

Top 20 Current Affairs of 30 July 2020

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Chhattisgarh's Bijapur tops Niti Aayog's delta ranking of Aspirational districts for Feb-June 2020



In accordance with the delta rankings for aspirational districts by government think-tank Niti (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog, Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh has topped the list of aspirational districts in Overall Delta Ranking for the February-June 2020 period. Bijapur has been followed by **Ri-Bhoi** (Meghalaya) and **Bahraich** (Uttar Pradesh) at 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.

PFC signs an agreement with IIT- Kanpur for the Research, Training & ED in Smart Grid Technology



The **PFC** (Power Finance Corporation) signed an agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology- Kanpur (**IIT-K**) in order to provide training, research and Entrepreneurship Development (ED) in Smart grid technology.

Objective: To provide support for the IIT-Kanpur to develop the infrastructure of the research and development on **smart grid technology**.

Budget: The PFC will provide financial assistance of **Rs. 2.38 crore** to the IIT-K under its CSR initiative.

Green-Ag project launched in Mizoram to bring transformative change in the farm sector



On July 29,2020 Green-Agriculture(Green-Ag),a project funded by **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** was launched in Mizoram,India.It was launched by Agriculture minister of Mizoram C Lalrinsanga.Mizoram is first among the 5 states where the project is to be implemented. The other states are Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.

The project covers land in two districts of Lunglei and Mamit, Mizoram including Dampa Tiger Reserve and Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary.

Objective of Green-Ag:-

- Green-Ag projects aims at accelerating the transformation of Indian agriculture sector into national and international benefits by Greenland management practices, concerns of biodiversity and climate change.
- To mainstream the conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes by transforming agricultural practices of one state.
- The project is believed to help reduce the 49 million carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂eq) through sustainable land use and agricultural practices.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

5th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of AIIB held virtually; Jin Liqun Reelected President of AIIB



On July 28, 2020, the 5th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) was held virtually from Beijing, China, was originally planned to be held in-person there, on the theme “**Connecting for Tomorrow**”. The meet saw the re-election of Jin Liqun as AIIB President, and a roundtable discussion on the theme “**AIIB 2030-Supporting Asia’s Development over the Next Decade**”. Notably, India’s Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman was the **Lead Speaker** at the roundtable discussion. During the meet it was also decided that the **sixth Annual Meeting** will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Oct. 27-28, 2021 which will be the first annual meeting in the Middle East. AIIB’s Membership grew to 103 as Liberia joined.

Maldives launched 9 development projects under USD 5.6 million Indian Grant for HICDP



On July 28, 2020, the Financial Assistance for High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) from the Government of India was handed over to the Government of Maldives in the form of a symbolic cheque of **USD 5.6 million**. The cheque was handed over by the High Commissioner of India to the Maldives **Sunjay Sudhir** to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulla Shahid. In this regard, Government of Maldives launched nine community-based development projects which are as follows:

- **Neighbourhood Fish Processing Plant** (Geydoshu Mas Plant) development in three districts in Addu City: Hithadhoo, Maradhoo and Hulhudhoo-Meedhoo; **Tourism Zones Development** in five districts in Addu City: Hithadhoo, Maradhoo, Feydhoo, Hulhudhoo and Meedhoo; and a **bottled water plant setup** in Hoarafushi.

A 300-year-old temple, Sree Sree Joy Kali Matar temple reconstructed with Indian support in Natore, Bangladesh



On July 27, 2020 Reconstruction of a 300-year-old temple, Sree Sree Joy Kali Matar temple began in Natore, Bangladesh with Indian assistance. The Indian High Commissioner Riva Ganguly Das inaugurated the event virtually. The High Commission of India in Bangladesh added that an MoU for the reconstruction of the temple at Lalbazar, Natore was signed on 23 October 2016.

BANKING & FINANCE

ADB Approves 3 Million USD Grant to India to Support COVID-19 Response



On 29th July 2020, The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved the 3 Million USD grant (about Rs.22 Crore) from the ADB's Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund (**APDRF**), financed by Japanese government to India to support the Government's emergency response to COVID-19.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

National Awards for excellence in Earth System Science: MoES



Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) recognized scientific contributions made by eminent scientists/engineers in various fields of Earth System Science and also to encourage women and young researchers who involved in Earth System Science.

- Ministry has introduced the Life Time Excellence Award, National Awards in the field of Atmospheric Science & Technology; Ocean Science; Geoscience & Technology; and Ocean Technology/Polar Science, Two Young Researcher awards and Dr. Anna Mani National Award for Woman Scientist. Dr. Harsha Vardhan is the Minister of Science and Technology.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

ICRA Limited Appointed N. Sivaraman as MD and Group CEO ; Succeeds Naresh Takkar



ICRA Limited appointed N. Sivaraman as its new Managing Director (MD) and Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Mr. Sivaraman will join ICRA Ltd. on August 10, 2020. He was appointed for the tenure of 3 years, which can be further extended for 2 more years. He succeeds former MD and Group CEO Mr. **Naresh Takkar**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

CSIR's CSIO along with AMESYS INDIA developed a microorganism decontamination box named 'Suraksha'



On July 29, 2020 the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)'s Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (**CSIO**) along with AMESYS INDIA developed an microorganism decontamination box, 'Suraksha'. The box sanitizes an object in the span of 10 – 15 minutes using heat and UVC light.

