

Current Affairs=15-05-2020



EAM Jaishankar participated in SCO Foreign Ministers video conference on COVID-19

External Affairs Minister(EAM) S.Jaishankar participated in a virtual conference of foreign ministers hosted by Russia from Shanghai Cooperation Organisation(SCO) member states and insisted on the collective action against the terrorism and the security challenges, chaired by Mr Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russian Federation.



- i. India and Pakistan became the members of the SCO in 2017.
- ii. EAM mentioned that the security challenges faced today are not associated with the physical or political boundaries and stated that the threat to security and stability in the region of SCO requires collective actions.
- iii. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavroc called for strengthening the roles of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure(RATs), an SCO mechanism, to prevent and counter the terrorism, extremism and drug trafficking.

About SCO:

Members of SCO – 8 members. The Republic of India, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan

Secretary General- Vladimir Norov

Headquarters- Beijing, China

Founded in- 15th June 2001

Active from- 19th September 2003

PM CARES Fund trust allocates Rs 3,100 crore: COVID-19



PM CARES (Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations) Fund Trust has allocated Rs 3100 crores to fight against COVID-19 pandemic. Out of the total amount around Rs 2000 crores will be allocated for the purchase of ventilators, Rs 1000 crores to care migrant labourers and Rs 100 crores to support vaccine development.

Rs 2000 crores for purchase of ventilators

Rs 1000 crores for relief measures of migrants

Rs 100 crores to support vaccine development

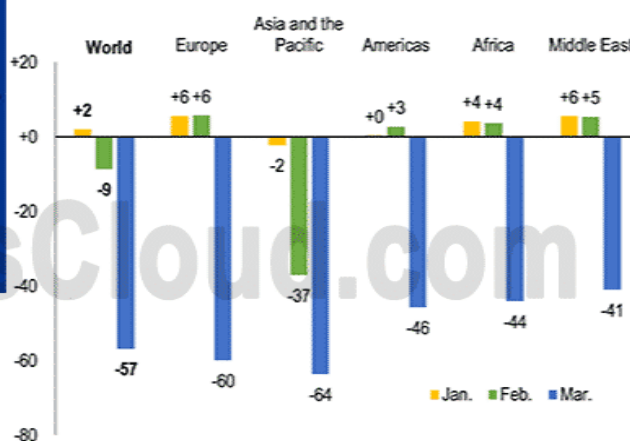
About PM CARES:

It was established on 27th March 2020 & is headed by Prime Minister (ex-Officio) and other ex-officio Members of the trust are Defence Minister, Home Minister and Finance Minister.

International tourism to decline 60-80% in 2020: UNWTO report



**International Tourism
Down 22% in Q1**



According to the latest data of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) the international tourism could **decline by 60-80%** in 2020 when compared with 2019 figures, due to COVID-19 pandemic outbreak which will **result in loss of USD 910 billion to USD 1.2 trillion** and places millions of livelihoods at risk and threatens to curtail the progress made in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Gist of the report

- i. As per the latest (UNWTO) World Tourism Barometer the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a 22% fall in international tourist arrivals during the 1st quarter (3 months) of 2020.
- ii. Arrivals dropped by 57% in March after the lockdown began in many countries. This translates into a loss of 67 million international arrivals and about USD 80 billion in receipts (exports from tourism).
- iii. The current scenarios indicate a possible decline in arrivals of 58% to 78% for the year. These depend on the speed of the control and the duration of travel restrictions and shutdown of borders.

About UNWTO:

It is UN's specialized agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism. In total there are 159 member states including India

Headquarters— Madrid, Spain

Secretary General— Zurab Pololikashvili

India likely to miss global nutrition targets by 2025: WHO's Global Nutrition Report 2020



WHO's Global Nutrition Report 2020 On May 12, 2020 According to World Health

Organization (WHO)'s Global Nutrition Report 2020, India is one among 88 countries to miss global nutrition targets by 2025 & is with highest rates of domestic

inequalities in malnutrition. **India along with Nigeria & Indonesia are worst** in disparities in stunting & the levels varied four-fold across communities.

Nutrition Targets

- i. The World Health Assembly in 2012 identified 6 nutrition targets for maternal, infant and young child nutrition to be met by 2025 they are:

ii.Reduce **stunting** by 40% in children under 5; Reduce **Anaemia** by 50% in women of reproductive age(15-49 years); Reduce 30% in low **birth weight**; No increase in childhood **overweight**; Increase the rate of exclusive **breastfeeding** in the first 6 months up to at least 50%; Reduce and maintain **childhood wasting** to less than 5%.

India will miss targets for **4 nutritional indicators(Stunting, anaemia, childhood overweight and exclusive breastfeeding)**

Forest loss rate globally declined from 2015 to 2020: FRA 2020



According to the Global Forest Resources Assessment(FRA) 2020 released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization(FAO), the **forest loss rate in 2015-2020 has declined to an estimated 10 million**

hectares(mha), down from 12 mha in 2010-2015.

Highlights-

- i. The world has **lost 178 mha of forest since 1990**, an area the size of Libya.
- ii. The rate of net forest loss declined from 7.8 mha per year in the decade 1990–2000 to 5.2 mha per year in 2000–2010 and 4.7 mha per year in 2010–2020.
- iii. Among the world’s regions, Africa has the largest annual rate of net forest loss in 2010–2020, at 3.9 mha
- iv. The world’s total forest area was 4.06 billion hectares(bha), which was 31% of the total land area; this area was equivalent to 0.52 ha per person.

UN’s WESP report forecasts India to grow at 1.2% in CY20 and global economy to shrink by 3.2%



In the United Nations(UN) World Economic Situation and Prospects(WESP) mid year report forecast that the COVID-19 pandemic situation will shrink the **world economy by 3.2%** in 2020 this is the sharpest contraction since the 1930’s

Great Depression and India's economy to grow at **1.2% in 2020**.

The global economy is expected to **lose nearly \$8.5 trillion** in output over the next two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic

The report estimates that the world GDP is expected to rebound to **3.4 percent in 2021**, mostly recovering lost output.

V Vidyavathi Appointed as Director General of Archaeological Survey of India



The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the appointment of senior bureaucrat V Vidyavathi as the new Director General (DG) of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

West Bengal govt launches 'Matir Smristi' scheme to utilise 50,000-acre barren land in 6 districts



The West Bengal (WB) Government (govt) launched 'Matir Smristi' scheme to utilise 50,000 acres of barren land in 6 districts for income-generating activities like horticulture and pisciculture involving the locals. Chief

Minister (CM) Mamata Banerjee also added that the scheme will benefit around 2.5 lakh people in rural Bengal. As per the data, there is at least 50,000 acre of barren land in **Bankura, Birbhum, Purulia, Jhargram, West Burdwan and West Midnapore** districts of the state.