



## PLUTUS IAS

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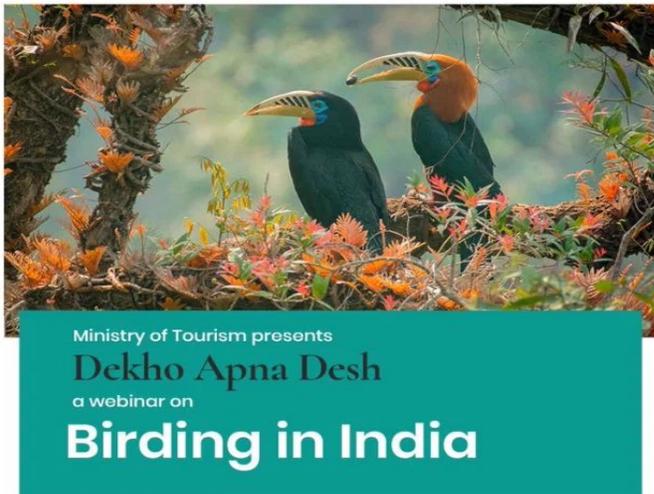
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## Webinar on “Birding in India”

### Context:

Ministry of Tourism organises a webinar on “**Birding in India**” under Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series

The Ministry of Tourism is organizing a series of Webinars under the overall theme of **Dekho Apna Desh**



12th December 2020

Saturday | 1100-1200 hrs IST

Presented By:

**Saurabh Sawant**

Founder - Tethys Expeditions

Watch Live

### What is DekhoApnaDesh?

DekhoApnaDesh is an initiative of the **Ministry of Tourism** which was launched by the Union Minister for Tourism at Konark, Odisha on 24th January 2020.

The Prime Minister made an appeal from the ramparts of Red Fort on 15th August 2019 in his speech he asked every citizen to visit at least 15 destinations by the year 2022, to achieve it, **Union Ministry of Tourism** initiated this DekhoApnaDesh.

**Objective:**

To promote domestic tourism in India which is intended to enhance tourist footfalls in places of tourist interest so as to help develop the local economy.

**About Birding in India Webinar:**

- ❑ A series of Webinars are being organised under DekhoApnaDesh, Birding in India is the recent among them.
- ❑ It is to increase the importance of Birds and awareness relating to them.
- ❑ It is focused on Birds and Birding opportunities in India. India's biodiversity is one of the richest in the world.
- ❑ India is home with over 1300 exotic bird species and to name a few Indian Roller, Hornbills, Sarus Crane , Great Indian Bustard, Woodpeckers, Kingfishers and many more.

## **Gujarat to get India's largest renewable energy generation park.**

### **Context:**

India's largest renewable energy generation park will come up in Gujarat with a generation capacity of **30 gigawatts (GW)**. It will be constructed in Gujarat's **Kutch** district. It will be a **Hybrid Renewable Energy Park**.

### **Objective:**

The Government of India has set a target of installing **175 GW of renewable energy** capacity by the year **2022**, which includes:

- **100 GW** from solar,
- **60 GW** from wind,
- **10 GW** from bio-power and
- **5 GW** from small hydro-power.

❖ **GUJARAT MAP**



### About the park:

The renewable energy park will have **two zones**:

- A solar power plants and
- An exclusive wind park zone.

## Person in News

### Vidyavachaspati Bannanje Govindacharya passed away.

	<p><b>Who was he?</b></p> <p><b>Vidyavachaspati Bannanje Govindacharya</b> (3rd August 1936 – 13th December 2020) was a native of Karnataka. He died at the age of 85</p>
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### Achievements:

- Renowned Sanskrit scholar.
- A propagator of the Madhva ideology and a great orator,
- He was conferred the Padma Shri award in 2009.
- He was well-versed in Veda Bhashya, Upanishad Bhashya, Mahabharata, Ramayana and the Puranas.

- He had written commentaries on Veda Suktas, Upanishads, Shata Rudriya, Brahma Sutra Bhashya, and Gita Bhashya.
- Govindacharya had authored around 150 books.
- He translated several texts from Sanskrit to Kannada Some of them are Bana Bhatta's novel "Bana Bhattana Kadambari", Kalidasa's "Shakuntala" and Shudraka's "Mricchakatika."

## **Bullion Exchange Regulations, 2020**

### **Context:**

- In the Union Budget 2020, Union Minister of Finance Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman had made an announcement for setting up an International Bullion Exchange at the International Financial Services Centre in GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Subsequently, the Government of India had notified the bullion spot delivery contract and bullion depository receipt (with bullion as underlying) as Financial Products and related services as Financial Services under the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) Act, 2019.

### **What is Bullion?**

- Bullion is gold, silver, or other precious metals in the form of bars, ingots, or specialized coins that is said to maintain its worth better than conventional currencies and is therefore kept as a form of emergency currency by both governments and private citizens alike.

### **What is the role of IFSCA?**

- IFSCA has been entrusted with the responsibility of operationalization of this Exchange. In this regard, International Financial Services Centres Authority (Bullion Exchange) Regulations 2020 were approved by the Authority in its meeting held on October 27,2020.

