

DATE: 12/06/2021



# GENERAL Knowledge

## TOPICS

- Monthly Compendium
- May 2021
- Current Affairs in Detail
- Important for CLAT, AILET, MHCET, and other law entrance tests.

## ADDRESS

24-B, Next to Bikaner Sweets, S. K. Puri, Boring Road, Patna



**82943945 19 | 7903086545**



# **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**MAY  
01ST - 31ST MAY**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. NATIONAL AFFAIRS .....
- 2. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.....
- 3. ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.....
- 4. APPOINTMENTS.....
- 5. AWARDS AND HONORS.....
- 6. IMPORTANT DATES & SPORTS.....
- 7. REPORTS AND INDEXES.....
- 8. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY.....
- 9. MISCELLANEOUS.....





# NATIONAL AFFAIRS

---

MA  
MTA  
BAN  
ERJ  
EE  
TAK  
ES  
OAT  
H  
AS  
WB  
CM  
FOR  
3RD  
TIM  
E

**Mamata Banerjee** was sworn in as **West Bengal Chief Minister for third time** in the shadow of Covid and post-poll violence in parts of state.



the  
the

❖ The oath ceremony took place with Covid protocols in place at **“Throne Room” at the Raj Bhavan**. The rest of the cabinet and the council of ministers will be sworn in on May 9, the **birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore**.

the

❖ **Mamata Banerjee won a landslide victory in the Bengal election to secure a third straight term**. The Trinamool won 213 of 292 seats while its strongest rival, BJP, finished second with 77 seats.

## N RANGASAMY SWORN IN AS CM OF PUDUCHERRY

❖ The **All India NR Congress (AINRC) founder leader N Rangasamy** has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of the **Union Territory of Puducherry**, for a record fourth time, on 07, 2021.



May

❖ **N Rangasamy** was administered the oath of office and secrecy by **Lieutenant governor (additional charge) Tamilisai Soundararajan**.

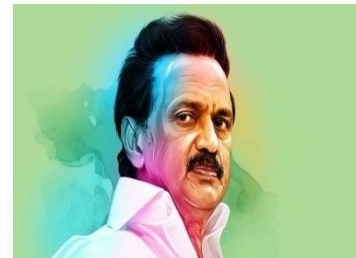
by

❖ Prior to this, the 71-year-old served as **Chief Minister of Puducherry from 2001 to 2008** as a member of the Indian National Congress and then from 2011 to 2016 as a member of AINRC. It will be the first time that Rangasamy will be heading a coalition cabinet, **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** in the UT, which has members from **BJP and AINRC**.

## DMK CHIEF MK STALIN AS CM OF TAMIL NADU

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

❖ **Tamil Nadu governor Banwarilal Purohit** has appointed **Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) chief MK Stalin** as chief minister of Tamil Nadu.



the

❖ The 68-year-old is the son of the former five-term Tamil Nadu chief minister, the **late M Karunanidhi**.

❖ The **DMK-led alliance won 159 seats**, well ahead of the majority mark of 118 seats. The party alone won 133 seats in the election.

❖ **In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections**, Stalin led the **United Progressive Alliance (UPA)**, of which the DMK is a constituent, to victory in 38 out of 39 parliamentary seats in Tamil Nadu.

## INDIAN NAVY LAUNCHED OPERATION SAMUDRA SETU-II

❖ The **Indian Navy has launched Operation Samudra Setu-II** to help in faster transportation of medical oxygen other requirements from other countries to India, amid its worsening COVID-19 pandemic.



and

❖ **As a part of operation 'Samudra Setu II'**, seven Indian Naval ships have been deployed for shipment of liquid medical oxygen-filled cryogenic containers and associated medical equipment from various countries. These warships are **Kolkata, Kochi, Talwar, Tabar, Trikand, Jalashwa and Airavat**.

❖ In 2020, the Indian Navy launched **Operation Samudra Setu**, as part of the **Vande Bharat Mission**, to repatriate approximately 4,000 stranded and distressed Indian citizens from the **Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Iran**.

## N. SITHARAMAN ATTENDED ADB ANNUAL MEETING

- ❖ **Nirmala Sitharaman**, India's Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister and the **Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Governor**, recently attended the ADB's annual meeting 2021's Governors' Seminar on "Cooperation for a Resilient Future.



- ❖ **Sitharaman** praised the **Asian Development Bank** for providing timely financial support for both Covid and non-Covid ventures.
- ❖ **ADB is a regional development bank**. Its headquarters are in **Manila, Philippines**, and it was established on December 19, 1966. It has been designated as an official UN Observer. Currently, the **Asian Development Bank has 68 members, 49 of whom are Asian**.
- ❖ The bank is open to non-regional developing countries and members of the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP, previously the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East or ECAFE)**.

## G20 TOURISM MINISTER'S MEETING 2021

- ❖ **Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture (I/c), Prahlad Singh Patel** participated in G20 Tourism Ministers' Meeting held in Italy on 4th May 2021.



- ❖ This dialogue aimed to collaborate in protecting tourism businesses, jobs and taking initiatives to frame policy guidelines to support the **sustainable and resilient recovery of travel and tourism**.

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- ❖ He also conveyed India's support for the Principles for the transition to a green travel and tourism economy submitted by UNWTO as a further contribution to the policy area "**Green Transformation**" to embrace sustainability in tourism.
- ❖ Patel also highlighted the **initiatives taken by the Ministry of Tourism** to promote community-based tourism and rural tourism by involving the local population in employment opportunities and income-generating activities through sustainable and responsible tourism.
- ❖ The **Minister concluded with thanks to the Italian G20 Presidency** for its leadership and India will continue its support and cooperation to ensure further progress under **Indonesia's G20 Presidency in 2022**.

