

Top 20 Current Affairs of 30 June 2020

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Culture Ministry celebrating “Sankalp Parva” to plant trees from 28th June to 12 July 2020



To enhance the Herbal Wealth of India and to support the clean and healthy environment, Union Ministry of Culture is celebrating **two week long** Sankalp Parva from 28th June to 12 July 2020 wherein, the Subordinate Offices, Academies, Attached Institutions, Affiliated Institutions of the ministry will plant trees in its campus or at the surroundings wherever it is possible. The decision for tree plantation has been taken on the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has identified 5 trees representing the herbal heritage of our country. The trees are:

- Bargad (Ficus benghalensis)
- Awla (Phyllanthus emblica)
- Pepal (Ficus religiosa)
- Ashoka (Saraca asoca)
- Bel (Aegle marmelos)

1st Agreement for the 600 MW Kholongchhu Indo-Bhutan joint venture hydroelectric project Signed



The **Bhutan government** and the **Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Limited** signed the **Concession Agreement for 600 MegaWatt (MW) Kholongchhu hydroelectric Project** (Joint Venture of India and Bhutan) in Thimphu, in virtual presence of Dr. S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs and his Bhutanese Counterpart Dr. Tandi Dorji. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2025.

Key Highlights:-

- It will be implemented by Kholongchhu Hydro Energy limited, a joint venture company formed between Drunk Green power Corporation(DGPC) of Bhutan and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited(SJVNL) of India.
- The 600 MW run-of-the-river project is located on the Kholongchhu River in Trashiyangtse District in Eastern Bhutan.

Centre Sanctions Additional Rs 1,691 crore For Road Construction in J&K, Uttarakhand



On June 28, 2020, In a major development, the **central Government** has sanctioned an additional **Rs 1,691 crore** for the construction of highways by the Border Roads Organization (BRO) in **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Uttarakhand** during 2020-21 in the wake of clashes with China in Ladakh.

- Of this amount, Rs 1,351.10 crore has been allocated for the construction of BRO roads in the border areas of J&K. While, Rs 340 crore have been sanctioned for road-building in Uttarakhand.

Uttarakhand Develops India's First Lichen Park to Conserve Jurassic Era Plant in Munsiyar



The Forest Department of Uttarakhand has developed India's First Lichen Park in Munsyari, Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand as a research centre with over 150 Lichen species – Jurassic Era plant which was inaugurated on 27th June 2020, The development process of the 1.5 acres park began in 2019.

Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' virtually participated in G20 Extraordinary Virtual Education Ministers' Meeting



On June 27, 2020, Union HRD (Human Resource Development) Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' participated in group of 20 (G20) Extraordinary Virtual Education Ministers' Meeting which was focused on the **effects of the COVID 19 pandemic on the education sector**. The meet discussed how different nations have dealt with it and how the Member States can collaborate to further the cause of education in these difficult times. The HRD ministry is also going to launch the Prime Minister eVIDYA programme.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

FATF's first global report on illegal wildlife trade released; more zoonotic diseases in the future



In accordance with the first ever report on illegal wildlife trade (IWT) titled “**Money Laundering and the Illegal Wildlife Trade**” report by Financial Action Task Force (FATF), illegal wildlife trade is a “global threat” which generate estimated revenues between **\$7to \$23 billion** a year. This crime could lead to more zoonotic diseases in the future. Criminals are frequently misusing online marketplaces, mobile and social media-based payments, front companies linked to import-export industries, and shell firms to move and hide illegal proceeds (goods & money) from wildlife crimes. The report recommended that jurisdictions should consider legislative changes to increase the applicability of anti-money laundering laws to the illegal wildlife trade-linked offences.

- **For eg:** In 2012, India amended the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002** by removing a value threshold of Rs 30 lakh and above applicable to the wildlife trade predicates. Under the new approach (2012), there is no threshold. This has increased the applicability of India's ML offence to a broader range of wildlife trafficking offences.

India named in Switzerland's top-3 partners for info exchange on tax matters: OECD's Global Forum study



In accordance with the latest study by **OECD's** (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) **Global Forum on transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes**, referring to the period from July 2015 to June 2018, India named among the top-three countries as **EOI** (Exchange of Information) partners along with **France** and **Germany**. Means, India is getting detailed information on request, from Switzerland about bank accounts and beneficiary ownership of entities established by its residents. India is also rated as 'largely compliant' by this OECD's review. To present itself as a clean global financial centre, Switzerland has entered into pacts with more than 100 countries, including India, for automatic exchange of information on tax matters.

