

Current Affairs=28-07-2020

India to set up Solar Power Plant in Sri Lanka



Under the aegis of International Solar Alliance (ISA) NTPC Ltd, Largest power generation utility of India plans to establish solar power plants in Sri Lanka as a part of the strategy to exhibit the presence of India in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) amid

China's attempt to attract nations into the "Belt and Road" initiative.

Key Points:

- i. The Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) has an installed power generation capacity of around 35.8 GigaWatts (GW).
- ii. The NTPC's Sri Lanka Solar park with installed capacity of 62.91 GW is one of the contracts to help the ISA member countries to build a 10 GW solar capacity.
- iii. The proposed solar park follows the Colombo coal fuelled power project which was scrapped due to environmental issues.
- iv. Petronet LNG Ltd, announced its plan to establish a terminal for liquefied natural gas in Sri Lanka.
- v. As a part of creating a new energy ecosystem in the South Asian neighbourhood, India explores laying overhead electricity links with Sri Lanka.

Indian climate activist Archana Soreng becomes a member of António Guterres's new Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change



The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres named Indian climate activist Archana Soreng among 7 members to his new Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change. The

members will advise him regularly on accelerating global action and also provide solutions to tackle the worsening

climate crisis. This is to mobilize climate action as part of the COVID-19 recovery efforts. The members are between the ages of 18 and 28 years old

About the Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change

- i.** The members of the Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change represent the diverse voices of young people from all regions as well as small island states.
- ii.** They will offer perspectives and solutions on climate change, from science to community mobilization, from entrepreneurship to politics, and from industry to conservation.

Background

- i.** The establishment of the Group builds on last year's (2019) successful Youth Climate Summit.
- ii.** It was the 1st time a Secretary-General has convened a summit for young people entirely devoted to climate action.
- iii.** The initiative is also aligned with the Secretary-General's vision for the UN Youth Strategy, launched in September 2018.

GoI funded 10 Broad Gauge Locomotives handed over to Bangladesh by Indian Railways in a virtual ceremony



Indian Railways handed over the specifically modified 10 railway broad gauge locomotives to Bangladesh, which will help in handling the increasing volume of passenger and freight train operations in Bangladesh. All locomotives can attain speed of up

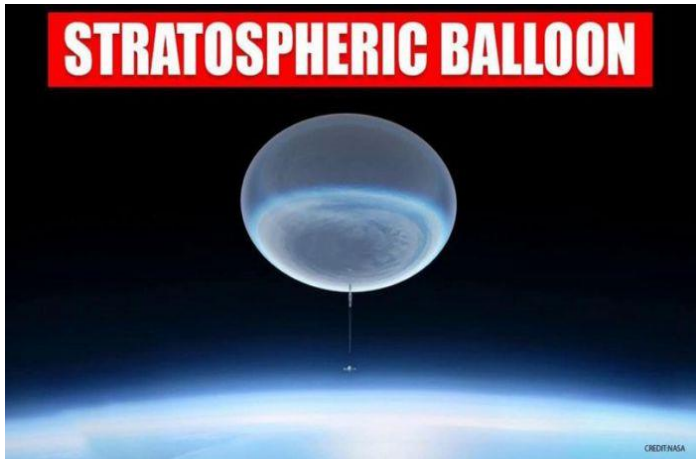
to 120 km per hour and have a residual life of 28 years or more.

The locomotives were flagged off virtually to Bangladesh by External Affairs Minister **Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar** and Railway Minister **Piyush Vedprakash Goyal**. From Bangladesh, the online ceremony was attended by Minister of Railway Md Nurul Islam Sujan and Minister of Foreign Affairs Abul Kalam Abdul Momen.

It should be noted that these locomotives are provided under a **grant assistance** from the government of India (GoI) which was agreed in October 2019 during the visit of Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina to India.

The year 2020 is marking the birth centenary of **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** aka Bangabandhu, the first President of Bangladesh, who was born on March 17, 1920.

NASA to Launch ASTHROS Mission to study Cosmos using football stadium-sized balloon



NASA has planned to launch a new mission '**ASTHROS**', to observe wavelengths of light invisible from the Earth, in a bid to find answers about formation of giant stars in the galaxy. Under the mission NASA will send a telescope, on a **football stadium-sized balloon**, high into the stratosphere.

The telescope mission ASTHROS stands for Astrophysics Stratospheric Telescope for High Spectral Resolution Observations at Submillimeter-wavelengths

The mission is likely to be launched in **December 2023 from Antarctica**, and will be managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Maldives celebrates 55th Independence Day on 26 July 2020

Maldives celebrated its **55th Independence Day** on 26 July 2020.

2020 also marks 55 years of establishment of diplomatic ties between India and the Maldives.

Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

CRPF Observes 82nd Raising Day on 27 July

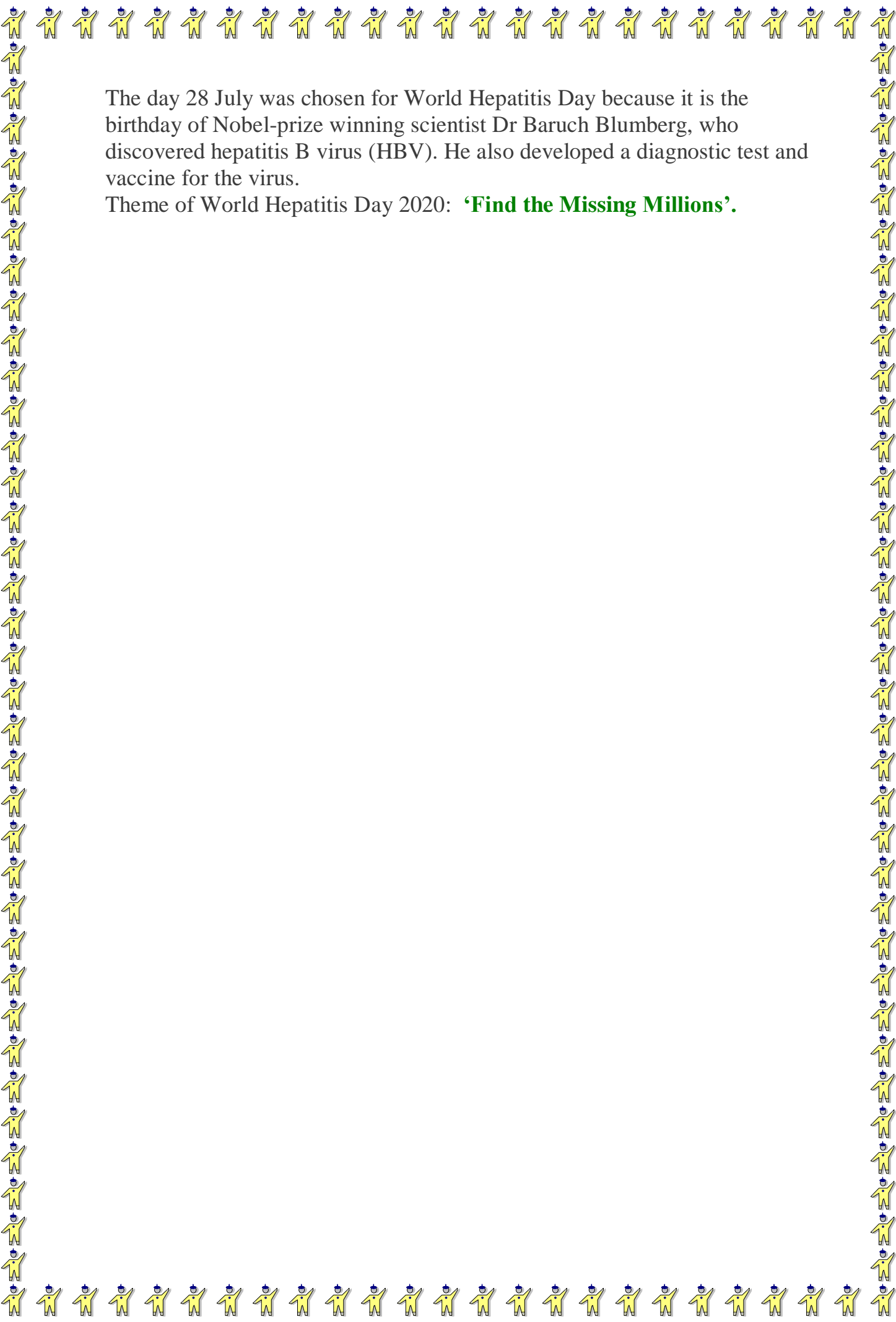
The **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**, observed its **82nd Raising Day on 27 July 2020**.

CRPF is India's largest Central Armed Police Force, under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Its headquarter is located in New Delhi.

It came into existence as the Crown Representative's Police on 27 July 1939. After Indian Independence, it became the Central Reserve Police Force on enactment of the CRPF Act on 28 December 1949.

World Hepatitis Day : 28 July

The **World Hepatitis Day** is observed on **28 July** every year to raise global awareness of the burden of viral hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver that causes a range of health problems, including liver cancer.



The day 28 July was chosen for World Hepatitis Day because it is the birthday of Nobel-prize winning scientist Dr Baruch Blumberg, who discovered hepatitis B virus (HBV). He also developed a diagnostic test and vaccine for the virus.

Theme of World Hepatitis Day 2020: **‘Find the Missing Millions’.**