



SAFALTA CLASSTM

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

NEWS OF 11TH & 12TH JUNE

12th June 2020 | 8:30 am to 9:15 am

By **Sujeet Sir**



Question No: 1

Which university of India has got the highest position in the QS world university ranking 2021?

- A. IIT Bombay**
- B. IIT Guwahati**
- C. IIT Delhi**
- D. IIT Khadagpur**

Ans. A

Question No: 2

The Polavaram Dam is situated in –

- A. Kerala**
- B. Chennai**
- C. Telangana**
- D. Andhra Pradesh**

Ans. D

Question No: 3

..... is the first woman to reach the Challenger Deep –

- A. Dena Martin
- B. Kathy Sullivan
- C. Lieutenant Shivangi
- D. Avni Chaturvedi

Ans. B

Question No: 4

Deccan Queen train runs between which two stations?

- A. Pune & Nagpur**
- B. Mumbai & Nagpur**
- C. Pune & Mumbai**
- D. Delhi & Bhopal**

Ans. C

Question No: 5

Cayman Island situated in –

- A. Caribbean Sea**
- B. Gulf of Mexico**
- C. Gulf of Mannar**
- D. Gulf of California**

Ans. A

Top institutes

Seven Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Banaras Hindu University (BHU) were ranked as the top 10 educational institutions of 2020 in the overall category by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)



Rank	Institution	State
1	IIT, Madras	T.N.
2	IISc	Karnataka
3	IIT, Delhi	Delhi
4	IIT, Bombay	Maharashtra
5	IIT, Kharagpur	W.B.
6	IIT, Kanpur	U.P.
7	IIT, Guwahati	Assam
8	JNU	Delhi
9	IIT, Roorkee	Uttarakhand
10	BHU	U.P.

■ The three top-ranked universities were IISc, JNU and BHU

■ The three top-ranked colleges were Miranda House, Lady Shri Ram College for Women, and Hindu College; all part of the Delhi University

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)

- **The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was launched by the Minister of Human Resource Development on 29th September 2015.**
- **This framework outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country.**

- The **parameters** broadly cover
 - Teaching, Learning and Resources,
 - Research and Professional Practices,
 - Graduation Outcomes,
 - Outreach and Inclusivity and
 - Perception.

- NIRF rankings 2019 has been given under 8 categories: Overall, Universities, Engineering, Medical, Management, Law, Architecture, Pharmacy and Colleges.