## PUDUCHERRY BECOMES 'HAR GHAR JAL' UT

- ❖ Puducherry has achieved the **target of 100% piped water connection** in rural areas under the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**. Earlier, Goa, **Telangana and Andaman & Nicobar Islands** have provided tap water supply to every rural home under Jal Jeevan Mission.



- ❖ So, **Puducherry is the fourth State/UT** to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home under Jal Jeevan Mission.
- ❖ **Jal Jeevan Mission** is being implemented in partnership with **States/ UTs to provide safe tap water to every rural home by 2024**. The **State of Punjab and the UTs of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu** have covered over 75% of rural homes with assured tap water supply.

## INDIA & INDONESIA NAVIES CONDUCTED NAVAL EXERCISE



❖ The **Indian and Indonesian Navies** conducted **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** in the southern Arabian Sea with a focus on further improving their interoperability.



focus

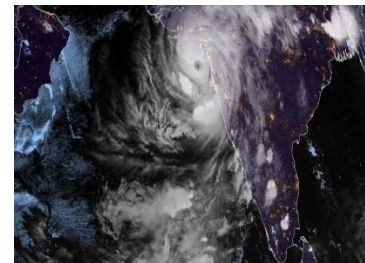
❖ The exercise was **aimed at improving interoperability** and understanding between both the friendly navies.

❖ From the **Indian Navy**, **INS Sharda**, an **Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV)** with a Chetak helicopter participated in the exercise. From the **Indonesian Navy**, **KRI Sultan Hasanudin**, a 90m Corvette took part in the exercise.

❖ **About the PASSEX: PASSEXes** are regularly conducted by IN with units of Friendly Foreign Countries. **The last PASSEX between IN and the Indonesian Navy** was conducted on 13 Mar 21 between INS Kalpeni, IN Dornier and KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda.

## CYCLONE TAUKATE HITS MANY STATES OF INDIA

❖ **Cyclone Taukate** has obtained its maximum intensity in wee hours of Sunday and has now become a **Very Severe Cyclonic Storm** (wind speed of 118 to 166 km/hr).



the

❖ The latest cyclone alert issued by the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has said that this storm would reach close to **Gujarat coast, Maharashtra, Goa**.

❖ Light to moderate intensity rainfall is expected to continue over coastal Karnataka and Kerala till Monday.

## HP GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED AYUSH GHAR-DWAR INITIATIVE

- ❖ **Himachal Government has launched the ‘Ayush Ghar-Dwar’** program to keep the home isolated Covid-19 positive patients healthy by practising Yoga.



- ❖ This program has been **started by the Department of AYUSH** in collaboration with the **Art of Living organisation**. Yoga Bharti’s instructors would provide their services in the program.
- ❖ During the launch, about 80 home isolated Covid positive patients from all over the state were also connected virtually.
- ❖ Under the program, approximately 1000 virtual groups on social media **platforms like zoom, WhatsApp and Google meet** will be formed to connect with COVID positive patients in home isolation.
- ❖ The initiative intends to provide a **holistic healthcare approach through AYUSH** to ensure not only physical but also mental, social and spiritual wellbeing.

## PM CARES FUND FOR CHILDREN ORPHANED IN COVID-19

❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a **number of welfare measures** for children who lost their parents to COVID-19.



of

❖ All children who have lost either **both parents or surviving parents or legal guardians or adoptive parents** due to COVID-19 will be supported under **PM-CARES for Children scheme**. The welfare measures have been listed below:

❖ **Fixed Deposit in the name of the child:** The government has announced the “PM-CARES for Children” scheme under **which fixed deposits will be opened in the names of such children** from the PM-CARES fund.

❖ The total corpus of the fund will be Rs 10 lakh for each child. This corpus will be used to give a monthly financial support/ stipend when the child reaches 18 years of age, for the next five years to take care of his or her personal requirements.

❖ **Education: Children under 10 years will be given admission to the nearest Kendriya Vidyalaya or in a private school** as a day scholar. Children between 11-18 years of age will be given admission to any central government residential school such as Sainik School and Navodaya Vidyalaya.

❖ **Health Insurance:** Each child will be enrolled as a beneficiary under **Ayushman Bharat Scheme (PM-JAY)** with a health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh. The premium amount for these children will be paid by PM CARES, till they attain the age of 18 years.

## PINARAYI VIJAYAN TAKE OATH AS KERALA CM

- ❖ **Pinarayi Vijayan** was sworn as Kerala Chief Minister for **second time** in the shadow of the Covid-19 crisis in the state.
- ❖ The oath ceremony took place with Covid protocols in place at the **Central Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram**.
- ❖ **Governor Arif Mohammed Khan** administered the oath of office to 76-year-old Vijayan. It is the second stint of the Marxist veteran in the top office.
- ❖ **The new Left Democratic Front (LDF)** government bucked the trends, as Kerala usually alternates between the Left and a Congress government, by registering a dominant win in the 6 April assembly polls. **The LDF won 99 of 140 seats.**



the

at

## INS RAJPUT TO BE DECOMMISSIONED FROM INDIAN NAVY

- ❖ The **first destroyer of the Indian Navy**, INS Rajput, will be decommissioned on May 21. It was commissioned on 04 May 1980.
- ❖ After rendering service for 41 years, it will be decommissioned at the **Naval Dockyard of Visakhapatnam**. INS Rajput was built by Russia in the 61 Communards Shipyard. Its Original Russian name was ‘Nadezhny’.
- ❖ INS Rajput served for both Western and Eastern Fleets and its first commanding officer was **Capt Gulab Mohanlal Hiranandani**.



be

- ❖ It is the 1st Indian Naval Ship to be associated with an Indian Army regiment – the **Rajput Regiment**. It participated in many operations including **Operation Aman, Operation Pawan, Operation Cactus, etc.**

## SIX INDIAN HERITAGE SITES ADDED TO UNESCO LIST

- ❖ The **Union Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel** recently announced that around six cultural heritage sites have been added to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



- ❖ With this, the total number of sites in the **UNESCO World Heritage Sites Tentative list has increased to 48.**

- ❖ The following six places have successfully entered the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage sites.

