

Daily Current Affairs

20 June 2024

Bonn Climate Conference 2024

- The mid-year **climate discussions in Bonn, Germany**, concluded recently with limited progress, raising concerns for a potentially challenging road ahead to the COP29 summit to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, later this year.
- The **60th session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SB60)**, also known as the Bonn Climate Change Conference, aimed to pave the way for COP29 by tackling critical issues related to climate action.



- **Discussions centered on:** Establishing guidelines for carbon markets under the Paris Agreement Articles 6.2 and 6.4, which remained unresolved at COP28. The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance for developing countries, as mandated by the Paris Agreement.
- However, **major sticking points persisted**, with developing nations calling for increased grant-based and concessional financing, while developed countries proposed including certain developing countries in the contributor base, citing “new economic realities.”

- Several challenges, **Geopolitical Tensions**: The ongoing war in Ukraine hindered the urgency in addressing climate action, with major emitters like Russia preoccupied with the conflict.
- **Focus on Mitigation Over Adaptation**: Discussions on reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) overshadowed crucial issues for developing countries, such as climate adaptation and financing.



- **Limited Progress on Key Issues**: Substantive discussions on the Global Stocktake (assessing progress towards climate goals) and the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (addressing climate change impacts) saw minimal progress. Delivery of Climate Finance Pledges: Developed nations continue to lag behind on their promise of mobilizing \$100 billion annually by 2020 to support climate action in developing countries.

V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award

- The renowned wildlife filmmaker **Subbiah Nallamuthu** has been conferred with the prestigious **18th V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award** for his outstanding contributions to the field of non-feature and wildlife documentary filmmaking.
- The award was presented to him by the Union **Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, L. Murugan**, at the inaugural ceremony of the 18th Mumbai International Film Festival in Mumbai, Maharashtra.



- The V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award is a prestigious honor instituted **in 1990 by the** Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in memory of the legendary filmmaker V. Shantaram.
- It is awarded at the Mumbai International Film Festival to filmmakers who have made significant **contributions to documentary films**.



- The **first recipient of the award was Ezra Mir in 1990**. Past recipients include renowned documentary makers like Mike Pandey, Anand Patwardhan, Naresh Bedi, and Shyam Benegal. The award carries a citation, a trophy, and a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh.
- **Subbiah Nallamuthu, an alumnus of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)**, is best known for his tiger-centric documentaries, including “Tiger Dynasty,” “Tiger Queen,” and “The World’s Most Famous Tiger.” His documentary “Living on the Edge” is India’s longest-running award-winning environment series.

Brookfield's Bikaner Solar Power Project

- **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, part of the World Bank Group, has committed **\$105 million** (approximately Rs 871 crore) to Brookfield's Bikaner Solar Power project in Rajasthan.
- This investment will be in the form of **non-convertible debentures**, supporting the expansion of renewable energy infrastructure in India. Brookfield Global Transition Fund (BGTF) is **developing a 550 MW solar power project** in Bikaner, Rajasthan, divided into two phases. The first phase of 268 MW was commissioned in March 2024, with the second phase adding 282 MW, totaling 550 MW. The estimated cost of the second phase is USD 317 million.



- The project is connected to India's interstate transmission system and aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately **804,408 tons of CO2** annually.
- The **Bikaner solar project will supply** green energy through long-term power purchase agreements to commercial and industrial clients, as well as participate in the merchant market via power exchanges.
- This **initiative aligns with India's goal to significantly** increase its non-fossil fuel-based power capacity to 500 GW by 2030, contributing to global efforts to mitigate climate change.

Dhruva Space's Thybolt Satellites

- **Dhruva Space, a Hyderabad-based space tech startup**, has successfully completed its maiden mission with the **Thybolt-1 and Thybolt-2 satellites**.
- These satellites have securely deorbited after completing **15,000 orbits** around Earth.
- Launched aboard **ISRO's PSLV C54 in November 2022**, this achievement marks a significant milestone for the company. The Thybolt satellites carried a **Store-and-Forward payload**, designed to receive messages from sensor nodes or remote ground stations.



