



Target4IAS
Together We Can

Weekly Current Affairs

(The Hindu+IE+PIB)

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Earth Hour

In News

Earth Hour Day has been observed all over the world on March 27, 2021.

About Earth Hour

- **Earth Hour** is a global movement for environmental conservation. The World Wide Fund for Nature (**WWF**) started it in 2007.
- It is an annual event that takes place on **the last Saturday of March**.
- Its aim is to call attention to global warming, loss of biodiversity, and climate change.
- **During the Earth Hour**, people turn off their lights for an hour as a sign of global solidarity.
- **Theme for 2021:** "Climate Change to Save Earth"

About WWF:

- It is an international **non-governmental organization founded in 1961**.
- It is the world's largest conservation organization.
- It aims to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment
- **Headquarters:** Gland, Switzerland.

Anandam

In news

Union Minister of Education inaugurates "Anandam: The Center for Happiness" at Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu.

About Anandam: The Centre of Happiness:

- It is established with the aim to help reduce the mental pressure of students and faculty.

- It acquires name 'Anandam' from Indian wisdom tradition. There the state of pure consciousness is Anandam.
- The Centre has five broad categories — counseling, holistic wellness, elective courses on happiness development, research and leadership, faculty development.

VajraPrahar-Indo-US Military Exercise

In news

The 11th edition of Indo-US Joint Special Forces Exercise VajraPrahar 2021 is complete. The exercise conducted at Special Forces Training School located at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.

VajraPrahar:

- It is a Special Forces joint military training exercise. It takes place alternately in India and the US since 2010.
- This enables sharing of best practices and experience in areas such as joint mission planning capabilities and operational tactics.

Other Bilateral Exercises between India and US:

- YudhAbhyas- It is a joint military exercise.
- Tiger Triumph- It is a tri-service military exercise.

Nacaduba Sinhala

In news

A group of lepidopterists discovers a new species of butterfly. It was named as "Nacaduba Sinhala RamaswamiiSadasivan".

Key takeaways:

- It is a Line Blue Butterfly Species that belongs to the Nacaduba genus group.
- It is the first time that a butterfly species was discovered by an all-Indian research team from the Western Ghats.

- This butterfly species was discovered in the Agasthyamalai in the Western Ghats a decade ago. But now it found a place in the Journal of Threatened Taxa.

BIMSTEC

In news

India's External Affairs Minister attended the 17th ministerial meet of the BIMSTEC countries. Sri Lanka Chaired the 17th Ministerial Meeting.

About BIMSTEC

- It is a regional organization consisting of members from South Asia and South-East Asia. It was founded in 1997 through the **Bangkok Declaration**.
- It comprises **seven Member States**: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand.
- The First Summit Meeting of the Heads of the BIMSTEC Countries was held in Bangkok, Thailand in 2004.
- Headquarter: Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Seaweed

In news

Two new species of seaweed have been discovered by a group of marine biologists from Central University of Punjab, Bathinda. Named Hypneaindica (after India) and Hypneabullata the seaweeds are part of the genus Hypnea or red seaweeds.

Key takeaways:

- Hypneaindica was discovered in Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu, and Somnath Pathan and Sivrajpur in Gujarat.
- Hypneabullata was discovered from Kanyakumari and Diu island of Daman and Diu.
- They grow in the intertidal regions of the coast, namely the area that is submerged during the high tide and exposed during low tides.
- The genus Hypnea consists of calcareous, erect, branched red seaweeds.

Seaweed: Seaweed is the name given to the many species of marine algae and plants that grow in water bodies such as rivers, seas and oceans. They range in colours from red, green, brown and black and also vary in size, from microscopic to large underwater forests. Seaweed is found on the shores across the world, but is more commonly a staple in Asian countries. Seaweeds are a power pack of nutrients like iron, zinc, magnesium, riboflavin, thiamin, vitamin A, B, C & K etc.

China-Iran Strategic Cooperation Pact

In news

China and Iran signed a 25-year “strategic cooperation pact” recently.

Key takeaways:

- It includes “political, strategic and economic” components.
- This document can be very effective in deepening relations
- It would establish a blueprint for “reciprocal investments in the fields of transport, ports, energy, industry and services”.
- The agreement comes amid a major push from China to back Iran as it deals with the continuing weight of sanctions
- China is its largest trading partner.

