

June 2020

1 First Edition of 'Matsya Sampada' launched by Union Minister

On 30th June 2020, the first edition of Fisheries and Aquaculture Newsletter was launched. The name of the newsletter is 'Matsya Sampada'. The newsletter was launched by the Union Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Giriraj Singh. From the first quarter of 2020-21, newsletter Matsya Sampada will be published on a quarterly basis. The operational guidelines for the PMMSY scheme have also been published in the first edition of the newsletter.

Aim of Matsya Sampada Through the newsletter, the Department of Fisheries will aim to reach out to the fishers and fish farmers of the country. The newsletter will serve as a means of communication for educating and providing the latest information and developments related to the fisheries and aquaculture sector to all the stakeholders involved in the sector.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) With an investment of Rs 20050 crore, the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) was launched in May 2020. Through the scheme, responsible and sustainable development of the fisheries sector will be aimed, which will further help in creating an AtmaNirbhar Bharat. Under the scheme, 55 lakh (5.5 million) jobs are expected to be created over the next 5 years as the target has been set for an additional 7 million (70 lakh) tonnes of fish production per year.

2 National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has launched its mobile application

On 30th June 2020, the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has launched its mobile application 'NADA INDIA' for creating a bridge with the athletes under which information on prohibited substances would be provided easily. The mobile application was launched by the Union Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju. Benefits of the Mobile Application Information on medicines that are commonly prescribed and used by Athletes will be available in the application Information on Inadvertent use of prohibited substances that may affect the career of athletes Registered Testing Pool (RTP) athletes under NADA can update their whereabouts, this will ensure a smoother and quicker process for conducting tests as per availability of Dope Control Officers This will make athletes self-dependent for information on which medication or substance is to be used or not National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) NADA is headquartered in New Delhi, founded on 24th November 2005 for monitoring and promoting doping control programs in all forms of sports in India. NADA is also responsible for ensuring the proper implementation of anti-doping policies in all forms of sports in India.

3 The National People's Congress Standing Committee (NPCSC) has unanimously passed the National Security Law for Hong Kong

The National People's Congress Standing Committee (NPCSC) has unanimously passed the National Security Law for Hong Kong on 30th June 2020. The three-day meeting of the Standing Committee began on 28th June, on the first day itself the controversial Bill was fast-tracked for approval, on the last day of the meet all 162 members of the Standing Committee approved the Bill. The National Security Law of Hong Kong is expected to come into effect from 1 st July 2020 onwards. Back in 1997, on 1 st July, the Hong Kong City was handed over to China as a Special Administrative Region from the British rule. Earlier in the month, under the National Security Law, the establishment of a National Security Bureau in Hong Kong was confirmed after a three days .On 19th June 2020, it was also reported in Chinese media that all departments under the Hong Kong government will be directly answerable to Beijing once the legislation is implemented. Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Region of China since 1997 when the former colony was returned by Britain to China. Matters related to foreign affairs and defence of Hong Kong are controlled by China, rest it has its own- Executive, Legislative, and Independent Judicial Power.

4 Senior Advocate K.K. Venugopal as the Attorney General for India

On 29th June 2020, the President of India has reappointed Senior Advocate K.K. Venugopal as the Attorney General for India. The current tenure of K.K. Venugopal was up to 30th June 2020, his tenure was extended for a period of one year effective from 1 st July 2020 to 30th June 2021. On 30th June 2017, K.K. Venugopal succeeded Mukul Rohatgi to become the 15th Attorney General of India. K.K. Venugopal K.K. Venugopal has been conferred with the second highest(Padma Vibhushan) and the third-highest (Padma Bhushan) civilian honour by the Indian Government. In 2002, he was conferred with Padma Bhushan while in 2015 he was awarded the Padma Vibhushan. When Bhutan's Constitution was drafted, he served as the Constitutional Adviser for the Royal Government of Bhutan. Attorney General for India On advice with the Union Cabinet, the President of India appoints the Attorney General of India under Article 76 (1) of the Indian Constitution. The term of the Attorney General is decided by the President of India. The Attorney General is the Chief Legal Advisor for the Government of India. M.C Setalvad served as the first Attorney General for India from 1950 to 1963.

5 World's Largest Plasma Therapy Trial under Project 'Platina' launched by Maharashtra

The World's largest Convalescent Plasma Therapy Trial project was launch on 29th June 2020 by the Maharashtra State Government. The name of the project is Platina. The project was virtually launched by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra Uddhav Thackeray. For this trial project, the Indian Council of Medical Research has given the approval to conduct plasma therapy in COVID-19 positive patients admitted in the 21 COVID-19 hospitals of the Maharashtra State Government. Project Platina In the absence of a definite treatment or drugs for the COVID-19 positive patients, Convalescent Plasma

Therapy has shown encouraging results on patients across the world. As Maharashtra has been the. This helps the patient's body to develop similar antibodies for fighting the COVID-19 virus.

6 The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on 26th June 2020 has stated that amid the COVID-19 global pandemic, around 2.4 million (24 lakh) children who are below the age of 5 are facing hunger and malnutrition in Yemen.

The global pandemic has further added to a shortage of humanitarian aid in the war-torn nation that is has been struggling with a widespread shortage of essential services, medicines, etc since the beginning of the civil war back in 2015. UNICEF has further stated that within the next 5-6 months, 30,000 children below the age of 5 could suffer from life-threatening acute malnutrition. More than 90 lakh (9 million) Yemeni children do not have access to hygienic factors such as safe water, food, and sanitation today. During this pandemic, only half of the health facilities operating in Yemen, that too is struggling to cope due to lack of infrastructure, equipment, staff and other facilities. Yemen Civil War The Civil War in Yemen stated in march 2015 between the Houthi Armed Movement and the Government of Yemen. Both the fractions claim to constitute the official Government in Yemen. The Houthi armed forces at present have control over Sanaa (the Capital City of Yemen)

7 STARS Program

On 28th June 2020, the World Bank Group has announced that a loan of USD 500 million (approx Rs 3700 crore) was approved by its Board of Executives on 24th June 2020 for improving the quality and governance of school education system in India. The loan approved will benefit 10 million teachers and 250 million school students across 1.5 million schools in 6 states of India. The loan was approved as a part of the STARS Program. The 6 Indian States are Rajasthan, Odisha, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Maharashtra. About the Loan The loan of USD 500 million will be sanctioned by the lending arm of the World Bank Group- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). Including a grace period of 5 years, the loan has a final maturity of 14.5 years. With this loan of USD 500 million, the World Bank Group has approved total financial assistance of more than USD 3 billion for improving the education system in India to date. STARS Program STARS stands for Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program. Since 1994 the program has helped in establishing a long partnership between India and the World Bank. Through the program, the World Bank Group has provided greater flexibility to the vision of the Indian Government to provide 'Education for All'. The Government of India has made significant strides in its vision over the years as the number of students going to school has increased to 248 million from 219 million between the 2004-05 to 2018-19 period. The program will have a series of reform initiatives that will help in addressing the learning outcome challenges that **exist** in the educational system in rural parts of the country.

