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NATIONAL



INTERNATIONAL



ART & CULTURE



ECONOMICS



SPORTS



ENVIRONMENT



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

WEEKLY
CURRENT AFFAIR

WEEK- 17th - 23rd May

International

Hanko:



The Hanko is a personal stamp of Japan. It is equivalent to a signature in other countries, and is an essential part of several transactions. It is small-sized and circular or square-shaped and is generally made of wood or plastic. The stamp is wet by an ink pad called 'shuniku', and the mark that it leaves on a document is called 'inkan'.

Hanko stamping is essential in Japan for several transactions. They are mandatory in bank documents, government authorization and even in several day to day activities. The use of Hanko is a two millennium old tradition. Hanko stamp is still used in Japan.

Recently, Hanko tradition has come under fierce criticism due to the rise in number of COVID 19 cases in the country. This is because, even though Japan is adopting work from home culture aggressively in response to the COVID-19 pandemic but the extensive and almost unavoidable use of the 'Hanko' for authorizing official documents ranging from contracts, marriage registrations and even delivery slips is forcing the employees to go to the office premises for security reasons. So the industry leaders demanding that the tradition be abandoned.

WHA:



It refers to the World Health Assembly. WHA is the forum through which the World Health Organization (WHO) is governed by its 194 member states. It is the world's highest health policy setting body and is composed of health ministers from member states. It was founded in 1948 and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The members of the WHA generally meet every year in May in Geneva at the Palace of Nations.

The Assembly is governed by Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly. The agenda items are set by the General Committee of the Assembly which is a group of 25 individuals that includes the President and subcommittee chairs, and a number of delegates elected by the Assembly previous. The main functions of the WHA are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget.

Recently, the Union Minister of Health Dr. Harsh Vardhan participated in the 73rd World Health Assembly (WHA) amid the COVID-19 crisis. The meeting was held through Video Conference. At the assembly India along with more than 100 countries unanimously adopted a resolution drafted by the European Union to conduct an independent probe of WHO's COVID-19 response. The pandemic has claimed more than 3 lakh lives globally so far.

Lesotho:



Lesotho is a high-altitude, landlocked kingdom encircled by South Africa. It was previously the British Crown Colony of Basutoland, but it declared independence from the United Kingdom on 4 October 1966. The country was formerly known as Basutoland but was renamed to the Kingdom of Lesotho after its independence. It is now a democratic, sovereign and

independent country. It is a member of the United Nations, the Commonwealth of Nations, the African Union, and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Maseru is the capital city of Lesotho. The currency used here is Lesotho loti.

Recently, the Prime Minister of Lesotho Thomas Thabane formally resigned from the post. He faced pressure to quit over a case in which he and his wife are suspected of involvement in the 2017 murder of his previous wife.

The Finance Minister of Lesotho Moeketsi Majoro has been named as the interim PM of the country by the parliament.

USA:



It refers to the United States of America. USA commonly known as the United States (U.S. or US) or America is a country consisting of 50 states, a federal district, five major self-governing territories, and various possessions. The 50 states cover a vast swath of North America, with Alaska in the northwest and Hawaii extending the nation's presence into the Pacific Ocean. The capital of the US is Washington, D.C. The current President of the US is Donald Trump.

Recently, the President of the United States of America Donald Trump announced that the USA will withdraw from the Open Skies treaty which allows member countries to conduct unarmed surveillance flights over 35 participating states. The US officials said that the country was withdrawing due to repeated Russian violations of its terms. This is the 3rd international arms pact from which President Donald Trump has withdrawn. The previously two treaties from which the US withdrew itself are the 2015 nuclear agreement to prevent Iran from conducting its nuclear activities and the 1988 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty with Russia.

The Open Skies Treaty: The Open Skies Treaty came into force on 1 January 2002 and currently has 35 signatories including Russia, the US, the UK, Germany, France, Canada, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece. It allows for unarmed short-notice reconnaissance flights by specially equipped aircraft, over the entire territory of another country to collect data on troop deployments, military facilities and so on. The Open Skies Treaty permits each state-party to conduct short-notice, unarmed, reconnaissance flights over the others' entire territories to collect data on military forces and activities. The treaty was signed as an initiative of U.S. president (and former Central Intelligence Agency Director) George H. W. Bush in 1989. Negotiated by the then-members of NATO and the

Warsaw Pact, the agreement was signed in Helsinki, Finland, on 24 March 1992. However, this treaty is not related to civil-aviation open skies agreements.

ITD:



It refers to the International Tea Day. ITD is observed annually on May 21 to create awareness about the significance of tea around the world, in terms of economy and culture. The concerning resolution was adopted on December 21, 2019 and calls on the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to lead the observance of the Day. Earlier, this day was celebrated on December 15 Every Year but on the recommendation of India ITD is celebrated on 21 May. The Day aims to raise awareness of the long history and the deep cultural and economic significance of tea around the world. The main objective of celebrating this day is not only to boost its production and consumption but also help in fighting hunger and poverty in rural areas.

Tea: Tea is a beverage made from the *Camellia sinensis* plant. It is the world's most consumed drink, after water. The history of tea dates back to ancient China, almost 5,000 years ago. According to legend, in 2732 B.C. Emperor Shen Nung discovered tea when leaves from a wild tree blew into his pot of boiling water. He was immediately interested in the pleasant scent of the resulting brew, and drank some. It is believed that tea originated in northeast India, north Myanmar and southwest China, but the exact place where the plant first grew is not known. Tea in Southwest China during the Shang dynasty was used as a medicinal drink.

An advertisement for the 'MY IAS APP'. The background is light blue. At the top, the text 'MY IAS APP' is written in large, bold letters, with 'MY' in blue and 'IAS APP' in red. Below this, it says 'DEVELOPED BY CIVILSERVICEINDIA.COM'. A central banner reads 'Get it on Google Play for Free'. To the left of the banner are the Android robot icon and the Google Play logo. To the right is a smartphone displaying the app's home screen with icons for 'Home', 'Current Affairs', 'Daily News', 'Daily Quiz', and 'Study Notes'. At the bottom left, there are three blue arrows pointing right, followed by the text 'Daily News', 'Current Affairs', and 'Daily Quiz'.

