

CURRENT AFFAIRS= 29-09-2020

ZOHRA SEHGAL



Google dedicated a doodle to Zohra Segal, one of the country's first female actors to truly achieve recognition on the international stage.

About:

Zohra Sehgal (1912 – 2014) was an Indian actress, dancer, and choreographer.

- Considered the doyenne of Indian theatre, she acted with the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA) and Prithviraj Kapoor's Prithvi Theatre for 14 years. Sehgal appeared in several British films, television shows, and Bollywood productions in a career that spanned over six decades.
- Awards received: Sangeet Natak Akademi Award; Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship, Kalidas Samman; Padma Shri; Padma Bhushan; and Padma Vibhushan

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS ON FOOD LOSS AND WASTE REDUCTION

The first ever observance of the International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction is being celebrated on 29 September, 2020. It was designated in 2019 by the 74th United Nations General Assembly.



Why is it important to reduce food loss and waste?

- Reducing food losses and waste is essential in a world where the number of people affected by hunger has been slowly on the rise since 2014, and tons and tons of edible food are lost and/or wasted every day.
- Globally, around 14 percent of food produced is lost between harvest and retail. Significant quantities are also wasted in retail and at the consumption level.

- Food loss and waste also puts unnecessary pressure on the natural resource base and on the environment, depleting the natural resource base and generating greenhouse gases.

Important Info :

SDG Target 12.3 says "by 2030 halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level, and reduce food losses along production and supply chains including post-harvest losses."

To monitor SDG Target 12.3, FAO has created the Food Loss Index (FLI). The focus of the indicator is on percentages of food removed from the supply chain. The FLI monitors changes in these percentages over time, relative to a base period currently set at 2015, in order to track progress against SDG Target 12.3.

SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR



Syeda Anwara Taimur, the only woman to have become the Chief Minister of Assam till now, passed away. She was 84.

About:

Taimur, a Congress politician then, was the CM from December 1980 to June 1981. At that time, the anti-foreigner movement in the state (1979-85) was at its peak.

- Taimur became an MLA in 1972, 1978, 1983 and 1991; was a minister in Assam twice; and a Rajya Sabha MP twice (nominated in 1988 and elected in 2004).
- In 2011, Taimur joined the Badruddin Ajmal-led AIUDF, reportedly after being denied a ticket from Congress.

ISHER JUDGE AHLUWALIA



Renowned economist Isher Judge Ahluwalia passed away after a 10-month-long battle with brain cancer.

About:

Isher Judge Ahluwalia (1945 – 2020) was an Indian economist, public policy researcher, and

professor.



- **Positions held:**

- She was Chairperson Emeritus, Board of Governors, at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER).
- She was Chairperson, Board of Trustees of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), in Washington D.C. from 2003 to 2006.
- She was the chairperson of the Government of India's High-Powered Committee on Urban Infrastructure Services.

Armenia-Azerbaijan Conflict

In news

Recently, territorial dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh region has re-erupted with heavy clashes.

Armenia and Azerbaijan are part of Transcaucasia or South Caucasia. It is a geographical region in the vicinity of the southern Caucasus Mountains on the border of Eastern Europe and Western Asia consisting of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.

The Caucasus are a strategically important mountainous region in south-east Europe. For centuries, different powers in the region – both Christian and Muslim – have vied for control there.

MedSpark in Kerala

MedSpark, one of the first medical device parks in the country will be set up in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Established by: (1) Department of Science and Technology (DST); (2) Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), an autonomous institute of the DST; (3) Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (KSIDC)

Fundings: From the state and central governments

Functions: (1) Focus on the high-risk medical device sector; (2) Provide a full range of services for the industry like research and development support, testing, and evaluation of medical devices; (3) Create an enabling support system for manufacturing support, technology innovation, and knowledge dissemination.

African Elephant dying due to Cyanobacteria

Recently, neuro-toxins in water produced by cyanobacteria killed more than 300 African elephants in the Okavango delta region, Botswana, South Africa.

Cyanobacteria

They are blue-green algae.

They are found naturally in soils and all types of water.

These organisms use sunlight to make their own food.

In warm, nutrient-rich (high in phosphorus and nitrogen) environments, cyanobacteria can multiply quickly.

Toxic blue-green algae are occurring more frequently as climate change drives up global temperatures.

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