8 29th June is celebrated as the National Statistics Day

To popularize the use of Statistics in everyday life, every year 29th June is celebrated as the National Statistics Day. The day 29th June was chosen to acknowledge the invaluable contributions made by Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in establishing the National Statistical System. 29th June is the birth anniversary of Prof. P.C Mahalanobis. National Statistics Day was celebrated first in the year 2007.

World Statistics Day is celebrated on October 20th every year. Since 1898 The Japanese brand of trust that promises the ideal in manufacturing. OKUMA Corporation Persons in News Important Days and Events .Theme of National Statistics Day 2020 SDG- 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) & SDG5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) Aim of the Day The day is being celebrated to sensitize the citizens of the country as to how Statistics helps in shaping and framing policies. Statistics helps us in presenting a result much effectively through correct analyses and the proper methods for collecting the data. Prof. P C Mahalanobis Recipient of Padma Vibhushan in 1968 Prof P.C Mahalanobis's contribution in the field of Statistics is recognized all over the world. He served as the Chairman of the United Nations Sub Commission on Statistical Sampling from 1947 to 1951. In 1931, Prof. P C Mahalanobis founded the ISI-Indian Statistical Institute (ISI formally registered in April 1932). Post Independence, a comprehensive socio-economic national sample survey was designed and planned by ISI, for this survey-the National Sample Survey (NSS) was established by him in the year 1950. To date, for the collection of sample surveys in the country, NSS is the premier agency of the Indian Government.

9 On 25th June 2020, a Tripartite Power Purchase Agreement (TPPA) was signed for the construction of the 1124 MW Kohala Hydro Power Project.

The agreement was signed in between the Government of Pakistan, Chinese Company- China Three Gorges Corporation (State-owned company of Chinese Government), and Government of Azad Kashmir (Part of Pakistan occupied Kashmir). Kohala Hydro Power Project The Hydropower project is located near the villages of Siran and Barsala in Muzaffarabad district of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. The Hydro Power Project is located on the river Jhelum. The project is part of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor. The estimated cost of the project is USD 2,364 million and is expected to be completed by 2026. The Hydro Power Plant will be constructed by Kohala Hydropower Company Limited (KHCL).

10 Giant Ethiopian Renaissance Dam

On 26th June 2020, Ethiopia's Water Minister has stated that a consensus had been reached between the three countries(Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt) over the USD 4.5 billion worth Giant Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and the dam will not be filled unilaterally by Ethiopia. Three countries have been involved in continuous negotiations over the years to reach an agreement. Over the last couple of months, there were serious clashes and unprecedented escalations reported for the border between Ethiopia and Sudan. Now with the tripartite agreement likely to be signed in upcoming weeks, regional stability at the Horn of Africa might improve significantly in upcoming years. Background In 2011 when Ethiopia started construction for the dam on the Blue Nile, Egypt immediately protested. As the Blue Nile which originated from Lake Tana in Ethiopia flows downstream through Sudan to Egypt. Egypt is dependent on the Nile River for freshwater estimated that the dam might block its annual share of water resources of 55.5 billion cubic meters. Nile River The Nile River is the longest river in the African continent. There are two major tributaries of the river- the White Nile and the Blue Nile. These two tributaries of the Nile River meet near the capital of Sudan, Khartoum. The White Nile and the Blue Nile enter Sudan from South Sudan and Ethiopia respectively before converging to the north of Khartoum. From Khartoum, the river flows downstream to enter Egypt.

11 'Sankalp Parva' on the call of Prime Minister by Ministry of Culture from 28th June to 12th July 2020

12 3.5 Million Houses Handed Over to Beneficiaries under PMAY-U, Highlights from 5 Years of PMAY-U, SCM, and AMRUT

June 27, 2020 On 25th June 2020, a webinar was conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to mark the 5 years of successful completion of the 3 Schemes. The Progress, Achievements, and Outcomes from the 3 schemes in the 5 years are: Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) The Mission covers more than 60 percent of the urban population of the country. Rs 77, 640 crores has been approved for projects under the State Annual Action Plans out of which Rs 75, 829 has been sanctioned to date. Drinking-Water Supply Projects- Rs 39,011 crore allocated for providing water to 1.39 crore households Sewerage and Septage Projects- Rs 32,546 crore allocated for providing the service to 1.45 crore households Energy-efficient LED Streetlights have replaced 76 lakh conventional streetlights (reduction in 13 lakh tonnes of Carbon Dioxide emission per annum) Online Building Permission System (OBPS) implemented Smart Cities Mission (SCM) Rs 1,66,000 crores of tender for projects have been issued to date out of which Rs 1,25,000 crores of work orders have been issued. Additional 1000 projects worth Rs 32,500 have been tendered. Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCC) developed In last one year, 1000 additional projects at a cost of RS 36000 have been completed Start-up culture in Smart Cities under Smart Cities Mission started with joint efforts from Invest India and AGNI Urban Learning Internship Program (TULIP) developed Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Urban (PMAY-U) Validated demand for 1.12 Crore houses in 5 years of the scheme 35 lakh (3.5 million) houses have been delivered to beneficiaries to date 65 lakh houses are under construction at the moment, this will generate 3.65 crore jobs as the government has set a target to deliver 1.12 Crore houses under the scheme by 2022.

13 'At One Click' Initiative launched by Gujarat Government for MSMEs & Other Bigger Industries

June 27, 2020 For 12,247 Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and bigger industrial units (including the textile industry) in the state, the Gujarat Government on 26th June 2020 has launched an online cash aid initiative. The initiative is named as 'At One Click'. The initiative was launched by the Chief Minister of Gujarat Vijay Rupani. About the Initiative 'At One Click' is an online aid initiative for which the Gujarat Government has committed Rs 1,369 crore of financial aid for the MSMEs and bigger industrial units. Objective of the Initiative Through the initiative, the State Government looks to restore the former vibrancy of the state by motivating sectors such as MSME, traders, bigger industries, and businesses. The online initiative is to encourage these sectors for taking up the challenge that the COVID-19 crisis has brought and convert this into an opportunity. Launch of the Initiative By transferring Rs 768 crore directly into the bank accounts of 12,247 MSMEs the initiative was launched. Bigger industrial units that include textile industries as well will be transferred Rs 601 crore under the initiative. The Chief Minister at the launch of the initiative has informed that 1.3 lakh loan applications from

MSMEs and other industries have been received in the state under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package of the Central Government. The total loan amount of Rs 8,200 crore has been sanctioned .

