

CURRENT AFFAIRS= 24/25-03-2020

Centre Formulated India's First 30 member National Council for Transgender Persons

On August 21, 2020, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 16 of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 (40 of 2019) the Central



Government constituted the India's first 30-member National Council for Transgender Persons to advice, monitor and evaluate measures for the protection of the rights of Transgender community .

- Council will work with states for ensuring setting up transgender welfare boards in all states and looking after the essential needs of the community, like housing, food, healthcare and education.

Structure of Council:

The 30-member council is consisted of 1 Chairperson, 1 Vice-Chairperson, 13 members, 14 nominated members and 1 member secretary which is explained as below:

—**Chairperson:** Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment (SJ&E)

- Current- Thaawar Chand Gehlot

—**Vice-chairperson:** Minister of State (MoS), SJ&E

—**Members:**

- Secretary, SJ&E
- 10 representatives not below the rank of a Joint Secretary from the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare, Home Affairs, Housing and Urban Affairs, Minority Affairs, Ministry of Education, Rural Development, Labour and Employment, Department of Legal Affairs, the Department of Pensions and Pensioners Welfare and the NITI (National Institute for Transforming India) Aayog.

- 2 representatives from Commissions not below the rank of Joint Secretary from National Human Rights Commission, and National Commission for Women



—**Nominated Members:**

- 5 Representatives of transgender community from 5 regions North, South, East, West and North-East viz. **Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, Gopi**

Shankar Madurai, Meera Parida, Zainab Javid Patel and Kak Chingtabam Shyamcand Sharma respectively.

- 5 Representatives of the State Governments and Union territories (UT) by rotation, one each from the North (Jammu & Kashmir), South (Andhra Pradesh), East (Odisha), West (Gujarat) and North-East regions (Tripura).
- 4 experts, to represent non-governmental organisations or associations, working for the welfare of transgender persons: Aryan Pasha, Vihaan Peethambar, Reshma Prasad, and Patel Chandubhai Ganeshdas.

The tenure of the community members and experts shall be 3 years.

Odisha, Chhattisgarh Celebrates '2020 Nuakhai Juhar', Agricultural Festival on August 23

Nuakhai Juhar, an ancient festival which is also known as Nuakhai Parab or Nuakhai Bhetghat is celebrated on the **fifth day** of lunar fortnight of Bhadrabaa, to welcome the new crop of the season in Odisha, Chhattisgarh and other neighbouring states. Nuakhai is a combination of two words, Nua which means **new** and Khai which means **eat**.

The 2020 Nuakhai Juhar was celebrated on 23rd August.

About Odisha:

Tiger Reserve– Similipal Tiger Reserve, Satkosia Tiger Reserve,

Elephant Reserve– Sambalpur Elephant Reserve, Mahanadi Elephant Reserve, Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve

About Chhattisgarh:

Capital– Raipur

Chief Minister– Bhupesh Baghel

Governor– Anusuiya Uikey

Tiger Reserve– udanti-sitanadi tiger reserve, indravati tiger reserve

India's Longest River Ropeway Inaugurated in Guwahati, Assam

On August 24, 2020 The **Guwahati Passenger Ropeway**

Project connecting the Northern and Southern banks of the Brahmaputra



River was inaugurated by the Assam State Minister of Finance, Himanta Biswa Sarma and Guwahati Development Department (GDD) Minister, Siddhartha Bhattacharya. The ropeway service is **1.8 Kilometres long**, making it the longest ropeway distance over a

river in the entire country.

The project is set to become operational by August 24, 2021 and has been built at an estimated cost of Rs 56 Crore.

About Assam:

Capital – Dispur

Chief Minister – Sarbananda Sonowal

National Parks – Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park or Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, Nameri National Park, The Orang National Park.



