



Current Affairs - June 2021 to August 2021

Month

Type



- ▶ **79** Current Affairs were found in **Last Three Months** for Type - **International**

International

1. ▶ **Global Youth Development Index** by *Commonwealth Secretariat Youth Division* -

- It measures progress on youth development in 183 countries, calculated using five main domains - education, health and well-being, employment and opportunity, civic participation and political participation.

- India is ranked **122nd** across 181 countries.

- Top 5 - Germany, Denmark, Australia, Switzerland, United Kingdom (UK).

- Bottom 3 - Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Mali.

2. ▶ 23 nations, including India, collectively launched a bold new plan called **Mission Innovation 2.0**, during *Innovating to Net Zero* Summit hosted by Chile.

- It aims to spearhead a decade of innovation for global investment in clean energy research and development.

- It is 2nd phase of global Mission Innovation initiative, launched alongside Paris Agreement at 2015 COP21 conference.

3. ▶ 7 Indian companies Named in 2021 Fortune's Global 500 list of top 500 enterprises globally, measured by revenues.

- Indian Companies in List with Global Ranks -

- Reliance Industries (155)

- State Bank of India (205)

- 📌 Indian Oil (212)
- 📌 Oil & Natural Gas (243)
- 📌 Rajesh Exports (348)
- 📌 Tata Motors (357)
- 📌 Bharat Petroleum (394)

📌 Top 5 Overall -

- 📌 Walmart (US)
- 📌 State Grid (China)
- 📌 Amazon (US)
- 📌 China National Petroleum (China)
- 📌 Sinopec (China)

4. ▶ **Auckland** (New Zealand) topped EIU Global Liveability Ranking 2021.

- 📌 Top 5 - Auckland (New Zealand), Osaka (Japan), Adelaide (Australia), Wellington (New Zealand), Tokyo (Japan)

5. ▶ **Global Peace Index 2021** by Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP) -

- 📌 India ranked **135th**, compared to 139th rank last year.
- 📌 Top 5 - Iceland (1), New Zealand (2), Denmark (3), Portugal (4), Slovenia (5)
- 📌 Bottom 5 -Afghanistan (163), Yemen (162), Syria (161)
- 📌 Neighbors - China (100), Pakistan (150), Sri Lanka (95), Bangladesh (91)

6. ▶ **United States, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan** will establish a new quadrilateral diplomatic platform to enhance regional connectivity.

7. ▶ **World Competitiveness Index 2021** report by *Institute for Management Development* (IMD) -

- 📌 India ranked 43rd, same as last year.
- 📌 Top 3 - Switzerland (1), Sweden (2), Denmark (3).

8. ▶ According to report by British company HouseFresh -

- 📌 Bangladesh was most polluted country in 2020, followed by Pakistan and India and Mongolia.
- 📌 Among cities, Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh) named 2nd most polluted globally, with China's Hotan at top.

9. ▶ Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani left Afghanistan after surrendering to Taliban forces, which entered Kabul soon after US Withdrew its forces from Afghanistan.

✍ Taliban called it an end to War in Afghanistan, that started in 2001 when US invaded Afghanistan and toppled Taliban-ruled Islamic Emirate. Taliban has now regained power after 19 years and 8 months insurgency against allied NATO and Afghan Armed Forces.

✍ It was longest war in US history, surpassing Vietnam War (1955–1975) by approx 5 months.

✍ Also -

✍ India announced a new category of electronic visas to fast-track applications from Afghans who wish to leave Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, called *e-Emergency X-Misc Visa*.

✍ India termed Afghanistan evacuation mission as **Operation Devi Shakti**, to evacuate Indians from Afghanistan after Taliban's takeover.

10. ▶ Africa become first continent to complete collection of comprehensive digital use data and land-use change data under **Open DEAL Initiative**.

✍ DEAL stands for *Data for the Environment, Agriculture, and Land Initiative*.

11. ▶ African Union suspended membership of Republic of **Mali**, after second military coup detention of a president and prime minister in nine months.