NASA Renames Washington HQ after Mary Jackson, first black Engineer at NASA



The headquarter building of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) located at Washington D.C., has been renamed after Mary Winston Jackson (1921-2005),

the first black female engineer at NASA. Administrator Jim Bridestone made the announcement on 24th June.

About Mary W Jackson:-

- Mary helps in opening opportunities for African Americans and women in the field of engineering and technology.
- She was a research Mathematician and was promoted as the first black female engineer.
- In 2019, The Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act was signed by President Donald Trump and awarded to honour Mary.

36th ASEAN Summit chaired by Vietnam held via video conference; 1st session on Women Empowerment in the Digital Age held



On June 26, 2020, the 36th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit was held via video conference on the theme “**Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN**”. The summit was chaired by Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc as Vietnam is ASEAN’s chair in 2020. The focus of the meet was on COVID-19 response, post-pandemic recovery and further cooperation with partners. Leaders at the summit adopted the ASEAN Declaration on Human Resources Development for the Changing World of Work.

BANKING & FINANCE

World Bank Approves \$500 mn Under 'STARS' Project to Improve Education Quality in 6 Indian States



On June 28, 2020, The board of executives of the **World Bank (WB)** has approved loan of \$ **500 million (about Rs 3,700 crore)** under 'Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (**STARS**)' project to improve the quality and governance of school education across six states (Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan) in India.

- The new project will be executed through flagship central scheme, Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.

World Bank Enhances the financial Support for Ganga rejuvenation with \$400 million through SNGRBP



The **World bank** enhanced the support to India's programme to rejuvenate the Ganga with **\$400 million** through **Second National Ganga River Basin Project (SNGRBP)**, for the development of infrastructure projects Under the National Ganga River Basin Project.

Key Points: The world bank and the National Mission of Clean Ganga(NMCG) discussed on the components of second national Ganga river basin Project which comprises spillovers of Ganga-I and take up new projects on tributaries like Yamuna and Kali. The two parts of the SNGRBP loan consists of USD381 million of loan amount and guarantee upto USD19 million as payment security mechanism.

Reserve Bank Extends Enhanced Borrowing Limit to Banks Under MSF Till Sept 30, 2020



In exercise of power conferred under the Section 24 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided to extend the **enhanced borrowing facility** provided to banks under MSF till **September 30, 2020** to meet the liquidity shortage in the midst of the economic crisis caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic. In addition, **RBI** has also extended the minimum daily cash reserve ratio (**CRR**) **maintenance of 80%** by three months until **25 September 2020**.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

24-time Grammy winner Popstar Beyonce to receive Humanitarian Award at the virtual 20th edition of BET Awards 2020



24-time Grammy winner **Popstar Beyonce**(38 years old) to receive the **Humanitarian Award** at **20th edition of annual BET Awards 2020**, for her long standing philanthropic work, including her recent COVID-19 relief efforts. The event will be held virtually for the 1st time on June 28. The awards will honor 2 personalities namely, basketball legend Kobe Bryant & Little Richard.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Micheál Martin Elected as the New Prime Minister of Ireland; Succeeds Leo Varadkar



On 28th June 2020, the voting at the special meeting of the Irish Parliament (**the Dáil**) at the Convention Centre, Dublin, Fianna Fail leader Micheál Martin was elected as the new (Taoiseach) Prime Minister of Ireland and he will take over the office from Leo

Varadkar. The results were announced by the speaker of the lower house, Sean O Fearghail. Due to COVID-19 situations to follow the social distancing rule the vote took place at the Convention Centre instead of Leinster House. Micheál Martin, will lead the government for the first two and a half years (until December 2022); the second half of the 5 year team will be led by Leo Varadkar, Indian Origin Leader of Fine Gael.

Lazarus Chakwera Sworn in as Malawi's New President



Lazarus Chakwera, won Malawi's President Elections and sworn in as the **6th President of Malawi** on 28 June. He **succeeded Peter Mutharika** of Democratic Progressive Party by winning 58.57% of total votes.

Lazarus Chakwera:-

- Chakwera was born in Lilongwe.
- Head of Malawi Congress Party (MCP).
- Chakwera won with 2.6 million votes against 1.75 million for Mutharika.

Anandiben Patel, Governor of UP is given additional charges as Governor of Madhya Pradesh



On 28th June 2020, The President of India has given additional charges of Madhya Pradesh to Anandiben Mafatbhai Patel, the governor of Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points: Lal Ji Tandon, the Governor of Madhya Pradesh has been under treatment at a private hospital in Lucknow since 11th June 2020. The President has appointed Anandiben Patel to take charge of the functions of Madhya Pradesh in the absence of Lal Ji Tandon.