National

Union Cabinet:



The Union Council of Ministers exercises executive authority in the Republic of India. It consists of senior ministers, called 'cabinet ministers', junior ministers called 'ministers of state' and, rarely, deputy ministers. It is led by the Prime Minister. A smaller executive body called the Union Cabinet is the supreme decision-making body in India. The prime

minister and ministers of the rank of cabinet minister can only be the members of the Union Cabinet in accordance with Article 75.

Recently, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) scheme. PMMSY scheme aims to bring about Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector in India. It will be implemented under two components namely, Central Sector Scheme (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). The total investment is more than Twenty thousand crore comprising of the Central government share of Rs.9,407 crore, State government share of Rs.4,880 crore, and Beneficiaries' share of Rs.5,763 crore. The Scheme will be implemented during a period of 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25 It is established under the Department of Fisheries.

The scheme seeks to address the critical gaps in the fisheries sector and realize its potential. The main objective of the scheme is to help in doubling of incomes of fish farmers and fish workers by 2024 and helping in creating direct employment opportunities to about 15 lakh fishers, fish farmers, fish vendors and other rural as well as urban populations in fishing. This will not only give a boost to investments in the fisheries sector and increase of competitiveness of fish and fisheries products but also will improve the availability of certified quality fish seed and feed, traceability in fish and effective aquatic health management.

GFR:



It refers to the General Financial Rules. GRFs are a compilation of rules and orders of Government of India (GoI) to be followed by all while dealing with matters involving public finances. These rules and orders are treated as executive instructions to be observed by all Departments and Organisations under the Government and specified Bodies

except otherwise provided for in these Rules. It lays down the general rules and detailed instructions relating to the procurement of goods. It was issued for the first time in 1947. It brought all existing orders and instructions pertaining to financial matters together in one place. They are modified & issued as GFRs 1963, GFRs 2005 & GFRs 2017.

Recently, the Government notified amendments to GFR 2017. The amendments were notified to ensure that goods and services valued less than 200 crore rupees are being procured from domestic firms. The amendments to the GFR 2017 states that the global tenders will be banned for government procurement upto 200 crores as announced in the AatmanirbharBharat Package. This move seeks to boost domestic suppliers, particularly Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

COIR GEO TEXTILES:



Coir geo-textiles are hard and strong and blend well with soil. It is a 100% natural fiber. It is made from a renewable source which is the coconut husk. It is a permeable fabric which is naturally resistant to rot, molds and moisture and needs no chemical treatment. As it is hard

and strong, it can be spun and woven into matting.

Recently, the Coir geo-textiles have finally been accepted as a good material for rural road construction under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana III (PMGSY III). According to a communication from the National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency under Union Ministry of Rural Development Coir geo-textiles will be used for the construction of rural roads. The decision of the Union government to use coir geotextiles in the construction of rural roads is not only expected to give new impetus to the coir industry in the State but also be a boon to the Covid-19 hit Coir Industry.

As per the PMGSY new technology guidelines for road construction, 15% length in each batch of proposals, is to be constructed using new technologies. Out of this 5 percent roads are to be constructed using Indian Roads Congress (IRC) accredited technology.

The IRC has now accredited coir geo-textiles for construction of rural roads.

IR:



It refers to the Indian Railways. IR is India's national railway system operated by the Ministry of Railways. It is among the world's largest rail networks. The first railway proposals for India was made in Madras in 1832. The formal inauguration ceremony was performed on 16th April 1853. The first passenger train in India ran between Bombay (Bori Bunder) and Thane. The 14-carriage train

was hauled by three steam locomotives: Sahib, Sindh and Sultan. It carried 400 people and ran on a line of 34 kilometres (21 mi) built and operated by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. The current Union Minister of Railways is Piyush Goyal and Minister of State of Railways is Angadi Suresh Channabasappa.

Recently, The Indian Railways (IR) operationalised its first 12,000 hp electric locomotive named WAG12 with Number 60027. WAG12 has been manufactured at the Madhepura Electric Locomotive Pvt. Ltd. (MELPL), in Bihar. WAG12 has been produced under Make in India programme which is

manufactured locally by French rolling stock manufacturer Alstom. With its maiden commercial run between Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Station to Shivpur, India has become the 6th country in the world to join the club of countries producing high horsepower locomotive indigenously. It is for the first time that prime horsepower locomotive has been operationalised on broad gauge track in the world.

MELPL: It refers to the Madhepura Electric Locomotive Pvt. Ltd. MELPL is the largest integrated Green Field facility built to the highest standards of quality and safety with production capacity of 120 locos. It is headquartered in New Delhi. It was founded on 20 November 2015. It is a joint venture of Alstom SA of France with Indian Railways for the production of 800 high-power locomotives over a period of 11 years designed to run on Indian tracks at 120 km per hour. The manufacturing has started on 11 October 2017.

Alstom: Alstom SA is a French multinational company operating worldwide in rail transport markets, active in the fields of passenger transportation, signalling and locomotives, with products including the AGV, TGV, Eurostar and Pendolino high-speed trains, in addition to suburban, regional and metro trains, as well as Citadis trams. The current Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer is Henri Poupart-Lafarge while the Managing Director (MD), India & South Asia is Alain Spohr.

PPE:



It refers to Personal Protective Equipment. A PPE kit basically consists of shoe cover, gloves, eye shield, mask, and gown. The kit is crucial to safeguard against the COVID-19 pandemic. At present, as per the data provided by the Ministry of Health, India is producing 2.06 lakh PPE kits every day which is the maximum capacity of the country.

Recently, India has become the 2nd largest manufacturer of PPE in the world within a short time span of two months. Currently, China is the leading producer of PPE in the world. The Ministry of Textiles stated that several steps were taken to ensure the quantity and quality of PPE coveralls meeting their increasing demand. The Ministry has also taken steps to ensure that only certified players across the entire supply chain are allowed to supply body coveralls to governments. Besides, Textiles Committee, Mumbai too will now test and certify PPE body coveralls required for healthcare workers and other COVID-19 warriors.

