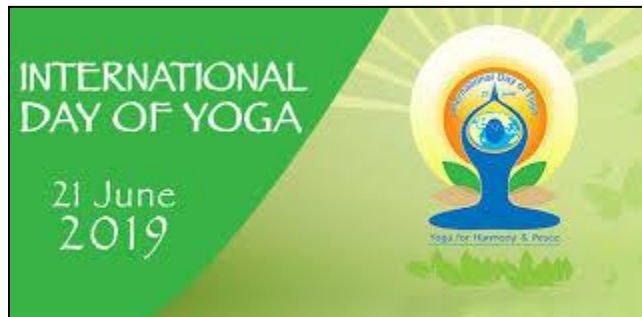


## June 21, 2019

### International Day for Yoga: 21 June 2019



**June 21<sup>st</sup>**, the day which coincides with the summer solstice was declared by the **UN General Assembly** as the **International Day for Yoga**. The very first World Day was celebrated all around the world, with great enthusiasm in spite of hostile weather

conditions in different parts of the world. The idea of International Day of Yoga was first proposed by **PM Modi** during his speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September 27, 2014.

This year the main Yoga Day event will be held in **Ranchi in Jharkhand**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will perform Yoga along with the participants. Around 30,000 people are expected to participate in the yoga event, for which security has been beefed up across the city. The theme for International Yoga Day 2019 is **Yoga for Climate Action**.

### NPCI ties up with Telangana for MeeSeva services



The **National Payments Corporation of India** (NPCI) has entered into an agreement with the **Government of Telangana** to offer **MeeSeva portal** users the option to pay using UPI Collect Request, RuPay Debit and Credit Cards for the

services on the portal.

The MeeSeva portal of the State government offers over 150 government services and surpassed 100 million transactions last year.

### **NHA, ICICI Foundation to skill 15,000 personnel to implement Ayushman Bharat scheme**



The National Health Authority and ICICI Foundation have signed an agreement to train 15,000 state and district personnel and Pradhan Mantri Arogya Mitras to streamline delivery of health services under the government's flagship Ayushman Bharat scheme. The MoU between

NHA and ICICI Foundation for Inclusive Growth is aimed at capacity building of health personnel at state and district levels.

### **Niti Aayog Recommends Sale Of Only Electric Cars From 2030**



In another ambitious move, Niti Aayog has proposed that **only electric vehicles** should be sold in the country after 2030. Government's think tank had earlier suggested banning all conventional three-wheelers and two-wheelers which are

equipped with engines of up to 150 cc. The committee has forward a cabinet note asking to assign roles to different ministries. **Ministry of Road Transport And Highways (MoRTH)** has

been asked to work on a new framework to phase out the sale of diesel and petrol vehicles by 2030.

### DBS cuts India's FY20 GDP forecast to 6.8% from 7%



DBS Bank has revised **India's GDP growth** for fiscal year 2020 downwards to **6.8 percent** year-on-year (YoY) from 7 percent projected earlier, citing headwinds for exports amidst challenging trade outlook.

The **Reserve Bank of India's** policy stance was changed from neutral to accommodative, opening the door to further easing, wrote Radhika Rao, Economist at DBS Group Research, pointing out the 75 bps repo rate cut so far this year.

### Forex retail trading platform ready for roll-out on August 5



The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** said the currency trading platform for retail trading is ready for roll-out by the **Clearing Corporation of India (CCIL)** on August 5 to enable transparent and fair pricing for retail users, such as individuals and micro, small and medium enterprises.

Generally, banks charge about 1-2 percent extra to provide **foreign exchange (forex)** currencies, which can be eliminated by the use of this platform. The RBI had announced in its June policy the launch of this platform, but a draft guideline on this was issued in October 2017.

The size of a single transaction should not be more than \$5 million, but no minimum transaction

limit was set by the RBI.

While the bank will charge the retail customer an administrative charge, CCIL won't charge any fee for transactions up to \$50,000 per day.