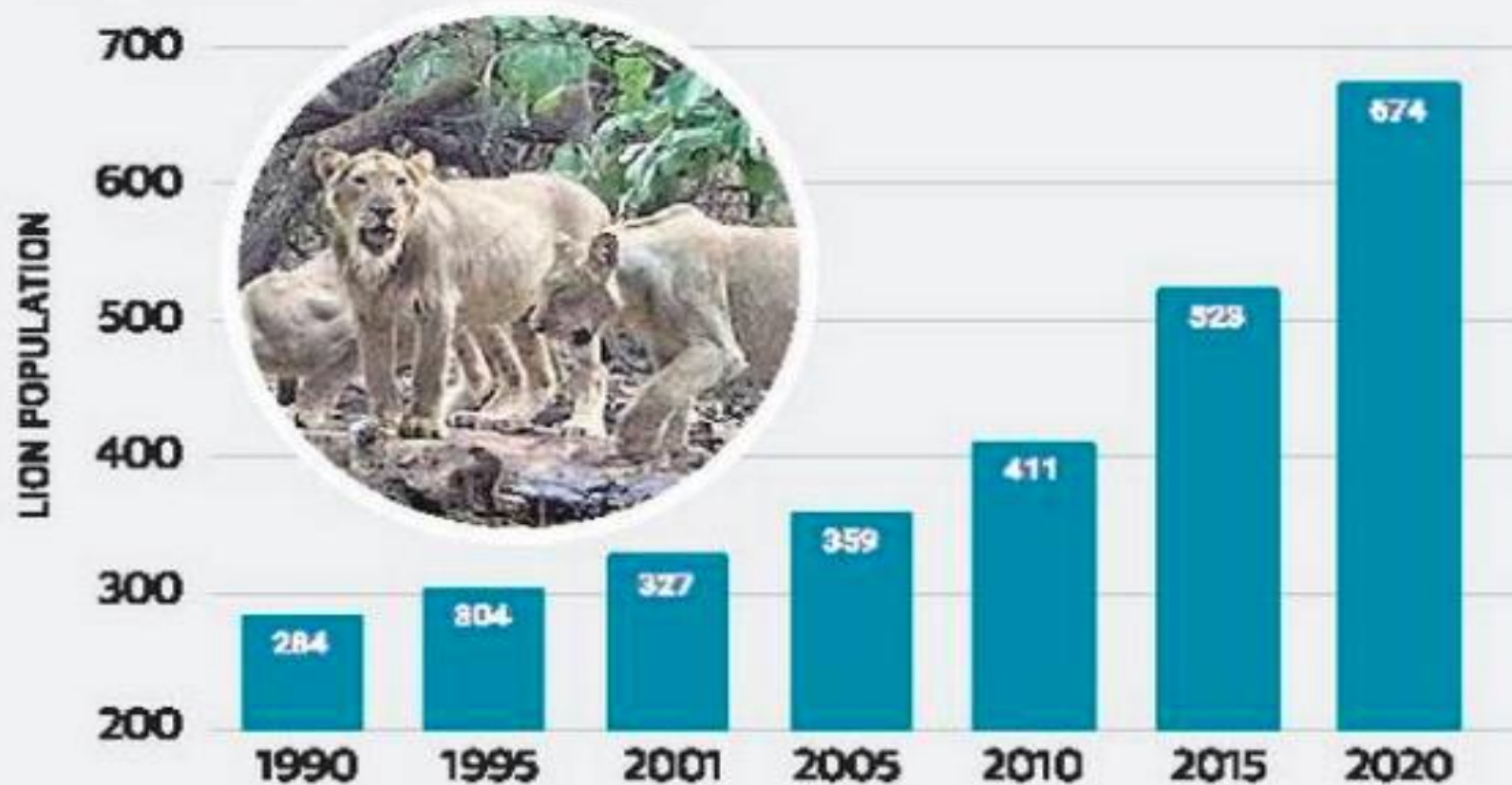
Gujarat's pride grows as it now hosts 674 Gir lions

India has recorded a 29% increase in population of Asiatic lions, living in Gujarat Gir forest, in the past five years — from 523 in 2015 to 674 in 2020.

Population “observation” exercise called Poonam Avlokan (full-moon night estimation exercise).

More the merrier

The number of Asiatic lions in Gir forest in Gujarat has increased by nearly 30% between 2015 and 2020, the highest rise between two census years



Infosys misses carbon neutral target for 2020

Company moves deadline to FY21

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The COVID-19 pandemic has delayed Infosys's plans to be a carbon-neutral company. In 2011, acknowledging the need to be responsible about its emissions, Infosys had made a commitment at the UN that it would become carbon neutral in 2020. However, given the pandemic and resulting uncertainties, this declaration has been moved to fiscal 2021.

"Our climate change strategy focusses on reducing our operational GHG emissions, low carbon technologies for communities, and reducing clients' emissions impact," Infosys said in the Infosys Sustainability Report 2019-20.

Infosys received the 2019 UN Global Climate Action



Awards under the category of 'Climate Neutral Now'; thus becoming the only Indian company ever to win a UN climate award. With the addition of 30 MW solar PV in Sira, Karnataka, Infosys took its total installed capacity to 46.2 MW solar power.

About 44.3% of total electricity used across Infosys campuses in India was from renewable sources in FY20.



UN Global Climate Action Awards

They are organised by the Momentum for Change initiative of the UN Climate Change Secretariat.

It is an initiative spearheaded by the United Nations Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) Secretariat.

The award winning projects are recognized for their innovative solutions that address climate change, and help drive progress on many other sustainable development goals like poverty alleviation, gender equality and economic opportunity.

- **The 25th edition of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) or COP25 has begun from December 2 in Madrid (Spain).**
- **Originally, the Summit was scheduled to be held at Chile (South America) but violent mass movement across the country made Chile reluctant from hosting the event.**



Timeline of Important Events

1979	First World Climate Conference (WCC)
1988	IPCC established
1990	In November IPCC and second WCC call for global treaty on climate change and in December UN General Assembly Negotiations on a Framework Convention Begin.