Textile Committee: It is a statutory body that was established in 1963 through an Act of Parliament. It functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India (GoI). It was formed to ensure the quality of textiles and textile machinery both for internal consumption and export purpose. The main function of the committee is to establish laboratories for the testing of textile and textile machinery. The Committee will also provide for their export and examination apart from other functions.

Ministry of Textile: The Ministry of Textiles is an Indian government national agency. It is responsible for the formulation of policy, planning, development, export promotion and regulation of the textile

industry in India. It was founded on 1st April 1999. The current Union Minister of Textile is Smriti Zubin Irani and State Minister of Textile is Ajay Tamta.

Indian policy News

IMD:



It refers to India Meteorological Department. IMD is an agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India (GoI). It is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology. It was founded in 1875 and is headquartered in New Delhi. It functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Recently, IMD has added its weather services to Umang app namely, the IMD cyclone warnings, weather forecast, rainfall information, tourism related updates, among other services, provided by the Met Department.

UMANG App: It refers to the Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance App. UMANG app is a Government of India all-in-one single, multi-lingual, multi-service mobile app, powered by a robust back-end platform providing access to high impact services of various organization (Central and State). It was launched in 2017 by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

About 660 services from 127 department and 25 states, including utility payments, are available on the app and more are in pipeline.

Union Cabinet:



The Union Council of Ministers exercises executive authority in the Republic of India. It consists of senior ministers, called 'cabinet ministers', junior ministers called 'ministers of state' and, rarely, deputy ministers. It is led by the Prime Minister. A smaller executive body called the Union Cabinet is the supreme decision-making body in India. The prime minister and ministers of the rank of cabinet minister can only be the members of the Union

Cabinet in accordance with Article 75.

Recently, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the proposal of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) to launch a new Special Liquidity Scheme for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Housing Finance Companies (HFCs). The scheme aims to improve liquidity position of the NBFCs/HFCs.

As per the scheme, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) would be set up by a large public bank to manage a Stressed Asset Fund (SAF) whose special securities would be guaranteed by the Government of

India and purchased by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) only.

The function of the SPV will be to proceed with the sale of such securities to acquire short-term debt of NBFCs/HFCs. The SPV will issue securities as required, subject to the total amount of securities outstanding with a maximum limit of Rs 30,000 crore. The securities issued by the SPV which would be purchased by RBI would be used only by the SPV to acquire the debt of at least investment grade of short duration (residual maturity of upto 3 months) of eligible NBFCs / HFCs. This new special liquidity scheme will work under the administration control of Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance and Government of India (GoI).

NBFC: It refers to a Non-Banking Financial Company. NBFC is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956. It is engaged in the business of loans and advances, acquisition of shares, bonds, stocks, debentures and securities which are issued by Government or local authority.

HFC: It refers to a Housing Finance Company. HFC is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956) which primarily transacts or has as one of its principal objects, the transacting of the business of providing finance for housing, whether directly or indirectly.

PMVVY:



The infographic features the logo of the Department of Financial Services at the top left. The main text reads: "Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana 'Ensuring Social Security to Elderly'". Below this, it states "Date extended upto: **Mar 31, 2023**" and "Assured rate of return for 2020-21: **7.4%**". The central graphic shows a silhouette of an elderly couple holding hands under a large umbrella labeled "PMVVY".

It refers to the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana. PMVVY is a social security pension scheme for senior citizens of India aged 60 years and above. The scheme is intended to give an assured minimum pension to them based on an assured return on the purchase price / subscription amount.

Union Cabinet has approved extension of Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) up to 31st March, 2023 for further period of three years beyond 31st March, 2020 to enable old age income security for Senior Citizens. The scheme was available from 4th May, 2017 to 31st March, 2020.

This scheme is offered by Life insurance Corporation (LIC) of India. LIC gives a guaranteed payout of pension at a specified rate for 10 years. It also offers a death benefit in the form of return of purchase price to the nominee. Any senior citizen who have lump sum money in their bank account, and then they can consider buying this immediate annuity scheme till March 31, 2023.

Science and Technology

TROGLOMYCES TWITTERI:



It is a new species that has just been recently discovered using a Twitter image and thus has been named as Troglomyces twitteri. This new parasitic fungus was discovered by the biologist Sofia Reboleira of University of Copenhagen, Denmark while scrolling through Twitter where she stumbled upon a photo of a North American millipede shared by her US colleague Derek Hennen of Virginia Tech. There, she spotted a few tiny dots that struck her well-trained eyes.

Troglomyces twitteri: It is a type of parasitic fungus. It belongs to an order called Laboulbeniales. These tiny fungal parasites which look like tiny larvae attack insects and millipedes. These fungi live on the outside of host organisms. In this case it was found living on the reproductive organs of millipedes. Laboulbeniales were first discovered in the middle of the 19th century.

Textiles Committee:



It is a statutory body established in 1963 through an Act of Parliament and is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. It has been formed to ensure the quality of textiles and textile machinery both for internal consumption and export purpose. The Committee is tasked with the functions of establishing laboratories for the testing of textiles and textile machinery and providing for their inspection and examination, besides other functions which flow from the main objective of ensuring quality of textiles

products and textiles machinery.

Recently, the Textiles Committee Mumbai, (Maharashtra) operating under Ministry of Textiles has launched testing equipment for Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). The Committee will now on test the PPEs produced in the country. The Equipment is called Synthetic Blood Penetration Testing Equipment. This equipment tests the resistance of the PPE (masks, covers, etc) to penetration of synthetic blood under different levels of pressure.

The laboratory set up to test the PPEs was accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL). A Unique Certification Code has been passed to test the samples submitted by the manufacturers of PPEs. The UCC has been uploaded in all official websites such as Ordnance Factory Board, DRDO (Defence Research Development Organization).

The Textiles Committee is a statutory body established in 1963 through an Act of Parliament. It functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. The

current Textile Committee Secretary is Ajit Chavan and the current Union Textile Minister is Smriti Zubin Irani.

