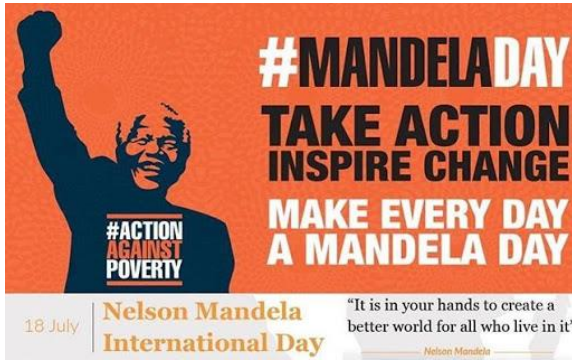


Nelson Mandela International Day 2020 – July 18



The United Nations' (UN) Nelson Mandela International Day is annually celebrated on July 18th, the birth anniversary of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, to recognise his contribution in creating a democratic South Africa.

ii. The theme of Nelson Mandela International Day is "Take action, inspire change"

iii. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/64/13 on 10th November 2009, declaring July 18th as Nelson Mandela International Day

About Republic of South Africa:

President– Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa

Capital– Pretoria (executive), Bloemfontein (Judicial), Cape town (legislative)

Currency– South African rand

PM Modi delivers keynote address virtually at High-Level Segment of ECOSOC held at in New York, US



Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a keynote address virtually at 2020's High-Level Segment (HLS) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) session held at the United Nations in

New York, United States (US). The theme of this 2020 ECOSOC HLS was "Multilateralism after COVID19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary".

- This was the first address by PM to the UN membership since India's elected as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the term 2021-22.
- This was the second time that PM Narendra Modi addressed the ECOSOC after the 70th anniversary of the ECOSOC in January 2016.

Key Points from address:

-India has maintained its role as a first responder, as Indian government and Indian pharma companies have ensured medicine supplies to different countries amid COVID-19 crisis.

There is a long association of India with the ECOSOC and the UN's developmental work including for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For eg: India's developmental motto of 'SabkaSaath, SabkaVikaas, Sabka Vishwas' ('Together, for everyone's growth, with everyone's trust') resonates with the core SDG principle of leaving no one behind.

Points to be noted: The first president of ECOSOC, i.e. in 1946, was an Indian namely **Ramaswami Mudaliar**.

-India was among the 50 founding members of the United Nations (UN), which now has 193 member countries.

-UN will mark its 75th anniversary on September, 21 2020 on the theme, '**The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism**'.

About United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):

President– Mona Juul

Headquarter– New York, United States (US)



Dharmendra Pradhan & Dan Brouillette co-chaired 2nd Meeting of India-US Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) virtually

Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Steel Dharmendra Pradhan and United States (US) Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette co-chaired the 2nd ministerial meeting of the U.S.-India Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) virtually to review progress,

highlight major accomplishments, and prioritize new areas for cooperation.
ii. Several MoU signed at US-India SEP ministerial meeting including the following:

- India-US signed MoU to begin cooperation on strategic petroleum reserve; India to create its first overseas oil stockpile in US
- MoU on India's first-ever Solar Decathlon
- MOU between EESL, NTPC, and USAID for retrofit of buildings to improve indoor air quality, safety, and efficiency
- USAID partnered with POSOCO to develop NOAR
- Launch of public-private Hydrogen Task Force
- MoU signed under US-India Gas Task Force (GTF)

UN's Global Multidimensional Poverty Index: India Record Largest Reduction in Number of People Living in Poverty

United Nations Multidimensional Poverty Index **2020**



The United Nations' "the Multidimensional Poverty Index(MPI) 2020: Charting pathways out of multidimensional poverty: Achieving the SDGs" states that India records the largest reduction in the number of People

living in poverty as around 273 million people moved out of the multidimensional poverty over 10 years.

The report released by the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) focuses on how multidimensional poverty has declined.

Multidimensional Poverty:

The multidimensional poverty encloses various deprivations experienced by the poor people like poor health, lack of education, inadequate standard of living, poor quality of work, threat of violence and hazardous living environments.

Features of the Report:

i. The data of the reports shows that out of 75 countries studied, 65 countries have reduced multidimensional poverty levels between 2000 and 2019.

ii. Among the 65 countries, 50 countries have reduced the number of people living in poverty.

Armenia (2010–2015/2016), India (2005/2006–2015/2016), Nicaragua (2001–2011/2012) and North Macedonia (2005/2006–2011) have reduced their global MPIT value by half in 5.5 to 10.5 years, these countries accounts one fifty of the world's population.

iii. The information related to the 273 million people moving out of poverty in India was based on the population data from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

iv. The report states that both India and Nicaragua have halved the MPIT

About United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):

Administrator– Achim Steiner

Headquarters– New York, United States of America

Recent Related News:

i. India ranks 74th, Sweden tops: WEF's global Energy Transition index 2020

ii. NCAER Business confidence index (N-BCI) declined to 77.3 in Q4 FY20

India Remains as Lower-Middle-Income Economy: World Bank Country Classifications by Income Level 2020-2021



According to the New World Bank country classifications by income level 2020-2021, India remains in the classification, Lower-Middle-Income Economy. In total 218 countries have been included in this classification.

ii. The World Bank classifies countries into four income groups namely: low income, lower-middle income, upper-middle income, and high-income economies.

iii. The classifications are updated each year on July 1 and are based on Gross National Income (GNI) per capita in current USD (using the Atlas method exchange rates) of the previous year.

UN announced the Laureates of 2020 Nelson Mandela Prize: Marianna Vardinoyannis & Morissana Kouyaté



On 17th July 2020, Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, The President of United Nations General Assembly announced that Marianna Vardinoyannis, of Greece, and Doctor Morissana Kouyaté, of Guinea will receive the 2020 Nelson Mandela Prize. They will be

recognised in the virtual ceremony on 20th July 2020.

ii. The award will be presented to them in an in-person award ceremony at a later date at the United Nations (UN) headquarters, New York, United States of America.

About UNGA:

President– Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

President Elect– Volkan Bozkir


Headquarters– New York, United States of America

FIFA World Cup 2022: to be held in Qatar at Al Bayt Stadium



Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) informed that the 2022 World cup tournament is to be held in Qatar at Al Bayt Stadium (or) Al Khor Stadium. Men's 2022 FIFA World Cup is scheduled to be the 22nd edition of the FIFA World Cup. Host country will be Qatar.

Few Facts about Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup



i. The first men's FIFA World Cup to be staged in the Middle East, is also the first edition to be held in the November-December window.

ii. The World Cup is being hosted by an Asian nation for the second time. The first one was hosted by Japan and South Korea hosted together in 2002.

iii. The world cup involves 32 teams usually which are set to be increased to 48 teams in the year 2026 tournament.

Recent Related news

FIFA President Gianni Infantino congratulated the South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) last 9th July 2020 on the 104th anniversary of its foundation.

About FIFA:

President: Gianni Infantino

Headquarters: Zurich, Switzerland

Membership: 211 national associations.