- The satellites were built using **Dhruva Space's P-DoT platform**, a picosatellite platform for satellites weighing between 1-24 kg.
- Dhruva Space also developed the **P30 nanosatellite platform** (1-30 kg) and the P90 platform (up to 300 kg). These satellites were entirely constructed in Hyderabad with the help of around **20 MSMEs**.
- Sanjay Nekkanti, CEO of Dhruva Space, highlighted the advancements enabled by the in-house developed P-DoT platform in research, constellation development, and application-agnostic use by customers.
- Dhruva Space is now focusing on its **first hosted payload mission, LEAP-1**, scheduled to launch later this year via ISRO. This mission will utilize the P-30 nanosatellite, space-qualified via ISRO's PSLV C58 POEM-3 on January 1, 2024, through the LEAP-TD mission.



Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award

- Eminent children's filmmaker **Vinod Ganatra** has become the **first Indian** to be conferred with South Africa's prestigious 'Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award' for his outstanding contribution to children's cinema.
- The award was presented to him at the **7th Nelson Mandela Children's Film Festival**. His first TV program, 'Baingan Raja,' won the 'Janakinath Gaur Award' from Doordarshan

Vinod Ganatra Becomes First Indian Honoured With 'Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award'



- His Gujarati film '**Harun Arun**,' made on the India-Pakistan border, received the 'Liv Ullmann Peace Prize' at the 26th Chicago International Children's Film Festival
- The only Indian to have won the prestigious 'Liv Ullmann Peace Prize'.

Asia Oceanic Championship

- **Indian National Ultimate Frisbee team** put up a valiant effort in the finals of the Asia Oceanic Beach Ultimate Championships (AOBUC) 2024, finishing as runners-up after a hard-fought match against the Philippines.
- This marks a historic milestone for Indian Ultimate **Frisbee as the national team reached the finals** for the first time, demonstrating significant growth and potential on the international stage. The tournament featured 16 teams from across Asia, Australia, and New Zealand.



Marriage Equality Bill

- **Thailand Will Become The First Nation** In Southeast Asia To Legalize **Same-sex Marriage** After The Kingdom's Senate Approved A Marriage Equality Bill With Supporters Calling It A "Monumental Step Forward For LGBTQ+ Rights."
- Bill Still Requires Endorsement From The King Before Marriage Equality Can Become Reality In Thailand, But This Process Is Considered A Formality.



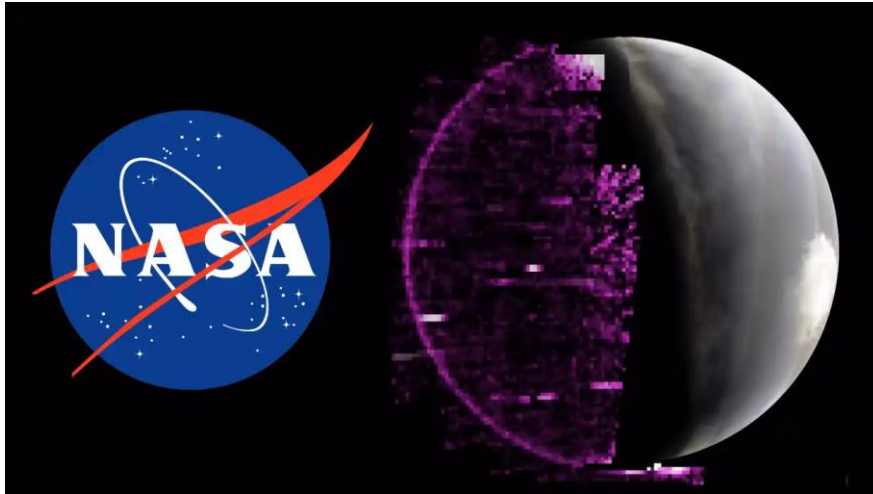
- The Law Will Then Come Into Effect 120 Days After It Is Published In The Royal Gazette. The Result Of The Vote Means That Thailand Will Become **Only The Third Place In Asia** To Allow For Marriage Equality After **Taiwan Legalized** Same-sex Marriage In 2019 And **Nepal In 2023**.



- **The Bill** Represents A Monumental Step Forward For **LGBTQ+ Rights In Thailand**, Panyaphon Phiphatkhunarnon, Founder Of Love Foundation – An NGO Campaigning For LGBTQ+ Equality In Thailand. “The Potential Impact Of This Bill Is Immense. It Would Not Only Change The Lives Of Countless Couples But Also Contribute To A More Just And Equitable Society For All.

