



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 7, 2020

STATES

- **Bihar government - is planning its first ever migratory bird festival this year.**
- ✓ This is a three-day festival to be conducted in Bhagalpur District in Bihar
- ✓ The festival is to be jointly organised by Bhagalpur forest division, Bombay Natural History Society and the local Mandar Nature Club.
- ✓ The sixty-kilometre long Vikramshila Dolphin sanctuary between Kahalagon and Sultanganj has been a hub of migratory birds in the state.
- ✓ The migratory birds come to the region mainly between March and November to spend the winter season.
- ✓ The main objective of holding the festival is to create awareness among the people about the importance of migratory birds to the ecosystem.
- ✓ The migratory birds arriving in the region includes steppe eagle, Eurasian curlew, Ferruginous duck, Eurasian coot, common greenshank, great crested grebe.
- ✓ India has three migratory flyways, which refers to the flight paths used by the birds.
- ✓ The three flyways are Asian East Asian Flyway, Central Asian Flyway and East Asian Australasian Flyway.
- ✓ The estimate of the migratory species in India has increased from 44 to 46 after COP13.
- ✓ COP 13 was the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory species of Wild Animals, which was held in India in February 2020.
- ✓ The East Asian Australasian Flyway extends from North America and Arctic Russia to the southern limits of New Zealand and Australia.
- ✓ The Central Asian Flyways covers 30 countries and includes the breeding grounds in Russia to the southernmost non-breeding grounds in South and West Asia, India and Maldives.
- ✓ The Asian East Asian Flyway extends from Arctic Russia to South Africa and Madagascar in Africa, covering the Himalayas and the Tibet plateau.

NATIONAL

- **On December 6, the Serum Institute of India - became the first Indian company to apply to the Drugs Controller General of India seeking emergency use authorisation for the Oxford Covid-19 vaccine, Covishield**
 - ✓ The vaccine major has cited unmet medical needs due to the pandemic and the interest of the public at large for the emergency use authorisation.
 - ✓ The phase-3 clinical trial of the Covishield is being conducted by the Pune-based SII in various parts of the country
 - ✓ It is co-sponsored by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
 - ✓ This is in addition to clinical studies being carried out by Oxford-AstraZeneca in the UK and Brazil.
 - ✓ Based on phase 2 and 3 clinical trial results, the SII with the help of the ICMR, will pursue early availability of the vaccine for India.
 - ✓ According to the ICMR, the SII has already manufactured 40 million doses of the vaccine under the at-risk manufacturing and stockpiling license it obtained from the DCGI.
 - ✓ According to the data from four clinical studies, two in the U.K. and one each in Brazil and India, Covishield is highly efficacious against symptomatic and severe infections.

- **Pfizer India - became the first pharmaceutical firm to seek an emergency use authorisation from the DCGI for its Covid-19 vaccine in the country, after its parent company secured clearance in the U.K. and Bahrain.**
 - ✓ The firm has sought permission to import the vaccine for sale and distribution in the country
 - ✓ It has also sought the waiver of clinical trials on Indian population in accordance with the special provisions under the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019
 - ✓ Pfizer India has submitted an application on December 4 to the DCGI seeking emergency use authorisation

- **The Defence Ministry - has approved the creation of a new post in the Army- Deputy Chief for Military Operations and Strategic Planning.**
 - ✓ The Deputy Chief will deal with strategic planning, military operations, intelligence and operational logistics.
 - ✓ This is the 3rd post of deputy chief in the Army.
 - ✓ In addition to this, another new post, the Director General of Information Warfare, is also being created.
 - ✓ These are part of the ongoing reforms in the Army Headquarters
 - ✓ Lt Gen Paramjit Singh will take over as the first Deputy Chief of Army for Military Operations and Strategic Planning.