Aleksandar Vucic, President of Serbia Declares the Victory of the Ruling Party in the Parliament Election



Aleksandar Vucic, President of Serbia has declared the victory of the Serbian Progressive Party (**Srpska napredna stranka – SNS**) with more than 63% vote in the Parliamentary election held on 28th June 2020 which was boycotted by most of the opposition parties

Boycotted Election: Most of the opposition parties boycotted the election considering the current pandemic situation which does not provide the free and fair environment to conduct elections.

Results of the Election: The SNS holds about 189 seats in the 250 member General Assembly. The Socialist Party of Serbia (**Socijalistička Partije Srbije – SPS**), the junior coalition partner of the SNS, secured the second position predicted to take around 32 seats. The Serbian Patriotic Alliance (**Srpski patriotski savez – SPAS**) is the only opposition party with votes to pass the 3% threshold to enter parliament with around 12 seats. 17 spots will be taken by a slate of ethnic minority parties, which has lower criteria to enter the parliament.

OBITUARY

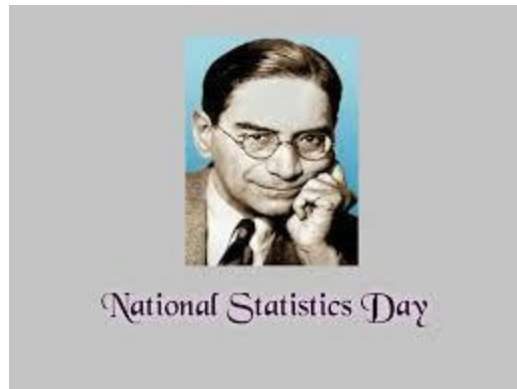
Veteran Kannada Novelist Geetha Nagabhushan passes away at 78



On 28th June 2020, Veteran Kannada Novelist Geetha Nagabhushan passed away at the age of 78 due to cardiac arrest in a private hospital at Kalaburagi. She was born on 25th March 1942 in Savalagi village, Kalaburagi.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Statistics Day 2020 – June 29



India celebrates June 29th as the National Statistics Day to recognise the contribution of statistics in daily life and to educate the general public on the importance of statistics in

socio-economic planning and policy formulation. The first National Statistics Day was celebrated on 29th June 2007. The theme of 2020 National Statistics Day is “**SDG- 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) & SDG- 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls)**”.

International Day of the Tropics – June 29



United Nations(**UN**) International Day of the Tropics is observed annually on 29th June to raise awareness about the challenges faced by the tropical areas and the importance of the tropical areas in achieving the sustainable development goals(**SDG**) The State Of The Tropics (**SOTT**) 2020 Report was published on 29th June 2020 and will be launched on 30th June 2020. The United Nations General Assembly(**UNGA**) declared June 29th as the International Day of the Tropics in its resolution A/RES/70/267 adopted in 2016.

STATE NEWS

Gujarat Govt's Online Aid "At One Click" Initiative of Rs 1,369 Crore for MSMEs, Textile Industry

On June 26, The Chief Minister of Gujarat Vijay Rupani launched the online aid initiative 'At One Click' with Rs 1,369 crore for around 13000 Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) (i.e. MSMEs and textile industries) in Gujarat.

Key Points:-

- The initiative has been started with Rs 768 crore in bank accounts of 12,247 MSME units and Rs 601 crore aids to industrial units including textile industry in Gujarat.
- After the entire process of framing the government resolution the package will be implemented in a week.
- The government of Gujarat is committed to restore the former vibrancy of the state with an aim 'Jaan hai to Jahaan Hai'.

V P Singh Badnore & Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates Battery Swapping Facility Quick Interchange Service virtually



Punjab Governor and Administrator of Chandigarh, **V P Singh Badnore** with Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel, **Dharmendra Pradhan** inaugurated **Battery Swapping Facility Quick Interchange Service(QIS)** at Chandigarh in a virtual function. Indian Oil Corporation Limited(**IOCL**) has signed an **agreement** with **Sun Mobility Private Limited** to explore the setup of **Energy infrastructure** for Electric vehicles through Battery Swapping model across IndianOilRetail outlets in select cities.

AC GAZE

Former Germany striker Mario Gómez retired from soccer

Former Germany, 33-year-old striker Mario Gómez retired from soccer, who won the Bundesliga title in 2007 in his first stint at Stuttgart and was also part of Bayern Munich's treble winning team in 2013.