14 27th June: Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Day

June 27, 2020 The United Nations on 6 th April 2017 has adopted a resolution as per which 27th June to be observed every year as the day of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). The day was first observed in 2017, this year marks the 4th MSME Day. Importance of the Day For achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, Governments across the globe are required to create an environment for promoting innovation and creativity. For this, the importance of Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises needs to be recognized. This will further help in encouraging the formalization and growth of the MSME sector across the domestic and international markets. Globally, the MSME sector is the largest employment provider and also the backbone of major economies. As per the International Council for Small Business data, MSMEs on average contribute 50 percent in the GDP and generate 70 percent employment in an Fiber Laser Cutting Machine XTLASER economy. Most of the employment generated by MSMEs is for the vulnerable sectors of our society. MSME Day 2020 At the time of a global pandemic when millions across the world have lost their jobs, MSMEs are creating the most significant employment and income generation opportunities, especially in rural areas. But as countries across the globe have been imposing nationwide or partial lockdown, the business of the MSMEs have also affected significantly. Their primary obstacle has been lack of access to financial support. This year's MSME day is to raise awareness and remind the governments of the important role that MSMEs have played in their economy over the decades. Reviving the MSME sector through financial support can revive the overall economy of a country.

15 Sero-Survey begins in New Delhi to determine the Spread of COVID-19

June 27, 2020 As a part of one of the five aspects of the revised COVID-19 response plan of New Delhi, the Delhi Government jointly with National Centre for Disease Control will conduct the Sero Survey across the National Capital from 27th June 2020. Amidst a rising number of COVID-19 cases over the last one month, the Survey will help in determining the extent of spread of the Coronavirus disease in New Delhi. 20,000 residents will be covered under the Survey from all the 11 districts of New Delhi.

16 NASA's headquarter building named after 'Mary W.Jackson'

June 26, 2020 NASA has named it's headquarter building at Washington D.C after its first African American Female Engineer Mary W.Jackson. The announcement was made on 24th June 2020 by the Administrator of NASA. The story of success of Mary W.Jackson was shown in the 2016 biographical drama Hidden Figures. The street outside the headquarters of NASA at Washington D.C was renamed as Hidden Figures Way in 2019. Mary W.Jackson National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics recruited Mary W.Jackson in 1951. The Committee was replaced by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958. Mary W. Jackson started her professional career as a research

mathematician at the Langley Research Centre of NASA. Later she was promoted to become the first African American female engineer at NASA. At the time when Martin Luther King, Jr. was fighting against discrimination (race, religion, national origin) in the United States, Mary W. Jackson quietly broke the barriers in the field of engineering and technology. She opened opportunities for African Americans and as well as for women by not accepting the status quo that existed in the society. Mary W. Jackson died in 2005. By naming the headquarter in her name, NASA has ensured that her contribution made by her for the women,

17 Indigenously Developed Torpedo Decoy System Inducted by Indian Navy

June 26, 2020 The Indian Navy has inducted an Indigenously developed Maareech capable Advanced Torpedo Decoy System on 26th June 2020. The induction has provided a huge boost to the Indian Navy's Anti-Submarine Warfare Capabilities. What is Torpedo Defence System? A Torpedo is a self-propelled underwater missile that can be launched from a surface vessel, submarine, and airplane. During a Torpedo attack, the Torpedo Defence System helps in detecting a torpedo and further applying countermeasures that are required for the protection of the naval platform. Trials with Prototype The prototype of the Anti-Torpedo Decoy System had successfully completed the trials. During the evaluation trials, the features demonstrated by the prototype has been as per the Qualification Requirements set by the Naval Staff. Design and Development Naval Science & Technology Laboratory (NSTL) and Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) are two laboratories of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The Anti-Torpedo Decoy System has been designed and developed at these laboratories of DRDO. Production The production of the Anti-Torpedo Decoy System will be undertaken by Bengaluru headquartered state-owned company Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL). Boost to Make-in-India The successful induction of the Anti-Torpedo Decoy System has provided a massive boost to the Make-in-India initiative. The success of the Indigenously developed Defence Technology will act as a confidence-building measure for the entire domestic Defence Industry of the country, which further will help in building an AtmaNirbhar Bharat.

18 K. Sanjita Chanu to receive Arjuna Award

June 26, 2020 Secretary of Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF) has informed on 25th June 2020 that K. Sanjita Chanu will receive the Arjuna Award for 2018. The two time Commonwealth Games Gold medalist was cleared of doping charges earlier this month by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF). The Secretary of IWF has also informed that the Sports Ministry has confirmed that K. Sanjita Chanu will be awarded Arjuna Award for 2018. Since 1898 The Japanese brand of trust that promises the ideal in manufacturing. World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) had suspended the accreditation of the laboratory of the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) was the sample of the Indian weightlifter was tested positive for testosterone (a banned anabolic steroid) back in November 2017 prior to the 2017 World Weightlifting Championships in Anaheim, United States. Following this, Sanjita Chanu was provisionally suspended on 15th May 2018. WADA suspended the accreditation of the laboratory citing certain 'non-conformities' in handling the test samples of the Indian weightlifter by the USADA laboratory during analysis. This was informed to IWLF by WADA on 28th May 2020 after which in June 2020 Sanjita Chanu was cleared of all doping charges by IWF. Sanjita Chanu Born in Kakching district of

Manipur, 26-year-old Khumukcham Sanjita Chanu has won Gold Medal in Commonwealth Games twice in 2014 (48 Kg category) and in 2018 (53 Kg category)

19 26th June: International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

June 26, 2020 In order to make societies across the world free of drug abuse, on 7 th December 1987, by adopting resolution 42/112, the United Nations General Assembly declared 26th June to be observed as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The Theme for 2020 International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking: Better Knowledge for Better Care Focus of 2020 Theme For countering the impact that drug has on our societies, it is important that cross border cooperation increases among countries across the globe. This will help in restricting the negative effects of many kinds of misinformation that has caused challenges for the authorities involved in addressing the drug problem. Essay on Climate Change? Here's what you need to know. Drug trafficking has hindered the overall development of many developing countries over the years, as the financially weaker sections of society fall prey to various drug or trafficking networks for monetary stability in life. For countering this, understanding has to improve for which better knowledge through greater international cooperation is important for countering these negative impacts on society. Significance of the Day in 2020 As per the World Drug Report 2020, if 2009 data are compared to the 2018's, there has been a 30 percent increase in the number of drug consumers across the globe. 269 million people have used drugs in 2018. At a time of a global pandemic, the day is to encourage individuals, private sectors, non-profit organizations, and the Governments across the world to continue their efforts in raising awareness

20 World Bank RCEP Member States hope India will Rejoin the Proposed Trade Agreement

June 25, 2020 A virtual inter-sessional ministerial meeting of the proposed free trade agreement of a group of 15 countries from the Indo Pacific region- Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) was conducted on 23rd June 2020. Apart from the 10 ASEAN countries, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Australia and China are the 15 countries that are negotiating for the free trade agreement. Since the outbreak of the global pandemic in March 2020, this was the 3 rd major RCEP meet, earlier the 29th and the 30th RCEP Trade Negotiating Committee meeting were conducted in the months of April and May in which all the 15 participating countries have reaffirmed to sign the agreement in 2020. The economic crisis that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought has accelerated the RCEP negotiations over the last months as all the 15 countries under the negotiating agreement are looking for a larger market for their economic recovery .India with a population of more than 130 crores is being recognized as a valuable participant under the free trade agreement. In a joint statement released after the ministerial-level meeting of RCEP countries on 24th June 2020, it was stated that the RCEP group remains open for India, the participation of India in RCEP will contribute to the prosperity and overall advancement of the region. India's stance to RCEP India pulled out of the RCEP group in November 2019 as opening up the market through this free trade agreement can put the domestic manufacturers and producers of India at risk of getting swamped by imports from China. Also, India has already a trade deficit with 11 out of the 15 countries participating in the RCEP agreement.