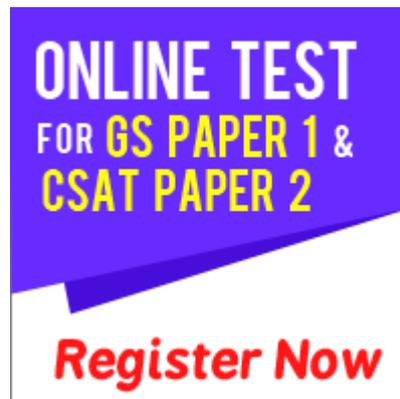
Agappe Chitra Magna (ACM) Kit:



It is a magnetic nanoparticle-based RNA extraction kit for use during testing for detection of COVID-19. The ACM kit is developed by the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) and manufactured by Kochi-based Agappe Diagnostics Ltd. It was validated by the National Institute of Virology and the approval of the kit was provided by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).

The ACM Kit uses an innovative technology for isolating RNA using magnetic nanoparticles to capture the RNA from the patient sample. The magnetic nanoparticle beads bind to the viral RNA and, when exposed to a magnetic field, give a highly purified and concentrated RNA. As the sensitivity of the detection method is dependent on getting an adequate quantity of viral RNA, this innovation enhances the chances of identifying positive cases.

Recently, the Government of India (GoI) announced the commercial launch of Agappe Chitra Magna. The commercial launch of the Made-In-India Medical kit seeks in helping to increase the rate of testing and bringing down its costs which is a crucial step for combating the pandemic. It will also reduce the dependence on imported kits and make COVID testing more cost-effective.



Sports News

ICC:



It refers to the International Cricket Committee. ICC is the world governing body of cricket. It was founded as the Imperial Cricket Conference in 15 June 1909 by representatives from Australia, England and South Africa. It was renamed as the International Cricket Conference in 1965, and took up its current name in 1989. The ICC, currently, has 104 member nations. It organizes world championship events such as Cricket World Cup, Women's Cricket

World Cup, ICC T20 World Cup, ICC Women's T20 World Cup, ICC Champions Trophy and Under-19 Cricket World Cup. The current Chairman of ICC is Shashank Manohar and the Chief Executive is Manu Sahney.

Recently, ICC has banned the use of saliva to shine the ball but the application of sweat will still be allowed. Use of artificial substance to shine the ball is being considered. The decision was taken as this practice which is meant for swing bowling in cricket is now primarily held as health risk due to the threats of COVID-19 and protect the safety of players and match officials. This committee was chaired by the current chairman of ICC Cricket Committee Anil Kumble.

The committee has also recommended the use of local umpires and match referees for international fixtures. Apart from this, the committee also recommended increasing the use of DRS review per innings from 2 to 3.

Bundesliga:



The Bundesliga is the primary football league in Germany. It has the highest stadium attendance worldwide. Bundesliga meaning "Federal League" began in 1963.

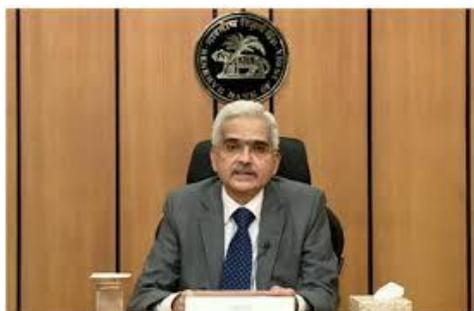
Recently, the Bundesliga primary football league of Germany becomes the world's first major sports event to resume after COVID-19 lockdown. Though the football game has started amid the COVID-19 crisis, it will not be played in the same

way as before. The Bundesliga games began with empty stadium though the stadium had the capacity to hold more than 80,000 players.

The players are being tested twice a week. The teams participating in the games were kept under quarantine. The teams entered the ground at different times. The substitutes sat well apart during the matches following social distancing.

Economic News

RBI:



It stands for the Reserve Bank of India. The RBI is India's central bank, which controls the issue and supply of the Indian rupee. It carries out India's monetary policy and exercises supervision and control over banks and non-banking finance companies in India. RBI was set up in 1935 under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. It is headquartered in Mumbai. RBI plays an important part in the Development Strategy of the Government of India. The

current Governor of RBI is Shaktikanta Das.

Recently, RBI announced another 9 additional measures for strengthening the Economy in the uncertain times ushered in by the COVID-19 pandemic. The earlier sets of measures were announced by RBI on 17 April 2020.

The recent 9 list of measures announced by RBI are:

1. Repo rate reduced by 40 basis points from 4.4% to 4.0%. The reverse repo rate has been reduced 3.75% to 3.35%. The Marginal Standing Facility rate and the Bank rate have been reduced from 4.65% to 4.25%
2. Measures to ease financial constraints faced by State Governments by allowing the states to borrow more from Consolidated Sinking Fund which is being maintained by state governments as a buffer for repayment of their liabilities.
3. Refinance Facility to SIDBI extended for another 90 days. The RBI on 17 April 2020, had announced a special refinance facility of ₹15,000 crore to SIDBI at RBI's policy repo rate for a period of 90 days. This facility has now been extended by another 90 days.
4. There is Relaxation of Rules under Voluntary Retention Route (VRR), an investment window provided by RBI to Foreign Portfolio Investors, which provides easier rules in return for a commitment to make higher investments.
5. A line of credit of ₹15,000 crore will be given to the EXIM Bank, for financing India's foreign trade. The loan facility has been given for a period of 90 days, with a provision to extend it by one year.
6. The maximum credit which banks can extend to a particular corporate group has been increased from 25% to 30% of the bank's eligible capital base.
7. The time period for import payments against normal imports into India has been extended from 6 months to 12 months from the date of shipment.
8. Exporters can now Avail Bank Loans for Higher Period as the maximum permissible period of pre-shipment and post-shipment export credit sanctioned by banks to exporters has been increased from the existing one year to fifteen months, for disbursements made up to 31 July 2020.
9. Lending institutions have been allowed to convert the accumulated interest on working capital facilities over the total deferment period of 6 months into a funded interest term loan, to be fully repaid during the course of the current financial year, ending March 31, 2021.