Kerala State Dragonfly

Festival 2020 aka

“Thumbimahotsavam 2020”

Launched; Mascot is

“Pantalu”

i. On August 15, 2020, the first ever Kerala State Dragonfly

Festival 2020 aka “Thumbimahotsavam 2020” was launched by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)-India State unit in collaboration with **Society for**

Odonate Studies (SOS) and **Thumbipuranam** through a virtual ceremony from

Kerala. Dr. Subramanian K.A. Scientist at Zoological Survey of India (ZSI),

Southern Regional Center, Chennai (Tamil Nadu) addressed the inaugural session.

ii. The official mascot of the festival is **“Pantalu”** which is the genus of dragonfly

in the family Libellulidae commonly known as rainpool gliders.

iii. Thumbimahotsavam 2020 is part of a 3rd edition of national dragonfly festival 2020.



Kallis, Sthalekar and Zaheer Abbas inducted into ICC Cricket Hall of Fame



Former players Jacques Kallis (South Africa), Lisa Caprini Sthalekar (Australia) and Syed Zaheer Abbas Kirmani (Pakistan) were inducted into the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Hall of Fame of the class of 2020 in a virtual ceremony.

ICC Cricket Hall of Fame recognizes the achievements of the legends of the game from cricket's long and illustrious history.

Key Highlights:

i. Kallis (1995-2014) is the Fourth South African player to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. The All-rounder is the only player to have scored 10,000 runs and taken 250 wickets in both Tests and One Day Internationals (ODIs). He is South Africa's highest run-getter in Tests and ODIs.

ii. Lisa Sthalekar (2001-2013) is the 27th Player from Australia and ninth woman player in the Hall of Fame. The All-rounder was part of the Australian women's team which won the Women's ODI World Cup in 2005 & 2013 and Twenty20 International (T20I) World cup in 2010 & 2012. She is the First Woman cricketer to achieve ODI double of 1000 runs & 100 wickets.

iii. Zaheer Abbas (1969-1985) is the sixth player from Pakistan to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. The Former Batsman & Captain played was the first player to score 3 successive hundred in ODIs, and earned the moniker 'Asian Bradman' for his run scoring abilities.

A total of 93 players have been inducted into the Hall of Fame, starting from 2009.

China Successfully Launched New Optical Remote-Sensing Satellite “Gaofen-9 05” along with 2 Smaller Payloads



i. On August 23, 2020, China launched its **fifth Gaofen-9 series** satellite named “Gaofen-9 05” along with two smaller payloads viz. **Tiantuo-5** and **Duo Gongneng Shiyan Weixing** through Long March-2D carrier rocket from its Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre (JSLC)

in northwest China. This launch was the 343rd mission of the Long March rocket series and the 23rd for China in 2020.

ii. Gaofen-9 (05) is an optical remote sensing satellite developed by **Aerospace Dongfanghong Satellite Co.Ltd**, part of China Academy of Space Technology (CAST), a subsidiary of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC).

iii. The major upcoming Chinese mission in 2020, probably in November, is the **Chang’e-5 lunar sample return**.



Wabag Wins 2020 Global Water Award for Koyambedu TTRO Plant in Chennai

On August 22, 2020 Water technology major Va Tech Wabag bagged the 2020 Global Water Award for its 45

million litres a day Tertiary Treatment Reverse Osmosis (TTRO) plant at Koyambedu in Chennai.

The plant bagged the distinction award under the ‘Wastewater project of the year’

category.

- i.**The TTRO plant in Koyambedu, Chennai is one of the largest and technologically most advanced Water Reuse Plants in India.
- ii.**The plant is designed and built by WABAG and IDE Technologies for Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board (CMWSSB).
- iii.**The plant uses a multi-stage treatment scheme, including Rapid Gravity Sand Filters, Ultrafiltration, Reverse Osmosis, and Ozonation and is the first reuse facility in India to use Ozonation for disinfection.
- iv.**The plant makes Chennai the first Indian city to reuse more than 20% of its treated wastewater freeing up more than 16 million metrics of fresh water each year.

The Global Water Awards were established in 2006 by Global Water Intelligence to reward initiatives in the water, wastewater and desalination sectors that are moving the industry forward through operating performance, innovative technology adoption and sustainable financial models.

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