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Current Affairs: 31/1.08.2021

14 Tiger Reserves of India get Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) Recognition



From India, **14 tiger reserves** have received the accreditation of the **Global Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS)**, on the occasion of International Tiger Day on July 29, 2021. The 14 tiger reserves of India that have received prestigious global

accreditation from CA|TS are:

- Manas, Kaziranga, and Oran – Assam
- Satpura, Panna and Kanha – Madhya Pradesh
- Dudhwa – Uttar Pradesh
- Pench – Maharashtra
- Sunderbans – West Bengal
- Valmiki Nagar – Bihar
- Parambikulam – Kerala
- Mudumalai and Annamalai – Tamil Nadu
- Bandipur – Karnataka

GI-tagged King Chilli 'Raja Mircha' from Nagaland exported to London for the first time



A batch of '**Raja Mircha**,' also known as **king chilli**, **from Nagaland** was exported to London through Guwahati by air for the first time on July 28, 2021, giving a big boost to exports of Geographical Indications (GI) items from the north-eastern region. According to

Scoville Heat Units (SHUs), the King Chilli is considered as the world's hottest chilli and is constantly on the top five in the list of the world's hottest chillies. The shipment was sourced from Tening, in Peren district of Nagaland, and was packed at an APEDA-supported packhouse in Guwahati.

The Naga King Chilli is also known as 'Bhoot Jolokia' or 'Ghost pepper'. Nagaland received the GI certification for the chilli in 2008.

12th INDRA NAVY Exercise between India & Russia held in Baltic Sea

The **12th edition** of biennial bilateral maritime exercise **INDRA NAVY**, between Indian Navy and Russian Navy was held in the **Baltic Sea** from 28 to 29 July 2021.

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The Indian Navy was represented by the stealth Frigate INS Tabar. The Russian Federation Navy was represented by Corvettes RFS Zelyony Dol and RFS Odintsovo of the Baltic Fleet. The exercise will further consolidate inter-operability built up by the two Navies over the years and also enhance understanding and procedures for multi-faceted maritime operations. Ex INDRA NAVY was initiated in 2003.

36th edition of CORPAT between India and Indonesia begins in Indian Ocean



The **36th edition of CORPAT between India and Indonesia** is being held on 30 and 31 July 2021, in the Indian Ocean region. The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Saryu, an indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel and Indonesian Naval Ship KRI Bung Tomo is undertaking coordinated patrol (CORPAT). Besides

this, Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both nations are also participating. The exercise is being conducted as a 'non-contact, at sea only' exercise in view of COVID-19 pandemic. India and Indonesia have been conducting the Coordinated Patrols along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) since 2002 twice a year.

Vantika Agarwal wins Inaugural Women's National online chess title



In Chess, **Vantika Agarwal** of Delhi won the inaugural **National women online chess championship title** organised by the All India Chess Federation (AICF) from July 26-28, 2021. Vantika scored 9.5 round from 11 rounds. Arpita Mukherjee of West Bengal stood second with 9 points. Tamil Nadu's Sreeja Seshadri came third with 8.5 points.

India Chess Federation has decided to consider the performance of this online event for selection of players for the Asian individual championship and other events.

Peru President Pedro Castillo appoints Guido Bellido as new Prime Minister



The newly sworn in President of **Peru**, Pedro Castillo had appointed **Guido Bellido**, as the new **prime minister** of the country on July 29, 2021. Bellido is a member of the Marxist-Leninist Free Peru party, with which Castillo won the presidency.

International Day of Friendship: July 30

International Day of Friendship (World Friendship Day) takes place on **July 30** every year to reserve a day for celebrating friendships and the exchange of gifts between friends. The day was proposed by UNESCO and adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1997. In 2011 the UN General Assembly proclaimed July 30 as International Day of Friendship.

World Ranger Day: 31 July



The **World Ranger Day** is celebrated every year on **31 July**. **Purpose:** Commemorate the Rangers killed or injured while on duty and to celebrate the work that Rangers do to protect the world's natural and cultural heritage. A Ranger is a person tasked with preserving and protecting parklands and natural protected areas. A Ranger typically refers to a forest ranger or a park ranger.

It was on this day in 1992 that **International Ranger Federation (IRF)** was founded. The first World Ranger Day was observed in 2007, on the occasion of the 15th anniversary IRF.

