

Current Affairs=16-05-2020



National Endangered Species day observed on May 15, 2020



In order to raise awareness about endangered species and wildlife in India, **National Endangered Species Day** is celebrated every year on the 3rd Friday of May. This year the day falls on **May 15, 2020** & we are celebrating

the **15th edition**.

For the first time in the 1960s & in 1970s, concern was expressed for the protection and well-being of the environment and the wildlife present in the environment. Subsequently, Endangered Species Act of 1973 was enacted in the US to protect endangered species.

About International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN):

Headquarters– Gland, Switzerland

President– Xinsheng Zhang

International Day of Families 2020: May 15



International Day of Families is observed every year on May 15 globally. The day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families. The day also highlights the benefits of the family systems to the masses.

Theme for the year 2020: “Families in Development: Copenhagen & Beijing + 25”. The theme highlights the 25th anniversary of the Copenhagen Declaration and Beijing Platform for Action.

History of the day: On December 9, 1989, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly proclaimed the International Year of the Families in its resolution 44/82. In 1993, the General Assembly decided in a **resolution (A/RES/47/237)** to observe **May 15**, every year as The International Day of Families and was first celebrated on **May 15, 1994**.

Indian coast guard ship sachet, interceptor boats C-450 and C-451 commissioned:



Rajnath Singh Coast Guard patrol vessel Sachet 2 interceptor boats commissioned On May 15, 2020 Union Defence minister Rajnath Singh has commissioned the indigenously-built

Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Sachet, the 1st in the series of five offshore patrol vessels (OPVs), and Interceptor Boats (IB's) C-450 and C-451 in Goa by video conference from New Delhi.

For the 1st time in Indian maritime history that a ship was commissioned through digital medium by maintaining strict protocol of social distancing due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Sachet' means alert is projection of will and commitment of ICG 'to be ever vigilant for serving and protecting' the maritime interest of the Nation. The **105 metre ship** is designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) and is fitted with state-of-the-art navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machinery.

IB's C-450 and C-451

The two 30 metre boats are designed and built by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Shipyard, Hazira (Gujarat) and are fitted with the latest navigation and Communication equipment.

Harsh Vardhan participates in the 32nd Commonwealth Health Ministers' Virtual Meeting



Union Health & Family Welfare Minister **Harsh**

Vardhan participated in the **32nd Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting** through Video Conference. The theme of the meeting is- **'Delivering a co-ordinated Commonwealth**

COVID-19 response'. Significant to facilitate universal and affordable access to all relevant medical products and technologies(both existing and new), these should be made available in a fair and equitable manner to tackle COVID-19.

About Commonwealth: There are **54 countries in the Commonwealth**, in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Pacific. Commonwealth countries are diverse – they are amongst the world's biggest, smallest, richest and poorest countries. **The 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) scheduled to take place in Kigali, Rwanda on 22 – 27 June 2020 has been postponed due to COVID-19**

Piyush Goyal participated in 2nd G20 Trade & Investment Ministers Virtual Meeting

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal participated in a video conference of **2nd edition of trade and investment ministers of G20 countries** following the G20 trade ministers meet on March 30, 2020 to discuss on COVID-19 situation. **Saudi Arabia** chaired the meeting



2nd G20 Virtual Trade & Investment Ministers Meeting

This meeting was called upon by India to discuss and ensure that the use the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) of flexibilities under a World Trade Organisation(WTO) pact to enable the access of medicine, treatment and vaccines at affordable price among the G20

nations.

About WTO:

Director General- Roberto Azevedo

Location- Geneva, Switzerland

Established- 1st January 1995

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan Part-2: Package for Poor, including migrants and farmers detailed by Nirmala Sitharaman

The Second Part of the “Economic Stimulus” Package Focusses on Migrant Workers and farmers

- Close to 8 crore migrants, who are not covered under the food distribution system, will be given 5 kg of grains per person and 1 kg chana per family per month for two months
- Affordable rental housing complexes planned under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana
- Interest subvention worth ₹1,500 crore announced for MUDRA-Shishu loans of up to ₹50,000
- ‘One Nation One Ration Card’ to be used to enable access of PDS across country; 100% national coverage expected by March 2021
- Funds worth ₹6,000 crore to be used for boosting employment for Adivasis and tribals
- A scheme worth ₹5,000 crore to facilitate easy access to credit for street vendors
- 63 lakh agriculture loans worth ₹86,600 crore approved between March 1 and April 30
- Concessional credit for 2.5 crore PM-KISAN beneficiaries worth ₹2 lakh crores
- Centre had released ₹11,000 crore to States on April 3 to augment funds in their State Disaster Response Fund for setting up shelters for migrants
- 14.62 crore person-days of work generated under MGNREGS till May 13

The Part 2 of “Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan” (self-reliant India Movement) is focused on providing relief to poor including migrant labours, street vendors, migrant urban

poor, small traders, self-employed people, small farmers, housing and members of tribal community.

- Free food grains supply to migrants for 2 months; Rs 3500 cr allocated
- One Ration Card fully rolled out by March 2021
- Scheme for Affordable Rental Housing Complexes under PMAY for Migrant Workers and Urban Poor to be launched

- 2% Interest Subvention for 12 months for Shishu MUDRA loanees- Relief of Rs. 1,500 crore
- Rs 5,000 crore Credit facility for Street Vendors; Rs 10,000 working capital support
- Rs 70,000 crore boost to housing sector and middle income group through
- Rs 6000 crore employment push using CAMPA funds
- Rs 30,000 crore Additional Emergency Working Capital for farmers through NABARD
- Rs 2 lakh crore credit boost to 2.5 crore farmers under Kisan Credit Card Scheme

India's CO2 emissions falls for the 1st time in four decades: Carbon Brief

India's Carbon Emissions seen Falling First Time in four decades



- Country's CO2 emissions fall for the first time in 4 decades
- Emissions fell by around 15% in March and are likely to have fallen by 30% last month
- Fall in consumption of fossil fuels has led to the decline
- Electricity and transport sectors major contributors of CO2 pollution
- Consumption of oil and natural gas also saw a decline

According to an analysis by the environmental website, Carbon Brief, India's Carbon Dioxide (CO2) emissions fell by 30metric tonnes(1.4%) in the fiscal year ending March, which is

the first annual decline in four decades. Furthermore, emission fell by 15% during the month of March and is likely to fall by 30% in April.

