



CURRENT AFFAIRS

G20 Digital Ministers Summit calls for coordinated global Digital response to fight the pandemic:

Communications and Electronics and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad emphasized on the responsibility of G20 nations to focus on making inclusive and sustainable economies and societies that are more resilient in the face of the ongoing pandemic.

The Minister was attending an extraordinary virtual G20 Digital Economy Ministers meeting to discuss the challenges posed by the pandemic and to forge a global coordinated response harnessing Digital Technologies.

The meeting was attended by Digital Ministers of G20 Members, invited countries and International Organizations.

At the meeting, G20 Digital Ministers agreed to leverage the potential of Digital medium to contain the pandemic and protect people. Union Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad emphasized that G20 nations have a responsibility that everything we do during and after this crisis must be with a strong focus on building more equal, inclusive and sustainable economies and societies that are more resilient in the face of the ongoing pandemic.

Highlighted by Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad:

- India was represented by Union Minister for Law & Justice, Communications and Electronics & IT Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad highlighted the steps taken by Indian Government to contain the spread and offered the roadmap for the world to emulate.

- The Indian Minister called on the G20 to come out with a concrete Digital action plan to fight the global pandemic
- The minister highlighted India's action plan to fight coronavirus by leveraging digital technology which include Aarogya Setu mobile app, using geo-fencing for quarantine management, direct benefit transfer among others.
- The critical role of Indian IT-ITeS Industry in maintaining the Global Business Continuity and offered India as a lucrative destination for displaced Global Supply chains.

GI Tag for Kashmir Saffron

The Saffron cultivated in the Kashmir valley has received Geographical Indication Tag. It is to be noted that three other products such as Gorakhpur Gorakhpur Teracotta, Kovilpatti Kadalai Mittai and Black rice of Manipur also received GI tag recently.

What is Kashmir Saffron?

Kashmir saffron , which is a spice and health rejuvenator and the pride of Jammu and Kashmir, has been given geographical indication (GI) tag, protecting the uniqueness of the farm produce. The recognition was formally published in the latest GI Journal by the GI Registry.

The Saffron cultivated in Kashmir is long, thick and has natural deep red colour. Also, it has high aroma and is processed without adding any chemical.

The colour of the saffron is unique due to the high quantity of crocin. It has a rich flavour because of safranal and the bitterness is due to the presence of picrocrocin.

Kashmir Saffron is a world renowned spice and is grown in regions of Pulwama, Kishtwar, Budgam and Srinagar.

It is the only saffron in the world grown at an altitude of 1,600 metre(m) to 1,800 m Above Mean Sea Level(AMSL), which differentiates from other saffron varieties available around the world.

Types of saffron in Kashmir

- i.Lachha Saffron- Stigmas are separated from the flowers and dried without further processing
- ii.Mongra Saffron- Stigmas are detached from the flower, dried in the sun and processed traditionally(packed loosely in air-tight containers)
- iii.Guchhi Saffron- It is like Lachha but has stigmas joined together in a bundle with a cloth thread.

World Press Freedom Day is celebrated on 3 May

World Press Freedom Day popularly known as World Press Day is one of the calendar events planned, organised and promoted by the United Nations, observed annually on May 3.

The day aims to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom and pay tribute to journalists who have laid down their lives in the exercise of their profession. The day also focuses to assess its state around the world, defend the media from attacks on their independence.

The World Press Freedom Day was started by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1993, on a recommendation from UNESCO. The observation of World Press Freedom Day was marked on the jubilee of the Declaration of Windhoek. It holds a statement of fundamentals of press freedom assembled in 1991 by the African Journalists to encourage an independent African press.

The theme of World Press Freedom Day 2020, "Journalism without Fear or Favour" and the sub-themes for this year are:

- Safety of Women and Men Journalists and Media Workers
- Independent and Professional Journalism free from Political and Commercial Influence
- Gender Equality in All Aspect of the Media

As per UNESCO, on May 3, national and local celebrations for World Press Freedom Day will take place around the world, which includes online debates and workshops.

UNESCO will launch a global campaign on media and social media channels, with a focus on "Journalism without Fear or Favour" in an increasingly complex media landscape.

Appointed Neeraj Dhawan as its Chief Risk Officer of “Yes Bank”:

Neeraj was appointed Chief Risk Officer (CRO) with immediate effect for a period of three years. He assumed charge on 2 May. He replaced Ashish Agarwal, the current CRO, who will be transitioning to a new role in the bank.

Neeraj Dhawan held the position of chief risk officer for retail and business banking at Yes Bank. He has experience of over 29 years of financial services and banking industry.

The role of the Chief Risk Officer (CRO) is becoming increasing important in financial, investment, and insurance sectors. According to Watson, the majority of CROs agreed that having only exceptional analytical skill is not sufficient. The most successful CROs are able to combine these skills with highly developed commercial, strategic, leadership and communication skill to be able to drive change and make a difference in an organization.



Mind Snap