



CURRENT AFFAIRS

23 November 2020

Today's Important News

Indian-American Mala Adiga appointed
as policy director of Joe Biden's wife
Jill Biden



1. Four Indian-Americans among 32 students chosen from US as Rhodes Scholars

- Four Indian-Americans are among the 32 students chosen from the US as Rhodes Scholars virtually this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The diverse group, that won scholarships to the Oxford University in England, comprises immigrants and students of colour.
- American Secretary of the Rhodes Trust Elliot Gerson announced the names of the 32 Americans chosen as Rhodes Scholars representing the US on Sunday.
- The four Indian-American students include Swathi R Srinivasan, Vijayasundaram Ramasamy, Garima P Desai and Savarni Sanka.



Foot Notes:

About US:

Capital: Washington, D.C.

President: Donald Trump

Currency: US dollar

2. Indian-American Mala Adiga appointed as policy director of Joe Biden's wife Jill Biden

- US President-elect Joe Biden has appointed an Indian-American Mala Adiga, as the policy director of his wife Jill Biden, who will be the first lady.
- Adiga has served as a senior advisor to Jill and a senior policy advisor on the Biden-Kamala Harris campaign.
- Previously, Adiga was director for Higher Education and Military Families at the Biden Foundation.
- During former President Barack Obama's administration, Adiga served as the deputy assistant secretary of state for Academic Programs at the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.



3. Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla to pay official visit to Nepal on Nov 26

- Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla will pay an official visit to Nepal on 26th of this month.
- This will be the first visit of the Foreign Secretary to Nepal since he assumed charge.
- External Affairs Ministry said the visit is in keeping with the tradition of regular high-level exchanges between the two countries and the priority India attaches to its relations with Nepal.



Foot Notes:

About Nepal:

Capital: Kathmandu

Prime minister: K. P. Sharma Oli

President: Bidya Devi Bhandari

Currency: Nepalese rupee

4. CCIM issues notification to streamline provisions of regulations concerning Post Graduate Ayurveda Education

- Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM), the statutory body that regulates the Indian Medical systems of Ayurveda, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Unani Medicine has issued a notification to streamline some of the provisions of the regulations concerning Post Graduate Ayurveda Education. The notification has added clarity and definition.



- The notification relates to the Shalya and Shalakyas streams of Post Graduate Education in Ayurveda. It specifies a total of 58 surgical procedures that PG scholars of these streams need to be practically trained in so as to enable them to independently perform the said activities after completion of their PG Degree. Shalya and Shalakyas are independent Departments in Ayurveda colleges, performing such surgical procedures.

Foot Notes:

About CCIM:

Founded: 1971

Headquarters: New Delhi

President: Dr. Deopujari Jayant Yeshwant



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5. India International Cherry Blossom Festival in Shillong cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic

- India International Cherry Blossom Festival, the event of Meghalaya which attracts record number of tourists annually in Shillong, has been cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The capital, Shillong hosts the only Cherry Blossoms festival in India. These beautiful flowers can be spotted across Meghalaya during this time of the year. It is expected that the flowers will continue to bloom till the end of November.
- But people of Meghalaya celebrate festivals through virtual mode. The beautiful hill station Shillong in Meghalaya has turned pink with blooming cherry blossoms.



- Every year, the Cherry Blossom Festival in Shillong hosts a plethora of events like fitness art, fashion show, rock concerts and much more.

Foot Notes:

About Meghalaya:

Capital: Shillong

Governor: Satya Pal Malik

Chief Minister: Conrad Sangma

6. Karnataka aims at \$50 billion bio-economy by 2025

- Karnataka aims to become a USD 50-billion bio-economy by 2025 from its present estimated USD 22.6 billion, according to a report released here on Friday. The first Karnataka bio-economy report (KBER) 2020 was launched at the ongoing Bengaluru Tech Summit 2020, an event, presided over by Deputy Chief Minister of the state C N Ashwath Narayan and chairperson of Vision Group on Biotechnology and Biocon Limited chief Kiran Mazumdar Shaw among others.
- Karnataka is the first state in the country to measure the impact of the biotechnology industry, its products, and services on its economy, the report said. The report estimates that the states bio-economy size is at USD 22.6 billion (Rs 1,67,240 crores) and growing.



Foot Notes:

About Karnataka:

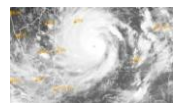
Capital: Bengaluru (Executive Branch)

Governor: Vajubhai Vala

Chief Minister: B. S. Yediyurappa

7. Cabinet Secretary chairs NCMC meeting to review status of impending cyclone in Bay of Bengal

- Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba today chaired a meeting of the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) to review the status of impending cyclone with the Chief Secretaries of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry through video conferencing.
- The Chief Secretaries of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry briefed the NCMC about their preparedness. They mentioned that the authorities are fully prepared to meet any eventuality. They also informed about the coordination with the NDRF and other agencies to meet this challenge



- India Meteorological Department Director General, Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, made a presentation on the present situation and mentioned that the status is being shared with the concerned State Governments. He said, the impending cyclone is going to affect coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry in coming three days.

8. Indian Oil signed MoU with MoPNG for upcoming CBG Plants

- Indian Oil signed MoU with MoPNG for upcoming CBG Plants – An MoU has been signed with the Ministry of Petroleum and gas by the Indian Oil R&D Centre has developed robust technology on Bio-methanation, Government of India as a technology provider for the upcoming CBG Plants.
- This would help to reduce import dependence, create employment & reduce pollution as Production of CBG would increase the green energy mix and also will help in realizing Hon'ble PM's vision of boosting farmers' income mentioned Chairman of IOCL Shri Shrikant Madhav Vaidya while the signing of MOU with Petroleum Ministry for CBG projects.
- Indian Oil is that the first company to plug Compressed Bio-Gas from 10 shops spread across Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat, under the name Indi Green.



Foot Notes:

About Indian oil:

Chairperson: Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 30 June 1959

9. Daniil Medvedev beat Dominic Thiem to win ATP Tour Finals in London

- In Tennis, Daniil Medvedev beat Dominic Thiem to win ATP Tour Finals, the biggest title of his career.
- Medvedev fought back from losing the first set to beat Thiem 4-6, 7-6, 6-4 in a thrilling final in London last night.
- Thiem was denied the title second year in a row.
- In the doubles final, Dutch-Croatian duo Wesley Koolhof and Nikola Pietrangeli claimed their first title together edging Jurgen Melzer and Edouard Roger-Vasselin 6-2, 3-6, 10-5.



10. Former CM of Assam Tarun Gogoi passes away at 86

- Former Chief Minister of Assam Tarun Gogoi passed away on Monday evening in Guwahati. He was undergoing treatment for the past few days in Gauhati medical college and hospital following post COVID-19 complications. He was 86.
- Born in 1934, Mr. Gogoi served as the Chief Minister of Assam from 2001 to 2016. He is the longest serving Chief Minister of the state. Prior to becoming Chief Minister, Tarun Gogoi served as Union Minister. He represented Jorhat and Kaliabor constituencies in Lok Sabha. Mr. Gogoi also served in various capacities in the Congress party.
- President Ram Nath Kovind , Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have condoled the death of former Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi. In a message, Mr Kovind said the country has lost a veteran leader with rich political and administrative experience. Mr Kovind said Tarun Gogoi's long tenure in office was a period of epochal change in Assam.



Foot Notes:

About Assam:

Capital: Dispur

Chief Minister: Sarbananda Sonowal

Governor: Jagdish Mukhi

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