Friendship Park

In news

An Indo-Korean friendship park was jointly inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Minister of National Defence of South Korea SuhWook at Delhi cantonment.

Key takeaways

- It has been built to commemorate the contribution of Indian peacekeeping force during the Korean war of 1950-53.
- It is in Delhi Cantonment.
- The five pillars raised in the backdrop of General Thimayya’s statue are embossed with details of operations carried out by 60 Parachute Field Ambulance during the Korean War.

- One of the pillars in the park encompasses Nobel Laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's narration of Korea as "The Lamp of the East" which was published in Korean daily "Dong-A-Ilbo" in 1929.

Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) scheme

In news

The Central government plans to issue a **14-digit identification number** to every plot of land in India within a year.

Key takeaways:

- It will subsequently integrate its land records database with revenue court records and bank records, and Aadhaar numbers on a voluntary basis.
- The Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) scheme has been launched in 10 States in 2021
- It will be rolled out across India by March 2022
- It is being described as "**the Aadhaar for land**" — a number that would uniquely identify every surveyed parcel of land and prevent land fraud, especially in rural India
- The identification will be based on the longitude and latitude of the land parcel, and is dependent on detailed surveys and geo-referenced cadastral maps.
- This is the next step in the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP), which began in 2008 and has been extended several times as its scope grew.

New Emission Norms for Coal-Fired power Plants

In news

The Central government has pushed back deadlines for coal-fired power plants to adopt new emission norms by up to three years. It has also allowed utilities that miss the new target to continue operating after paying a penalty.

Key takeaways

- India had initially set a 2017 deadline for thermal power plants to install Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) units that cut emissions of sulphur dioxides. But that was postponed to varying deadlines for different regions, ending in 2022.

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- According to the new order, plants near populous regions and New Delhi will have to comply by 2022, while utilities in less polluting areas have up to 2025 to comply or retire units.
- A task force will be constituted by the Central Pollution Control Board to categorise plants in three categories “on the basis of their location to comply with the emission norms”.
- In case of non-compliance, a penalty of up to ₹0.20 will be levied for every unit of electricity produced.

First farm based solar power plant comes up in Rajasthan

In news

The first farm based solar power plant under the Prime Minister’s Kisan Urja Suraksha Evum Utthan Mahabhiyan (**KUSUM**) scheme has come up in Jaipur district’s Kotputli tehsil with a provision for production of 17 lakh units of electricity every year.



New Development Bank

In news

Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has urged **the New Development Bank (NDB)** to consider working closely with India's new development financing institution for funding infrastructure.

About NDB

- It was **established in 2014**, at the 6th BRICS Summit at Fortaleza, Brazil.
- The bank is set up to foster greater financial and development cooperation among the five emerging markets.
- In 2018, the NDB received **observer status in the United Nations General Assembly**, establishing a firm basis for active and fruitful cooperation with the UN.
- Headquartered in Shanghai, China.

Human Rights Report 2020:

In news

Released by the U.S. State Department. It contains a country-wise discussion of the state of human rights.

Key takeaways:

- The harassment and detention of journalists critical of the Indian government in their reporting and on social media, has continued, although the government generally respected the freedom of expression.
- Government's requests for user data from Internet companies had increased "dramatically."
- There were several instances in which the government or actors considered close to the government, allegedly pressured or harassed media outlets critical of the government, including through online trolling.
- The government made 49,382 user data requests in 2019 from Facebook, a 32% increase from 2018. Over the same period, Google requests increased by 69%, while Twitter requests saw a 68% increase.

World Cities Culture Forum

In news

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will represent the Capital and India at the World Cities Cultural Forum.

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- The World Cities Culture Forum is a network of local governments and cultural sector leaders from 40 world cities.
- The World Cities Culture Forum was established in London in 2012 with eight cities (London, New York City, Tokyo, Shanghai, Paris, Istanbul, Sydney and Johannesburg) convened by the Mayor of London.
- The WCCF enables the policy makers of member cities to share research and intelligence, while exploring the vital role of culture in prosperity.
- **This year's theme — TheFuture of Culture**

Vaccine Wastage

In news

Guidelines by the Centre to States to maintain vaccine wastage at less than 1% (present national wastage percentage being 6%).