Renewable Energy Business:



Recently, the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC Ltd.) have signed a MoU to set up a Joint Venture Company for Renewable Energy business.

As per the MoU, ONGC and NTPC will explore the setting up of offshore wind and other Renewable Energy Projects in India and overseas. They shall also explore opportunities in the fields of

sustainability, storage, E-mobility and ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) compliant projects. The MoU will enable both companies to accelerate their footprint in Renewable Energy.

NTPC Limited: It refers to National Thermal Power Corporation Limited. NTPC Ltd. is an Indian Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Power, engaged in the business of generation of electricity and allied activities. It is a company founded in 1975 which was incorporated under the Companies Act 1956 and is promoted by the Government of India. It is headquartered in New Delhi. The main purpose of NTPC is electricity generation and distribution natural gas exploration, production, transportation and distribution. The current Chairman and MD of NTPC Ltd: is Gurdeep Singh.

ONGC: It refers to the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited. ONGC is a state-owned enterprise of the Government of India, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. It is an Indian Multinational Crude Oil and Gas Corporation. It was ranked as the largest profit making PSU in India. It is ranked 7th among the Top 250 Global Energy Companies by Platts. ONGC was founded on 14 August 1956 by Government of India (GoI). It is headquartered in New Delhi. The current CEO of ONGC is Shashi Shanker.

Places in News

Madhya Pradesh:



Madhya Pradesh (MP) is the second largest Indian state by area. It borders the states of Uttar Pradesh to the northeast, Chhattisgarh to the southeast, Maharashtra to the south, Gujarat to the west, and Rajasthan to the northwest. Its capital is Bhopal. The Chief Minister and Governor of Madhya Pradesh is Kamal Nath and Lal Ji Tandon respectively.

Recently, the Madhya Pradesh state government launched the the first of its kind Charan Paduka initiative. This initiative is for the migrant labourers passing through the Madhya Pradesh. Under the Charan Paduka campaign, the migrant labourers going barefoot are being provided shoes and slippers by the police to reduce their pain. This human initiative is being conducted by the police in most of the locations. The main aim of this scheme is to send the labourers to their homes respectfully amid COVID-19.

The Charan Paduka campaign started from the Rau Police Station of Indore and has spread in many cities of Madhya Pradesh including Damoh, Umaria, and Sagar.

Manipur:



Manipur is a state in northeastern India. It is bounded by the Indian states of Nagaland to the north, Mizoram to the south, and Assam to the west; Myanmar lies to its east. It was formed on 21 January 1972. Its Capital is Imphal. The current Governor and the Chief minister of Manipur are Najma Heptulla and Biren Singh respectively.

Recently, the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth has listed Manipur's 'khudol' (gift) among the top 10 global initiatives for an inclusive fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

KHUDOL: It is a crowdfunded initiative of Ya_All, an Imphal-based NGO. Under the initiative, the NGO provides food supplies and health services for the LGBTQI+ community, people living with HIV, daily-wage earners, children and adolescents.

Maharashtra:



Maharashtra is a state in the western peninsular region of India occupying a substantial portion of the Deccan Plateau. Its capital is Mumbai. The Chief Minister and the Governor of Maharashtra are Uddhav Thackeray and Bhagat Singh Koshiyari respectively.

Recently, "Mee Annapurna" initiative has been launched in Maharashtra by an IRDA licensed insurance intermediary "Integrated Risk Insurance". This initiative has been launched by Integrated Risk Insurance as a part of its commitment as a Corporate Social Responsibility towards the welfare of the farmers and agriculture community in Maharashtra. This initiative is a commitment of Integrated Risk Insurance to the Bhoomiputra's of Atmanirbhar Maharashtra in order to uplift the farming community by providing them long term sustainable programme for the continuity of their income. This programme is based on three commandments. They are Expertise, Engagement and Entitlement.

Person in News

Rajesh Goel:



He has been appointed as the new director-general (DG) of the Realtors body National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO). Prior to his appointment as the DG of NAREDCO, he was serving as the chairman and managing director of Hindustan Prefab Ltd. He has an experience of 37 years in leading PSUs under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

NAREDCO: It refers to the National Real Estate Development Council. NAREDCO was founded in 1998. It is headquartered in New Delhi.

Zubair Iqbal:



He is the Senior Vice-President of HDFC Bank. He has been appointed as new managing director of Jammu and Kashmir Bank. He has been appointed by Jammu and Kashmir Government for three-year tenure.

The current Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of J&K Bank R K Chibber will continue as CMD for the next 3 years. The appointments are based upon the continuous directions

by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to separate the positions of Chairman and Managing Director for better governance.

J&k bank: It refers to the Jammu & Kashmir Bank. J&k bank is public sector bank. It is not a regular public sector banks where the Center government is a majority stake holder but a privately owned bank where the state government hold majority stake. It is headquartered in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, India. It was incorporated on 1st October 1938. It was the first bank in the country to emerge as a state-owned bank. It commenced its business from 4th July 1939 in Kashmir, India.

Dr Harsh Vardhan:



He is the current Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare of India. He has been elected as Chair of the Executive Board of World Health Organization (WHO) for the year 2020-21. This took place today during the 147th session of the Executive Board. He will be taking charge of the 34-member Executive Board. He will replace Dr Hiroki Nakatani of Japan. He will chair the

148th session of the Executive Board in January 2011 and in May 2011 at the Meeting he will hand over the Chair to another from WHO region. However, he will continue to be a member of the Executive Board till 2023.

India had become a party to the WHO Constitution on 12 January 1948. The first session of the South East Asia Regional Committee was held on October 4-5, 1948 at the office of the Indian Minister of Health, and was inaugurated by Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister. India was nominated to as a member of the WHO Executive Board from the Region by Member States at the 72nd Regional Committee Session of WHO South-East Asia in September 2019. India was to replace Sri Lanka whose term expired in May 2020 and also to lead 147th and 148th Sessions of the Executive Board as Chairperson.