- Ganga Ghats of Varanasi
- Temples of Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu
- Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh
- Maharashtra Military Architecture
- Hire Benkal Megalithic site
- Bhedaghat Lametaghat of Narmada Valley in Madhya Pradesh

## SEVERE CYCLONIC STORM 'YAAS' TO HIT INDIA

- ❖ A category 5 cyclonic storm has been forecasted to make its landfall along the **coastline of West Bengal and Odisha** between May 26-27.



- ❖ Once formed, the cyclone will be named 'Yaas'. **Yaas will**

**be**

**as deadly as Amphan** which was also formed in the Bay of Bengal in May last year. **Yaas, named by Oman** as such, refers to a Jasmine-like tree that has a good fragrance.

- ❖ A rotational list of the names of cyclones is maintained by the **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)**, with the names specific for each tropical zone.
- ❖ If a cyclone is especially deadly then its name is never used and is replaced by another name. The list has a total of 169 names at present which will be used on a rotational basis.
  - World Meteorological Organisation Headquarters: **Geneva, Switzerland**
  - World Meteorological Organisation Founded: **23 March 1950**
  - World Meteorological Organisation President: **David Grimes.**

## HARSH VARDHAN CHAIRED 74TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

- ❖ Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chairman of WHO Executive Board, **Dr Harsh Vardhan, chaired the 74th World Health Assembly** in virtual mode.



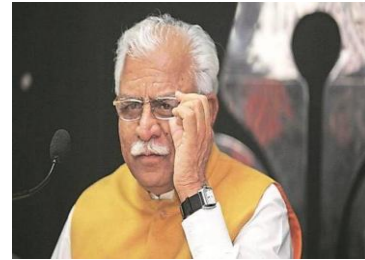
in

- ❖ According to Dr Harsh Vardhan, the executive board has asked for further efforts which can ensure fair and equitable access to **COVID-19 vaccines under COVAX Facility.**
- ❖ **Director-General of World Health Organisation, Dr Tedros**, also participated in the event.
- ❖ Board recommended 74th World Health Assembly to consider the report on **mental health preparedness and response for the Covid-19 pandemic.**
- ❖ It further recommended endorsing updated comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan for 2013 to 2030 and encouraged WHO to work in collaboration with **World Organisation for Animal**

**Health and Food & Agriculture Organisation** so that source of zoonotic virus can be identified.

## HARYANA GOVT. LAUNCHED 'SANJEEVANI PARIYOJANA'

- ❖ Haryana government has launched an anti-Covid “**Sanjeevani Pariyojana**”, which will provide supervised **quick medical care at home for people**, with mild to moderate symptoms of Covid-19, residing in rural areas.



and

- ❖ This Pariyojana has been launched to extend medical care in rural areas where awareness regarding the second wave of Covid-19 and related treatment remains low.
- ❖ It is an important step of bringing medical care for the people who need it most and when they need it most.
- ❖ Under the initiative: The scope of medical advice will be expanded beyond qualified doctors as **it will mobilize 200 final year and pre-final year medical students** and interns by connecting them to consultants and experts.
- ❖ The initiative comprises an Integrated Command and Control Centre to manage critical resources such as **ambulance tracking, oxygen supply, hospital beds availability, besides, door-to-door awareness campaign**. Thus, it will help the district administration in keeping a bird’s eye view of the entire healthcare system.

## KERALA GOVT. INITIATED NEW SMART KITCHEN SCHEME

- ❖ **Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan** has announced a secretary-level committee will formulate guidelines and recommendations on implementation of the “**Smart Kitchen Scheme**” in state to fulfil commitments of the **Left Democratic Front (LDF)**.



- ❖ It aims to account and reduce the workload of women’s domestic labour. **Smart Kitchen Scheme will be launched by July 10, 2021.**
- ❖ Under the scheme, women of state will be given loan to refurbish their kitchen. Loan will be provided with a low-interest rate in instalment schemes. Scheme seeks to **reduce workload of women’s domestic labour.**

## RAJNATH SINGH LAUNCHED SEHAT OPD PORTAL

- ❖ **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** has launched the ‘**Services e-Health Assistance & Tele-consultation (SeHAT) OPD portal**, through video conferencing.



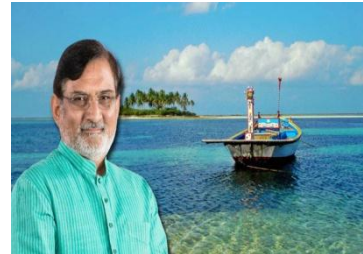
- ❖ The main motive of the portal is to provide telemedicine services to the serving Armed Forces personnel, veterans and their families.
- ❖ **About the Portal:** The portal can be accessed at <https://sehatopd.in/>, to avail the telemedicine services. **SeHAT OPD portal is the final version with advanced safety features.**

## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH



# LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REGULATION 2021

Residents of Lakshadweep have been protesting against some regulations that have been introduced by their new administrator Praful Khoda Patel. The citizens are even saying that the administrator is not working for the island. The new rules allow liquor to be sold on the island, bans beef and plans to disenfranchise the islanders of various counts.



new  
the

## WHAT IS DRAFT LDAR 2021?

The **Draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation, 2021 or LDAR 2021** was notified on the official website of the administration. Its proposal is to change the existing land ownership on the island. It also aims to modify the usage in Lakshadweep by **providing sweeping, arbitrary, unchecked powers to the government**. This in turn is directly interfering with the island’s resident’s right to possess and retain their property. The Regulation also gives the powers to the Government to choose any land for “**development**” activities that have been provided under its regulation. Once the land is picked, it could be used as per the government sees fit.