21 China annexes parts of Nepal by diverting the flow of Rivers that acted as Natural Boundary

June 25, 2020 A report prepared by Nepal's Agricultural Ministry's Survey Department has indicated that China has diverted the flow of rivers in certain areas of the Nepal-China border. These rivers act as a natural boundary between the two countries. As per the report, in a total of 11 places where the Chinese have encroached the Nepalese territory, in 10 places China has diverted the flow of rivers for encroachment. In these 10 places, the total area of Nepalese land encroached by China is said to be around 33 hectares. Highlights from the Report Humla District: Route of Bagdare Khola River and Karnali River are diverted. By this diversion, China has annexed 10 hectares of land under its Tibet Autonomous Region.

Rasuwa District: Routes of 3 rivers- Jambu Khola, Sinjen, and Bhurjuk are diverted. The total area of about 6 hectares annexed in this district.

Sindhupalchowk District: In this district, a total of 11 hectares of land has already been claimed by China as its own territory. This was done by diverting the route of Bhote Kosi and Kharane Khola rivers.

Sankhuwasabha District: Routes of 3 rivers- Arun, Sumjung, and Kam Khola are diverted. The total area annexed by China in this district is 9 hectares. China have also annexed Nepalese Villages Rui and Teigha. Another report that was published by media houses in Nepal claims that 2 villages in the northern part of the Gorkha district have been annexed by China. The name of the villages is Rui and Teigha. These villages are currently included in the map of Nepal (also included in the newly amended map of Nepal that was passed on 13th June). But as per the reports, the boundary pillars that demarcated as the border between the two countries have been removed.

22 Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps to set up Permanent Base in the Indian Ocean

June 25, 2020 The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has announced that it will set up its permanent military base in the Indian ocean by March next year. The announcement was made by Alireza Tangsiri on 23rd June 2020. Alireza Tangsiri is the Navy Commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The Navy Commander informed that the move of setting up a Permanent Base in the Indian Ocean is as per the instructions by Supreme Leader of Iran Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. He further added that the move of setting up a permanent presence far away from the country in the waters was taken as a result of repeated harassment faced by Iranian Fishermen in the ocean from pirates and even encroachments made by foreign vessels in the Indian Ocean and the Sea of Oman. Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps was established on the order of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini (1st Supreme Leader of Iran). It is a branch of the Iranian Armed Forces. It was founded on 22nd April 1979 after the Iranian Revolution. At present, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is designated as a terrorist organization by the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain

23 First Yoga University outside India, Vivekananda Yoga University launched in Los Angeles

June 25, 2020 The world's first Yoga University outside India was launched on 23rd June 2020 at United State's Los Angeles city. The Yoga University has been named after Swami Vivekananda. The university will be known by the name- Vivekananda Yoga University. The University was launched as a part of the

commemorations for the 6th International Yoga Day. The virtual launch event was organized at New York City's Consulate General of India. V. Muraleedharan (Union Minister of State for External Affairs) and PP Chaudhary (Chairperson of the Standing Committee on External Affairs) jointly launched the Vivekananda Yoga University during the virtual event. Programs based on the ancient traditional Indian practice of yoga will be offered at the university with a combination of scientific principles and modern research approaches. For offering yoga-based higher education programs, the approval and official recognition for the launch of the university was received in November 2019 from California's Bureau of Private Post-secondary Education. Chancellor of SVYASA- Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (Deemed University at Bengaluru for the study of yoga), Dr. H R Nagendra will be the first Chairman of the Vivekananda Yoga University. SVYASA was founded in the year 2002, it is the first Yoga University of India and also of the World. Faculties for the Vivekananda Yoga University have been recruited from SVYASA. The first day of classes for the fall 2020 semester of the University will commence on 24th August 2020. Online Master's Program in Yoga (M.S Yoga) will also be offered by the University

24 Bridges Inaugurated in Jammu & Kashmir

June 24, 2020 Through the virtual platform, Jitendra Singh (Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region I/C) had inaugurated Border Roads Organisation (BRO) constructed bridges- Devika and Puneja on 24th June 2020. Devika Bridge The bridge is located at Udhampur of Jammu & Kashmir. Built at a cost of Rs 75 lakhs, the bridge fulfilled 70-year-old demand of the locals of the nearby region. Headquarters of the Indian Armies Northern Command is situated at Udhampur. Apart from solving traffic issues, the bridge will provide a smooth passage for the vehicles and convoys of the Indian army. The bridge is 10 meters long. Puneja Bridge The bridge is located in Bhaderwah town in Doda district of Jammu & Kashmir. The cost of constructing the bridge was Rs 4 crore. The bridge is 50 meters long. Border Roads Organisation (BRO) The Former and First Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru is credited as the founder of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). It is headquartered in New Delhi and was founded on 7 th May 1960. At present, BRO operates under 18 projects in the country. It maintains across 32,885 Kilometers of road and more than 12,200 meters of permanent bridges across the country.

25 Developed ULV Sprayer successfully completed Trials for Locust Control

June 24, 2020 With the rise in limitations for importing equipment, the Mechanization and Technology Division of the Department of Agricultural Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) led the initiative for developing indigenous vehicle mounted ULV (Ultra Low Volume) Sprayer for Locust Control. The indigenously developed prototype had completed the trials successfully. Trials were conducted at Ajmer and Bikaner districts of Rajasthan. To date, the United Kingdom-based firm-Micron Sprayers was the sole supplier of vehicle-mounted sprayers to India. Out of the 60 such spray equipment last ordered in February 2020 from the supplier, 15 has been delivered to date. Demerit of Vehicle Mounted Sprayer One demerit of the vehicle-mounted sprayer is that it can spray to a maximum height of between 25 to 30 feet as a result of which its use is limited, can't be used for tall trees, and inaccessible areas. Necessity for Aerial Spray Citing the limitations of the vehicle-mounted sprayer, the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has impaneled two firms for providing a spray of pesticides with the

help of drones. Further, an Empowered Committee was constituted for the procurement of the goods and services required for the aerial spray of pesticides. This Committee recommended 5 companies for the work order engagement of Drones. Each of the 5 companies has been issued 5 drones each. In a phased manner, 12 drones have been already deployed at 5 districts of Rajasthan to date. India became the first country in the world that is using Drones for controlling desert locust, this effort made by India was appreciated by the specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for improving food security and nutrition by defeating hunger across the world-the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)

