

Top 25 Current Affairs of 3 July 2020

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Indian marine fish landings rose 2.1% to 3.56mt in 2019: CMFRI; Tamil Nadu tops



In accordance with the report “Annual Marine Fish Landings in India for 2019” by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), India’s marine fish production has increased marginally by **2.1%** to 3.56 million tonnes (mt) in 2019 as compared to 3.49 mt in 2018. As per the report, Tamil Nadu grabbed the top in annual fish production with 7.75 lakh tonnes followed by Gujarat (7.49 lakh tonnes), which had been holding the first position earlier, and Kerala (5.44 lakh tonnes) which retained the third position. The estimated value of fish landings in the country last year was **Rs 60,881 crore** with 15.6% increase over 2018.

SERB Launches ‘Accelerate Vigyan’ Scheme & Portal to Provide Single Platform to Boost High-end Scientific Research



On 1st July 2020, The 'Accelerate Vigyan' (AV) scheme for research internships, was launched by the Union Government's Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB).

Objective:- To encourage high-end scientific research and prepare scientific manpower which leads to research careers and knowledge based economy.

Portal:- was also launched while launching the scheme & we can get more information about the scheme "Accelerate Vigyan" in this portal.

1. It identifies research potential, mentors and helps in training on national scale.
2. Accelerate Vigyan works on mission mode, particularly during consolidation or aggregation for scientific events.
3. It has started to call applications for the process under **ABHYAAS** scheme for Winter.

Dr.Harsh Vardhan Released the Good Clinical Practice Guidelines Handbook and Prospectus for FPIS of NBE



On 1st July 2020, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Dr.Harsh Vardhan with the Minister of State of Health, Ashwini Kumar Choubey, released the Good Clinical Practice Guidelines Handbook and Prospectus for Fellowship Programme for International Students (**FPIS**) of the National Board of Examinations (**NBE**) on a virtual platform.

DFPD estimated Rs 1,48,938 cr as cost for distribution of foodgrains and pulses under PMGKAY during April - Nov 2020



On July 1, 2020, **Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD)** under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has worked out estimated cost for distribution of food grains (Rice and Wheat) and pulses under PMGKAY, which will be **Rs 1,48,938 crore approx** for a period between **8 months** from April to November 2020. On June 30, 2020, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, during televised address to the nation, has announced the extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) from July, 2020 till the end of November 2020.

About Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana:

Initially launched from April, 2020 for 3 months, the scheme aims to provide 5 kg free wheat or rice per month along with 1 kg free whole chana (pulses) to each family per month covering 80 crore poor people which are severely impacted by the lockdown to contain COVID-19 spread.

Committee for reform in criminal law headed by Ranbir Singh to start online consultation from July 4, 2020: MHA



i. From July 4, 2020, **Central Committee for reforms in Criminal Law** headed by **Ranbir Singh** was constituted by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), is going to start a 3 months long online consultation exercise.

ii. The objective of this exercise is to gather opinions by consulting with experts and collating material for their report to the government.

BANKING & FINANCE

GoI approved special liquidity scheme for NBFCs and HFCs through SBICAP as SPV



On July 1, 2020, the Government of India (GoI) has approved a scheme for improving the short-term liquidity position of non-banking finance companies (NBFCs)/housing finance companies (HFCs) through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in the form of Special Liquidity Scheme (SLS) Trust set up by **SBI Capital Markets Limited (SBICAP)**, a subsidiary of the State Bank of India (SBI). It should be noted that the finances provided to the NFBCs/HFCs under this scheme should be used **to repay existing liabilities** and not to expand assets.

- **Period of scheme:** The Scheme will remain open for **3 months** for making subscriptions by the Trust i.e. till **September 30, 2020**.
- **Instruments used in this scheme:** Commercial papers (CPs) and Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs).

