

Current Affairs:09.06.2021

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma Declares Raimona Reserve Forest as Sixth National Park in State



Raimona Reserve Forest in Assam has been upgraded as the National Park. It will now be the **sixth National Park in Assam**. The announcement was made by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on the occasion of World Environment Day, on June 5, 2021. Raimona National Park is in Kokrajhar district under the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), spread over 422 sqkm.

Raimona also shares its boundary with Phipsoo Wildlife Sanctuary and Jigme Singye Wangchuk National Park in Bhutan (1,999sqkm). The other five existing national parks in Assam are **Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Nameri National Park, Dibru-Saikhowa National Park and Orang National Park.**

IISc, Bengaluru Ranked Best Indian University in Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2021



Three Indian Universities have made it to the top 100 list of **Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2021** released on June 02, 2021.

A record number of **63 Indian universities** found place in 2021 list, however, none of them could make to top 10. Ranked at **37th spot, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru** was the **highest ranked university from India for the seventh year in a row**. The other two universities in the top 100 are: **Indian Institute of Technology Ropar (55) and Indian Institute of Technology Indore (78)**

14 Indian institutions debuted in 2021 rankings. India is ranked third overall in terms of representation of universities. Japan with 116 universities is on top, followed by Mainland China with 91 representation.

Overall, the mainland **Chinese universities Tsinghua University ranked first** followed by Peking University at second position.

The Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings assessed performance of **551 universities from 30 countries on the 13 performance indicators/parameters.**

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Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' releases Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2019-20 for States and Union Territories

Grade (Score)	Names of States/UTs							No. of States/UTs
Level I (951-1000) Grade 1++	Andaman and Nicobar	Chandigarh	Punjab	Tamil Nadu	Kerala	Goa	Andhra Pradesh	6
Level II (881-950) Grade 1+	Andhra Pradesh	Goa	Kerala	Madhya Pradesh	Odisha	Uttar Pradesh	West Bengal	7
Level III (811-880) Grade II	Andhra Pradesh	Goa	Kerala	Madhya Pradesh	Odisha	Uttar Pradesh	West Bengal	7
Level IV (741-810) Grade III	Goa	Andhra Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh	West Bengal	Odisha	Chandigarh	8
Level V (671-740) Grade IV	Andhra Pradesh	Goa	Kerala	Madhya Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh	West Bengal	Odisha	8
Level VI (601-670) Grade V	Andhra Pradesh	Goa	Kerala	Madhya Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh	West Bengal	Odisha	8
Level VII (531-600) Grade VI	Madhya Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh	West Bengal	Odisha	Chandigarh	Kerala	Goa	7
Level VIII (461-530) Grade VII	Ladakh							1
Level IX (391-460) Grade VIII	Ladakh							1
Level X (321-390) Grade IX	Ladakh							1
Level XI (251-320) Grade X	Ladakh							1

The **2021 Performance Grading Index (PGI)** was released by Union Education Minister, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' on June 06, 2021.

The PGI index measure the **performance of states in school education**, based on data drawn from several sources, like Unified District Information System for Education Plus, National Achievement Survey, and Mid-Day Meal.2021 PGI is the third edition of the PGI Index and has considered **2019-20 as reference**

year. The first PGI for States and Union Territories was published in 2019 with reference year 2017-18.States are scored on a total of 1,000 points across 70 parameters.In PGI Index, states are graded and not ranked so as to discourage the practice of one state improving only at the cost of other state.

There are 10 levels in PGI grading system. Level I (951-1000) is the highest grade while Level X, also known as Grade VII (0-550) is the lowest grade.

In 2021 PGI, none of the state or Union Territory could achieve the highest grade, that is Level I.

Chandigarh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar and Kerala have obtained Grade 1++ (or Level II), which makes them the best performing states. **Ladakh** has obtained the lowest grade, Grade VII.