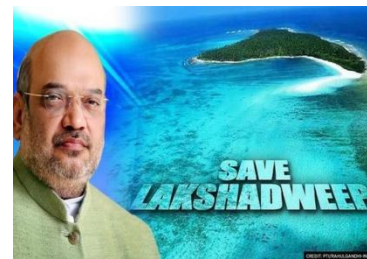
## MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE DRAFT

- **Introduction of the anti-social Activities Regulation Bill, 2021:** The government introduced a draft detention law called the **Prevention of Anti-Social Activities**, which if implemented can empower the administration to detain anyone without public disclosure for up to one year.
- **Beef Ban:** The government also introduced the **draft Lakshadweep Animal Preservation Regulation 2021**, which if implemented will ban the slaughter of cows, calves of a cow, bulls and bullocks.

- **Land Development Initiatives:** Since Lakshadweep is a Union Territory without an Assembly it is directly controlled by the Centre. The administration introduced the Draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation, 2021, which if implemented will empower the government to take any piece of land owned by any **common man in the island for “development” purposes.**
- **Diversion of all cargo to Mangalore:** The administration has introduced measures diverting all cargo to Mangalore. The move has been met with opposition because, prior to this, majority of the local businessmen relied on Beypore port in Kerala, a state with which the islanders have strong cultural ties.
- **Decision to allow functioning of liquor bars:** Lakshadweep is a **Muslim-majority region** with Malayalam being the dominant language. The islands are **non-alcoholic zones.** However, Patel gave his nod for businesses to open liquor bars in the island, stating that such a move will promote tourism.

## PEOPLE'S CONCERN RELATED TO THE DRAFT

As per the citizens the following are the reasons for the discontent of the citizens/ residents: The 10 inhabited islands were under a two month lockdown. The **Lakshadweep administration** is accused of exploitation of the public's inability at time to mobilise arbitrary legislation. Locals also say that these regulations are out of sync with the socio-political and environmental requirements. **Many islanders also suspect that LDAR** might have been issued for seeking real estate interests to usurp small holdings of property owned by islanders. The islanders also fear that the LDAR may provide for forcible eviction. It puts the onus on the owner to develop the holding as per plan by the authority. The **Regulation also provides for unchecked power to the Government and its bodies** interfering with the rights of the islanders to retain their property.



this

The **people of Lakshadweep** have also opposed the administrator of trying to interfere in the traditional life by introducing a ban on buying or selling beef products. The **Goonda Act being introduced in the island that has negligible crime** rate and revoking of restrictions on alcohol for benefit of tourism also have attracted criticism from the islanders. Some things that were equally non satisfactory were that the **island descended from being COVID 19 free region** to developing more than 6800 cases in a year. Also the mandatory quarantine if the island bound travellers was done away with in the leadership of Praful Khoda Patel.

The protests got a **wider reach when Kerala MP Elamaram Kareem** wrote to **President Ram Nath Kovind** alleging that several casual laborers lost their jobs in the wake of new reforms. Further, sheds and equipment of fishermen were demolished without any warning by the new administration on the **account of violating the Coast Guard Act**. The new administration also said that islanders should rely on **Mangalore (Karnataka) rather than Beypore (Kerala)** for freight transit. People from Lakshadweep also have been taking it to social media writing they need help. The new administration has been destroying our land, tweeted a local resident of Lakshadweep.

## LAKSHADWEEP (INDIAN UNION TERRITORY)

- **About: India's smallest Union Territory, Lakshadweep** is an archipelago consisting of 36 islands with an area of 32 sq km. It is directly under the control of the Centre through an administrator.
- There are three main group of islands: **Amindivi Islands, Laccadive Islands, Minicoy Island**. Amindivi Islands are the northernmost while Minicoy island is the southernmost. **All are tiny islands of coral origin (Atoll)** and are surrounded by fringing reefs. The **Capital is Kavaratti** and it is also the principal town of the UT. Pitti island, which is uninhabited, has a bird sanctuary.
- **Population: More than 93% of the population** who are indigenous, are Muslims and majority of them belong to the Shafi School of the Sunni Sect. Malayalam is spoken in all the islands except Minicoy where people speak Mahl which is written in Divehi script and is spoken in Maldives also. The entire indigenous population has been classified as Scheduled Tribes because of their



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

economic and social backwardness. **There are no Scheduled Castes in this Union Territory.** The main occupation of the people is fishing, coconut cultivation and coir twisting. Tourism is an emerging industry.

- **Organic Agricultural Area:** Recently, the entire Lakshadweep group of islands has been declared as an organic agricultural area under the **Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) of India.**

CLAT Gurukul





# INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

---

## UK: 1ST NATION TO ANNOUNCE SELF DRIVING CARS

❖ The **United Kingdom** has become the first country to announce regulation for the use of self-driving vehicles at speeds.



low

❖ The UK wants to be at the forefront in rolling out autonomous driving technology. The **Government of the UK** forecasts that around **40%** of UK cars will have **self-driving capabilities** by 2035.

❖ **Most of the self-driving systems maintain an internal map.** They use lasers, sensors and radars to map their surroundings. Based on the map created, instructions are delivered to the actuators of the vehicle.

## NATO LAUNCHED EXERCISE 'DEFENDER EUROPE-21'

❖ **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** has launched military exercises “**DEFENDER-Europe 21**” in **Albania** thousands of military forces from the United States and other countries in the first such large-scale drills since World War II Western Balkans.



joint  
with  
in the

❖ **Albania** is playing a critical part in the **DEFENDER-Europe 21** exercise with Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore operations taking place.