Note – UVC light refers to ultraviolet light with wavelengths between 200 – 280 nanometers (nm).

OBITUARY

Veteran Bollywood Actor Kumkum Passed Away at 86 in Mumbai



On 28th July 2020, Veteran Bollywood Actor Kumkum due to age related ailments passed away at the age of 86 in her residence in Bandra, Mumbai, Maharashtra. She was born as Zaibunnissa on 22nd April 1934 in Sheikhpura district, Bihar.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

M Venkaiah Naidu virtually unveiled, Padi Bhavajaalalu Telugu version of Late S Jaipal Reddy's Ten Ideologies book

On 28th July 2020, M Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India virtually unveiled the “**Padi Bhavajaalalu**” Telugu version **Ten Ideologies** book authored by former Union Minister Late **S Jaipal Reddy** and published by **Orient BlackSwan**, amid his family members and followers on the event of his **first death anniversary**. The virtual launch was organised under the aegis of Manthan, a forum for public discourse.

Indian Origin Author Avni Doshi's 'Burnt Sugar' on 2020 Booker Prize



A debut novel 'Burnt Sugar' authored by **Avni Doshi** has been published in the United Kingdom (UK) and it was one among the 13 authors longlisted for the prestigious 2020 Booker Prize. A version of the same novel has been published in India under the title **Girl in White Cotton**.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Tiger Day 2020 – July 29



29th July is annually celebrated as International Tiger Day or the Global Tiger Day to create awareness among the general public on the importance of tiger conservation and protection of their natural habitat and to promote the resolution of the tiger range countries to double the tiger population by 2022. The **first** Global Tiger Day was celebrated on 29th July 2011. The Global Tiger Day slogan for 2018,2019 and 2020 is **“Their Survival is in Our Hands”** Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) released the report of “Status of Tigers Copredators and Prey in India 2018”, fourth All India Tiger Estimation 2018.

World In Vitro Fertilization Day 2020 – July 25



July 25 is celebrated as **World In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Day**. The world witnessed the birth of world's first test tube baby or IVF baby **Louis Brown**, in Royal Oldham Hospital, United Kingdom on July 25, 1978. In order to commemorate this revolution, World IVF day was celebrated on July 25. British Physiologist Robert Edwards and Gynaecologist Patrick Steptoe succeeded in fertilizing a human ovum outside the womb. Robert G Edwards was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2010 for Physiology or medicine for 'development of in vitro fertilization'.

STATE NEWS

UKIBC Signs MoU with Government of Gujarat to Strengthen Gujarat's Industrial Development

On 28th July 2020, The UK India Business Council (**UKIBC**) signed a memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) over a virtual platform with the Industrial Extension Bureau (iNDEXTb), Industries and Mines Department, Government of Gujarat to speed up the business and industrial development process of Gujarat. Neelam Rani, Managing Director of iNDEXTb and Kevin McCole, Managing Director of UKIBC signed the MoU.

Kerala announced new Chief Minister's Entrepreneurship Development Programme to address working capital shortage

On July 28, 2020, Kerala government announced a new scheme namely "**Chief Minister's Entrepreneurship Development Programme**" to address the issues of shortage of working capital and availability of credit faced by startups and small entrepreneurs amid COVID-19 pandemic. The programme will be implemented through the **Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC)**. The programme aims to identify 2,000 entrepreneurs per year and plans to launch 1,000 new small and medium ventures every year for the next five years, creating 5,000 new ventures. Eligible firms would get loans upto Rs 10 crore as working capital on the basis of purchase orders already received.

Assam: Guwahati gets “BANDICOOT” the first manhole cleaning robot in Northeast

On 28th July 2020, Siddhartha Bhattacharya, Minister of Guwahati Development Department inaugurated Guwahati's first manhole cleaning robot named “BANDICOOT”, an automatic sewer cleaning device. Guwahati became the first city in the Northeast region to get a manhole cleaning robot.

AC GAZE

Bombay Flying Club: India's 1st DGCA-approved drone training school

Bombay Flying Club, Mumbai, has become the India's first DGCA(Directorate General of Civil Aviation) approved drone training school ,announced by Ministry of Civil Aviation

Note: In an order dated July 20, 2020, DGCA approved the club's application for conducting remote pilot training for remotely piloted aircraft system

'Dare to Dream 2.0' contest for innovators and startups launched: DRDO

In order to promote innovators in the fields of defence and emerging technologies in India, DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) has launched 'Dare to Dream 2.0' contest for innovators and startups to mark the fifth death anniversary of former President A P J Abdul Kalam(July 27, 2020).