WHO Executive Board: The WHO Executive Board is composed of 34 members technically qualified in the field of health. The members are elected for three-year terms. The World Health Assembly is the WHO's decision-making body which consists of 194 Member States. The post for the Board's Chairman is held by rotation for one year by each of the WHO's six regional groups namely, African Region, Region of the Americas, South-East Asia Region, Eastern Mediterranean Region, Western Pacific Region and European Region. The main tasks of the Board are to give effect to the decisions and policies of the Health Assembly, to advise it and generally to facilitate its work. The Board and

the Assembly create a forum for debate on health issues and for addressing concerns raised by the Member States.

Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar:



He is the India's Chief Hydrographer of Indian Naval Hydrographic. He joined the Indian Navy in 1982. He leads the regional Capacity Building programmes of Indian Naval Hydrographic Office (INHO). He was honoured with Ati Vishisht Seva Medal for “distinguished service of an exceptional order during peacetime” in 2019. He has also been the member of the International Hydrographic Organisations (IHO's) Capacity Building Sub-Committee since its creation.

Recently, the National Hydrographer to the Government of India, Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar has been awarded the Alexander Dalrymple Award 2019. The award was presented to him by the UK Ministry of Defence in recognition for his outstanding contribution to Indian hydrography and across the broader Indian Ocean region. His work in the Gulf of Kutch and Khambhat and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are recognised as some of the most challenging environments in the world to perform surveys.

Alexander Dalrymple Award: The award is named after the first Hydrographer of the British Admiralty, Alexander Dalrymple and was first presented in 2006. Recipients of the award are selected by the Executive Committee of the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) from all over the world for their efforts in raising the standards of hydrography, cartography, and navigation.

IHO: It is an abbreviation for International Hydrographic Organisation. The IHO is an intergovernmental organization that works to ensure all the world's seas, oceans and navigable waters are surveyed and charted. It was established in 1921. It coordinates the activities of national hydrographic offices and promotes uniformity in nautical charts and documents. It is headquartered in Monaco. The current Director of International Hydrographic Organisations are Abri Kampfer (South Africa) & Mustafa Iptes (Turkey).

Art and Culture

MNRE:



It refers to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. MNRE is a ministry of the Government of India (GoI). It is mainly responsible for research and development, intellectual property protection, and international cooperation, promotion, and coordination in renewable energy sources such as wind power, small hydro, biogas, and solar power. It was founded in 1992. It is headquartered in New Delhi. The Minister currently responsible for MNRE is Raj Kumar Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) and the current secretary of the ministry is Anand Kumar.

Recently, Gol launched a scheme for 100 % solarisation of Konark sun temple and Konark town in Odisha. This task has been taken up by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA) will be responsible for implementation of this project.

Under this scheme, a 10 MW grid connected solar project and various solar off-grid applications like solar trees, solar drinking water kiosks, off-grid solar power plants with battery storage etc will be set up. There will be 100% Central Financial Assistance (CFA) support of around Rs. 25 Crores from Gol through MNRE. The scheme aims to meet all the energy requirements of Konark town with solar energy.

Books and Authors:



A new book titled 'Hop On: My Adventures on Boats, Trains and Planes' by Ruskin Bond was released on his 86th Birthday in an e-book format. The book narrates some of his memorable travel adventures on boats, trains and planes from his childhood. The book presents its readers with a number of the author's hilarious journeys and travel adventures. The illustrations for Ruskin Bond's new book have been done by Samrat Halder.

Ruskin Bond: Ruskin Bond is an Indian author of British descent. He was born on 19 May 1934 in Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh. He did his schooling from Bishop Cotton School in Shimla, from where he graduated in 1950. He wrote one of his first short stories, "Untouchable", at the age of sixteen in 1951. He has been recognised his role in the growth of children's literature in India by the Indian Council for Child Education. He was awarded the Sahitya Academy Award in 1992 for Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra, his novel in English. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999 and the Padma Bhushan in 2014.

Defence

Gol:



It refers to the Government of India. Gol, recently implemented the recommendations made by the Shekatkar Committee of Experts (CoE) headed by the Chairmanship of Lt General D B Shekatkar (Retd) relating to border infrastructure. These were related to speeding up road construction, leading to socio economic development in the border areas. Gol based on the recommendation of the committee are has implemented to outsource road construction work beyond the optimal capacity of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). Gol has made mandatory to

adopt Engineering Procurement Contract (EPC) mode for execution of all works costing more than Rs 100 crore.

The other recommendations that were implemented are as follows:-

1. GoI has decided to introduce modern construction equipment, plants, and machinery that have been implemented by delegating enhanced procurement powers from Rs.7.5 crore to Rs.100 crore to BRO, for domestic and foreign procurements.
2. New Technology like blasting technology for precision blasting, use of Geo-Textiles for soil stabilisation, cementitious base for pavements, plastic coated aggregates for surfacing, is also being used to enhance the pace of construction.
3. The land acquisition and all statutory clearances like forest and environmental clearance are also made part of approval of Detailed Project Report (DPR).

The other recommendations made by the committee are as follows:-

1. The committee recommended closure of military farms in peace regions
2. The recruitment standard for the drivers in the army and clerical staff was enhanced. Also, the committee recommended reorganization of Army Headquarters.
3. The number of officers in the army headquarters to be reduced by 200.

Shekatkar Committee: The Shekatkar Committee was formed in 2018. The 11-member Shekatkar Committee was appointed by the late Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar in 2016 under chairmanship of Lt General DB Shekatkar. The committee was established with a mandate for Enhancing Combat Capability and Rebalancing Defence Expenditure of the Armed forces for better teeth-to-tail ratio. Shekatkar Committee had made recommendations on enhancing the combat potential of India's three armed forces, rationalizing the defence budget etc.

The committee submitted its report on December 21, 2016. It had apparently exceeded its brief with some 200 recommendations.

A major recommendation is that the defence budget should be 2.5% to 3% of the GDP.

Indian Navy:



The Indian Navy is the naval branch of the Indian Armed Forces. The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Navy. The Chief of Naval Staff, a four-star admiral, commands the navy. It was founded in 5 September 1612. The current Chief of Navy Staff (CNS) is Karambir Singh. Indian Navy day is celebrated on the 4th of December every year.