26 India calls for 50% Staff Reduction after Pakistan violates Vienna Convention

June 24, 2020 On 23rd June 2020, within the next 7 days, the External Affairs Ministry of India has decided to reduce the staff strength of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad by 50% and has also directed the Pakistan Government to implement the same by reducing 50% of its staff from its Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi. This significant downgrading of diplomatic ties is due to: 1. The abduction and barbaric treatment with two Indian high Commission staff at Islamabad at gunpoint by Pakistan Government officials on 17th June 2020. The two Indian High Commission staff returned to India on 22nd June, the level of severe ill-treatment experienced by them at the hands of Pakistan Government Agencies highlights the continued effort of the Pakistan Tweet Email / Government over the decades to intimidate the Indian High Commission in Islamabad from carrying on their legitimate diplomatic functions. 2. Two Pakistan High Commission staff was caught red-handed in acts of espionage by the Indian Officials in New Delhi on 31st May 2020. These two Pakistan High Commission staff was also dealing with terrorist outfits. These two Pakistani Citizens were immediately expelled from their duties and were made to return to Pakistan on the same day. Over the years India has continuously expressed its concern on the activities of the Pakistan High Commission staff in New Delhi. With this incongruous behavior by the Pakistani Agencies with the two Indian High Commission staffs, Pakistan has violated the Vienna Convention Treaty and also the bilateral agreements between the two countries.

27 'YUKTI 2.0' Platform

June 24, 2020 On 23rd June 2020, Ramesh Pokhriyal (Union Human Resource Development Minister) launched YUKTI 2.0. The YUKTI 2.0 web portal initiative is a logical extension of the earlier version of 'YUKTI (launched on 11 th April 2020)' and is in line with the mission of making AtmaNirbhar Bharat. YUKTI stands for Young India combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology, and Innovation. YUKTI portal was launched for identifying many more disruptive solutions from higher Education Institutes as the thinking of the youngsters are more innovative. YUKTI 2.0 Portal The YUKTI 2.0 portal is for the Higher Education Institutes of New Delhi. Through the portal, the objective will be to acquire technologies in a very holistic and comprehensive way from startup incubators that have commercial potential. The startup incubators will be by the student entrepreneurs. The portal will help in establishing a market place where these young innovators will be connected with investors. Further, the support required for advancing the innovations and technologies of the Higher Education Institutions will be endeavored by the HRD Ministry through the portal. For the success of AtmaNirbhar Bharat, it is

important that a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation is fostered in the educational institutions of the country. For this, initiatives like YUKTI are essential to convert the young idea into enterprises.

28 Bill to Rename 'Tonoshiro' to 'Tonoshiro Senkaku' triggered tensions between Japan and China

June 23, 2020 A group of Islands without inhabitants located at the South China Sea has been a point of disagreement between Japan and China since 1972. The island is known by the name Senkakus in Japan, while in the People's Republic of China the Islands are known by the name Diaoyu. The island group is at present administered by the administrative authority of Ishigaki city of Japan's Okinawa Prefecture. The islands are located in the southern part of Japan, the entire area under which the Senkaku Islands are located is known by the name Tonoshiro in Japan. History The group of islands was controlled by the Ryukyu Kingdom of China as per records available. But during the First Sino-Japanese War the Islands were annexed by the Japanese Central Government. As Japan surrendered at the end of 2nd World War, the islands came under the power of the United States Government. 26 years later in 1971, the United States Senate passed the Okinawa Reversion Treaty to return the group of islands back to Japan. Japan took over the control of the islands from 1972. Since then China began to declare its ownership over the islands based on the fact that the islands were discovered during the 14th century by the Chinese Ryukyu Kingdom. Present Day On 22nd June 2020, the assembly of Ishigaki city passed the bill under which from 1st October 2020- the Tonoshiro area will be renamed as Tonoshiro Senkaku

29 23rd June: International Olympic

Day June 23, 2020 On 23rd June 1894, the International Olympic Committee was founded in Paris. The day 23rd June was chosen to be celebrated as International Olympic Day to commemorate the foundation day of the International Olympic Committee. International Olympic Day was first celebrated in the year 1948. A total of 9 countries celebrated the day in their respective countries in 1948. But today with time the energy and positivity with which the Olympians have inspired millions across the globe, the celebrations for the day are truly global in nature now. Irrespective of any sort of discrimination based on age, gender, etc, the National Olympic Committees across the world conduct creative events on this day that are based on three pillars 'Move, Learn, and Discover'. Significance for 2020 During these times of a pandemic, by sharing their home workouts, Olympians have become a source of inspiration and motivation for many across the world. These efforts made by Olympians at the time of a pandemic is to make everyone realize the importance of being active for staying healthy in mind and body. International Olympic Committee (IOC) Summer and Winter Olympic Games are organized by the IOC. It is a non-governmental sports organization headquartered at Lausanne, Switzerland. It was founded by Pierre de Coubertin and Demetrios Vikelas on 23rd June 1894

30 23rd June: United Nations Public Service Day

June 23, 2020 By adopting resolution 57/277 on 20th December 2002, the United Nations General Assembly designated 23rd June to be observed as 'United Nations Public Service Day' in order to highlight the value and virtue of public service to the community. The day is also observed so that the

value of public service for the development of the society can be understood by the younger generation, further they can be encouraged to pursue careers in the public sector. Significance for 2020 The COVID-19 pandemic has infected millions and has taken the lives of hundreds of thousands of people globally. At these difficult times when health care organizations are strained, lockdowns have led to a loss of jobs and financial crisis, education system, social life, etc are disrupted, this year's United Nations Public Service Day is to honour the frontline workers (Healthcare, sanitation, public servants, social welfare groups, transportation, law enforcement etc) who risk their lives to provide the essential services for the society. Public Service for SDGs For countries to achieve their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is essential that the public institutions in an economy are inclusive, effective, and accountable for all in society. The day is also to remind Governments across the world that the critical and essential role public administration plays towards improving people's lives

31 United States Temporarily Suspends 'Green Cards & Non-Migrant Work Visas' till 31st December 2020

June 23, 2020 Following a global economic crisis since the COVID-19 was declared a pandemic back in March 2020, the United States Government has decided to suspend 'Green Cards and Non-Migrant Work Visas' till the 31st December 2020 in an effort to protect jobs for the citizens of the United States. The executive order was signed by the United States President Donald Trump on 22nd June 2020. Background The suspension of Green Card and Non-migrant work visas will create around 5,25,000 jobs in the United States. Due to COVID-19, as per reports, a record 47 million could lose their jobs in the United States. Suspended Work Visas 1. H-1B 2. H-4 for some H-1B spouses 3. H-2B for low skill workers 4. L-1 for Intra-Company Transfers 5. J Visas for Educational and Cultural Workers Reform in H-1B Visa Programme President Donald Trump had also instructed his administration to make reform in the current H-1B Visa Programme. As per the reform, immigrant workers those who are offered the highest wages by the recruiter shall be given priority, this is to ensure that the wages of United States citizens are protected as employers will not be able to recruit low-cost foreign labour. Until today, the H-1B visas were distributed through a random lottery. Impact on India Every year H-1B Visas are issued to 85,000 only, out of these, as per the records the largest beneficiaries of the visa programme was the Indians. A more than 70 percent of the total 85,000 beneficiaries are from India.