ICICI bank Launched a Facility, 'Insta Loans against Mutual Funds', in Partnership with Computer Age Management Services



ICICI Bank launched '**Insta Loans against Mutual Funds**', a facility in partnership with Computer Age Management Services(**CAMS**). The facility is an extension of the Insta Loan Against Shares(LAS). The facility enables the retail customers to avail loans upto **Rs 1 crore** instantly by pledging their holdings in both debt and equity Mutual Funds (MFs). It is a full digital and paperless facility. It empowers customers to get this loan as an overdraft (OD) within a few minutes without having to visit a branch and submit physical documents.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Mon District Administration received 3 SKOCH Awards in 65th SKOCH Summit



On 30th June 2020, The District Administration of Mon, Nagaland received 2020 SKOCH awards under three categories in the 65th SKOCH summit from Sameer Kochar, Chairman of SKOCH group.

Mon's SKOCH Awards: SKOCH Crucible award for the district's initiatives on skill development, financial inclusion and COVID-19 response. **The SKOCH Crucible Award** for its focus on mission mode implementation of opening bank accounts through the Indian post Payment Bank (IBBP). **SKOCH Order of Merit** for its quick and innovative response to contain and prevent the spread of COVID-19 and its initiative to home deliver the essentials to assist the citizens.

Pulitzer Prize Winner Siddhartha Mukherjee and Prof Raj Chetty Named among '2020 Great Immigrants' Honourees



Carnegie Corporation of New York has named 2 renowned Indian-Americans, **Siddhartha Mukherjee**, a Pulitzer prize winner and **Raj Chetty**, Economics Professor at Harvard University among '2020 Great Immigrants' honourees. Siddhartha Mukherjee has educated the public about the coronavirus through essays and through various modes of social media. Raj Chetty has helped to launch a resource to monitor the real-time economic impact of COVID-19 on people, businesses, and communities across the United States

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Shashank Manohar Steps Down as ICC Chairman, Imran Khwaja Takes Charge as Interim Chairman



Shashank Manohar stepped down as International Cricket Council(**ICC**) chairman after his two 2 year tenure(4 years). He is the first independent chairman. His tenure ended on July 1, 2020. Deputy Chairman **Imran Khwaja** will take charge as **interim chairman** until the next chairman is elected. Shashank Manohar was elected as ICC's first independent Chairman in May 2016. Imran Khwaja was elected as ICC's deputy chairman in 2017.

V Suryanarayanan Becomes the New MD of Chola MS General Insurance



On 30th June 2020, The Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company promoted V Suryanarayanan, President and COO of the company as the New Managing Director (**MD**) with effect from 1st July 2020 succeeding SS Gopalarathnam. SS Gopalarathnam, who joined the Murugappa Group in 1979 served the company for around 41 years in finance and marketing function retired on July 1st and Suryanarayanan will take over his position. SS Gopalarathnam, started Cholamandalam MS General Insurance in 2002 as a founding member. Suryanarayanan was a Chartered Accountant and Company Secretary served in financial services sector of the Murugappa Group for the past 24 years. Suryanarayanan served in Cholamandalam Investments and Finance for 10 years and moved to Chola MS as the CFO in 2006 and became the President and COO in April 2019.

Agricultural Experts Prof. Rattan Lal & Dr. Uma Lele from India Named by UN Chief to Scientific Group for 2021 Food Summit



Antonio Guterres, Chief of United Nations, named Prof. Rattan Lal and Dr. Uma Lele (Agricultural experts) from India as members of International Scientific group to offer foremost scientific evidence for sustainable food systems for global food summit 2021.

- i)** It aims to raise awareness about the food system challenges to be solved by the nations and to change food systems to provide safe and nutritious food around the globe.
- ii)** The stakeholder Advisory Committee will provide guidance and feedback on Food Summit's overall development and implementation.

Indra Mani Pandey appointed as Permanent Representative of India to UN and Others Organisations in Geneva



Indra Mani Pandey, Indian Foreign Services (IFS) Officer of 1990 and Additional Secretary in Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) was appointed as India's Permanent Representative and Ambassador to the United Nations and the other International Organisations in Geneva, succeeding Rajiv Kumar Chander, IFS Officer of 1983 batch.

IRDAI Sets Up 9-Member Panel headed by G Srinivasan to study suitability of Surety Bond issuance by Indian insurers



On July 01, 2020, **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has set up a nine member working Group (WG) under **G. Srinivasan**, director, National Insurance Academy, after the request made by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH) ,to look at the possibility of the Indian insurance industry or any other sector to offer **Surety Bonds** in India.

