



CURRENT AFFAIRS
22 September 2020

Today's Important News

India, UK held Water Partnership Forum on 22 September.



1. India is home to largest number of Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros: Prakash Javadekar

- Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said India is home to the largest number of Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros in the world with population in the range of 3000 animals in Assam, West Bengal and UP.
- In his message on the occasion of World Rhino Day, Mr Javadekar said Environment Ministry has launched a National Conservation Strategy for Indian One-Horned Rhino. He added that the conservation initiatives for rhino has also enriched the grassland management which help in reducing the negative impacts of climate change through carbon sequestration.
- The National Rhino Conservation Strategy for India was launched last year to conserve the greater one-horned rhinoceros. This is a first of its kind for the species in India which aims to work for the conservation of the species under five objectives. The objectives include strengthening protection, expanding the distribution range, research and monitoring, and adequate and sustained funding.



2. No permit requirement for vehicles carrying oxygen till March, 2021

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways issued an order on September 21, 2020 waiving off permit requirements for vehicles carrying oxygen tanks or cylinders till March 31, 2021 in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The decision was taken in view of certain issues brought to notice of ministry about problems being faced by certain Transport Vehicles operators for the transportation and delivery of oxygen cylinders or oxygen tanks across states or within a state.
- The move will, hence, ensure the smooth movement of vehicles carrying oxygen and further ensuring the supply of oxygen across the country. Oxygen is an important item required for the treatment of COVID-19 patients.



Foot Notes:

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways: Nitin Gadkari

3. US Imposes Sweeping New Sanctions on Iran

- The United States on September 21, 2020 imposed new sanctions on Iranian officials and entities after its effort to reimpose UN sanctions on Tehran was largely rejected. The new sanctions were imposed under a new executive order issued by US President Donald Trump, which is aimed at deterring conventional arms transfers to Iran.
- US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo said in a statement that the UN arms embargo on Iran is now reimposed indefinitely and we will ensure that it remains in place until Iran changes its behaviour.
- Pompeo said that the new executive order gives the US tools to hold accountable actors who seek to evade the embargo. Some of the sanctions have been issued against the Iranian Ministry of Defence and embattled Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro.



Foot Notes:

About US:

Capital: Washington, D.C.

President: Donald Trump

4. RajyaSabha Passes National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020

- The Parliament on September 22, 2020 passed the National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020 with the Rajya Sabha approving it. The Lok Sabha had approved the bill earlier.
- The bill proposes to establish the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar and the Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Sciences, New Delhi, as a National Forensic Sciences University, Gujarat. The Bill declares the University to be an institution of national importance.
- Speaking on the bill's provisions, Minister of State for Home Affairs, G. Kishan Reddy said that forensic science plays an important role in the scientific investigation of crime incidents. He said that the university will work for the capacity building in the field of forensic science and promote research.



Foot Notes:

About Rajya Sabha:

Chairperson: M. Venkaiah Naidu

Founder: Constituent Assembly of India

Founded: 3 April 1952

5. Piyush Goyal participates in the G-20 meeting of the Trade and Investment Ministers

- Union Commerce and Industry & Railways Minister Shri Piyush Goyal took part in the virtual meeting of the G-20 Trade and Investment Ministers.
- Making interventions during the meeting, he called upon G-20 to play a leadership role in crafting a pathway to recover from COVID19, he said that one of the key lessons for all countries is the need to strike the right balance between their external and internal economic policies, with a view to ensuring balanced and sustainable development.
- He said that India stands ready to engage constructively with all G-20 Members to push an agenda that is inclusive and development oriented.
- Describing G20 as a significant grouping representing the majority of the world's population, its GDP and trade, Shri Goyal said that we must pursue an agenda that is universally beneficial and also takes into account the interests of Members outside the G-20. He stressed on the need to be sensitive to diverse economic realities.



Foot Notes:

About G-20:

Founder: Group of Seven

Founded: 26 September 1999

Leader: Salman of Saudi Arabia

Chairman: King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud



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6. India registers a Record of Highest Single day recoveries on 22 September

- In an unprecedented surge, India has recorded the highest number of single day recoveries.
- More than 1 lakh (1,01,468) new recoveries have been registered in the last 24 hours in the country.
- In another landmark achievement, the trend of very high number of single day recoveries has sustained for the past four consecutive days.
- With this, the total number of recoveries are nearly 45 lakh (44,97,867). This has resulted in the Recovery Rate touching 80.86%.



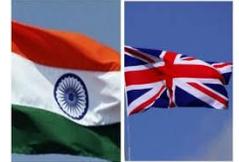
Foot Notes:

About Ministry of Health And Family welfare:

Minister: Dr. Harsh Vardhan

7. India, UK to hold Water Partnership Forum on 22 September

- A virtual India-UK Water Partnership Forum held to discuss ways to collaborate on issues pertaining to water conservation and infrastructure development.
- According to an official note, the inaugural address given by Indian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Gaitri Issar Kumar. Besides, a memorandum of understanding inked between Ganga and British Water.
- The event highlighted the strategic partnership approaches between the two countries to develop 21st-Century water infrastructure in India.



Foot Notes:

About UK:

Capital: London

Prime Minister: Boris Johnson

Currency: Pound sterling

8. Ministry of AYUSH partners with Ministry WCD to control Malnutrition

- A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Women and Child Development to control Malnutrition as a part of POSHAN Abhiyaan. The MoU will see some time-tested and scientifically proven Ayush-based solutions being adopted for controlling malnutrition in the country.
- The MoU will help in tackling the problem of malnutrition in mothers and children in the country.
- The Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of WCD will work together towards integrating Ayush in POSHAN Abhiyaan and management of malnutrition through the principles and practices of Ayurveda, Yoga and other Ayush systems.



Foot Notes:

Ministry of AYUSH: Shripad Naik

9. HDFC Bank tops the BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands 2020 report

- For the seventh straight year, HDFC Bank remained the top-ranked brand in India with a total brand value of more than \$20.2 billion, according to the 2020 BrandZ

Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands ranking released by WPP and Kantar. According to the report, the total value of the BrandZ India Top 75 fell by 6 percent in 2020, shedding \$13 billion in value for a total brand value of \$215.608 billion.



- LIC is ranked second while Tata Consulting Services has been ranked at no.3.

Foot Notes:

About HDFC:

CEO: Aditya Puri

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: August 1994, India

10. Barack Obama Announces New Memoir titled “A Promised Land”

- Former US President, Barack Obama has announced his first presidential memoir titled “A Promised Land.”
- The 768-page book will be published in November 2020 by Penguin Random House and is scheduled to be released on November 17, 2020, in 25 languages.
- A Promised Land is the first of two volumes of the book. This volume tells about his early political life, his presidential campaign in 2008, and ending with the death of Osama bin Laden in 2011.



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