32 India becomes 12th Largest Holder of US Government Securities at April 2020 end

June 22, Despite low returns, the Treasury Securities (are of four types- Bills, Notes, Bonds, Inflation-Protected Securities) backed by the United States Treasury Department is one of the safest assets for any Central Bank around the world. With USD 157.4 billion at the end of April 2020, India has become the 12th largest holder of United States Government Securities. India's holding touched an all-time record high of USD 177.5 billion at the end of February 2020 but was reduced to USD 156.5 billion at the end of March 2020. This significant drop was due to the financial impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic. As economic uncertainties increased following lockdowns in most countries across the world, securities were sold by India in the month of March. Contents [hide] How the Indian Government invests in US Government Securities? Top 5 Countries as per US Government Security holdings (at the end of April 2020) How the Indian Government invests in US Government Securities? On behalf of the

Government of India, India's Central bank- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) invests in foreign assets. These foreign investments are part of prudential liquidity management. Top 5 Countries as per US Government Security holdings (at the end of April 2020) 1. Japan- USD 1.266 Trillion 2. China- USD 1.073 Trillion 3. United Kingdom- USD 368.5 Billion 4. Ireland- USD 300.2 Billion 5. Luxembourg- USD 265.5 Billion.

33 Tripura Government to start 'Play Little, Study Little' Scheme from 25th June

June 22, 2020 The state government of Tripura has decided to start a scheme for school students from 25th June 2020. The scheme is named 'Ektu Khelo, Ektu Padho' –meaning 'Play Little, Study Little'. The scheme will be implemented via SMS or WhatsApp. For students, those who have access to smartphones of their parents will be able to access the scheme through WhatsApp. For students having feature phones, they will be able to access through SMS. The objective of the scheme is to make sure that students invest their time in studies during these times of uncertainty as it could still take a couple of months for schools to reopen due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As per the scheme name 'Play little', students apart from studies will also be provided with fun and games activities. The scheme will benefit students from 4,398 government-aided and 335 private schools across the state. How Students will get access to the scheme? Every morning, from the headquarter of the state's Education Department the learning contents will be shared with the academic coordinator each district. The coordinator of the district will share the same with the headmasters of the schools located in that particular district. The school headmasters will further share it with the teachers of their schools, a single teacher will have the responsibility of a particular number of students of the school. The teacher will share the content with the students.

34 Ambubachi Mela at Kamakhya Temple for the first time in Recorded History

June 22, 2020 At the centuries-old historic Kamakhya Temple at Guwahati, for the first time in six centuries of record available from 1565, the 5 days Ambubachi Mela will not be organized due by keeping in mind the possibility of spreading the COVID-19 virus. Every year the fair draws lakhs of pilgrims, tourists, sadhus, and others from all over the country. As per the Assam State Tourism, a minimum of 5 lakh devotees attend the fair that also includes many foreigners. The rituals of Ambubachi Mahayog will be performed by the priests of the temple by maintaining the social distancing norms. The Mahayog will be performed at the Devalaya from 07:53:15 am- 22nd June to 8:16:55 pm- 25th June. Kamakhya Temple will remain closed for the devotees till the 30th of June 2020 as per the decision taken by the Kamakhya Devalaya Management Committee. Kamakhya Temple The Hindu temple located at the Nilachal Hill is dedicated to the mother goddess Kamakhya. The temple as per history was built by King Narakasura. As per the official records available from 1565, the temple was rebuilt by Koch King Naranarayan. Kamakhya is one of the 51 Shakti Peeths (each of the 51 Shakti Peeths represents a body part of Lord Shiva's companion, Sati).

35 21st June: World Hydrography Day

June 21, 2020 Hydrography plays one of the most important roles in today's world by describing the physical feature of the navigable portion of the water covered area on the Earth's surface through maps and nautical charts. Without a hydrographic survey, navigation for ships or fishing boats would have been much difficult. The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) was founded on 21 June 1921. To highlight the importance of hydrography, on 29th November 2005, the resolution 'A/60/30 Oceans and the Law of the Sea'. was adopted at the United Nations General Assembly under which 21st June was recognized as World Hydrography Day from 2006 onwards. As of October 2019, IHO has a total of 93 member states. The day marks an opportunity for the governments of the member states to reaffirm their Share Share Tweet Email / commitment towards promoting safe navigation across the water bodies on the earth by increasing the coverage of hydrographic information on a global basis. The theme of 2020 World Hydrography Day: Hydrography- Enabling Autonomous Technologies.

36 20th June: World Refugee Day

To honor refugees across the globe, the United Nations designated 20th June to be observed as World Refugee Day in its Resolution 55/76 on 4th December 2000. The first World Refugee Day was observed on 20th June 2001. The theme of 2020 World Refugee Day: Every Action Counts This year's theme is to remind the citizens of each and every nation across the globe that at a time of a pandemic, anyone from the society can make a change. A small effort made by an individual or an organization can make a lot of difference in the overall global efforts to make the world a much more inclusive for all. Significance As per United Nations data, 20 people in every 1 minute are forced to flee from their home in order to escape terror, war and conflicts. By the end of 2019, there is a total estimate of 79.5 million people who were displaced forcibly in the world. Despite all the plight, the courage and resilience that are shown by refugees across the globe are being celebrated today in order to further strengthen them and make them realize that not only they will survive, but also thrive towards achieving their rights and dreams. For this, the governments across the globe are made to realize their duties on this date to protect and support the refugees. Apart from conflicts and terror, today the world also has many refugees who were forced to leave their homes due to natural disasters such as Tsunami, Earthquake, Floods, etc. Stats related to Refugees: As per 2019 United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), 68% of the refugees in the world are from countries Syria (6.6 million refugees), Venezuela (3.7 million refugees), Afghanistan (2.7 million), South Sudan (2.2 million) and Myanmar (1.1 million). Of the total 79.5 million refugees across the globe as in 2019, 26 million are under the age of 18