✍ Military coup leader Colonel Goita had ordered arrest of country's interim President N'Daw and Prime Minister Ouane recently, causing global outrage.

12. ▶ As per 2021 Global Crypto Adoption Index by *Chainalysis*, India ranks second in terms of crypto adoption, behind Vietnam.

13. ▶ As per 6th edition of UN Sustainable Development Report (2021) -

✍ India ranked 120th.

✍ Top 3 - Finland, Sweden, Denmark

✍ Neighbors - China (57), Pakistan (129), Bangladesh (109), Sri Lanka (87)

14. ▶ As per *Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2021* by *Shanghai Ranking* -

✍ Top 5 Universities Globally -

✍ Harvard University (US)

✍ Stanford University (US)

✍ University of Cambridge (UK)

✍ Massachusetts Institute of Technology (US)

✍ University of California (US)

✍ Indian Universities in List -

✍ None of the Indian universities could make it to the top 100 spots.

 Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore is only Indian institute to have scored a rank in the top 500.

 India has 14 entries in global 1000.

15. ▶ As per *Global Skills Report 2021* by Coursera -

 India is ranked 67th globally.

 Top 3 - Switzerland, Luxembourg, Austria

16. ▶ As per *Safe Cities Index 2021* by *Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)*. Copenhagen scored 82.4 points out of 100, to top the fourth edition of the EIU's biennial index, which measures the level of urban safety. Yan -

 Copenhagen (Denmark) is named world's safest city, Followed by Toronto (Canada), Singapore, Sydney (Australia), Tokyo (Japan)

 Indian Cities in List - New Delhi (48), Mumbai (50).

17. ▶ As per BP's Statistical Review of World Energy, Top Crude Oil Suppliers to India in 2020 - Iraq (47 MT), Saudi Arabia (38 MT), UAE (22 MT) and USA (10.7 MT).

18. ▶ As per Hurun Global 500 Most Valuable Companies list 2021 -

 Apple is world's most valuable company (Valued at USD 2443 billion), followed by Microsoft, Amazon, Alphabet, Facebook and Tencent.

 Globally, US has most (243 companies) in list, followed by China (47), Japan (30) and UK (24).

 India ranks 9th with 12 companies. Reliance Industries (USD 188 billion) ranked 57th globally and is top Indian company in list.

19. ▶ As per Swiss National Bank (SNB), India ranks 51st in terms of Holding money in Swiss Banks during 2020, with 2.55 billion (INR 20706 Crores) Swiss Francs (CHF) of Indians' money stored in swiss banks.

 Top 3 - UK (CHF 377 billion), US (152 billion).

20. ▶ As per World Trade Organisation (WTO), India entered top ten agricultural produce exporters in 2019, ranking 9th with share of 3.1% in global agricultural exports.

21. ▶ BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) Nations' space agencies signed agreement for cooperation in remote sensing satellite data sharing, under India's BRICS Chairship.

 As per ISRO, it will to enable building a virtual constellation of specified remote sensing satellites of BRICS space agencies and their respective ground stations will receive data.

22. ▶ Canada joined *Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)*, an initiative launched by India in 2019, at UN Climate Action Summit in New York in September 2019. CDRI now includes 22 countries, 4 international partners and two private sector organisations.

23. ▶ Central American Nation **El Salvador** became first country to grant legal tender status to **Bitcoin**, the world's largest cryptocurrency.

24. ▶ Centre for World University Rankings 2021-22 -

 Top 5 - Harvard University (US), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (US), Stanford University (US), University of Cambridge (UK), and Oxford University (UK).

 India -

 68 Indian institutes have made it to the list of top 2000 higher education institutes across world, led by IIM-Ahmedabad (415th) and Indian Institute of Science (459th).

25. ▶ China approved 3 child policy, to prevent a steep decline in birth rate, marking an end to its strict two-child policy rule.

26. ▶ China began operating world's second-largest hydropower station, as 289 meter high Baihetan Hydropower Station in Southwest China, despite environmental damage concerns. It has capacity of 16000 MW.

 China's Three Gorges Dam is world's largest hydro power station in terms of installed capacity, with 22500 MW Capacity, built at Yangtze River.

27. ▶ China has been awarded a malaria-free certification from WHO, Following a 70-year effort, improving from 30 million cases annually in 1940s.

28. ▶ China, largest greenhouse emitter in world, launched its first national emissions-trading scheme, called carbon market, with trading in Shanghai opening at a price of 48 yuan (\$7.40) per ton of carbon.

29. ▶ Chinese Smartphone maker Xiaomi surpassed Apple to become world's second-largest smartphone maker for first-time, only behind Samsung.

 Xiapomi had 17% worldwide smartphone shipments for second quarter of 2021, behind Samsung's 19% and ahead of Apple's 14 %.

30. ▶ Covid-19 Pandemic Updates (August 2021) -

 UK moved India from red to amber list, lifting mandatory 10-day hotel quarantine for fully vaccinated passengers from India. Under UK's traffic light system for international travel, those returning from countries in Amber list are not subjected to compulsory institutional quarantine, instead, they have to undergo a 10-day quarantining at home.

 Bhubaneswar (Odisha) became first Indian city to achieve 100 % COVID-19 vaccination.

 World Health Organization (WHO) created a new advisory group named *The International Scientific Advisory Group for Origins of Novel Pathogens* (SAGO), to systematically study emergence of future emerging pathogens with pandemic potential.

 Amid need to establish more facilities to regulate testing of COVID-19 vaccines, Govt identified 2 Autonomous Institutes of Department of Biotechnology (DBT) - National Institute of Animal Biotechnology Hyderabad (NIAB) and National Centre for Cell Science Pune (NCCS), for upgradation as Central Drug Laboratories (CDLs).

 Maharashtra Govt launched a special mission for women from poor families who have lost their husbands to Covid-19 infection. Under this, a bunch of 18 schemes and services will be provided to these women.

31. ▶ Covid-19 Pandemic Updates (July 2021) -

- ✍ World Bank added 8 billion USD in aid for Coronavirus vaccines for developing countries, now totaling 20 billion USD.
- ✍ US announced additional \$41 million assistance to help India respond to COVID-19 pandemic, taking total aid to over \$200 million.
- ✍ Kerala Govt launched campaign *Mathru Kavacham*, to provide COVID-19 vaccines to all the pregnant women in state.
- ✍ IMF approved general allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) of US\$650 billion, to boost global liquidity, as IMF's largest SDR allocation ever.
- ✍ World Bank Group entity International Finance Corporation invested \$16.5 million in genetics diagnostics and research company *MedGenome*, to increase access to COVID-19 testing in India.
- ✍ Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma launched a scheme to provide social and financial security to women who have lost their husbands to COVID-19, named *Chief Minister's COVID-19 Widows Support Scheme*'. Under it, one-time assistance of 2.5 lakh each will be given to such women whose family income is less than 5 lakh per annum.
- ✍ Saudi Arabia announced 3 year travel ban and penalties for citizens who visit countries on its red list, which includes India. Saudi's red list has nations which are deemed as areas of high COVID-19 infections.
- ✍ Researchers from IIT Hyderabad developed India's first Rapid Covid-19 RNA Test kit that allows self-testing at home, called 'COVIHOME.

32. ▶ Covid-19 Pandemic Updates (June 2021) -

- ✍ NITI Aayog and Piramal Foundation launched *Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum* Abhiyaan in 112 Aspirational Districts, under *Aspirational Districts Collaborative*, to assist district administrations in providing home-care support to Covid-19 patients with mild symptoms.
- ✍ National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) devised an online tracking portal *Bal Swaraj* (COVID-Care link) for children in need of care and protection, during Covid-19 Pandemic.
- ✍ As per International Labour Organisation report *World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2021*, global unemployment rate will be 5.7% in 2022, 6.3% in 2021 & there will be no recovery in global jobs until 2023.
- ✍ Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma launched CM Sishu Seva Scheme, to help children orphaned due to COVID-19. State government would give 3500 per month per child including Central government support of 2000.
- ✍ Govt launched 'Project O2 for India' to step up production of medical oxygen to meet the potential increase in demand due to further expected waves of pandemic.
- ✍ Madhya Pradesh Govt launched *Yuva Shakti Corona Mukti Abhiyan* to make people aware of COVID-19 pandemic, to avoid its spread.

- ✎ Israel became first mask-free country in COVID-19 period, by ending rule of applying masks in Public places, after majority of population has been vaccinated.
 - ✎ IDFC FIRST Bank launched *Ghar Ghar Ration* Program, an employee-funded program for its low-income customers whose livelihoods are affected by COVID-19.
 - ✎ World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), World Health Organisation (WHO), and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) announced a joint platform to help nations plug gaps in accessing COVID-19 vaccines, technologies, and treatments.
 - ✎ World Health Organization (WHO) announced to set up a hub in South Africa to give companies from poor and middle-income countries the know-how and the licenses to produce Coronavirus Vaccines.
 - ✎ Delhi Govt launched Mukhyamantri Covid-19 Pariwar Aarthik Sahayata Yojana, to provide financial assistance to families who lost their members to Covid-19. Under it, 50000 ex-gratia will be given to families that lost a member to Covid-19 and an additional 2500 per month will be given if the deceased was only earner.
 - ✎ Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik announced new scheme **Ashirbad**, for education, health and maintenance of Children orphaned due to COVID-19. Under it, 2500 per month will be deposited in bank accounts of family members who have taken responsibility for children after death of parents.
33. ▶ Debswana Diamond Company discovered world's third-largest diamond in Jwaneng mine in Botswana (South Africa), which measures 73mm long, 52mm wide, and 27mm thick, and weighs 1098 carats.
- ✎ At present, largest diamond ever recorded is 3106-carat Cullinan Diamond, found in South Africa in 1905.
34. ▶ Denmark Parliament approved building a 20 billion-kroner (\$3.3 billion) artificial island in Copenhagen, to house over 35000 people.
35. ▶ Denmark signed International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement (ISA FA) and Instrument of Ratification with India, becoming first country to ratify it after amendments that went into force in January 2021. ISA is an alliance of 121 countries initiated by India.
36. ▶ European Commission proposed to put world's first carbon border tax, on imports of carbon-intensive steel, aluminium, cement, fertilisers and electricity, as part of a programme to meet its new climate target.
- ✎ As proposed, The border levy should be phased in from 2026. It is designed to protect European industries from competitors abroad not subject to the same carbon levies.
37. ▶ Financial Action Task Force (FATF) added four countries - Haiti, Malta, Philippines and South Sudan, to list of *jurisdiction under increased monitoring* for strategic deficiencies.
- ✎ FATF had earlier identified 17 countries as having strategic deficiencies, taking the number now up to 21.
38. ▶ Google announced building an undersea cable, that will connect US, Uruguay, Brazil, and Argentina, to bolster capacity of internet connection between these regions. It will be named *Firminia*, after a Brazilian abolitionist and author Maria Firminia dos Reis.