❖ **DEFENDER-Europe** is an annual large-scale U.S. Army-led, multinational exercise, defensive in nature and focused on deterring aggression, which this year focuses on building operational readiness and **interoperability with NATO and a greater number of allies and partners over a wider area of operations than ever before.**

## INDIA & RUSSIA 2+2 MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE

❖ **India and Russia have agreed to establish a '2+2 Ministerial Dialogue' at the Foreign & Defence Minister level between the countries.**



two

❖ **Russia is the 4th country and 1st Non-Quad member country with which India has established the '2+2 Ministerial dialogue' mechanism.**

which

❖ **India has such a mechanism with the US, Japan and Australia.** It is expected to boost the bilateral strategic partnership between India & Russia.

❖ **Relations between India and Russia are rooted in history, mutual trust and mutually beneficial cooperation.** This is a strategic partnership that has withstood the test of time, and which enjoys the support of the people of both countries.

❖ **Diplomatic relations between India and Russia began even before India achieved independence, on 13 April 1947.**

## INDIA & UK ROADMAP FOR BILATERAL TRADE PARTNERSHIP

❖ **The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson held a virtual Summit meeting.**



❖ **During the Summit meeting, both the leaders unveiled an ambitious 10-year road map to elevate the India-UK bilateral relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership. The UK prime minister Boris Johnson announced a new India-UK trade investment worth £1 billion.**

*Apart from this, India and the UK inked nine pacts.*

- ❖ These pacts were in areas such as **migration and mobility, digital and technology, telecommunications, energy and medicines, counter-terrorism**, besides agreeing to boost collaboration in dealing with climate change through a new partnership on renewables and power.
- ❖ They also launched **Enhanced Trade Partnership**, which included negotiation for a **comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**, including consideration of an interim trade agreement to deliver early gains. The two nations set an ambitious target of more than doubling bilateral trade by 2030.

## INDIA-FRANCE-AUSTRALIA TRILATERAL DIALOGUE

- ❖ The **first-ever India-France-Australia Trilateral Foreign Ministerial Dialogue** was held in London, UK, on the sidelines of the **G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting**.



- ❖ The **meeting was attended by External Affairs Minister, Dr S. Jaishankar** from India, France's Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Mr **Jean-Yves Le Drian** and Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, **Senator Marise Payne**.
- ❖ The **France, India, Australia trilateral meet** was launched in **September 2020 at Foreign Secretaries' levels** but has been elevated to ministerial level within one year of its inception. It has three joint priorities which are maritime security, environment, and multilateralism.
- ❖ The **G7 foreign ministers meeting is the first in-person meeting of foreign minister** of the grouping amid pandemic, with the last such meeting taking place in 2019.



## HOSTILITIES ESCALATED B/W ISRAEL & HAMAS

❖ The Israeli military has bombarded rockets in different areas in Gaza. It is the most intense airstrikes in Gaza since

❖ Hamas had red hundreds of rockets towards Israel on Monday. After that, Israel has carried out hundreds of airstrikes in Gaza.



2014.

❖ The Gaza-based Palestinian group, Hamas, had red rockets towards Israel in protest of the clash between Israeli police and Palestinian protesters in the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Al-Aqsa Mosque is located in Jerusalem. It is the third holiest place for Muslims.

### About the Hamas:

- It was founded in 1987.
  - It is a Palestinian Sunni-Islamic fundamentalist organization.
  - It is active in the West Bank and Gaza Strip region of the Palestine.
  - It opposes the secular approach of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- Israel Capital is Jerusalem and the currency is the Israeli shekel.
  - Benjamin Netanyahu is the Prime Minister of Israel.

## NEPAL PM KP OLI LOST VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

❖ Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli has lost the vote confidence in the House of Representatives. K P Sharma 93 votes in his favour while 124 voted against him.



of  
Oli got


❖ In the 275-member House of Representatives, he required

at least

136 Votes to win the **trust vote in the lower of the House of Representatives.**

- ❖ After the **NCP (Nationalist Congress Party)** withdrew its support from the government, PM Oli faced a vote of confidence. In January, **K P Sharma Oli** was expelled from the primary membership of the **Nepal Communist Party** for his decision to dissolve the Parliament.
  - **Nepal capital is Kathmandu** and the currency is Nepalese Rupees.
  - President of Nepal: **Bidya Devi Bhandari**

## KP SHARMA OLİ RE-APPOINTED AS PM OF NEPAL

- ❖ In Nepal, **KP Sharma Oli** was re-appointed as the **Prime Minister** of the country by **President Bidhya Devi Bhandari**.
- ❖ Oli was administered the **oath of office by the President** on May 14, 2021. Now, he must prove that he has majority support in the House within 30 days. **This will be his third stint as Prime Minister.**
- ❖ The **decision to re-appoint Oli** was taken after none of the **opposition party could secure majority seats in the House to form a new government** or apply for it in the provided time frame (by 9 pm on 13 May 2021).
- ❖ As a result, Oli, who is the **leader of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-UML)**, the largest party in the **House of Representatives**, was appointed for **Prime Minister**, as per the provision of 76(3) of the **Constitution of Nepal**.
- ❖ It must be noted that, on 10 May 2021, Oli failed to obtain a **vote of confidence in the House of Representatives**, gaining only 93 of the total 232 votes cast, which was 43 votes short of

reaching the 136-vote majority required to win the confidence vote. As a result, Oli was automatically relieved from his post.

## ITALY TO HOST GLOBAL G20 HEALTH SUMMIT

❖ The Global G20 Health Summit was co-hosted by **European Commission** along with Italy as part of its G20 presidency amid the surge and spread of coronavirus cases.



❖ The summit adopted the **agenda to overcome the Covid-pandemic**. It also decided to develop and endorse a **Rome Declaration of principles**.

19

❖ As per WHO officials, **the future of the pandemic is in hands of G20 leaders**. G20 has also contributed to the launch of ACT-Accelerator as it was launched after G20 called for a global mechanism to accelerate the development of tests, treatments and vaccines.

