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Current Affairs **June-3-2020**

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Current Affairs June -03-2020

1. India ranked 23rd in the 2020 Startup Ecosystem Rankings Report

India has dropped 6 places to be ranked at the 23rd spot in the latest ranking. India scored 5.698. In 2019, India ranked at the 17th spot. StartupBlink has released the Startup Ecosystem Rankings Report 2020. India ranked 23rd in the report. The report ranks 1,000 cities and 100 countries worldwide, based on their startup ecosystem strength and activity level. StartupBlink is a global startup ecosystem map and research center.

Highlights:

◆ India has dropped 6 places to be ranked at the 23rd spot in the latest ranking. India scored 5.698. In 2019, India ranked at the 17th spot.

◆ The Startup Ecosystem Rankings Report 2020 was topped by the United States with a score of 123.167.

◆ The ranking is based upon three primary parameters:

Quantity

Quality

Business Environment

◆ In terms of cities, only 4 Indian cities made a place in the top 100, compared to 7 cities in 2019.

◆ India's Silicon Valley Bengaluru is the top Indian city with the best startup ecosystem ranking, ranked 14th in the list.

◆ Delhi ranked 15th rank, Mumbai ranked 22nd and Hyderabad ranked 96th.

◆ Globally, the top three cities with the best startup ecosystems are:

San Francisco Bay, United States

New York, United States

London, United Kingdom

Top 5 countries:

1. United States
2. United Kingdom
3. Israel
4. Canada
5. Germany

2. Pan-India Real-Time Market in electricity launched

Real Time Market in electricity is an organized market platform to enable the buyers and sellers pan-India to meet their energy requirements closer to real-time operation.

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Pan-India Real-Time Market in electricity launched

Union Minister of State (IC) Power and New & Renewable Energy & Minister of State (Skill Development and Entrepreneurship) RK Singh launched pan-India Real-Time Market in electricity through video conference in New Delhi on 3 June 2020.

The real-time has placed the Indian electricity market amongst a league of few electricity markets in the world.

Highlights:

◆ Real Time Market in electricity is an organized market platform to enable the buyers and sellers pan-India to meet their energy requirements closer to real-time operation.

◆ The introduction of a real-time market will bring the required flexibility in the market to provide real-time balance while ensuring optimal utilization of the available surplus capacity in the system.

◆ It will also help manage diversity in the demand pattern in the country with an organized market at the national level.

◆ The Government of India's target of 175 GW Renewable Energy Capacity by 2022 is driving accelerated renewable penetration pan-India.

◆ The real-time market would help to mitigate challenges to the grid management due to the

intermittent and variable nature of renewable energy generation and therefore, help to integrate higher quantum of renewable energy resources into the grid.

◆ The real-Time market would lead to cost optimization of power purchase and serving the consumers with reliable supply.

3. World Bicycle Day is observed on 3 June

The observation of the day began as the after-effect of Leszek Sibilski's crusade and the help of Turkmenistan and 56 different nations to commemorate World Bicycle Day.

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World Bicycle Day is observed on 3 June. The day aims to motivate and inspire people towards having more tolerance, understanding, and respect for one another. Bicycle signifies a sustainable means of transport which is good for the environment and economy.

Aim:

World Bicycle Day aims to devote special attention to the bicycle in cross-cutting development strategies. It also aims to include the bicycle in international, regional, national, and subnational development policies and programmes. The day aims to adopt best practices and means to promote the bicycle across the world.

History:

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 3 June as International World Bicycle Day in April 2018. The observation of the day began as the after-effect of Leszek Sibilski's crusade and the help of Turkmenistan and 56 different nations to commemorate World Bicycle Day. The day was designated to recognize the uniqueness, longevity, and versatility of the bicycle. It is also a simple, affordable, reliable, clean, and environmentally

fit sustainable means of transportation. UNGA encouraged its stakeholders to emphasize and advance the use of the bicycle as a means to foster sustainable development, strengthen education, respect, promoting health, preventing disease, promoting tolerance, mutual understanding, and to facilitate social inclusion and a culture of peace.

4. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Bhutan on Cooperation in the areas of Environment

MoU will enable and promote the closer and long-term cooperation between India and Bhutan in the field of environment protection and management of natural resources on the basis of equity, reciprocity, and mutual benefits.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Bhutan. The agreement was signed to improve cooperation in the areas of the Environment.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU)

MoU Provisions:

◆ MoU will enable and promote the closer and long-term cooperation between India and Bhutan in the field of environment protection and management of natural resources on the basis of equity, reciprocity, and mutual benefits.

◆ Both the countries agreed mutually to set priorities in the following areas of the environment including Air, Waste, Chemical Management, Climate Change, any other areas jointly decided upon.

◆ The agreement will stay in force for a period of 10 years.

◆ It encourages organizations, private companies, government institutions at all levels and research institutions on India and Bhutan to establish cooperation activities.