39. ▶ India and Maldives signed a contract for implementation of India-funded *Greater Male Connectivity Project*, as largest infrastructure initiative in Maldives.
- ✍ Under it, 6.74-km-long bridge and causeway link will be built to connect capital city Male with adjoining islands of Villingli, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi.
 - ✍ It has been Funded under a grant of \$100 million and a line of credit of \$400 million from India.
 - ✍ Also, India's Shapoorji Pallonji Group's infrastructure arm Afcons signed agreement with Republic of Maldives, to construct Male to Thilafushi Link project, popularly called Greater Male' Connectivity Project (GMCP).
40. ▶ India and several members *OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting* adopted a high-level statement containing an outline of a consensus solution to address tax challenges arising from digitalisation of economy.
- ✍ Proposed solution consists of two components - Pillar One which is about reallocation of additional share of profit to the market jurisdictions and Pillar Two consisting of minimum tax and subject to tax rules.
41. ▶ India announced operationalization of *BRICS Agricultural Research Platform*, prepared and set up in India for strengthening cooperation in field of agricultural research & innovations amongst BRICS members.
- ✍ It was launched during 11th meeting of BRICS Agriculture Ministers, attended by Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on India's Behalf.
 - ✍ Also, Action Plan for 2021-24 for agricultural cooperation of BRICS countries was also adopted.
42. ▶ India assumed rotational presidency of 15 member UN Security Council (UNSC) for month of August 2021, from France.
- ✍ Presidency of UN Security Council is held by each of members in turn for one month.
43. ▶ India has been elected to 2 key bodies of Universal Postal Union (UPU), during 27th UPU Congress in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire). These Bodies are Council of Administration(CA) and Postal Operations Council (POC).
44. ▶ India has been elected to UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), one of six main organs of United Nations, for 2022-24 term.
45. ▶ India has been ranked 14th among 114 countries in *World Giving Index 2021*, by Charities Aid Foundation (CAF).
- ✍ List has been topped by Indonesia, followed by Kenya, Nigeria, Myanmar and Australia.
 - ✍ World Giving Index offers glimpse of global trends in generosity, and people from which country are most likely to engage in social activities.
46. ▶ India in collaboration with UN launched **UNITE AWARE** technology platform for peacekeeping missions, aimed at providing terrain-related information to peacekeepers. It was launched in presence of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at UN headquarters in New York City (US).
- ✍ India has contributed USD 1.64 million for UNITE Aware Project.

 Note that India had assumed Presidency of 15-nation UN Security Council for August 2021.

47. ▶ India ranked 10th in **Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2020**, released by International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

 Top 3 -

 US (1), UK and Saudi Arabia (2nd), Estonia (3rd).

48. ▶ India ranked 20th among top 100 countries named in **Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2021** by Startup Blink.

 Top 5 - US, UK, Israel, Canada and Germany.

49. ▶ India retained its position as 2nd largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in UK, after US, in 2020.

 Indian companies invested in 99 projects and created 4,830 jobs in Britain.

 US companies in 389 projects and created 19301 new jobs in 2020-21 in UK.

50. ▶ India scored 90.32% in United Nation's Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific's (UNESCAP) latest Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, seeing remarkable jump from score of 78.49% in 2019. India saw improvement in all 5 key indicators, with notable 100% score in Transparency. Others -

 Formalities: 95.83% in 2021 (from 87.5% in 2019)

 Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 88.89% in 2021 (from 66.67% in 2019)

 Paperless Trade: 96.3% in 2021 (from 81.48% in 2019)

 Cross-Border Paperless Trade: 66.67% in 2021 (from 55.56% in 2019)

51. ▶ India, Italy and Japan launched a trilateral partnership to create stability around Indo-Pacific region, and counter threats from china.

52. ▶ Indian IT Firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) opened its first European innovation centre in Amsterdam (The Netherlands), under *TCS Pace Ports Network*, to bring universities, startups and government together and help use technology to solve sustainability challenges.

53. ▶ International Criminal Police Organisation (*Interpol*) launched a new global database named *I-Familia*, to identify missing individuals through family DNA and to help police solve the cold cases in member countries.

54. ▶ Japan ratified Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the free trade agreement between Australia, China, and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Japan become 3rd member to ratify this agreement, which was signed by 15 countries in November 2020.

 India has not joined RCEP agreement as its key concerns were not addressed.

55. ▶ Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) secured trademark registrations in 3 countries - Bhutan, UAE and Mexico, aimed at protecting identity of brand *Khadi* globally. Apart from these, KVIC's trademark applications are pending in 40 countries.