"A transaction charge of 0.0004 percent shall be charged by the CCIL for transactions in excess of \$50,000 per day," the notification said.

### **Bangladesh has emerged as the fastest growing economy in Asia-Pacific region: ADB**



**Bangladesh** has emerged as the **fastest growing economy** among the 45 countries of the **Asia-Pacific region** according to **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**. In the financial year 2018-19 Bangladesh attained a growth rate of **7.9 %** which is its fastest rate since 1974. The bank predicted that the growth will be 8% in the next

financial year.

### **Indian engineer wins Innovation Award in UK for neonatal breathing device**



An Indian engineer whose low-cost **neonatal breathing device** has saved the lives of new-born babies across small towns of India, has won the 2019 **Commonwealth Secretary-General's Innovation for Sustainable Development Award** in London.

**Nitesh Kumar Jangir**, who created Saans as a

breathing support device to tackle avoidable deaths of premature babies from respiratory

distress syndrome due to a lack of immediate access to complex medical equipment, received his award in the “People” category alongside 14 other innovators from across the 53 member-countries of the Commonwealth.

### Shefali Juneja appointed India's representative to ICAO



Senior bureaucrat **Shefali Juneja** was appointed as **India's representative** in the council of **International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)**, a United Nations body. Juneja, a 1992 batch officer of Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax cadre), is at present the Joint Secretary in Ministry of Civil Aviation.

She has been appointed to the post of Representative of India in the ICAO, Montreal, Canada, for a period of three years, an order issued by personnel Ministry said. Juneja will replace senior IAS officer **Alok Shekhar** who was named for the post in October 2015.

### PU Chitra and Sreeshankar wins gold, Johnson wins silver



**Asian champion P.U. Chitra** beat former Commonwealth Games champion Kenya's Mercy Cherono and won the **women's 1500m gold** with a season best of 4:12.65s at the Folksam Grand Prix in Sollentuna, Sweden. Cherono, former IAAF World Cross Country champion and silver medallist at the

2013 World Championships, finished 4:13:34s.

Asian Games gold medalist **Jinson Johnson** won the **silver** in the men's 1500m clocking 3:39.69s as he finished behind Sweden's Andreas Almgren (3:39.68s). National record holder

**Murali Sreeshankar** won the **men's long jump gold** comfortably with an impressive opening effort of 7.93m at the Copenhagen Athletics Games in Denmark. He equalled his season-best effort which came in Lyon, France.

## **G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth in Japan**

G20 (Group of 20) Ministerial Meeting on **Energy Transitions and Global Environment for**



**Sustainable Growth** for the year 2019 was held at Karuizawa Prince Hotel (Karuizawa Town, Nagano), **Japan** on June 15-16, 2019.

The Indian delegation at the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth was represented by **Shri RK Singh**, Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.

## **World Refugee Day: 20 June 2019**



**World Refugee Day** is celebrated every year on **June 20** to commemorate the resilience and courage of refugees around the world and the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** has urged people to be a part of its **#StepWithRefugees** campaign to

mark the international day this year.

June 20 was designated as World Refugee Day after the United Nations General Assembly

passed a resolution on December 4, 2000, to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and World Refugee Day.

The theme for World Refugee Day 2019 is **#StepWithRefugees** as the UNHCR urges “communities, schools, businesses, faith groups and people from all walks of life” to take “big and small steps in solidarity with refugees.”

### **India provides USD 15 million assistance to Niger for holding AU summit**



India has extended **USD 15 million** grants to **Niger** in support of organizing the **African Union summit** scheduled in July in Niamey. The grant assistance of USD 15 million was symbolically handed over to Niger's Deputy Foreign Minister Lamido Ousseini Bala Goga

Salamatou in the presence of Minister and Special Advisor to the Niger President Mohammed Saidil Moctar, by Indian Ambassador to that country **Rajesh Agarwal** at a ceremony held in Niamey.

Niger is hosting the AU Summit for the first time. The AU Summit, from July 7-8 in Niamey, is also expected to launch the historic African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).