Karnam Sekar, Managing Director & CEO of Indian Overseas Bank Retires



Karnam Sekar, The Managing Director (**MD**) and Chief Executive Officer(**CEO**) of Indian Overseas Bank(**IOB**), retired on **30th June 2020**.

Karnam Sekar's Career: Sekar joined the State Bank of India(**SBI**) as the Probationary officer in December 1983.He served as the deputy managing director and chief credit officer of State Bank of India and played a major role in formulating loan policy of SBI. He

served as the SBI's Manager of Treasury in Johannesburg, South Africa. He has been the MD and CEO of Dena Bank since 21st September 2018. He joined IOB as an officer on special duty and a Director on 1st April 2019 after the merger of Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank into Bank of Baroda. He was promoted as the MD and CEO succeeding Subramaniam Kumar on 1st July 2019.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

US-based Carlyle Group to Acquire 25% Stake in Nextra Data For \$235 mn



On July 01, 2020, American multinational private equity company **Carlyle Group** has decided to acquire about **25% stake** in India's second largest telecom company Bharti Airtel's data centre business –**Nextra Data Ltd**– for **\$235 million** (about ₹1,780 crore) through a company called Comfort Investments II, which is an affiliated entity of CAP V Mauritius Ltd., an investment fund managed and advised by affiliated firms of the Carlyle.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Indian Air Force & CSIO Have Develops Indigenous 'Airborne Locust Control System' on Two Mi-17 Helicopters

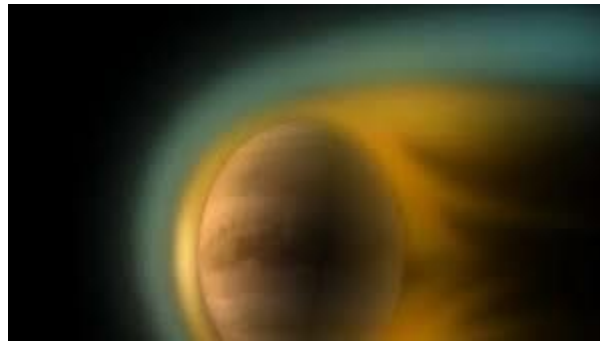


On June 30, 2020, Chandigarh based 3 Base Repair Depot (BRD) of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (**CSIO**) have indigenously developed an **Airborne Locust Control System (ALCS)** for two **Mi-17 helicopters** for spraying atomised pesticide malathion to arrest locust breeding.

- These helicopters will spray 800 liters of pesticide in 750 hectare area in just 40 minutes.

i.The Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** has flagged off a **Bell 206-B3 helicopter** for effective control of crop threatening locusts in the worst affected areas in Rajasthan.

Swedish Institute of Space Physics to Return to Venus on Indian Space Mission Shukrayaan-1



The Indian Venus Mission Shukrayaan-1, the Swedish Institute of Space Physics will explore Venus for the second time. The Shukrayaan-1 is scheduled for launch at the end of 2023 from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

Key Points:-

1. Venusian Neutrals Analyzer (VNA), the satellite instrument of IRF will study the interaction between the charged particles of the sun and the atmosphere and exosphere of the planet.
2. Plasma properties around Venus are measured intimately through the satellite tv for pc instruments.

3. The primary technology SARA was launched on Indian spacecraft Chandrayaan-1 that explored the Moon in 2008-2009.

OBITUARY

West Indies Cricketer Everton Weekes Passed Away at 95



On July 1, 2020 West Indies cricketer **Everton de Courcy Weekes** passed away at 95. He is the last member of the legendary Three Ws, the legendary trio of cricketing knights. He was born in Pickwick Gap, Barbados on February 26, 1925.

- He was the 3rd oldest surviving men's Test cricketer, after South African John Watkins and England's Don Smith.