- ✓ Earlier, the Army Headquarters had instituted four major roles for the new post namely strategic planning, military intelligence, military operations and operational logistics.
- ✓ The Ministry of Defence has also created another post called Director General of Information Warfare.
- ✓ The new profile will deal with the needs of hybrid warfare, future battlefield and social media realities.
- ✓ The post was recommended by the Four Studies of Indian Army.
- ✓ During the Army Commanders Conference, 2018, the Indian Army Headquarters instituted four studies - with an objective to enhance budget expenditure, facilitate modernisation, enhance operational and functional efficiency and address aspirations.
- ✓ The process of creation of the two posts started after the Doklam crisis with China in 2016.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Oman - recently announced to establish 'friendship' association with India during a bilateral discussion held between the foreign ministers of the country**
 - ✓ This was the first of such initiative from West Asia.
 - ✓ The bilateral discussion was held virtually on the backdrop of recent trip by the External Affairs Minister of India S Jaishankar to Bahrain and UAE.
 - ✓ During the bilateral discussion, the countries reviewed their economic cooperation, consular issue, capacity building and training programmes.
 - ✓ In 2018, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Oman and enhanced the cooperation between the countries in defence, energy, food security, trade and investment and regional issues.
 - ✓ In December 2019, India and Oman signed the Maritime Transport Agreement, which was first of its kind that India signed with any Gulf country.
 - ✓ The pact enabled India to expand its footprints in Southern Indian Ocean, Western Indian Ocean, East Africa and Persian Gulf in sync with its Indo-Pacific Vision.
 - ✓ The Indian Navy has been provided access to the Duqm Port, which is the largest seaport located in the Indian Ocean.
 - ✓ India has several projects lined up in Oman
 - ✓ It is planning to set up the largest Sebacic Acid plant (which is the largest in Middle-East) in Oman at a cost of \$1.2 billion
 - ✓ Also, an integrated tourism complex called "Little India" is to be constructed at a budget of \$78 million.
- **Thousands of Rohingyas from Cox's Bazar refugee camp - are shifted to the newly developed facility in the Bhashan Char island**

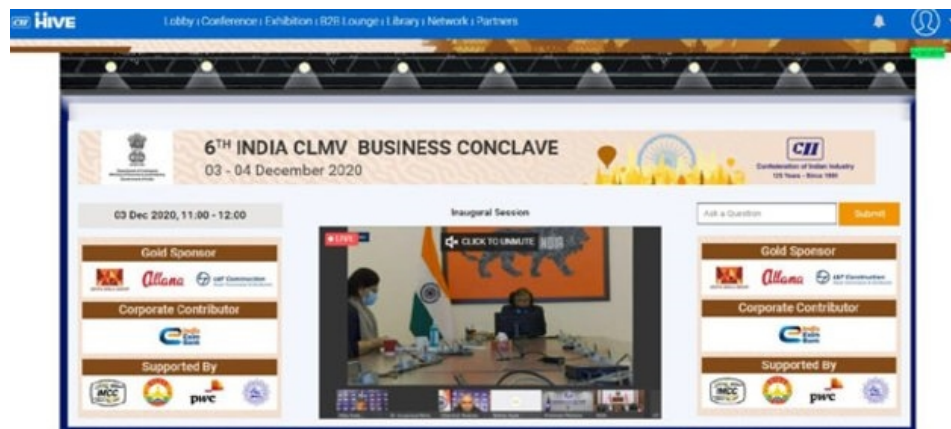


- ✓ The Bhashan Char Island is a remote uninhabited island of Bangladesh, located in the Bay of Bengal.
 - ✓ Environmentalists warn that the low-lying island is ecologically fragile and is prone to floods, cyclones and erosion, apart from the offering poor liveable conditions
 - ✓ The island, which spans for an area of 40 square kilometers, is believed to have formed by Himalayan silt washed down from the Himalayas in 2006
 - ✓ The Bangladesh Government is relocating the Rohingya refugees to this island, which is located 60 kilometers from the mainland.
 - ✓ The Bhashan Char Islands or Char Piya is also called the Floating Islands.
 - ✓ According to the environmentalists, it is eroding at the rate of half a kilometre per year.
 - ✓ The island will become inaccessible during floods and rough weather.
 - ✓ The Forestry Department of Bangladesh has been planting mangroves since the proposal of the project began.
 - ✓ However, around 5,000 to 7,000 acres of the forest have disappeared into the sea during the intervening time period due to natural disasters.
 - ✓ The Government of Bangladesh is also building a flood defence system in the island by constructing two large dams.
- **The UK - has recorded the world's first foul air death or death legally certified to have been caused by air pollution.**
- ✓ A 9-year old girl who lived near a busy road in London had died due to respiratory complications.
 - ✓ According to WHO, air pollution contributes to 4.2 million deaths per year across the world.
 - ✓ In addition to this, about 3.8 million deaths are due to household air pollutants.
 - ✓ Moreover, 91% of the global population lives in areas with air quality that is non-compliant with the WHO guidelines.
 - ✓ More than 90% of the world children breathe toxic air every day.
 - ✓ In February 2013, nine-year-old Ella AdooKissi-Debrah lived 30 metres from the South Circular, a busy congested aerial road in Southeast London.
 - ✓ In 2014, an inquest found that she died of acute respiratory failure and the second inquest was opened recently following her family's appeal in Court