37 SATYABHAMA Portal for AtmaNirbhar Bharat in Mining and Mineral Sector launched

June 19, 2020 A portal named 'Science and Technology Yojana for AtmaNirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement (SATYABHAMA)' was launched by Union Ministry of Mines and Coal, Pralhad Joshi. About the Portal The portal has been designed and developed by emphasizing the need for promoting the role of digital technology in the mineral and mining sector of the country. The Mines Informatics Division of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) is the implementing agency of the portal. SATYABHAMA is also being integrated with the NITI Aayog portal- NGO Darpan. The portal can be accessed at –

research.mines.gov.in Aim of the Portal Through the Portal, the Central Government aims to encourage researchers and scientists to undertake qualitative and innovative research and development work in the mining and mineral sector. The Portal will help in increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of various schemes of the Government in this sector, optimum utilization of funds allocated to institutions in this sector for various research and development based projects, and in ensuring proper usage and conservation of mineral resources of the country. Advantages of the Portal SATYABHAMA Portal will allow researchers to submit their reports (Progress and Final) to be submitted in electronic format, to date this progress or final technical reports can only be submitted physically by the researchers. Project proposals can also be submitted through the portal. Through regular monitoring, the portal will also be used for the management of grants/funds for various projects by both the officials and for researchers and scientists. Digital submission of reports and proposals of projects and also the management of funds for projects will encourage more researchers and scientists to take work in the mines and minerals sector of the country. This will further help in building AtmaNirbhar Bharat.

38 RIL becomes first Indian Company to be valued at USD 150 Billion

In rupee term, Mumbai based Indian Multinational conglomerate company, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) on 19th June 2020 was valued at USD 150 billion following a rise in the share market, this also made RIL the first-ever Indian company to achieve a market value of above Rs 11 lakh crore. The positive growth in the shares of the company was registered after it announced that the company has become net debt-free well ahead of its target of March 2021. As of 31st March 2020, Reliance has a total debt of Rs 161,035 crore. Despite a pandemic, airlines & other international travel being suspended and a lockdown in most International business hubs across the world, in a period of 58 days, Reliance Industries was able to raise more than Rs 168,818 crore. Breakdown of which as follows: The existing shareholders of the company were offered shares worth Rs 53,124.20 crore. The remaining Rs 115,693.95 crore was raised through 11 deals of stake sale in RIL's subsidiary Jiop Platforms. Stake's of approx 24.70% in Jio Platforms are now owned by the following companies: United States company Facebook bought 9.99% stake at Rs 43,574 crore, this deal to date is the largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in any sector in India. Other companies are Abu Dhabi based investment companies- Mubadala and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, United States companies- General Atlantic, Silver Lake, Vista Equity Partners, KKR & CO. Inc., TPG Capital, and Catterton Partners. The most recent of the stake sale of 2.32% was on the 18th of June 2020 to the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia at Rs 11,367 crore.

39 India will be UNSC President for August 2021

After securing 184 out of the total 192 votes on 17th June 2020, India became a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for a period of 2 years. India's term will begin on 1 st January 2021. Apart from India, Norway, Kenya, Ireland, and Mexico were also elected for a period of 2 years as non-permanent members. The post of the presidency of the UN Security Council is rotated among the 15 member states (5 permanent, 10 non-permanent) every month. Based on that, India will have the presidency of the UN Security Council in the month of August 2021 and again for a month in

the year 2022. India was last elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the years 2011-2012. United Nations Security Council For ensuring peace and security across the world, the United Nations has a total of six principal organs, out of the six, the Security Council is one of the principal organs. The United Nations Security Council was formed in the year 1945. The Council has a total of 15 member states of which 5 are permanent members (United States, France, China, Russia, and the United Kingdom), this 5 permanent members only have the right to use the power of veto against any resolution. The remaining 10 non-permanent members are elected among the other member states of the United Nations for a period of 2 years. As compared to the other principal organs of the United Nations, the UNSC is the only authorized body under the United Nations that can issue a binding resolution on the member states if the members of the Council vote in favor of the resolution.

40 Solar Eclipse in India

The Earth is to witness an annular solar eclipse on June 21, 2020. The eclipse is to be the deepest as the moon is to cover 98.8% of the sun. Highlights There are four types of solar eclipses. They are partial solar eclipse, total solar eclipse, hybrid solar eclipse and annular solar eclipse. Total Eclipse: The total eclipse occurs when the moon completely obscures the sun Annular Eclipse: The eclipse that occurs when the sun and moon are in line with the earth. During this eclipse, the sun appears as a bright ring or an annulus. Hybrid Eclipse: This type of eclipse shifts between total and annular eclipse Partial Eclipse: This eclipse occurs when the sun and moon are not in line with the moon and the earth. India The eclipse to occur on June 21, 2020 will be visible in many parts of India. The eclipse is to continue for 6 hours. The eclipse is to be visible to states such as Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttarakhand. To the rest of the country, the eclipse is to be partial.

41 India-China clash at Galwan Valley

June 17, 2020 A violent clash broke out between the Indian and Chinese soldiers recently in the Galwan Valley of Ladakh region. Around 20 Indian soldiers were killed in the face-off. Highlights The loss of 20 Army personnel on the Line of Actual Control is considered as the most violent face off between Indian Army and the Chinese troops in more than 5 decades. What is the issue? The Armies of India and China are currently engaged in standoff in Galwan valley, Pangong Tso, Demchok and Daulat Beg Oldie in Ladakh. The stand off between the countries has increased in recent weeks as India is building a strategic road through the Galwan valley that is close to China. The road connects the region to an airstrip. This improves military access of India to the region. External Affairs Minister The External Affairs Minister of India Shri S Jai Shankar held a telephonic conversation with his counterpart Wang Yi. The minister has conveyed the protest of the Indian Government over the stand-off in strongest terms. Background The stand-off in the Galwan area was one of the biggest flashpoints in the 1962 war. China till date opposes to Indian constitutional provisions in the area. India, in 2019, abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution ending the special status to Jammu and Kashmir. China was one of the handful of countries that condemned the move. China even tried to raise the issue in the international forum including United Nations Security Council.

42 Institute for Management Development releases World Competitive Index

The Institute of Management Development recently released the World Competitive Index. India ranked 43rd in the ranking. Highlights In 2019, India was at the 43rd ranking. Since 1989, India had ranked 41st in the World Competitiveness Ranking. However, it slipped to 45th rank in 2017 and secured 44th in 2018. The continuous low ranking of India is mainly due to poor infrastructure and insufficient education investment. According to the ranking, India has improved in long term employment growth, foreign currency reserves, overall productivity, education. On the other hand, India had declined in taxes, real GDP growth, competition legislation, exchange rate stability. Other Countries Singapore secured the top position in the ranking system. Denmark was at the second position, followed by Switzerland, Netherlands, Hong Kong. The ranking is created by the business school based in Singapore and Switzerland. China slipped from 14th place to 20th and US moved to 10th place. Among the BRICS countries, China topped followed by India, Russia, Brazil and south Africa.