Gist about Everton Weekes

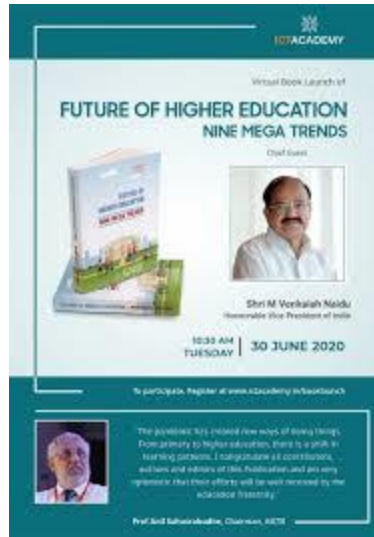
Everton Weekes made his first-class debut at 19-year-old and his Test debut in 1948 at 22. His test career spanned between 1948 to 1958, where he played 48 Tests & scored 4455 runs at an average of 58.62. He has made 15 centuries, which include 5 in an extraordinary sequence that still remains a record. He retired in 1958, after which he had served as a coach, administrator, and ICC match referee.

Honours– He was made a Knight of the Order of St Michael and St George (KCMG) for his services to cricket in 1995 & was inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame in 2009.

3Ws– In addition to him, Clyde Walcott and Frank Worrell were member of 3Ws

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu Virtually Releases a Book “Future of Higher Education – Nine Mega Trends”



On June 30, 2020 Vice President of India, **M Venkaiah Naidu** virtually released a book, “**Future of Higher Education – Nine Mega Trends**“. The book is authored by **CA V Pattabhi Ram**, a Public Speaker, author and Teacher. The Virtual event was hosted by ICT Academy.

Essence of the book The book covers the new norms in the key areas of higher education such as Student-Teacher relationship, Learning methods, Laboratories & Examinations among others which has taken a paradigm shift during this COVID pandemic. The book is based on a survey of about 5000 educators across India who were part of ICT Academy’s “SkyCampus” Digital Knowledge Series.

Key People CA T N Manoharan- Chairman Canara Bank & Padma Shri Awardee, Lakshmi Narayanan- Chairman ICT Academy, CA Pattabhi Ram V- Author, M Sivakumar- CEO of ICT Academy also participated in the launch with 5000 Educators across India. The launch was hosted by Dr B Anbuthambi, President ICT Academy.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Sports Journalists Day 2020: July 2



World Sports Journalists Day is observed annually on **July 2**. The day aims to acknowledge the work of sports journalists & to encourage them to do better at their work. The day was established in 1994 to mark the 70th anniversary of the International Sports Press Association (**AIPS**). This year 2020 marks the 96th anniversary of AIPS. The 1st AIPS e-Conference will be held on July 2 at 2pm Central European Time (CET) on Zoom. us. on the topic “Has covid-19 affected journalists’ independence and future?”.

World Allergy Week 2020 – June 28 to July 4



World Allergy Week is an annual event initiated by the World Allergy Organisation to raise awareness about the allergic diseases, disorders related to allergic diseases and the preventive measures of these diseases. The first World Allergy Week was observed in July

2011. The theme of World Allergy Week 2020 is “**Allergy care does not stop with COVID-19**”.

STATE NEWS

Telangana amends state FRBM Act 2005; accepting govt's decision to extend borrowing limit to 5% from 3%

The Governor of Telangana **Tamilisai Sounderarajan** has promulgated an ordinance No.3 of 2020, amending the Telangana Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act-2005 which will enable the State to increase the borrowing limit by 2% to 5% from earlier 3%. With the new **Telangana FRBM (Amendment) Act 2020**, state government's additional borrowing limit can go up to Rs 20,000 crore now, without any hassles. With this amendment, the Telangana State government has accepted the recent decision of the Central government to expand the borrowing limit of the States under **FRBM Act, 2003**, as there is fall in state's revenues due to COVID-19 induced lockdown.

Odisha Government to Implement an Initiative 'Sabuja Odisha' to Increase Green Cover through Extensive Plantation



Odisha government in a high-level meeting held under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy decided to implement a new initiative '**Sabuja Odisha**'. The initiative will increase green cover through extensive plantations over 1,30,264 Hectares of land. A web-based system will be set up or real-time monitoring and supervision of the programme.

AC GAZE

“COPAL-19”app to track plasma donors launched

AIIMS(All India Institute Of Medical Science) doctor along with a team of IIT-Delhi students have developed an app “COPAL-19” which enables users to track willing plasma donors who have recovered from Covid-19.