❖ **ACT-Accelerator is used for "Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator"**. It is also called Global Collaboration to Accelerate Development, Production and Equitable Access to COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines.

## UK LAUNCHED PLAN FOR 'GLOBAL PANDEMIC RADAR'

❖ The United Kingdom will develop an **advanced international pathogen surveillance network** to identify Covid-19 variants and emerging diseases.




❖ This Global Pandemic Radar will ensure the **early detection of new variants** and emerging pathogens, so vaccines and treatments needed to stop them can be rapidly developed.

of

- ❖ **Prime minister Boris Johnson** announced the plans, ahead of the Global Health Summit hosted by **Italy and the European Union (EU)**.
- ❖ About the radar: The radar is expected to be fully up and running with a network of surveillance hubs before the end of 2021, with the aim of **significantly improving global health security going into next year**.
- ❖ **WHO will lead an implementation group, supported by global health charity** the Wellcome Trust, to launch the new international partnership to identify, track and share data on new coronavirus variants and monitor vaccine resistance in populations.

## OPENING OF NEW CONSULATE GENERAL IN MALDIVES

- ❖ Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the opening of a **new Consulate General of India in Addu City, the Maldives in 2021**.  has
- ❖ India and Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links steeped in antiquity. Maldives occupies an important place in the 'Neighbourhood First Policy' and the **'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision of the Government of India**.
- ❖ About the Consulate General: The opening of a Consulate General in Addu City will help augment India's diplomatic presence in the Maldives and make it commensurate with the existing and aspired level of engagement.
- ❖ **The momentum and energy in the bilateral relationship** have reached unprecedented levels under the leadership of **Prime Minister Modi and President Solih**.

- ❖ This is also a forward-looking step in pursuit of our national priority of growth and development or ‘**SabkaSaathSabka Vikas**’ **Augmentation** of India’s diplomatic presence will, inter-alia, provide market access for Indian companies and bolster Indian exports of goods and services.
- ❖ This would have a direct impact in augmenting domestic production and employment in line with our goal of a self-reliant India or ‘**Atmanirbhar Bharat**’.

## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

### ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CLASHES OVER JERUSALEM

Recently, **Israeli armed forces attacked Al-Aqsa Mosque** in the Haram esh-Sharif in Jerusalem, ahead of a march by **Zionist nationalists commemorating Israel’s capture of the eastern half the city in 1967**. The threatened eviction of dozens of Palestinian families in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah escalated the crisis further. **Zionism is a worldwide Jewish movement** that resulted in the establishment and development of the state of Israel and that now supports the state of Israel as a Jewish homeland.



of

**Al-Aqsa Mosque:** It is one of the holiest structures in the Islamic faith. It sits inside a 35-acre site known by **Muslims as Haram al-Sharif**, or the Noble Sanctuary, and by Jews as the Temple Mount. The site is part of the **Old City of Jerusalem**, sacred to **Christians, Jews and Muslims**. It is believed to have been completed early in the eighth century and faces the Dome of the Rock, the golden-domed Islamic shrine that is a widely recognized symbol of Jerusalem. **The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO**, has classified the Old City of Jerusalem and its walls as a World Heritage Site.

## CONFLICT OVER JERUSALEM: ISRAEL-PALESTINE

Jerusalem has been at the centre of the **Israeli-Palestinian conflict**. According to the original **1947 United Nations (UN)** partition plan, Jerusalem was proposed to be an international city. But in the **first Arab Israel war of 1948**, the Israelis captured the western half of the city, and Jordan took the eastern part, including the Old City that houses **Haram al-Sharif**. Israel captured East Jerusalem from Jordan in the **Six-Day War 1967 and annexed it later**. Since its annexation, Israel has expanded settlements in East Jerusalem. Israel sees the whole city as its “**unified, eternal capital**”, whereas the Palestinian leadership across the political spectrum have maintained that they would not accept any compromise formula for the future **Palestinian state unless East Jerusalem is its capital**.

**Sheikh Jarrah Issue:** Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were forced out of their homes when the State of Israel was created in historical Palestine in 1948. Twenty-eight of those Palestinian families moved to **Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem** to settle there. In 1956, when East Jerusalem was ruled by Jordan, the **Jordanian Ministry of Construction and Development** and the UN Relief and Works Agency facilitated the construction of houses for these families in **Sheikh Jarrah**. But Israel would capture **East Jerusalem from Jordan in 1967**. By the early 1970s, Jewish agencies started demanding the families leave the land. Earlier this year (2021), the Central Court in East Jerusalem upheld a decision to evict four Palestinian families from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah in favor of Jewish settlers. The issue remains unresolved and potentially inflammable.

## INDIA'S STAND ON ISRAEL-PALESTINE ISSUE

**India recognised Israel in 1950** but it is also the first non-Arab country to recognise **Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)** as the sole representative of the Palestinian. India is also one of the first countries to recognise the statehood of Palestine in 1988. In 2014, **India favored UNHRC's resolution** to probe Israel's human rights violations in Gaza. Despite supporting the probe, **India abstained from voting against Israel in UNHRC in 2015**. As a part of Link West Policy, India has de-hyphenated its relationship with **Israel and Palestine in 2018** to treat both the countries mutually independent and exclusive. In June 2019, India voted in favor of a decision introduced by Israel in the



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

**UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** that objected to granting consultative status to a Palestinian non-governmental organization. So far India has tried to maintain the image of its **historical moral supporter for Palestinian self-determination**, and at the same time to engage in the military, economic, and other strategic relations with Israel.

## RELATED DEVELOPMENTS ON THE ISSUE

In March 2021, **International Criminal Court (ICC)** launched investigations into the war crimes in Palestinian territories occupied by **Israel (West Bank and the Gaza Strip)**. In April 2021, the US restored at least USD 235 million in financial assistance to the Palestinians.