56. ▶ Microsoft launched its 1st Asia Pacific Public Sector Cyber Security Executive Council, which consists of policymakers and influencers from Brunei, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

- ✎ It aims to accelerate public-private partnerships in cybersecurity and share threat intelligence.
57. ▶ Microsoft officially launched its new Windows operating system **Windows 11**, to succeed Windows 10, which was launched in 2015.
- ✎ Windows 11 has new user interface, a new Windows Store, and improvements to performance. It will also support Android apps via Amazon's app store.
58. ▶ MoU signed for execution of 679 MW Lower Arun Hydro Electric Project in Nepal, between India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) and Investment Board of Nepal.
- ✎ Lower Arun Hydro Electric Project is located in Sankhuwasabha and Bhojpur Districts of Nepal. The project will not have any reservoir or dam and will be a tail race development of 900 MW Arun3 HEP. It will generate 2970 million units of electricity per annum. It is expected to cost around 1.3 Billion USD.
 - ✎ This is 2nd project awarded to SJVN in Nepal, after 900 MW Arun 3 Hydro Electric Project in Sankhuwasabha District.
59. ▶ New Zealand signed US-led **Artemis Accords** with NASA, an international agreement to cooperate with NASA on peaceful, safe, sustainable, and transparent space exploration.
- ✎ Other Nations who have signed - Australia, Brazil, Canada, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Luxembourg, Ukraine, UAE, UK, US.
 - ✎ Artemis Accords is a US led effort to return humans to Moon by 2024, and to expand and deepen space exploration.
60. ▶ PM Narendra Modi chaired high-level open debate on *Enhancing Maritime Security – A Case for International Cooperation*, at UN Security Council, making him first Indian PM to have chaired a UN Security Council open debate.
- ✎ On this occasion, UN Security Council adopted first-ever presidential statement on maritime security.
 - ✎ Also, Russian President Vladimir Putin suggested creation of a maritime security body in UN Security Council, to address all issues regarding piracy, maritime crimes and terrorism.
 - ✎ Notably, India assumed rotational presidency of 15 member UN Security Council (UNSC) for month of August 2021, from France.
61. ▶ Philippines become first country to get approval for commercial production of genetically modified “golden rice”, a variety of rice enriched with nutrients to help reduce childhood malnutrition.
- ✎ Golden rice has been developed by Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute (DA-PhilRice) in partnership with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).
62. ▶ QS World University Rankings 2022 -
- ✎ Top 5 -
 - ✎ Massachusetts Institute of Technology (US)
 - ✎ University of Oxford (UK)
 - ✎ Stanford University (US)

 University of Cambridge (UK)

 Harvard University (US)

 Indian Universities in List -

 IIT Bombay (177), IIT Delhi (185) and IISc Bangalore (186) are top 3 Indian Universities.

 Total 35 Indian Indian Universities have been included in List.

63. ▶ Rail Transportation between India & Nepal got a boost, with India and Nepal signing a Letter of Exchange (LoE) to India-Nepal Rail Services Agreement (RSA) 2004.

 With this, Cargoes in all categories of wagons that can carry freight on Indian Railways network within India, can also now carry freight to and from Nepal. This will reduce transportation costs for automobiles and certain other products whose carriage takes place in special wagons.

 This will allow market forces to come up in rail freight segment in Nepal, and will increase efficiency of Nepal Railways.

64. ▶ Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a law to formalize Russia's exit from Open Skies treaty, after US President Joe Biden informed that US will not rejoin Open Skies Treaty.

 Earlier, Former US President Donald Trump pulled US out of Open Skies Treaty, claiming that Russia had violated the agreement that allows the two nations and their allies to monitor each another's airspace. US formally withdrew in November 2020.

65. ▶ Singapore unveiled 60 MW Capacity Floating Solar Panel Farm, to help achieve goal of quadrupling its solar energy production by 2025, to tackle climate change.

 Notably, world's largest floating solar project is being developed at Omkareshwar dam (Narmada river), Madhya Pradesh. It will have 600MW capacity, and will begin operations in 2022-23.