- **The UNFCCC, signed in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development also known as the Earth Summit, the Rio Summit or the Rio Conference**
- **The UNFCCC entered into force on March 21, 1994, and has been ratified by 197 countries.**

Athirappally Hydel Power

भारी जन विरोध के बीच केरल सरकार ने त्रिशूर ज़िले में चालक्कडी नदी (Chalakydy River) पर प्रस्तावित विवादोस्पद 'अथिरापल्ली जल विद्युत' (Athirappally Hydel Power) परियोजना पर फिर से आगे बढ़ने का निर्णय लिया है।

चालक्कुडी नदी (Chalakydy River)

- चालक्कुडी नदी केरल की चौथी सबसे लंबी नदी है।
- इस नदी का कल बेसिन क्षेत्र तकरीबन 1704 किलोमीटर लंबा है, जिसमें से 1404 किलोमीटर का हिस्सा केरल में पड़ता है और शेष 300 किलोमीटर का हिस्सा तमिलनाडु में पड़ता है।
- यह नदी केरल के पलक्कड़, त्रिशूर और एर्नाकुलम जिलों से होकर निकलती है।

'Border adjustment tax will help local players'

'Aim is to blunt the edge imports enjoy'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

NITI Aayog member V.K. Saraswat on Wednesday favoured imposing a border adjustment tax (BAT) on imports to provide a level-playing field to domestic industries.

"U.S.-China trade tensions are currently at historically high levels. In the post-COVID world, it is expected to rise further... so first we have to do a border adjustment tax to provide the domestic industry a level-playing field vis-a-vis imports," he said at a virtual event organised by the PHD Chamber of Commerce.

BAT is a duty that is proposed to be imposed on imported goods in addition to the customs levy that gets charged at the port of entry.

Mr. Saraswat said various taxes such as electricity duty, mandi tax, clean energy cess and royalty lead to escalation of price. "Such taxes imposed on domestic goods, give them (imported goods) a price advantage in India." Indian industry has been complaining to the government about such domestic taxes that get charged on domestically produced goods as these duties get embedded into the product.

But many imported goods do not get loaded with such levies in their respective country of origin and this gives such products a price advantage in India. On the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision, Mr. Saraswat said advocating self-reliance should not imply that India will embrace isolationist policies.

- **Border Adjustment Tax means that a tax is levied on imports (goods made overseas) and exports are not taxed.**
- **It is imposed on imported goods in addition to the customs levy that gets charged at the port of entry.**

Relief for lifter Sanjita Chanu

Two-time CWG gold winner exonerated of doping charges

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

Two-time Commonwealth Games gold medal-winning weightlifter Sanjita Chanu was exonerated of doping charges on Wednesday after more than two-and-a-half years.

In a mail, International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) legal counsel Dr. Lilla Sagi informed Sanjita and the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF) that the "IWF has decided to withdraw the charges". The letter said, "On 28 May 2020, the IWF was informed by WADA that due to certain non-conformities... with the IRMS analytical method of the laboratory (which has since been corrected to the satisfaction of the WADA Laboratory Expert Group), WADA recommends – out of fairness to the athlete – that the case against the athlete based on the sample be closed."

Sanjita's urine sample had tested positive for testosterone in an out-of-competi-



Sanjita Chanu... a big reason to smile. •FILE PHOTO

tion test conducted by the USA Anti-Doping Agency on Nov. 18, 2017.

The IWF provisionally suspended her on May 15, 2018, before lifting the suspension on Jan. 22, 2019. It took nearly a year and five months more to exonerate Sanjita. Her reaction was mixed. "Happy that the case is closed and my name is cleared. I can apply for the Arjuna Award. However, I am sad to lose out on crucial years. I lost a chance to try for the Olympics, I could have won many medals and

prize money," the 26-year-old Sanjita told *The Hindu*.

Sanjita's brother Bijen, who represented the athlete with another adviser at the IWF hearing in Budapest in October 2018, said the athlete would move the Court of Arbitration for Sport seeking monetary compensation.