Indian Navy Set to Receive Three MH-60 'Romeo' Multi-role Helicopters from US in July 2022



The **United States of America (USA)** is set to hand over **three out of 24 MH-60 Romeo helicopters** to the **Indian Naval Force in July 2022.**In February 2020, India and the US had signed **Rs 15,157 crore (\$2.13 billion)** deal to buy **24 MH-60 Romeo helicopters from Lockheed Martin.**Currently, the first batch of Indian pilots are in US for training on

these helicopters.The MH-60 Romeos are equipped with multi-mode radars and night-vision devices, Hellfire missiles, torpedoes and precision-guided weaponry.These helicopters are designed in a way that they can operate from frigates, destroyers, cruisers and aircraft carriers.

NITI Aayog recommends Privatisation of Central Bank & Indian Overseas Bank



Government think-tank NITI Aayog has recommended the names of **Central Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** for privatization in the current fiscal (2021-22), as part of the disinvestment process announced in the Union Budget 2021-22. In the Budget speech 2021-22, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced privatising two public sector banks (PSBs) and one general insurance company in 2021-22, as per the new PSE (Public Sector Enterprise) policy for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. It must be noted that Centre has set a disinvestment target of **Rs 1.75 lakh crore for FY22**. Under the privatisation initiative, NITI Aayog was entrusted with the task to suggest names of PSUs in strategic sectors to be merged, privatised, or made subsidiaries of other PSUs.

Following the recommendation, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) and Department of Financial Services (DFS) will now examine the proposal and discuss legislative changes needed for privatisation of banks.

A Core Group of Secretaries, headed by the Cabinet Secretary, will then clear the suggested names, after which the proposal will go to Alternative Mechanism (AM) for its approval and finally to the Union Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister for final nod.

RBI imposes Rs 6 crore Penalty on Bank of India & PNB for Violation of Norms

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed monetary penalty aggregating to **Rs 6 crore on Bank of India and Punjab National Bank** for contravention of norms related to "Frauds Classification and Reporting". The penalty imposed on **Bank of India is of Rs 4 crore and Rs 2 crore on Punjab National Bank**. The Bank of India has been fined for non-compliance with/contravention of directions, related to breach of stipulated transaction limits; delay in transfer of unclaimed balances to DEA Fund; delay in reporting a fraud



to RBI and sale of a fraudulent asset

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India elected as member of UN Economic and Social Council for 2022-24 term



India has been elected as the member of the **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**, one of the six main organs of the United Nations, for **three-year terms of 2022-24**. India was elected to the **54-member ECOSOC**, by the UNGA on June 7, 2021, in the **Asia-Pacific States category**, along

with **Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Oman**. ECOSOC serves as the central platform for discussing international economic, social and environmental issues and formulating policy recommendations addressed to member states and the United Nations system.

ECOSOC Headquarters: New York, United States, and Geneva

Maldives Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid Elected as President for 76th UNGA



The **Foreign Minister of Maldives, Abdulla Shahid**, has been elected as the new **President of the UN General Assembly (UNGA)**. Shahid secured 143 votes out of the 191 votes polled, to be elected as the President for the **76th UNGA**. This is the first time that Maldives will occupy the office of the President

of the UNGA (PGA). The election of PGA is held on an annual rotation basis, amongst various regional groupings. The 76th UNGA session (2021-22) was the turn of the Asia-Pacific group. The PGA's office is the highest office in the UN System.

Sanjeev Sahai Selected as new Chairman of oil regulator PNGRB



Former power secretary **Sanjeev Nandan Sahai** has been named as the new Chairman of oil regulator **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)**. Sahai is a 1986 batch IAS officer who retired as Secretary in Ministry of Power on January 31, 2021. His appointment is subject to approval by Appointments

Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

Inaugural FIH Hockey5s World Cup to be held in Oman in January 2024



Muscat, the capital city of Oman, has been picked as the host city for the inaugural **Hockey5s World Cups (Men and Women)**, by the **International Hockey Federation (FIH)**. The World Cup will take place in **January 2024**.

16 teams per gender (3 per continent + Oman, as hosts) will take part in the first edition.

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World Accreditation Day (WAD): 09 June



The **World Accreditation Day (WAD)** is celebrated every year on **9 June** to promote the role of accreditation in trade & economy. The theme for WAD 2021 is “**Accreditation: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**”. WAD is a global initiative, jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation.