

International Tiger Day 2020 – July 29



29th July is annually celebrated as International Tiger Day or the Global Tiger Day to create awareness among the general public on the importance of tiger conservation and protection of their natural habitat and to promote the resolution of the tiger range countries to double the tiger population by 2022. The **first** Global Tiger Day was

celebrated on 29th July 2011.

The Global Tiger Day slogan for 2018, 2019 and 2020 is “**Their Survival is in Our Hands**”

Background:

- i. On 23rd November 2010, 29th July was declared as the Global Tiger Day during the First International Tiger Forum at St. Petersburg, Russia.
- ii. The St Petersburg Declaration on Tiger Conservation was signed by the countries (Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russian, Thailand and Vietnam) about to protect the remaining tiger population of the world in the International Tiger Forum at St. Petersburg, Russia on the same day.

Launch of “Status of Tigers Copredators and Prey in India”:

On 28th July 2020, the eve of Global Tiger Day 2020, **Prakash Javadekar**, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) released a report of **4th All India Tiger Estimation-2018**, the Status of Tigers Copredators and Prey in India. It assesses the status of tigers in terms of the spatial occupancy and density of individual populations across India.

World In Vitro Fertilization Day 2020 – July 25



July 25 is celebrated as **World In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Day**. The world witnessed the birth of world's first test tube baby or IVF baby **Louis Brown**, in Royal Oldham Hospital, United Kingdom on July 25, 1978. In order to commemorate this revolution, World IVF day was celebrated on July 25.

British Physiologist Robert Edwards and Gynaecologist Patrick Steptoe succeeded in

fertilizing a human ovum outside the womb. Robert G Edwards was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2010 for Physiology or medicine for 'development of in vitro fertilization'.

What is IVF – In vitro fertilisation (IVF) is a process of fertilisation where an egg is combined with sperm outside the body, in vitro ("in glass"). IVF is a type of assisted reproductive technology used for infertility treatment and gestational surrogacy.

Chhattisgarh's Bijapur tops Niti's delta ranking of Aspirational districts for Feb-June 2020 in health sector



In accordance with the delta rankings for aspirational districts by government think-tank Niti (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog, Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh has topped the list of aspirational districts in Overall Delta Ranking for the February-June 2020 period.

- Bijapur has been followed by **Ri-Bhoi** (Meghalaya) and **Bahraich** (Uttar Pradesh) at 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.
- The delta rankings for aspirational districts considers an incremental progress in six developmental areas viz. Health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion, skill development and basic infrastructure .

Top 5 Aspirational Districts in Overall Delta Ranking (Feb-June 2020)

Rank	District
1	Bijapur (Chhattisgarh)
2	Ri-Bhoi (Meghalaya)
3	Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh)
4	Nawada (Bihar)
5	Moga (Punjab)

In the Health and nutrition area, the list has been topped by Ri-Bhoi (Meghalaya) and followed by Bijapur (Chhattisgarh) and Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh) at 2nd and 3rd positions respectively, stating an improvement towards quality healthcare facilities for citizens.

What is an aspirational districts programme?

The aspirational districts programme, launched in January 2018, aims to transform districts that have shown relatively lesser progress in key social areas and have emerged as pockets of under-development.

Green-Ag project launched in Mizoram to bring transformative change in the farm sector



Green-Agriculture (Green-Ag), a project funded by **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** was launched in Mizoram, India. It was launched by Agriculture minister of Mizoram C Lalrinsanga. Mizoram is first among the 5 states where the project is to be implemented.

The other states are Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.

The project covers land in two districts of Lunglei and Mamit, Mizoram including Dampa Tiger Reserve and Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary.

Objective of Green-Ag:-

- Green-Ag projects aims at accelerating the transformation of Indian agriculture sector into national and international benefits by Greenland management practices, concerns of biodiversity and climate change.
- To mainstream the conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes by transforming agricultural practices of one state.
- The project is believed to help reduce the 49 million carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂eq) through sustainable land use and agricultural practices.

About Global Environment Facility GEF:

CEO & Chairperson – Dr. Naoko Ishii, her second term is set to end in August, 2020.

Trustee – World Bank.

Headquarters – Washington DC, USA.

5th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of AIIB held virtually; Jin Liqun Reelected President of AIIB

5th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure



Investment Bank (AIIB) was held virtually from Beijing, China, was originally planned to be held in-person there, focusing on “Connecting for Tomorrow”. The meet saw the re-election of Jin Liqun as AIIB President, and a roundtable discussion on the theme “AIIB 2030- Supporting Asia’s Development over the Next

Decade”. Notably, India’s Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman was the Lead Speaker at the roundtable discussion.

- This 5th annual meet was the first virtual for AIIB and also in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- During the meet AIIB’s efforts were appreciated for fast tracking financial assistance of about \$10 Billion to its member countries including India to combat COVID-19 pandemic.

- The objective of the annual meeting of the Board of Governors is to take key decisions that impact the Bank's future.

Jin Liqun Reelected President of AIIB

During the meet, Jin Liqun was elected President of AIIB for a second five-year term commencing January 16, 2021. The election result was announced by chair of AIIB's Board of Governors, **Liu Kun**, who is a Minister of Finance, People's Republic of China.

- Under President Jin's leadership, AIIB has grown from 57 founding members to 103 approved members from around the world.

AIIB to Hold its First Annual Meeting in the Middle East in the UAE in 2021

During the meet it was also decided that the **sixth Annual Meeting** will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Oct. 27-28, 2021 which will be the first annual meeting in the Middle East. It will take place in parallel with the Dubai World Expo.

- UAE was also one of the founding members of AIIB.

AIIB's Membership grew to 103; Liberia joined

During the meet, the Board of Governors approved the application of Liberia to join the Bank. With this AIIB now has 103 approved members from around the world.

- Also, now AIIB has 10 members and nine prospective members from Africa.

A 300-year-old temple, Sree Sree Joy Kali Matar temple reconstructed with Indian support in Natore, Bangladesh

Reconstruction of a 300-year-old temple, Sree Sree Joy Kali Matar temple began in Natore, Bangladesh with Indian assistance. The Indian High Commissioner Riva Ganguly Das inaugurated the event virtually. The High Commission of India in Bangladesh added that an MoU for the reconstruction of the temple at Lalbazar, Natore was signed on 23 October 2016.



Budget of Construction

- i. The government of India provided financial assistance of Bangladeshi Taka 97 lakhs for the reconstruction of the temple.
- ii. A total cost of 1.33 Crores of Bangladeshi Taka is provided under the High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP).

ICRA Limited Appointed N. Sivaraman as MD and Group CEO ; Succeeds Naresh Takkar

ICRA Limited appointed N. Sivaraman as its new Managing Director (MD) and Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Mr. Sivaraman will join ICRA Ltd. on August 10, 2020. He was appointed for the tenure of 3 years, which can be further extended for 2 more years. He succeeds former MD and Group CEO Mr. Naresh Takkar.

About N. Sivaraman

- i. Sivaraman held the position at L&T finance (Larson and Turbo) as President and Wholetime Director.
- ii. In December 2018, he held the position of Chief Operating Officer at IL&FS which ends by July 31, 2020.
- iii. Sivaraman will undertake the ICRA Group Business Strategy and innovation, build organisational capabilities and nurture analytical excellence.

Indian Origin Author 'Burnt Sugar' on 2020 Booker Prize




A debut novel 'Burnt Sugar' authored by Avni Doshi has been published in the United Kingdom (UK) and it was one among the 13 authors longlisted for the prestigious 2020 Booker Prize. A version of the same novel has been published in India under the title Girl in White Cotton.

About the Book

The Book narrates the story about a woman, Tara who abandoned her loveless marriage to join ashram and ended as a beggar. She passes her years as a homeless artist with her daughter Antara. The daughter tends to care for her mother who least cared for her in her childhood.

Indian Origin Author Avni Doshi's 'Burnt Sugar' on 2020 Booker Prize

- i. Avni Doshi is on the 2020 Booker Prize longlist for her debut novel 'Burnt Sugar'. The Book, 'Burnt Sugar' was also shortlisted for the Tata First Book Prize in 2019.



ii. Total of 13 books were longlisted for the Booker Prize 2020. The shortlist of six books will be announced on September 15, 2020.

About the 'Booker Prize'

i. The award is based on a novel of the year written in English and published in the UK or Ireland.

ii. The Booker prize award for the year 2019 for Fiction was won jointly by 'The Testaments' by Margaret Atwood and 'Girl, Woman, Other' by Bernardine Evaristo.