Recently, Landing Craft Utility Ship 'INLCU L57' was commissioned into Indian Navy in Port Blair. This warship has been built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE). The "INLCU L57" is the seventh LCU Mark IV class warship.

The primary role of the warship is transportation and deployment of main battle tanks, armoured vehicles, troops and equipment from ship to shore. The first ship of the Mark IV LCU Vessels INLCU L51 was commissioned into Indian Navy in March 2017.

V. Admiral G.M. Hiranandani Memorial Rolling Trophy:



Lieutenant Commander
Akshay Kumar
Vice Admiral
G.M. Hiranandani
Memorial Rolling Trophy
2020

This trophy was instituted in 2013 for the officer performing best in tactics during the year-long warfare specialisation course. The trophy was started in memory of late flag officer GM Hiranandani. Who was a commissioned officer of the commanding-in-chief of the Navy, Southern Naval Command from 1985 to 1987, and retired as Chief of the Navy in 1989.

Recently, the Vice Admiral G.M. Hiranandani Memorial Rolling Trophy for the year 2020 has been awarded to Lieutenant Commander Akshay Kumar. He was awarded by Vice Admiral A.K. Chawla, Flag Officer Commanding-in-chief (FOC-in-C) of the SNC at the award ceremony that was held at the Maritime Warfare Centre, Kochi, Kerala. Lieutenant Commander Akshay Kumar is commissioned in Anti-Submarine Warfare School of the Southern Naval Command (SNC) in Kochi.

Book prizes were awarded by the Commander-in-chief to commissioned naval officer Anshu Bhau for standing second and to commissioned naval officer Kuldeep Tyagi for the third position. Lieutenant Commander Mohit Kumar was also commended for performing exceeding well within the oral board like a Viva. On the Occasion, A.K. Chawla also emphasised the role of specialist officers stumped & the necessity for officers to be excellent professionals.

Vice Admiral Hiranandani: Vice Admiral Gulab Mohanlal Hiranandani, PVSM, AVSM, NM, PhD (29 June 1931 – 1 September 2009) was a senior Indian Navy officer. He served as the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff from 1987 to 1989. Prior to that, he served as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Southern Naval Command. He was the Commissioning Commanding Officer of the INS Rajput (D51), the lead vessel of the Rajput class destroyers. He was awarded the Nausena Medal for gallantry during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971. He was also the author of 3 volumes of the Official History of the Indian Navy from 1965 to 2000- Transition to Triumph (1965-1975), Transition to Eminence (1976-1990) and Transition to Guardianship (1991-2000).

MoD:



रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE

It refers to the Ministry of Defence. It was created in 1776 which is 244 years ago as Military Department by the British East India Company at Kolkata but in 15 August 1947, the Department of Defence became the Ministry of Defence under a cabinet minister. It is headquartered in New Delhi, India. It is charged with coordinating and supervising all agencies and functions of the government relating directly

to national security and the Indian armed forces. The President of India is the ceremonial

commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the country. The responsibility for national defence rests with the Cabinet. The function of MoD is to provide policy framework and resources to the armed forces to discharge their responsibility in the context of the defence of the country. The Indian Armed Forces (including Indian Army, Indian Air Force, Indian Navy) and Indian Coast Guard under the Ministry of Defences are primarily responsible for ensuring the territorial integrity of the nation. The current Defence Minister is Rajnath Singh.

Recently, the Defence Ministry has approved procurement of 26 defence items only from local suppliers to boost 'Make in India' initiative. This was done through the amendment of Public Procurement Order 2017.

Under this order, Department of Defence Production (DDP), has so far notified 127 items where purchase preference is given to local suppliers as per PPP-MII 2017. In order to further encourage procurement from local suppliers, 26 items out of 127 already notified, have now been notified under clause 3(a) of the Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order 2017.

Therefore, procuring entities shall procure these items only from local suppliers, irrespective of purchase value, provided that the local suppliers meet the Minimum Local Content (MLC) as prescribed for each item. Some of the items are oil pumps (50% of MLC), doors (60%), high temperature Gasket (50%), etc.

Public Procurement Order: The Public Procurement Order was issued in 2017 to encourage Make in India and to promote manufacturing and production of goods and services in India.

Indian Polity

SARFAESI Act:



It refers to the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 of the Indian law. The Act allows banks and other financial institution to auction residential or commercial properties to recover loans. It provides 3 alternative methods for recovery of non-performing assets. They are:-

1. Securitization
2. Asset Reconstruction
3. Enforcement of Security without the intervention of the Court

It was enacted by the Parliament of India on 17 December 2002 and commenced on 21 June 2002. The first asset reconstruction company (ARC) of India, ARCIL, was established under this act.

Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) of India ruled that all co-operative banks in the country could make use of the SARFAESI Act of 2002 to make recovery against defaulting persons.

A five-judge Constitution bench presided over by Justice Arun Mishra held that all such cooperative banks involved in the activities related to banking are covered within the meaning of 'Banking Company' under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, hence, the cooperative banks cannot carry on any activity without compliance of the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and any other legislation applicable to such banks relating to banking."

In the past, an amendment in Banking Regulation Act of 1949, to include cooperative societies as financial institutions were declared as null and void by the Gujarat High Court in 2013 while the Delhi High Court, on the other hand, had ruled that the cooperative banks and societies were banks and financial institutions for all purposes and thus were allowed to use SARFAESI to make recoveries against the defaulters. There have been calls too, to notify non-scheduled urban cooperative banks as 'financial institutions' so they could make use of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC) to recover money.

Lok Sabha:



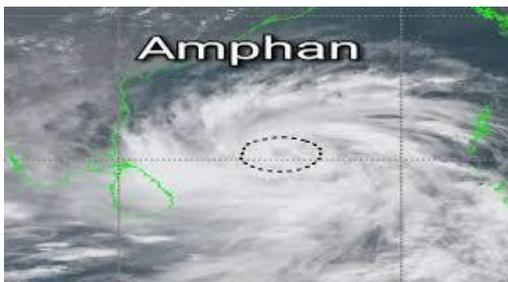
The Lok Sabha, or House of the People, is the lower house of India's bicameral Parliament, with the upper house being the Rajya Sabha. Members of the Lok Sabha are elected by adult universal suffrage. Under the constitution of 1950, its members are directly elected for a term of 5 years by territorial constituencies in the states. The maximum strength of the House allotted by the Constitution of

India is 550. Currently, the house has 543 seats which are made up by the election of up to 543 elected members and at a maximum. Two additional members were appointed by the president to represent the Anglo-Indian community but was abolished in January 2020 by the 104th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019.