The said regulations have been notified and published in the Gazette of India on December 11, 2020.

### **About the Regulations:**

- The regulations inter alia cover the Bullion Exchange, Clearing Corporation, Depository and Vaults. The regulations are divided into the 16 chapters.
- First half of the regulation deals with the Exchange and Clearing Corporations while the second half pertains to the Vaults and Depositories and related provisions.
- The complete text of the notified regulations is available on the IFSCA website at <https://ifsc.gov.in/Regulation>

## **Why did Mount Everest's height change?**

### **Context:**

- China and Nepal agreed this week on a new standard height for Mount Everest, the rugged Himalayan peak that straddles their border. They jointly presented a new official figure of 8,848.86 meters (29,031.69 feet) above sea level.

### **Additional Information:**

- The world's highest mountain is now officially a little higher, and that might not be the end of the story.
- As definitive as that sounds, geological changes, the complicated business of measuring a mountain and varying criteria for

determining the world's highest peak will likely ensure the question isn't settled for good.

### **Geological ups and downs**

- The mountain's height changes. The movement of tectonic plates can lift it up ever so gradually, while earthquakes can bring it down.
- The countervailing forces may help maintain a degree of stability over time.
- Nature tends to strike a balance. As an example, a massive 1934 earthquake wiped out 150 years of steady height increase in a few moments.

### **Measuring mountains:**

- There's more than one way to measure a mountain.
- Last year, a Nepalese team set up a satellite navigation marker on Everest's peak to gauge its exact position via GPS satellites. A Chinese team undertook a similar mission this spring, though it used the Chinese-made Beidou constellation of navigation satellites, along with other equipment.
- At the same time, Nepalese crews took measurements with modern, laser-equipped versions of instruments called theodolites, first used to gauge the mountain's height in 1856 by measuring angles using trigonometry.
- The Nepalese team also used ground penetrating radar to measure the amount of snow and ice that sits on top of its highest rock.
- Measuring the height above sea level has always been tricky because ocean levels vary considerably depending on tides, magnetism and other factors. Rising sea levels are creating another factor for future measurements.
- As measured from the Earth's core, Ecuador's Mount Chimborazo is the world's highest, standing more than 2,072 meters (6,800 feet)

above Everest. Because the Earth bulges in the middle, mountains along the equator are farther from the core.

- Measuring from the foot of the mountain to the peak, Hawaii's Mauna Kea is the tallest. Most of it, however, is under the sea.

## India, Uzbekistan sign 9 pacts, vow to fight terror

### Context:

- India and Uzbekistan on Friday signed nine agreements to further broadbase cooperation in several areas and vowed to combat the threat of terrorism by “destroying” terrorist safe-havens, networks and funding channels.



### Highlights of the Summit:

- **At a virtual summit**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev deliberated on expanding bilateral ties, and agreed to step up efforts for early conclusion of a bilateral investment treaty.

- In opening remarks, Modi said the peace process in Afghanistan must preserve the achievements of the past two decades. “We agree that the restoration of peace in Afghanistan requires a process that itself is led, owned and controlled by Afghanistan,” he said.
- During the talks, Modi and Mirziyoyev strongly condemned terrorism and reaffirmed determination of their countries to combat it by “destroying” safe-havens, networks, infrastructure and funding channels, said a joint statement.
- Holding that the current level of bilateral trade does not reflect the true potential, the two leaders instructed officials concerned to fast-track the conclusion of an ongoing joint feasibility study that will pave the way for commencement of negotiations on a preferential trade agreement, it said.
- The agreements signed are aimed at expanding cooperation in a range of areas, including new and renewable energy, digital technologies, cyber security and sharing of information. The statement said the Indian side confirmed approval of \$448 million of Line of Credit for four development projects in Uzbekistan.

## **Climate Ambition Summit 2020**

### **Context:**

- The United Nations, United Kingdom and France have co-hosted the Climate Ambition Summit 2020, in partnership with Chile and Italy. This is a monumental step on the road to the UK-hosted COP26 next November in Glasgow.

- This Summit marks the fifth anniversary of the Paris Agreement - the most ambitious step in our fight against Climate Change.

### **Progress made by India with reference to Climate Action:**

- India is not only on track to achieve its Paris Agreement targets, but to exceed them beyond expectations. We have reduced our emission intensity by 21% over 2005 levels. Our solar capacity has grown from 2.63 GigaWatts in 2014 to 36 GigaWatts in 2020. Our renewable energy capacity is the fourth largest in the world.
- It will reach 175 GigaWatts before 2022. And, we have an even more ambitious target now - 450 GigaWatts of renewable energy capacity by 2030. We have also succeeded in expanding our forest cover and safeguarding our biodiversity. And, on the world stage, India has pioneered two major initiatives:
  - **The International Solar Alliance, and**
  - **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.**
- In 2047, India will celebrate 100 years as a modern, independent nation. To all my fellow residents of this planet, I make a solemn pledge today. Centennial India will not only meet its own targets, but will also exceed your expectations.