Background:

The MoU was signed between the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Ministry of

Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) of India and the National Environment Commission (NEC) of Bhutan on 11 March 2013. This MoU expired on 10 March 2016. Considering the benefits of the earlier MoU, both sides have decided to continue cooperation and collaboration in the field of Environment.

5. VN Datt takes over as Chairman and MD of National Fertilizers Limited

As Marketing Director of NFL, Datt is credited with sustained growth in fertilizer sale of the company from 43 Lakh MT in 2017-18 to 57 Lakh MT in 2019-20, an increase of 32% over the previous two years.

Virendra Nath Datt, Director (Marketing), National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) has taken over the additional charge of Chairman & Managing Director (MD) of the Company on 3 June. Datt is associated with Company as Director (Marketing) since October 2018.

Virendra Nath Datt has a professional experience of over 35 years with premier Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) such as GAIL and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) besides the Fertilizer Industry. Prior to the appointment, he served as the Executive Director (ED) in GAIL Limited. He handled all India marketing operations of the company in addition to Corporate Strategy, Planning, and Advocacy. He was also a Director on the Board of Mahanagar Gas Ltd., Mumbai.

As Marketing Director of NFL, Datt is credited with sustained growth in fertilizer sale of the company from 43 Lakh MT in 2017-18 to 57 Lakh MT in 2019-20, an increase of 32% over the previous two years. During this period, the NFL established a pan India footprint in the fertilizer industry. He also had a 10-year stint with ONGC before joining GAIL in 1995.

6. Cabinet approved to rename Kolkata Port as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was an eminent jurist, academician, thinker, leader of the masses, and a front-runner in national integration, dreamer of Bengal's development, the inspiration for industrialization.

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved to rename Kolkata Port as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port. The decision was made by the Board of Trustees of Kolkata Port Trust in its Meeting held on 25 February 2020. The Board also passed a Resolution to rename Kolkata Port as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port.

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was an eminent jurist, academician, thinker, leader of the masses, and a front-runner in national integration, dreamer of Bengal's development, the inspiration for industrialization.

7. US President Donald Trump invites PM Narendra Modi to G7 meet, discusses India-China standoff

The US President and PM Modi discussed the G7 expansion and other issues during their 40-minute call including India-China border standoff and reforms of the World Health Organisation.

US President Donald Trump invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the next G7 meeting during their telephonic conversation on June 2, 2020.

PM Modi tweeted after his talk with Trump saying that he had a warm and productive conversation with my friend President. He said that they discussed Trump's plans for the US Presidency of G-7, the COVID-19 pandemic and many other issue.

This announcement comes a day after the US President discussed plans of expanding the Group of 7 with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin over the phone to include more diverse countries such as India and Russia to better represent the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 46th G7 summit, which was earlier supposed to be held at Camp David in the United States from June 10-12, has been postponed by US President Trump to September 2020.

Trump plans to expand G7 group

US President Donald Trump during his latest phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin had discussed plans to expand the Group of 7 to again include Russia and other nations such as India, South Korea and Australia. India is a member of G-20, which is a larger version of the body.

The Group of Seven presently comprises the world's most advanced economies including the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Japan, Canada and Italy. The US President described the G7 as outdated and advocated it to be rechristened into G10 or G11.

Why Trump's plan to expand G7 is controversial?

Trump's plan to expand the G7 to include Russia, India, Australia and South Korea is controversial as, which was earlier a part of the group, was removed from it after it annexed Crimea in Ukraine in 2014.

Russia had been formally inducted as a member in the group in 1998, with which G7 became G8. However, Russia's act of moving its troops into eastern Ukraine and conquering Crimea in 2014 drew heavy criticism from the other G8 nations, which then decided to suspend Russia from the group.

Background

PM Narendra Modi had participated in the 45th G7 Summit as well, which had taken place in August 2019 at Biarritz, France. India had been specially invited as a "Biarritz partner country" for the 45th G7 summit by French President Emmanuel Macro along with other nations including Australia, Chile, South Africa, Rwanda, Senegal, Egypt and Burkina Faso.

India had attended the G7 summit in 2019 after a gap of almost 10 years. The last time India attended the summit was in 2005, when PM Manmohan Singh had represented India at the summit on the invitation of the then British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

8. India to be re-elected as non-permanent member of UNSC

India is the sole candidate for the non-permanent seat from the Asia-Pacific category for the 2021-22 term.

India is set to be re-elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council during the elections in June 2020. India is assured to win from the Asia Pacific seat, as it will be the sole contender.

India's candidature for the Asia Pacific seat in the non-permanent category was unanimously endorsed by the 55-member Asia Pacific grouping including Pakistan and China in 2019. India's name for non-permanent UNSC seat was proposed by the Asia Pacific countries for a two-year period, from 2021-2022.