

## Current Affairs=15/16-11-2020

### INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOLERANCE



**International Day for Tolerance was observed on November 16, 2020.**

**About:**

- In 1996, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 51/95 (link is external) proclaiming 16 November as International Day for Tolerance. This

action followed the adoption of a Declaration of Principles on Tolerance by UNESCO's Member States on 16 November 1995.

- The Day recognizes the universal human rights and fundamental freedoms of others. It gives the message that people are naturally diverse; only tolerance can ensure the survival of mixed communities in every region of the globe.

**The UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence?**

In 1995, to mark the United Nations Year for Tolerance and the 125th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, UNESCO created a prize for the promotion of tolerance and non-violence.

The UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence rewards significant activities in the scientific, artistic, cultural or communication fields aimed at the promotion of a spirit of tolerance and non-violence.

The prize is awarded every two years on the International Day for Tolerance, 16 November.

The Prize may be awarded to institutions, organizations or persons, who have contributed in a particularly meritorious and effective manner to tolerance and non-violence.



## NATIONAL PRESS DAY

National Press Day was observed on 16th November.



**About:**

The National Press Day is observed on 16th November every year. It was on this day the Press Council of India (PCI) started functioning as a moral watchdog to ensure that the press maintains high standards and is not fettered by any influence or threats.

**Origin:** The Press Council of India was first set up in the year 1966 by the Parliament on the recommendations of the First Press Commission.

**Status:** It is a statutory body functioning under the Press Council Act, 1978.

**Objective:** Preserving the freedom of the press and of maintaining and improving the standards of press in India.

**Function:** It is a quasi-judicial authority. It adjudicates the complaints against and by the press for violation of ethics and for violation of the freedom of the press respectively.

## RAMSAR CONVENTION



**India has added two more Ramsar sites. They are Lonar lake in Maharashtra which is the only crater lake of the country while the other is Sur Sarovar, also known as Keetham lake in Agra of Uttar Pradesh.**

**About:**

- The Ramsar Convention signed on 2nd February, 1971, is one of the oldest inter-governmental accord signed by member countries to preserve the ecological character of their wetlands of international importance.
- It is named after Ramsar, the Iranian city where the treaty was signed in 1971, and places chosen for conservation under it are given the tag 'Ramsar site'.
- The aim of the Ramsar list is to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the

maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits.

### Important Info :

- Recently, Kabartal in Bihar's Begusarai district was recognised as a wetland of international importance, the first such wetland in the state, under the Ramsar Convention, according to the Union Environment Ministry.
- The Asan Conservation Reserve in Dehradun, the first wetland from Uttarakhand to be recognised by Ramsar convention, was added to the list in October this year.

### REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (RCEP)



Recently, 15 countries solidified their participation in the RCEP. Even as India opted to stay out after walking out of discussions last year, the new trading bloc has made it clear that the door will remain open for India to return to the negotiating table.

#### About:

- Described as the “largest” regional trading agreement to this day, RCEP was originally being negotiated between 16 countries — ASEAN members and countries with which they have free trade agreements (FTAs), namely Australia, China, Korea, Japan, New Zealand and India.
- The purpose of RCEP was to make it easier for products and services of each of these countries to be available across this region. Negotiations to chart out this deal had been on since 2013, and India was expected to be a signatory until its decision last November.

### Why did India walk out?

- On November 4, 2019, India decided to exit discussions over “significant outstanding issues”.
- Its decision was to safeguard the interests of industries like agriculture and dairy and to give an advantage to the country's services sector.
- Escalating tensions with China are a major reason for India's decision.

## JOLLY GRANT AIRPORT



Environmental activists and local residents in Uttarakhand are opposing the cutting of trees for a project to expand Dehradun's Jolly Grant airport.

### About:

Dehradun Airport, also known as Jolly Grant Airport, is located 25 km south-

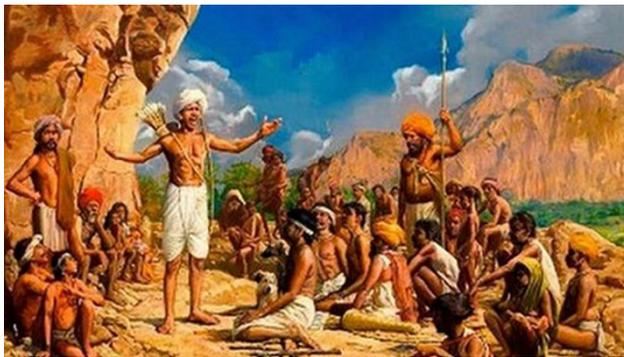
east of Dehradun.

Commercial operations began on 30 March 2008 after a runway extension to accommodate larger aircraft. It is also known as the Air Gateway of Garhwal and plays an important role in the tourism of Uttarakhand.

### Project to Expand the Airport:

- The Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority has proposed the expansion of Jolly Grant airport in Dehradun with the aim of upgrading it to meet international standards.
- It is proposed to take over 87 hectares of forest land in Doiwala village in Dehradun district, and another 17.41 hectares of non-forest land for the project.

## BIRSA MUNDA



**The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has paid tributes to Bhagwan Birsa Munda on his Jayanti.**

### About:

Birsa Munda (1875 – 1900) was an Indian tribal freedom fighter, religious leader, and folk hero who belonged to the Munda tribe.

He spearheaded a tribal religious millenarian movement that arose in the Bengal Presidency (now Jharkhand) in the late 19th century, during the British Raj. The revolt mainly concentrated in the Munda belt of Khunti, Tamar, Sarwada and Bandgaon.

His slogan threatening the British Raj—*Abua raj seter jana, maharani raj tundu jana* ("Let the kingdom of the queen be ended and our kingdom be established")—is remembered even today.

His portrait hangs in the Indian Parliament Museum; he is the only tribal leader to have been so honoured.

## **SOUMITRA CHATTERJEE**

**The Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed condolences on the passing away of legendary Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee.**



About:

Soumitra Chatterjee (1935 —2020) was an Indian film actor.

He was best known for his collaborations with Oscar-winning film director Satyajit Ray, with whom he worked in fourteen

films.

### **Awards and Honours:**

In 1999 Soumitra Chattopadhyay became the first Indian film personality to be conferred with the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, France's highest award for artists.

He was also the winner of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award which is India's highest award for cinema.

As an actor in Bengali theatre, he received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1998, given by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, India's National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama.

He was awarded the Padma Bhushan by the Government of India in 2004.