Purple Rain on Mars

- **NASA recently talked about** an interesting thing that happens on Mars: auroras, including a purple one that was caught on camera by **NASA’s MAVEN (Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution)** orbiter’s Imaging Ultraviolet Spectrograph.
- This unusual event was shown in an Instagram video, where the spectral show was called “purple rain.”
- **Auroras are beautiful natural light** shows that can usually be seen near the Earth’s poles. Mars, on the other hand, has very different forces. Mars doesn’t have a strong magnetic field like Earth does to protect it from charged particles in the solar wind.
- Mars used to have a **magnetic field that it created itself**, but it lost it billions of years ago. Solar storms send waves of charged particles toward Mars, but there is no magnetic barrier there.



- These particles combine directly with the atmosphere, making auroras that can cover the whole planet. When these charged particles hit the atmosphere of Mars, they caused the purple aurora that was seen and recorded from May 12 to May 20, 2024. The auroras' strength was shown by changes in the brightness of the pictures taken by MAVEN.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which Day Is Observed As 'International Day Of Innocent Children Victims Of Aggression'
 - A. 3 June
 - B. 4 June
 - C. 5 June
 - D. 6 June

ANSWER: B

2. "A World Of Debt: A Growing Burden To Global Prosperity" Report, Was Prepared By
 - A. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
 - B. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
 - C. World Bank
 - D. UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

ANSWER: D

3. What Is 'Thismia Malayana'

- A. A new species of plant
- B. A rare species of fern
- C. A type of traditional medicine
- D. An ancient irrigation technique

ANSWER: A

4. Where Was Second Annual Meeting iCET Between India & US Held

- A. New Delhi
- B. Chennai
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Jaipur

ANSWER: A

5. Digital Health Incentive Scheme Was Launched Under

- A. Mission Indradhanush
- B. Universal health care
- C. Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission
- D. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana

ANSWER: C

6. What Is 'Planet Nine'

- A. A hypothetical planet in the outer region of our solar system
- B. A moon of Neptune
- C. Comets from the Kuiper Belt
- D. A newly discovered moon of saturn

ANSWER: A

7. What Is The Main Objective Of 'SDG 7'

- A. Promote nuclear energy development
- B. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50%
- C. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all
- D. Increase fossil fuel production worldwide

ANSWER: C

8. Joint Communiqué On A Peace Framework”, Is In Context Of Which Two Countries

- A. India and Nepal
- B. Iran and Iraq
- C. India and China
- D. Russia and Ukraine

ANSWER: D

9. Parapatrechina Neela Belongs To Which Species

- A. Ant
- B. Fish
- C. Spider
- D. Frog

ANSWER: A

10. What kind of missile is ‘Iris-T Missile’

- A. Air-to-Air missile
- B. Surface-to-Air missile
- C. Surface-to-Surface missile
- D. Air-to-Surface missile

ANSWER: A

11. Where Was U.S.-Led Indo Pacific Economic Framework Ministerial Meeting Held

- A. Vietnam
- B. Mexico
- C. Singapore
- D. Malaysia

ANSWER: C

12. Which Country Decided To Allow Non Citizen Residents From The Five Eyes Alliance To Join Its Armed Forces

- A. Australia
- B. Canada
- C. US
- D. UK

ANSWER: A

13. Global Annual To Decadal Climate Update Is Issued Annually By

- A. World Bank
- B. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- C. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- D. International Labour Organization (ILO)

ANSWER: C

14. Where Was World Summit On Information Society Held NPCI

- A. London
- B. Paris
- C. New Delhi
- D. Geneva

ANSWER: D

15. Report Titled 'State & Trends Of Carbon Pricing 2024' Released By

- A. UNEP
- B. UNDP
- C. World Bank
- D. IMF

ANSWER: C

16. Indira Gandhi Zoological Park Is Located In Which State

- A. Kerala
- B. Karnataka
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Maharashtra

ANSWER: C

17. Mount Kanlaon Is Located In Which Country

- A. Mexico
- B. Philippines
- C. Indonesia
- D. Chile

ANSWER: B

18. Arun-3 Hydro Electric Project Is Associated With Which Country

- A. India
- B. Nepal
- C. Bhutan
- D. Bangladesh

ANSWER: B

19. Reverse Transcriptase Enzyme Is Associated With Which Type Of Virus

- A. Norovirus
- B. Retrovirus
- C. Mimivirus
- D. Hepatitis B virus

ANSWER: B

20. The Earliest Evidence Of Banking Transactions In India Comes From

- A. Vedic Era
- B. Maurya Era
- C. Gupta Era
- D. Medieval India

ANSWER: A