primary objective of this policy** is to exploit the offshore wind energy resources available in India's exclusive economic zone. The VGF support from the government aims to make the cost of power from offshore wind projects more viable, ensuring that it becomes an attractive option for purchase by Distribution Companies (DISCOMs).

Suhas Subramanyam

- **Senator Suhas Subramanyam** recently won the **Democratic primary** for Virginia's 10th Congressional District.
- He is the **first Indian-American** to win in this very tough field, which is a big deal. The current representative, Jennifer Wexton, who chose not to run for re-election, backed his win.



- Suhas Subramanyam is an American lawyer and politician who was born in Houston, Texas. He is currently serving in the Virginia Senate.
- His family tree starts in **Bengaluru**, India. After finishing high school at Clear Lake, Subramanyam went to Tulane University and got a bachelor's degree in philosophy.
- When he was chosen to the Virginia General Assembly in 2019, it was a big moment in his political career. He was the first person of Indian-American, South Asian, and Hindu background to do so.

Rs 76,200 Cr Vadhavan Port in Maharashtra

- Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gave the go-ahead for the building of a new deep-draft port at Vadhavan in Maharashtra. The project, which costs **about ₹76,200 crores**, includes a lot of services that will help India's shipping.
- There will be four multipurpose berths and a coastal berth at the Vadhavan Port. Each of the nine container ports will be 1000 meters long. There will also be room for four berths for liquid goods, a Ro-Ro (Roll-on/Roll-off) berth, and a berth just for the Coast Guard.



- This setup shows how useful and flexible the port is for handling different kinds of maritime goods. Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw says the port will be very important for trade going through **the India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor and the International North South Transportation Corridor**.
- When it's finished, it will likely be one of the world's top 10 ports, which shows how important it is for both economic and military reasons. The port will be able to hold up to **23 million TEU and 298 million tonnes of goods**.
- This kind of ability is expected to create about 12 lakh jobs, which shows that there is a lot of job potential. A special purpose vehicle (SPV) called Vadhavan Port Project Limited (VPPL) will be in charge of building the port. The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) and the Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB), which each owns 74% and 26% of this company, work together to run it.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. 112th International Labour Conference Held In

- A. Geneva
- B. Italy
- C. New York
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: A

2. India's Largest Export Market Is With

- A. UK
- B. USA
- C. UAE
- D. Bangladesh

ANSWER: B

3. Which Country Launched A Local Currency Settlement System With India

- A. Italy
- B. United States of America
- C. Russia
- D. UAE

ANSWER: D

4. Which Country Is Involved In Conducting Joint Drills On Tactical Nuclear Weapons With Russia

- A. China
- B. Belarus
- C. Poland
- D. Finland

ANSWER: B

5. What Type Of Animal Is Newly Discovered Buronius Manfredschmidi

- A. Bird
- B. Elephant
- C. Ape
- D. Lizard

ANSWER: C

6. Where Is TIDCO Exploring Urban Air Mobility Solutions, Including Launch Of Air Taxis Or 'Flying Cars'

- A. Mumbai
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Chennai
- D. Hyderabad

ANSWER: C

7. With Which Country Did Jammu & Kashmir Elevate Its Agricultural Partnership Into A Full Fledged Strategic Agreement

- A. New Zealand
- B. Australia
- C. Finland
- D. Denmark

ANSWER: A

8. Which State's Chief Minister Approved Rs 100 Crore Under The Chief Minister's Social Security Scheme

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Gujarat
- C. Bihar
- D. Arunachal Pradesh

ANSWER: D

9. Kirkuk Which Was Seen In The News, Is Located In Which Country

- A. Israel
- B. Iraq
- C. Australia
- D. Greece

ANSWER: B

10. Which Company Secured A Five-year Broadcasting Deal With World Athletics

- A. Star Sports
- B. Reliance Jio
- C. Tata Communications
- D. FanCode

ANSWER: C

11. What Scientific Instrument Are Egypt And Bahrain Collaborating With China To Develop For The Chang'e-7 Mission

- A. Lunar Rover
- B. Hyperspectral Camera
- C. Space Telescope
- D. Ion Propulsion Engine

ANSWER: B

12. Who Won FIDE Under-20 Girl's World Chess Championship In 2024

- A. Koneru Humpy
- B. Harika Dronavalli
- C. Soumya Swaminathan
- D. Divya Deshmukh

ANSWER: D

13. Who Authored Book "A Fly On RBI Wall: An Insider's View Of Central Bank"

- A. Alpana Killawala
- B. Raghuram Rajan
- C. Urjit Patel
- D. Duvvuri Subbarao

ANSWER: A

14. Who Is Set To Unveil His Autobiography Titled 'I Have The Streets: A Kutti Cricket Story'

- A. Gautam Gambhir
- B. Ravichandran Ashwin
- C. Harbhajan Singh
- D. Yuvraj Singh

ANSWER: B

15. Who Was The First Indian To Win The 3-star Grand Prix In Equestrian

- A. Raghubir Singh
- B. Rakesh Kumar
- C. Shruti Vora
- D. Fouaad Mirza

ANSWER: C

16. Which River Forms International Boundary Between India And Nepal

- A. Mahakali River
- B. Bagmati River
- C. Ghaghara River
- D. Mechi River

ANSWER: A

17. Which City Hosts National Institute Of Indian Medical Heritage Recognized By WHO As A Collaborating Centre For Traditional Medicine Research

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Jamnagar
- C. New Delhi
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A

18. Who Won Gold Medal In World Para Athlete Grand Prix In Switzerland

- A. Saurabh Sharma
- B. Akshay Kumar
- C. Priya Singh
- D. Rohit Patel

ANSWER: A

19. In Which Sport Did Reetika Hooda Win A Silver Medal At The Budapest Ranking Series

- A. Tennis
- B. Badminton
- C. Swimming
- D. Wrestling

ANSWER: D

20. Who Is Regarded As “Maker Of Modern India”

- A. M. G. Ranade
- B. Mahatma Gandhi
- C. Keshav Chandra Sen
- D. Ram Mohan Roy

ANSWER: D