

May 09, 2019

2 Indians Among 115 UN Personnel Honoured For Sacrifice In Line Of Duty



An Indian police officer deployed to the UN mission in Congo and a consultant with the UN development programme killed in the Ethiopian Airlines plane crash are among **115 UN peacekeepers** and staff honoured by the global organisation for their sacrifice in the line of duty.

Police Officer **Jitender Kumar** serving in the **UN Organisation Stabilisation Mission** in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and **Shikha Garg, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** consultant attached with India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, along with 113 UN personnel and staff, lost their lives in the service of peace between January 2018 and March 2019.

UN Re-Elects India's Jagjit Pavadia To International Narcotics Board



Jagjit Pavadia has been re-elected with the highest number of votes by the **UN Economic and Social Council** to a five-year term on **International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**, while China's candidate lost.

Ms Pavadia polled 44 votes in the first round of voting in the 54-member Council facing a field of 15 candidates for the five seats up for election this year ensuring her continuance on the board.

MNRE holds 'Chintan Baithak' with the stakeholders of Renewable Energy (RE) sector



Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) held a 'Chintan Baithak' with the stakeholders of Renewable Energy sector. The 'Baithak' (meet) was chaired by Secretary, MNRE, **Shri Anand Kumar** and saw good participation from Renewable Energy (RE)

sector including the representatives of major RE developers, equipment manufacturers, financiers, regulators, think-tanks, industry bodies and skill developers.

The day long meet deliberated upon various issues pertaining to the RE sector viz. solar, wind, bio-energy, small-hydro, regulatory issues, bidding & pricing, demand forecasting, financing of RE projects, energy storage, Make in India, skilling India's RE work force etc.

15th Finance Commission to hold meetings with RBI, banks, financial institutions



The 15th Finance Commission headed by **Chairman, Shri N.K. Singh** held a detailed meeting with the Governor and Deputy Governors of RBI in Mumbai. Key issues raised by RBI Governor, **Shri Shaktikanta Das** and Finance Commission Chairman, Shri N.K. Singh

were discussed in detail at the meeting. These issues included the following:-

- The necessity of setting up State Finance Commissions for respective State Governments.
- Public Sector Borrowing Requirements.

- Continuity of the Finance Commission.
- Need for Expenditure Codes, especially given that expenditure norms vary from state to state.
- Role of States in Growth and Inflation, for instance, role of states in Ease of doing Business.

Standard Life sells 1.78% in HDFC Life Insurance



Standard Life has successfully divested **1.78 percent** of its stake in **HDFC Life Insurance** to raise Rs 1,400 crore. The divestment was done through offer for sale (OFS) route and the issue managed to sail through successfully with both qualified institutional investors (QIBs) and retail investor quotas seeing full subscriptions.

The portion reserved for retail investors was subscribed by 1.2 times with 42 lakh bids coming from individual investors against 36 lakh shares on offer. Shares of HDFC Life fell Rs 2.4, or 0.6 percent, to close at Rs 411 apiece.

World Red Cross Day: 08 May



World Red Cross Day, also known as World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day which is observed every year on May 8 is a gentle nod to all the volunteers who have made unparalleled contribution to people in duress or need. Incidentally, the day is also the birthday of

Henry Dunant, who had generated the **Red Cross Committee of the International (ICRI)** in

1863 in Switzerland, Geneva. He was born in May 8, 1828 and was also the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. The theme of 2019 World Red Cross Day is #Love.

World Thalassaemia Day: 08 May



The **International Thalassaemia Day**, celebrated on **May 8** every year is a commemoration day in honour of all patients with thalassaemia and their wards who never gave up despite all odds. The day is a further nod to the researchers who are striving to create an improved quality of life for people with thalassaemia

across the world. The theme for International Thalassaemia Day 2019 (ITD2019) is "Universal access to quality thalassaemia healthcare services: Building bridges with and for patients."

President Trump Presents Tiger Woods With the Presidential Medal of Freedom



President Trump presented **Tiger Woods** with the **Presidential Medal of Freedom** in a ceremony at the White House Rose Garden. The iconic golfer received the presidential honor following his win of the 2019 Masters tournament in April. Trump said he congratulated Woods by phone after his

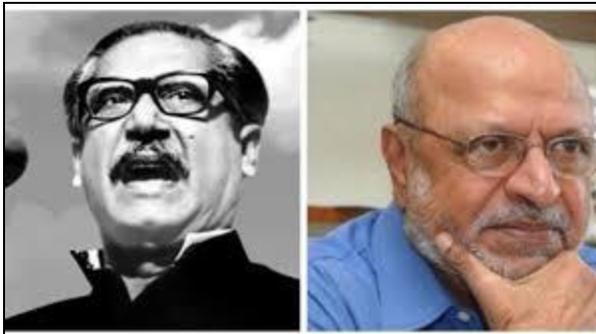
Masters victory and that he'd present him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in a tweet last month.

The 11th Arctic Council Ministerial meeting



On May 7, 2019 **Finland** held the **11th Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting** in Lappi Arena, Rovaniemi, **Finland**. The dignitaries from the 8 Arctic States had approved the work completed under the 2-year Finnish Chairmanship to enhance sustainable development and environmental conservation in the Arctic region. The Arctic States will be joined by delegations from the Council's indigenous Permanent Participant organizations, the Chairs of the six Working Groups, and Observers.

India, Bangladesh to jointly produce movie on life, works of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman



India and Bangladesh will co-produce a film on the life and works of **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** and a documentary on Bangladesh Liberation War. The movie will be directed by acclaimed filmmaker **Shyam Benegal** who, along with the writer of the movie Atul Tiwari, was also present during the meeting. The Bangladesh Delegation assured full cooperation in ensuring smooth logistics for shooting the movie in Bangladesh.

Former billiards player Derek Sippy dies in Mumbai



Former **billiards player**, coach and administrator **Derek Sippy** died after a sudden heart attack. Derek was Indian team coach for recently concluded Asian Under-21 Boys Snooker and Asian Women Snooker at Chandigarh.