Israel names street in Tel Aviv after Rabindranath Tagore on his 159th birth anniversary



Israel named a street in Tel Aviv after Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore on his 159th birth anniversary to honor his valuable contributions in the field and to mankind. He was born on May 7, 1861, in Calcutta. In Bengal Rabindra Jayanti is

celebrated on the 25th day of the Bengali month of Boishakh.

About Israel:

Israel is the only Jewish nation in the modern period

Prime Minister- Benjamin Netanyahu

Capital- Jerusalem

Declaration of statehood- May 14, 1948

World Bank approves 1 billion USD to support India's combat against COVID-19



On 15th May 2020, World Bank approves Rs 7500 crore (1 billion USD) to 'Accelerating India's COVID-19 Social Protection Response Program' to increase India's COVID-19 Social Protection response

Program to help the nation's efforts in providing assistance for the poor and needy who are affected by the pandemic.

About World Bank:

President- David Malpass

Managing Director- Axel van Trotsenburg

Headquarters- Washington DC, United States of America

COVID-19 may cost global economy loss of up to \$ 8.8 trillion: ADB report



According to a report "Updated Assessment of the Potential Economic Impact of COVID-19" released by Asian Development Bank (ADB), global economy is expected to lose between \$ 5.8 trillion to \$ 8.8 trillion (equal to

6.4 % to 9.7 % of global gross domestic product (GDP)) due to the outbreak of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

i. In the People's Republic of China (PRC), this loss can range from 1.1 trillion to 1.6 trillion dollars.

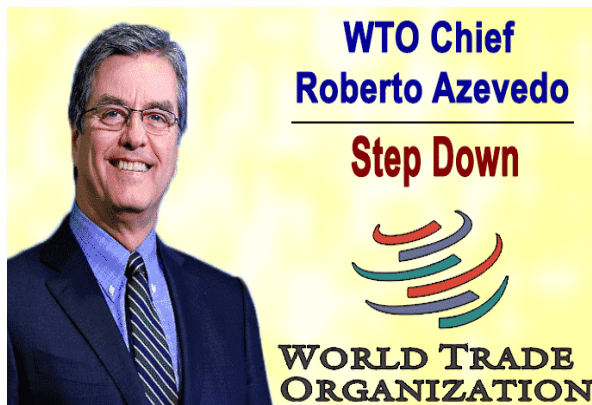
About Asian Development Bank (ADB):

Headquarters– Manila, Philippines

Membership– 68 countries

President– Masatsugu Asakawa

WTO Director General Roberto Azevedo to step down on August 31 before term expires



At the World Trade Organisation(WTO) members virtual meeting, the 6th Director-General **Roberto Azevedo**(62-year-old), a former Brazilian diplomat & 1st Latin American director announced that he will **step down** from the **7-year tenure**(since 2013) on **31st August** on

personal grounds, cutting his second term in office short by exactly one year.

About WTO:

It was established on January 1st **1995** by Uruguay Round negotiations (1986-94) & has **164 members** which represents 98% of world trade.

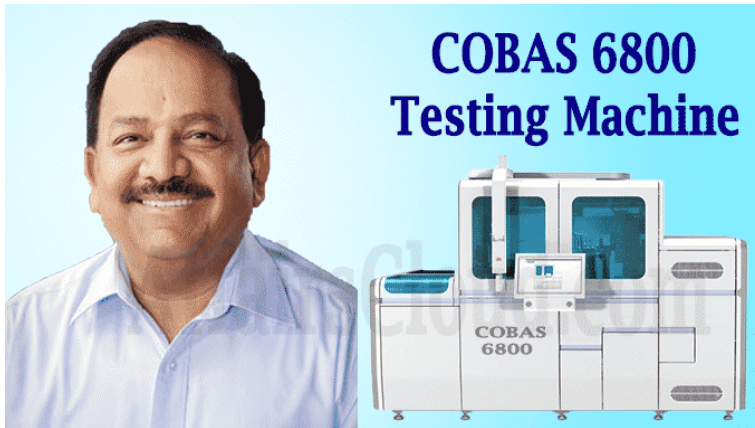
Headquarters– Geneva, Switzerland

Govt introduces new scheme of 2% interest subvention on working capital loans for dairy sector

i. **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** has introduced a new scheme “Interest subvention on Working Capital Loans for Dairy sector” for supporting Dairy Cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organizations (SDC&FPO) engaged in dairy activities.

ii. A budgetary provision of **Rs 100 Crore** earmarked for this and will be implemented during 2020-21.

Dr Harsh Vardhan dedicates COBAS 6800 testing machine to the nation



i. The COBAS 6800 is a fully automated, high-end machine for performing Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) tests for COVID-19.

ii. The machine has been placed at the National

Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) because it requires a minimum BSL2+ (Biosafety Level Two Plus) containment level for testing, and cannot be placed at just any facility.

About NCDC:

Works under– Ministry of Family & Health Welfare (MoHFW)

Director– Dr Sujeet Kumar Singh