PM Modi launches several educational initiatives while addressing nation on first NEP anniversary



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the nation via video conferencing on July 29, 2021 to mark the completion of one year of announcing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. As a part of the occasion, PM launched multiple initiatives in the education sector.

The initiatives are listed below.

- **Academic Bank of Credit:** This initiative will provide multiple entry and exit options for students in higher education. Multiple entry/exit means students can select the course of their choice and can exit if they are not interested. Students need not stick to a particular stream.
- **First-year engineering programmes in regional languages.** 14 engineering colleges in eight states will offer courses in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi and Bengali. This will benefit those from economically disadvantaged families.
- **Guidelines for the internationalisation of higher education.**

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This could include the study in India scheme and other incentives to foreign institutes setting up campuses in the country. “Office of international education has been set up at 250 plus universities and this will enable attract foreign education.

- **Vidya Pravesh:** Vidya Pravesh is a three-month play-based school preparation module for Grade 1 students.
- **Indian Sign Language:** Indian Sign Language will be included as a subject at the secondary level
- **NISHTHA 2.0:** NISHTHA 2.0 is an integrated programme of teacher training designed by NCERT.
- **SAFAL:** SAFAL is Structured Assessment For Analyzing Learning Levels, a competency-based assessment framework for Grades 3, 5 and 8 in CBSE schools
- **A website dedicated to Artificial Intelligence**
- **National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR) and National Education Technology Forum (NETF)**

Rajasthan Government launches “Mission Nirvyatak Bano” to boost exports from state



The **Rajasthan** government has launched a new campaign titled ‘**Mission Nirvyatak Bano**’, to encourage aspiring exporters in the state, increase the total exports from Rajasthan and increase job opportunities in the state. The campaign has been launched jointly by the State Government’s Industrial Department and

Rajasthan Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO) to handhold the local traders willing to expand their business to foreign countries.

Vice Admiral SN Ghormade takes charge as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff



Vice Admiral SN Ghormade (AVSM, NM) assumed charge as the **Vice Chief of Naval Staff** on July 31, 2021, at a formal ceremony in New Delhi. He succeeds Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar who retired on July 31, 2021, after more than 39 years of illustrious service. The Flag officer SN Ghormade was commissioned in the Indian Navy on January 01, 1984.

Legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle selected for Maharashtra Bhushan Award for 2021



The Maharashtra Bhushan Selection Committee chaired by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has unanimously selected legendary playback singer **Asha Bhosle** for the prestigious **Maharashtra Bhushan Puraskar for the year 2021**. Instituted in 1996, the Maharashtra Bhushan Award is the highest honour presented by the government of

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Maharashtra to recognise distinguished work and achievements of eminent persons from the state, representing different walks of life. It carries a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh and a citation.

Serum Institute Chairman Cyrus Poonawalla wins Lokmanya Tilak National Award

Dr Cyrus Poonawalla, Chairman of the Pune-based vaccine maker Serum Institute of India (SII), has been selected for the prestigious **Lokmanya Tilak National Award for 2021**. Mr Poonawalla has been named for his work during the COVID-19 pandemic, by manufacturing the Covishield vaccine. He will receive the award on August 13. The award comprises a cash prize of Rs one lakh and a memento.

World Breastfeeding Week 2021: 01 – 07 August



The World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) is marked every year in the first week of August, between 1 to 7 August, to raise awareness on the importance of breastfeeding for mothers and infants. The theme of the World Breastfeeding Week 2021 is **“Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility”**. The week is organized by WABA, WHO and UNICEF since 1991.

Muslim Women’s Rights Day: 01 August

In India, “Muslim Women’s Rights Day” is celebrated across the nation on August 01 to celebrate the enactment of the law against Triple Talaq. The first Muslim Women’s Rights Day was observed in 2020. The Government of India enacted the law against Triple Talaq on August 01, 2019 to make the social malpractice of Triple Talaq a criminal offense.



World Lung Cancer Day: 01 August

Every year, **World Lung Cancer Day is observed on August 1** to raise awareness about the causes and treatment of lung cancer and highlight the issues of lack of sufficient research funding for the ailment. The campaign was first organized in 2012 by the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS), in collaboration with the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) and also the American College of Chest Physicians. The IASLC is the largest organization in the world of its kind that only deals with lung cancer.