66. ▶ Singapore's Sunseap Group will build world's largest floating solar farm and energy storage system in Batam (Indonesia), with capacity of 2.2 gigawatt-peak (GWp).

67. ▶ South Africa granted world's first patent on an invention created by an artificial intelligence inventor, for *Device for Autonomous Bootstrapping of Unified Sentience* (DABUS), an AI developed by Missouri physicist Stephen Thaler.

68. ▶ Sweden ratified framework agreement for International Solar Alliance (ISA), becoming member of this India-based global platform for promoting renewable energy.

69. ▶ Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB), a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), launched its programme in Bhutan.

 India has been chosen as Partner Jurisdiction and has provided the Tax Expert for this programme.

✍ in this 24 months' duration Program, India in collaboration with UNDP and TIWB Secretariat, will aim to aid Bhutan in strengthening its tax administration.

70. ▶ Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2021 -

✍ Top 5 -

✍ Tsinghua University (China)

✍ Peking University (China)

✍ National University of Singapore (Singapore)

✍ University of Hong Kong

✍ Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)

✍ Indian Universities in List -

✍ Total 63 Universities named in List.

✍ Top 3 Indian Universities -

✍ IISC Bangalore (37)

✍ IIT Ropar (55)

✍ IIT Indore (78)

71. ▶ UAE became first Gulf nation to open an embassy in Israel, located in Tel Aviv Stock Exchange building. It came an year after both countries signed an agreement to normalise diplomatic ties.

72. ▶ UAE, Brazil, Albania, Gabon and Ghana have been elected to 15 Member UN Security Council (UNSC), for 2 year term starting January 2022.

✍ The newly elected nations will replace Vietnam, Estonia, Niger, Tunisia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

✍ UNSC has 5 Members (5 Permanent and 10 Non Permanent).

✍ Permanent - China, France, Russia, US, and US.

✍ Non Permanent -

✍ India , Ireland, Kenya , Mexico, Norway, UAE, Brazil, Albania, Gabon and Ghana.

73. ▶ UN Development Programme (UNDP) Presented an Independent report on performance of India's Aspirational Districts Programme, launched in 2018 -

✍ It has been depicted as *a very successful model of local area development*, serving as a best practice for other countries.

✍ UNDP's analysis spans across 5 key sectors of ADP—health and nutrition; education; agriculture and water resources; basic infrastructure; and skill development and financial inclusion.

74. ▶ US Department of Energy, India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) launched a US-India Hydrogen Task Force, under US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP).
75. ▶ US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) and US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) launched the US-India Climate Technologies Action Group (CTAG), which aims to bring together stakeholders from both countries that can contribute to advanced global action on climate.
76. ▶ Vietnam appointed Honorary Consul General of Vietnam in Bangalore, to promote cooperation between Vietnam and State of Karnataka. Industrialist **N.S. Srinivasa Murthy** has been appointed as first honorary consul general of Vietnam from India.
77. ▶ World Bank launched a new *Cybersecurity Multi-Donor Trust Fund*, to better roll out cybersecurity development agenda in a systematic manner.
- ✎ New fund has been developed as an associated trust fund under broader Digital Development Partnership (DDP) umbrella program, in partnership with Estonia, Japan, Germany, and Netherlands.
 - ✎ It aims to enhance cyber and digital security capability and capacity in World Bank member countries.
78. ▶ World's largest and tallest observation wheel called *Ain Dubai*, will be unveiled in Dubai (UAE) on October 21, 2021.
- ✎ It is 250 metres high, located at Bluewaters Island. It will get past current world's tallest observation wheel, High Roller, in Las Vegas, measuring 167.6 m (550 ft).
79. ▶ sGermany Ratified International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement, becoming 5th nation to do so after amendments that entered into force in January 2021, that opened its Membership to all UN Member States.
- ✎ Germany aims at generating two-thirds of its electricity needs from solar and wind by 2030.

Top

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