The world at large needs to come together for a peaceful solution but the reluctance of the Israeli government and other involved parties have aggravated the issue more. Thus a balanced approach would help to maintain favorable relations with Arab countries as well as Israel. The recent **normalization agreements between Israel and the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco, known as the Abraham Accords**, are the steps in the right direction. All regional powers should envisage peace between the two countries on line of Abraham Accords.



# ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

---



## RBI JOINS NETWORK FOR GREENING FINANCIAL SYSTEM

❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has joined the **Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS)** as a member. The central bank joined the NGFS on April 23, 2021.



❖ Green finance assumed significance in the context of climate change. The **RBI expects to benefit from the membership of NGFS** by learning from and contributing to global efforts on green finance, which has assumed significance in the context of climate change.

❖ **Launched at the Paris One Planet Summit on December 12, 2017**, the NGFS is a group of central banks and supervisors willing to share best practices and contribute to the development of environment and climate risk management in the financial sector, while mobilising mainstream finance to support the transition towards a sustainable economy.

## RBI'S TERM LIQUIDITY FACILITY FOR HEALTHCARE

❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta** has announced a Covid-19 healthcare package of Rs 50,000 crore, for lending to entities such as vaccine makers, medical equipment suppliers, hospitals and related sectors, besides the patients in need of funds for treatment.



Das

❖ About the **Covid-19 healthcare package**: The new on-tap special liquidity facility of Rs 50,000 crore will be made available to the banks at the repo rate, **for access to emergency health security amid the economic stress** due to the second wave of Covid-19 in India.

- ❖ Banks can give loans under this facility till March 31, 2022. This **Covid loan will be provided for a tenure of up to 3 years** and will be classified as a priority sector loan till repayment or maturity.

## RBI CONSTITUTED ADVISORY GROUP TO ASSIST RRA 2.0

- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has constituted an advisory group to assist the **second Regulatory Review Authority (RRA 2.0)**, which was set by the central bank May 01, 2021 to streamline regulations and reduce the compliance burden of regulated entities. The Advisory Group will be headed by **SBI Managing Director S Janakiraman**.



on

Other members of the 6-member advisory group are:

- **T T Srinivasaraghavan** (Former Managing Director and Non-Executive Director, Sundaram Finance),
  - **Gautam Thakur** (Chairman, Saraswat Co-operative Bank),
  - **Subir Saha** (Group Chief Compliance Officer, ICICI Bank),
  - **Ravi Duvvuru** (President and CCO, Jana Small Finance Bank),
  - **Abadaan Viccaji** (Chief Compliance Officer, HSBC India)
- ❖ About the **RRA 2.0: The second Regulatory Review Authority (RRA 2.0)**, has been set up for a period of one year from May 01, 2021, to review the regulations, circulars, reporting systems and compliance procedures for streamlining them and making them more effective.
  - ❖ The group will assist the **RRA 2.0 by identifying regulations, guidelines, and returns** that can be rationalised, and submit reports periodically to RRA containing the recommendations/suggestions.

## DOT GRANTED PERMISSIONS FOR 5G TRIAL INDIA

- ❖ The **Government of India's Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has granted permission to Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) to conduct trials for the and implementations of 5G technology.



use


- ❖ **Reliance JioInfocomm Ltd., Bharti Airtel Ltd., Vodafone Idea Ltd., and MTNL** are among the TSPs that have applied. The trials are currently scheduled to last for six months.
- ❖ Each TSP will be required to perform trials in rural, semi-urban, and urban areas to ensure that the benefits of 5G technology are spread across the country.
- ❖ Goal: To test 5G spectrum propagation characteristics, particularly in the context of India; to model tune and evaluate chosen equipment and vendors; to test indigenous technology; to test applications; and to test 5G phones and devices.
- ❖ To allow **Industry 4.0, 5G technology** is expected to provide a better user experience in terms of data download speeds (**expected to be 10 times faster than 4G**), up to three times greater spectrum performance, and ultra low latency.

## UNITED NATIONS PROJECTED INDIA'S GDP GROWTH



- ❖ The **United Nations** has projected that the **Indian economy would grow at 10.1 per cent** in the calendar year 2022, nearly double the 5.9 per cent growth forecast for the country in the January report.
- ❖ But cautioned that the **growth outlook of 2021 was “highly fragile”** as the country was the **“new hotbed of the pandemic.”**
- ❖ The mid-year update said that India will register a **7.5-per cent growth rate** in the calendar year 2021, after an **estimated contraction of 6.8 per cent in 2020.**
  - United Nations Headquarters in **New York, USA.**
  - **Mr Antonio Guterres** is the **Secretary-General of the United Nations.**

## INDIA LOST FARZAD-B GAS FIELD OF IRAN

- ❖ India lost the **ONGC Videsh Ltd-discovered Farzad-B gas in the Persian Gulf** after Iran awarded a contract for developing the giant gas field to a local company.  **field**
- ❖ **The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)** has signed a contract worth USD 1.78 billion with **Petropars Group for the development of Farzad B Gas Field in the Persian Gulf.**
- ❖ The field holds 23 trillion cubic feet of in-place gas reserves, of which about 60 per cent is recoverable. It also holds gas condensates of about 5,000 barrels per billion cubic feet of gas.
- ❖ **ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), the overseas investment arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC),** had in 2008 discovered a giant gas field in the Farsi offshore exploration block.