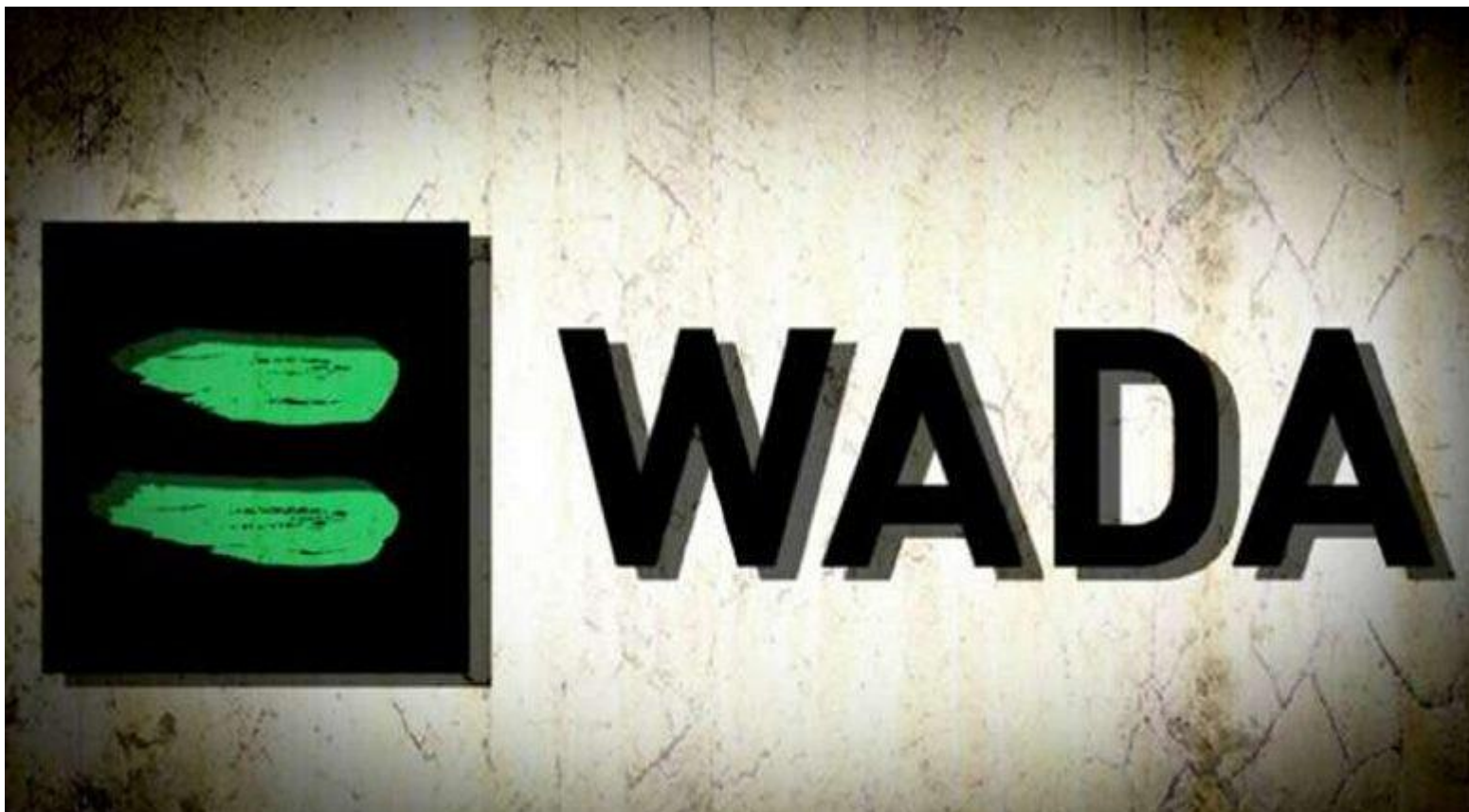
"Sanjita went through tremendous mental trauma, spent around ₹25 lakh and lost a chance to qualify for the Olympics. It also soiled her reputation. We will seek compensation, proper explanation," said Bijen.

The International Weightlifting Federation has dropped the doping charge against Indian weightlifter K Sanjita Chanu due to “non-conformities” in the handling of her sample but the Commonwealth Games gold-medallist has also demanded an apology and compensation for the “trauma” she has endured.

It said that IWF was told by WADA on May 28 that there were “certain non-conformities” at the time of the analysis of Chanu’s sample.

The Manipuri had tested positive for anabolic steroid testosterone carried out by the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) prior to the World Championships in America in November 2017.

World Anti-Doping Agency



- **It was established in 1999 as an international independent agency composed and funded equally by the sport movement and governments of the world.**
- **Its foundation was initiated by the IOC to promote, coordinate and monitor the fight against drugs in sports.**
- **It is headquartered in Montreal, Canada.**

S&P affirms India's rating, outlook

GDP growth rate could be ahead of peers if ongoing reform process is executed well, says agency

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Global rating major S&P has affirmed the country's long term rating at BBB-, the lowest investment grade, and said the outlook on the long-term rating is stable.

The rating agency said though risks to long-term growth are rising, if the ongoing reform process is executed well, the country's growth rate would be ahead of its peers.

It also expects there could be a fiscal consolidation over the next three years after a larger fiscal deficit this financial year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The stable outlook reflects our expectation that India's economy will recover following the containment of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the country will maintain its



Labour markets have weakened, with labourers returning to home States, and may take some time to heal.

sound net external position," S&P said.

"The stable outlook also assumes that the government's fiscal deficit will recode markedly following a multi-year high in fiscal year

2021 (ending March 31, 2020)," it said.

Can face downgrade

India can face a ratings downgrade over the next 1-2 years if GDP growth fails to

meaningfully recover 2021 onwards and the net general government deficits materially exceed forecasts, which would signify weakening of the country's institutional capacity to maintain sustainable public finances.

On the other hand, there could be an upgrade if the fiscal deficits is significantly curtailed.

Earlier this month, Moody's downgraded the country's rating to Baa3 - which was also the lowest investment grade - while maintaining negative outlook.

S&P expects the Indian economy to contract by 5% this fiscal.

It said the country's productive capacity had been severely disrupted as millions of workers had left their jobs to return home, "sometimes crossing the

country to do so."

"India's labour markets have therefore weakened dramatically, and may take some time to heal," it said.

The economy is expected to make a strong comeback in the next financial year as S&P projected 8.5% growth in real GDP in fiscal 2022.

Resilience highlighted

"The economy's long-term outperformance highlights its resilience. India's wide range of structural trends, including healthy demographics and competitive unit labour costs, work in its favour.

"A more favourable corporate tax regime, which is particularly supportive of manufacturing firms, should reinforce growth, alongside additional fiscal and monetary easing," S&P said.

Credit Rating Agencies:

Credit ratings agencies **rate on a scale** the financials and business models of companies, as well as economic management by sovereign governments, **after analysing official and other data and interacting with government officials, business leaders, and economists.**

- **A better rating helps raise funds at a cheaper rate.**
- **The global credit rating industry is highly concentrated, with three agencies controlling nearly the entire market-**
 - 1. Moody's (USA)**
 - 2. Standard & Poor's (USA)**
 - 3. Fitch (USA)**

Credit Rating Agencies of India

- Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited **(CRISIL)**
- The Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency **(ICRA)**
- Credit Analysis and Research Limited **(CARE)**
- India Rating and Research **(Ind Ra)**

Question No: 1

Which country has attained the first position in the EPI ranking ?

- A. Denmark**
- B. Iceland**
- C. Switzerland**
- D. Japan**

Ans. A

Question No: 2

Which organization issues Global Information Technology report ?

- A. Yale University**
- B. World Bank**
- C. UNICEF**
- D. World Economic Forum**

Ans. D

Question No: 3

Which Indian has recently been nominated for Richard Dawkins Award?

- A. Javed Akhtar**
- B. Irfaan khan**
- C. Amitabh Bacchan**
- D. Sonu Nigam**

Ans. B

Question No: 4

Who wrote the book LAVA?

- A. Arundhati Roy**
- B. Amitabh Bacchan**
- C. Javed Habib**
- D. Javed Akhtar**

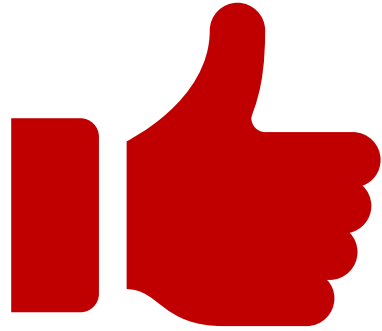
Ans. D

Question No: 5

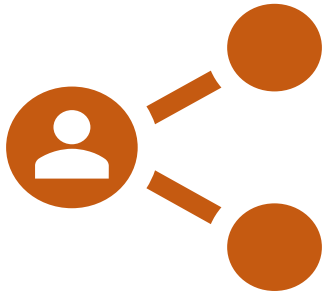
Petrapole Integrated Checkpost located between.....

- A. India & Myanmar**
- B. India & Bangladesh**
- C. India & Nepal**
- D. India & China**

Ans. B



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