Recently, Lok Sabha passed the Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020 which aims to amend Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 along with Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015. According to the amendment of this, commercial mining will completely be open up in the coal sector and it also intends to remove end-use restrictions to participate in coal mine auction.

Environment

Cyclone Amphan:

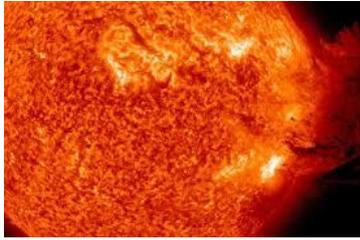


The first tropical cyclone of the 2020 North Indian Ocean cyclone season, Amphan originated from a low-pressure area persisting a couple hundred miles (300 km) east of Colombo, Sri Lanka. It intensified into a super cyclone with wind speed above 200 kmph moved further North-Northeastwards over West Central Bay.

The eastern Indian city of Kolkata has been devastated by this powerful cyclone. It has killed at least 84 people across India and Bangladesh. Thousands of trees were uprooted in the gales, electricity and telephone lines brought down and houses flattened.

Amphan is the first super cyclone to hit the region in the last two decades since a super cyclone Fani hit Odisha in 1999 causing widespread damage and loss of life.

Solar Minimum:



The sun is said to have gone into a state called the 'solar minimum' and is about to enter the deepest period of 'sunshine recession' as sunspots are virtually not visibly at all. At Solar Minimum, the ultraviolet radiation decreases but its effect can be primarily observed at the stratosphere and the higher altitudes. It causes the Earth's atmosphere to shrink slightly which reduces the drag on satellite. This is because Sun has a cycle that lasts on average 11 years, and right now we are at the peak of that cycle. The Solar Cycle is also called the Solar Magnetic Activity Cycle. It was first observed by Galileo Galilei in the early 17th century.

Every 11 years or so, sunspots fade away, bringing a period of relative calm called the solar minimum. And it's a regular part of the sunspot cycle. As per the reports of the space authorities, it has been almost 100 days this year when the sun has shown zero sunspots. While intense activity such as sunspots and solar flares subside during solar minimum, that doesn't mean the sun becomes dull. Solar activity simply changes form. For instance, during solar minimum we can see the development of long-lived coronal holes.

According to NASA the sun's magnetic field weakens and provides less shielding from these cosmic rays during a solar minimum which will directly increase the threat to astronauts travelling through space which may cause health risks to them.

Western Ghats:



The Western Ghats are the mountainous faulted and eroded edge of the Deccan Plateau. Geologic evidence indicates that they were formed during the break-up of the supercontinent of Gondwana some 150 million years ago. The Western Ghats, also known as Sahyadri, are a mountain range that covers an area of 140,000 square kilometres in a stretch of 1,600 kilometres parallel to the western coast of the Indian peninsula, traversing the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat. The highest point in the Western Ghats is Anamudi. It is sometimes called the Great Escarpment of India. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of the eight "hottest hot-spots" of biological diversity in the world.

Recently, the Union Minister of Environment Prakash Javedkar interacted with Chief Ministers & State Government Officers of six states viz, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu via video confrencing. The meeting was held to discuss issues relating to notification of Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) pertaining to Western Ghats.

Earlier, the Government of India (GoI) had constituted a High Level Working Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kasturirangan to protect the bio diversity of Western Ghats while allowing for sustainable development of the region.

The Committee had recommended that identified geographical areas falling in the six States of Kerala, Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa and Tamil Nadu may be declared as Ecologically Sensitive Areas.

Based on the report submitted by the committee, a draft notification was issued in October 2018 mentioning the areas to be notified in the ESA.

The State Governments have expressed their interests in expediting early notification of ESA and they were unanimous in ensuring the protection of Western Ghats.

ESA: It means ecologically sensitive Area. When an area is declared ESA, it means that restrictions are put on mining, thermal plants, quarrying, construction and setting up of industries.

International Day for Biological Diversity:



This day is observed across the world on 22 May every year. It is observed with an aim to raise awareness about the conservation of biodiversity. The day was proclaimed with an aim to commemorate the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on 22 May 1992 by the Nairobi Final Act.

Recently, the International Day for Biological Diversity 2020 was celebrated on 22 May 2020. The theme for 2020 is "Our solutions are in nature."

CBD: It refers to the Convention on Biological Diversity. CBD is the international legal instrument for "the conservation of biological diversity" that has been ratified by 196 nations. Given the significance of awareness for the implementation of the Convention, the General Assembly proclaimed 22 May, the date of the adoption of its text, as the International Day for Biological Diversity by its resolution in 2000.

India: On the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity 2020, Union Minister of Environment launched five key initiatives towards conservation of biodiversity. The initiatives are:

1. Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme which is an initiative of National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It aims at engaging 20 students in post graduate programme for a period of 1 year. The programme will engage creative students that are willing to learn about biodiversity conservation and natural resource management.
2. Not all Animals Migrate by Choice campaign which is on Illegal Trafficking of Endangered Species: 'Not all Animals Migrate by Choice' was launched by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with UNEP. Illegal trade in wildlife poses a high risk of spreading dangerous pandemics. It seeks to address these environmental challenges, to raise awareness, and to advocate solutions.
3. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau campaign called Not All Animals Migrate by Choice was launched.
4. A Webinar series on "Biodiversity Conservation and Biological Diversity Act, 2002" was launched.

5. The World Wildlife Fund Model Conference of Parties which includes younger generation was launched. This initiative seeks to engage them towards imprint of humanity towards biodiversity.

The year 2020 is also the “SUPER YEAR FOR BIODIVERSITY”. The United Nations had framed 20 global actions to be implemented between 2010 and 2020. This is called Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.



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