

CURRENT AFFAIRS= 16-11-2020

MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME (MGNREGS)



The Government of India and New Development Bank signed a loan agreement for \$1,000 million to provide support to Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

About:

- The programme will support Government to enable economic recovery in the rural areas through Natural Resource Management (NRM) works.
- The programme proposes creation of durable rural infrastructure assets relating to NRM and generation of employment opportunities for rural poor, especially migrant workers who have returned from urban areas and have lost their livelihoods due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The \$1 billion loan from the NDB has a tenor of 30 years, including a 5-year grace period.

Important Info :

- The NDB was established based on the Inter-Governmental agreement among the BRICS countries (Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa) signed in 2014.
- The purpose of the Bank is to mobilise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging market economies and developing countries.

ASIA PACIFIC BROADCASTING UNION (ABU)



Prasar Bharati CEO Shashi Sekhar Vempati has been elected as Vice President of Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union for three years with immediate effect.

About:

- The Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) was formed in 1964.
- It is a professional association of broadcasting organisations with over 286 members in 57 countries and regions.
- **Headquarters:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- One of the ABU's activities is **Asiavision**, a daily exchange of news feeds by satellite among television stations in 20 countries in Asia.



INDIA – USA MOU IN ELECTRICITY SECTOR

Union Cabinet has approved MoU between India and USA for exchange of information in areas of mutual interest in the electricity sector.

About:



Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), India and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), United States of America (USA) will enter into a MoU for exchange of information and experiences in areas of mutual interest to both in the electricity sectors.

- The MoU will help in improving regulatory and policy framework for developing efficient whole sale power market and enhancing grid reliability.
- Under the MoU, the two sides will identify energy-related issues and develop topics and possible agendas for the exchange of information and regulatory practices in areas of mutual interest.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson to be 2021 Republic Day of India Chief Guest



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will be the chief guest at the **2021 Republic Day celebrations of India**, on 26 January 2021.

This was confirmed by British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, during his bilateral visit to India on 14 December 2020.

Johnson is the sixth person from the UK to be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations of India.

India will be observing **72nd Republic Day** on 26 January 2021.

UNEP announces 2020 Champions of the Earth Award

The UN Environment Program (UNEP) is presenting the **Champions of the Earth Award** since 2005, to inspire and motivate more people to



act for nature.



The award recognizes outstanding environmental leaders from the public and private sectors, and from civil society for their pioneering initiatives aimed at healing the planet amid natural and man-made threats and whose action have had a positive impact on the environment.

The Champions of the Earth Award is presented in **5 categories**, including Lifetime Achievement, Inspiration and Action, Policy Leadership,

Entrepreneur Vision, Science and Innovation.

The 2020 Champions of the Earth Award has been bestowed upon **6 individuals**. The list of winners is given below.

Policy Leadership – Frank Bainimarama, the Prime Minister of Fiji

Inspiration and Action – Yacouba Sawadogo, a farmer from Burkina Faso

Inspiration and Action – Nemonte Nenquimo, an Ecuadorian female green campaigner

Science and Innovation – Fabian Leendertz, a German scientist

Entrepreneur Vision – Mindy Lubber, an American social entrepreneur

Lifetime Achievement Award – Robert D. Bullard, an American scholar

Paul Sein Twa of Myanmar wins 2020 Goldman Environmental Prize for Asia region



The **31st edition of the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize** was announced recently, which honors one grassroots environmental activist from each of the world's six geographic regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Islands and Island Nations, North America, and South and Central America.

Region-wise winner of the Goldman Environmental Prize 2020

Islands and Island Nations – Kristal Ambrose from The Bahamas,

Africa – Chibeze Ezekiel from Ghana,

South America – Nemonte Nenquimo from Ecuador,

North America – Leydy Pech from Mexico,

Europe – Lucie Pinson from France,

Asia – Paul Sein Twa from Myanmar

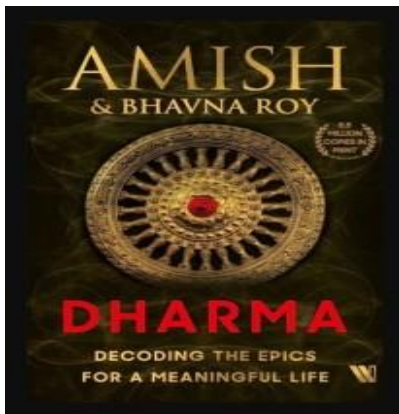
The Goldman Environmental Prize is given annually by the **Goldman Environmental Foundation headquartered in San Francisco, California.**



The award is dubbed as the “**Green Nobel Prize.**”

Asia region winner Paul is the co-founder of the Karen Environmental and Social Action Network (KESAN), which was established in 2001, which supported Karen indigenous communities in establishing the Salween Peace Park in Myanmar and on the border of Thailand, to conserve the biodiversity.

Amish Tripathi’s second non-fiction book, titled ‘Dharma: Decoding the Epics for A Meaningful Life’, to release on December 28



The best-selling author **Amish Tripathi**, has announced his second non-fiction book titled “**Dharma: Decoding the Epics for A Meaningful Life**”.

The book will be released on December 28, 2020.

It is co-authored by **Amish’s sister Bhavana Roy.**

The publisher of the book is **Westland Publications Pvt Ltd**

The book offers practical and philosophical lessons from our Hindu epics (like Ramayana or Mahabharata) that are relevant in the modern world.

His previous non-fiction work was ‘**Immortal India**’, which was released in 2017.

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