43 June 17: World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

Every year, the United Nations observes World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought on June 17. This year, the day is observed under the theme Theme: Food, Feed Fibre-The links between consumption and land Highlights The World Day to combat Desertification and Drought is observed focusing on changing public attitudes towards land degradation and desertification. Significance As the global population is growing and the world becoming wealthier, there is more need for land for food, clothing and animal feed. According to the United Nations, the world population is to reach 10 billion by 2050. In order to fulfil the needs of such huge population an additional 593 million hectares of agricultural land is needed by 2050 as compared to 2010 levels. This is twice the area of India. On the other hand, the health and productivity of the land is declining due to climate change. Thus, the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is to focus on educate the individuals about reducing the impacts that lead to land degradation. Background The day was proclaimed by the United Nations in 1995 after the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification was drafted. Sustainable Development Goals The 2030 Agenda for SDG includes to protect the Earth from degradation. The SDG 15 aims to halt and reverse land degradation

44 Fifth State of Matter observed by NASA scientists

The NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) scientists in the International Space Station unveiled the first results of Bose-Einstein condensate experiments under which the particles can be manipulated free from Earthly constraints. Bose-Einstein Condensates Bose-Einstein Condensates were predicted by Indian Mathematician Satyendra Nath Bose and Albert Einstein almost a century ago. The BEC is a state of matter that is typically formed when a gas of bosons is cooled to temperatures close to absolute zero. Absolute Zero is the temperature at which the entropy and enthalpy of cooled gas reach their minimum value. Four States of Matter There are four state of matter namely solid, liquid, gas and plasma. The fourth state of matter called the plasma was described by the chemist Irving Langmuir. It consists of gas of ions in which orbital electrons are removed and positively charged nuclei roam freely.

Fifth State of Matter The BEC is the fifth state of matter and was created by the scientists 25 years ago. When a group of atoms are cooled to absolute zero, the atoms clump together behaving as a one big super atom. This state is called the fifth state of matter and is referred to BEC.

45 June 16: International Day of Family Remittances

Every year, the International Day of Family Remittances is observed on June 16 by the United Nations. The day is observed all over the world. This year the day is celebrated under the theme Theme: Remittances are a lifeline Highlights The day is celebrated to recognize the efforts of migrants living abroad and help improve the lives of their family members in their home countries. The first International Day of Family Remittances was celebrated in 2015. The day encourages the public sector and private sector countries to make policies for the betterment of migrants and encourage remittances. What is Remittance? The transfer of money by a foreign worker to his or her family in their home country is called remittance. It is highly important as it is one of the largest financial inflows for the developing countries Remittances of India According to the World Bank, the remittances of India are expected to fall by 23% in 2020 due to COVID-19 crisis. The remittances of India were 83 billion USD in 2019. Around 17.5 million Indians are living abroad. Majority of them are in the gulf region, US, Western Europe and Canada. World Remittances The World Bank has projected that the global remittances for the year 2020 is to reduce to around 20% due to COVID-19 crisis. According to World Bank, the remittances are to fall to 445 billion USD this year as compared to 554 billion USD in 2019.

46 SIPRI Yearbook: Nuclear Weapons of India and China increases

On June 15, 2020, the Swedish think-tank launched the SIPRI Yearbook, 2020. According to the yearbook, India and China have increased their nuclear arsenal as compared to 2019.

Key findings

The think tank also reports that China is modernizing its nuclear arsenal. China and Pakistan as compared to India have more nuclear warheads.

The Think tank has listed the following

India has 150 nuclear war heads

China had 290 and Pakistan has around 150 to 160 nuclear war heads.

India

The report says that India is expanding its nuclear weapon stock pile and nuclear infrastructure. Aircrafts are the most mature component of nuclear strike capability of India. India has assigned 48 nuclear bombs to its aircrafts. India is also developing naval component of its nuclear triad.

China

The think tank says that China is developing the nuclear triad for the first time. It has made new sea-based missiles and nuclear capable aircrafts. The

country has assigned over 240 war heads to operate its land and sea based ballistic missiles. Also, China has adopted a nuclear strategy for its self

defence.

Findings of SIPRI

According to SIPRI, the nine major nuclear armed states of the world include US, UK, Russia, France, India, Pakistan, China, North Korea and Israel.

These countries together possessed 13,400 nuclear weapons in the beginning of 2020. However, this has decreased to 13,865 nuclear weapons as compared to 2019. Of these 3,720 nuclear weapons are currently deployed and 1,800 are kept in high operational alert.

The reduction in the number of nuclear weapons as compare to 2019 was mainly because of the dismantlement of retired nuclear weapons by Russia and

US. US and Russia alone possess 90% of world nuclear weapons.

47 Advisory Panel on Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) reconstituted

The Government of India recently reconstituted the advisory panel on corporate insolvency resolution and liquidation process.

Highlights

The IBBI recently reconstituted advisory panel by inducting four members. The committee was constituted in 2017 and is chaired by a noted banker Uday Kotak. The new members include Crisil MD Ashu Suyash, former chief economist at NSE Nirmal Mohanty, Edelweiss Group chairman Rashesh Shah and L&T Director R Shankar Raman.

The Committee

The Committee will advise on matter relating to corporate insolvency resolution and liquidation.

IBBI

The IBBI is a regulator that oversees insolvency proceedings in the country. It was established in 2016 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy code. The code aimed to speed up resolution process of stressed assets. The Insolvency code attempts to simplify the process of insolvency and bankruptcy proceedings.

IBBI Board

The IBBI board includes 10 representatives. It includes representatives from Reserve Bank of India, Ministry of Finance, law and corporate affairs.

Structure of the Board

The IBBI board is constituted as follows

A Chairman

Three members from the GoI and they cannot be lower than the rank of joint secretary

One member from RBI

Five members are nominated by the Central Government of which three function as full time members.

48 Captain Arjun: The Robot launched by Railway Protection Force

The Railway Protection Force recently launched a Robot called "Captain Arjun". ARJUN is Always be Responsible and Just Use to be Nice.

Highlights

The robot Captain Arjun was launched to intensify screening and surveillance at the railway stations. It was launched by the Railway

Protection Force operating under Central Railways

About the robot

The robot will screen the passengers while they board the trains. It will also keep a watch on anti-social elements. The robot can be deployed for multiple uses and is an effective element that will operate under the station access controls. Captain Arjun will also increase the security plans of the railway stations.

The robot is equipped with PTZ camera, motion sensor and one Dome camera. The cameras installed in the robot uses Artificial Intelligence algorithms to track antisocial activities and suspicious activities.

Also, the robot has an inbuilt motion activated spot light, siren and internal storage to record data during network failures. The robot does thermal screening and also record the temperature of the passengers. It also displays the recorded temperature on a digital display.