- ✓ This will conclude whether air pollution caused or contributed to the death of the girl.
- ✓ India is also a major country of pollution
- ✓ 21 out of 30 most polluted cities in the world are in India.
- ✓ At least 140 million people in India breathe air that is ten times over the safe limit set by the WHO.
- ✓ To combat air pollution, National Clean Air Programme was launched by the government in 2019

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The sixth India-CLMV Business Conclave 2020 - was held recently in virtual mode**
- ✓ V Muraleedharan, Minister of State, External Affairs represented the country in the meeting.



- ✓ During the conclave, India invited the CLMV countries to join International Solar Alliance and the Resilient Supply Chain Initiative.
- ✓ It had also mentioned that it is ready to share Covid-19 vaccine with the CLMV countries.
- ✓ The Conclave was held under the theme “Building Bridges for Constructive Development yesterday”.
- ✓ The CLMV countries refer to Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.
- ✓ These countries have a unique position in Southeast Asia region and act as a gateway for the market access to European Union and China and also other markets due to the free trade agreements.
- ✓ The four countries hold rich natural resources such as copper, oil, natural gas, gemstones and teak.
- ✓ CLMV countries are the third largest economy in the world.
- ✓ In the last decade, India’s trade with these countries has grown from \$1.5 billion to \$10 billion.
- ✓ Earlier, India has provided medicines and medical supplies to the CLMV region and trained medical personnel from the region under I-TEC Scheme.

- ✓ India has set up Project Development Fund for the CLMV region with a corpus of Rs 500 crores.
- ✓ Apart from this, India has also taken several other infrastructure initiatives, including the construction of Kaladan Multimodal Transit-Transport Project.

SPORTS

- **India's Jehan Daruvala – became the first Indian to win the Formula 2 race on December 6**



- ✓ Daruvala emerged on top after a long battle with Dan Ticktum, eventually winning by a 2.9 second margin in the Sakhir Sprint Race
- ✓ At the start, Mick Schumacher sealed the F2 title during the race.
- **Debendranath Sarangi, president, Squash Rackets Federation of India - was elected as one of the three vice-presidents of the World Squash Federation**



- ✓ Sarangi was elected at the annual general body meeting on December 5.
- ✓ Ms. Zena Wooldridge (England) was elected president of the Federation

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **Armed Forces Flag Day – December 7**
- ✓ The day has been observed in the country since 1949.
- ✓ It is dedicated towards collection of funds from the general public for the welfare of the armed personnel, ex-servicemen and also to rehabilitate battle casualties.
- ✓ The Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has recently announced that this day will be celebrated throughout December and has called on people to contribute to the fund.

सशस्त्र सेना झंडा दिवस



7 दिसम्बर - 7 DECEMBER
ARMED FORCES FLAG DAY

- ✓ The month of the December is to be celebrated as “Gaurav Maah”
- ✓ The Armed Forces Flag Day is observed every year based on the recommendations of a committee set up under the then Defence Minister Baldev Singh in 1949
- ✓ On Armed Forces Flag Day, small flags will be distributed to the public in return to the donations made by them.
- ✓ The Armed Forces Flag Day mainly focuses on welfare of serving personnel and their families, rehabilitation of battle casualties and resettlement of ex-servicemen and their families.
- ✓ In 1949, the Baldev Singh Committee established the Flag Day Fund.
- ✓ In 1993, the Defence Ministry of India consolidated the related welfare funds into Armed Forces Flag Day Fund.
- ✓ It includes Flag Day Funds, Amalgamated Special Fund for War Bereaved, Ex-Servicemen and war disabled, Indian Gorkha Ex-Servicemen Welfare Fund and Kendriya Sainik Board Fund.
- ✓ The Kendriya Sainik Board operating under the Ministry of Defence collects the funds.