## FDI JUMPS 19% TO USD 59.64 BILLION IN 2020-21

- ❖ **Foreign direct investments (FDI)** into the country grew per cent to USD 59.64 billion during 2020-21 on account of measures taken by the government on the fronts of **policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business.**



19

- ❖ Total FDI, including equity, re-invested earnings and capital, rose 10 per cent to the “highest ever” of USD 81.72 billion during 2020-21 as against USD 74.39 billion in 2019-20.
- ❖ In terms of top investor countries, **Singapore is at the top with a 29 per cent share.**
- ❖ It was followed by the US (23 per cent) and Mauritius (9 per cent) during the last fiscal. FDI equity inflow grew by 19 per cent in 2020-21 (USD 59.64 billion), compared to 2019-20 (USD 49.98 billion).

## RBI RELEASED ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020-21

- ❖ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has published its annual and highlights “asset quality of banks and their preparedness requires close monitoring for higher provisioning for upcoming quarters”.



report

- ❖ In its annual report, the **central bank said the country’s growth prospects** now essentially depend on how fast India can arrest the second wave of COVID-19 infections.
- ❖ **RBI Annual Report 2021:** RBI in its semi-annual financial stability report **earlier highlighted bad loan ratio of banks could rise to 13.5%** under the baseline stress scenario by September 2021.

- ❖ **The Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) of banks** improved from 66.6% in March 2020 to 75.5% by December 2020, because of prudent provisioning by banks above regulatory prescriptions on accounts availing moratorium and undergoing restructuring.
- ❖ The **capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR)** of banks increased to 15.9% by December 2020, in March it was 14.8%. In its report, RBI cautioned “banks being lenders will have to provide a true picture of bad loans after **Supreme Court lifted the interim stay on classifying non-performing assets (NPA)** in March 2021.
- ❖ According to it, waiver of compound interest on all loan accounts opted for a moratorium during March-August 2020 would put stress on the financial health of banks.
- ❖ The **Gross NPA ratio of banks decreased from 8.2% in March 2020 to 6.8% in December 2020**. The Gross NPA ratio for non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs) increased from 6.8% in March to 5.7% in December 2020.
- ❖ The capital adequacy ratio of NBFCs increased from 24.8% in December 2020 to 23.7% in March. Frauds reported by banks fell by 25% in value terms in just one year to Rs 1.38 lakh crore at the end of fiscal year ended March 2021, **data released by the RBI as part of its annual report showed.**

## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

### TRIPS WAIVER FOR COVID-19 VACCINES

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

Recently, **India and South Africa** have piloted the proposal to waive provisions of the TRIPS agreement on **Covid-19 vaccines, drugs, therapeutics, and related technologies**. This proposal has been now backed by the U.S also. The TRIPS waiver proposal would give immunity to member countries from a legal challenge at the WTO if **domestic Intellectual Property Regulation (IPR)** laws suspend or do not enforce IP protection. The core idea behind this TRIPS proposal is that the IPR should not become barriers in scaling up production of medical products essential to combat Covid-19. However, the TRIPS waiver is unlikely to solve India's Covid-19 vaccine shortage. Instead of trying to obtain an IP waiver, the Indian government must enable vaccine manufacturers to expand production (**through compulsory licensing**) & **reduce inefficiencies in procurement & distribution**.



key

their

## TRIPS AGREEMENT & INDIA LAW

The **TRIPS agreement was negotiated in 1995** at the WTO, it requires all its signatory countries to enact domestic law. It guarantees minimum standards of IP protection. Such legal consistency enables innovators to monetise their intellectual property in multiple countries. **In 2001, the WTO signed the Doha Declaration**, which clarified that in a public health emergency, governments could compel companies to license their patents to manufacturers, even if they did not think the offered price was acceptable. **This provision, commonly referred to as “compulsory licensing”, was already built into the TRIPS Agreement and the Doha declaration** only clarified its usage. **Under Section 92 of the 1970 Indian Patents Act**, the central government has the power to allow compulsory licenses to be issued at any time in case of a national emergency or circumstances of extreme urgency.

*Why is the TRIPS waiver unlikely to solve India's Covid-19 vaccine shortage?*

**Complex Intellectual Property Mechanism:** The process of vaccine development and manufacturing has several steps, and involves a complex intellectual property mechanism. **Different types of IP rights** apply to different steps and there is no one kind of IP that could unlock the secret to manufacturing a vaccine. The expertise to manufacture it may be protected as a trade secret, and the data from clinical trials to test vaccine safety and efficacy may be protected by copyright.

**Complex Manufacturing Mechanism:** Manufacturing vaccines will need to design the process for manufacturing the vaccines, source necessary **raw materials, build production facilities, and conduct clinical trials** to get regulatory approvals. The manufacturing process itself has different steps, some of which may be subcontracted to other parties. Thus, a patent waiver alone does not empower manufacturers to start vaccine production immediately.

## NEED FOR INVOKING COMPULSORY LICENSING

**Plugging Shortage of Vaccine:** The richest countries have **cornered about 80 percent of vaccine supplies so far.** While India needs to supplement its output to ensure that a population of over 1.4 billion which is above 18 years of age **gets about 1.8 billion doses at the earliest.** Thus, compulsory licensing can be used to augment the supply of drugs and other therapeutics.



India  
900

**Nudging Voluntary Licensing:** An assertive posture on compulsory licences would also have the advantage of forcing **several pharmaceutical companies to offer licences voluntarily.**

**Leading By Example:** Licensing Covaxin widely would enable India to live up to its reputation of being the **‘pharmacy of the world’** and also put pressure on developed countries to transfer their vaccine technology to developing countries. Thus, the government should not only transfer **Covaxin’s technology to domestic pharmaceutical companies,** to boost national supplies, but also offer it to foreign corporations. By unlocking its vaccine technical know-how to the world, India would demonstrate its resolve to walk the talk on the TRIPS waiver.

## CHINA TO SUPPORT GLOBAL TRIPS WAIVER

China on May 17, 2021, said that it will support India’s and South Africa’s proposal for a temporary waiver of **Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)** for coronavirus vaccines.

Page 39



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

It further mentioned that Beijing will contribute to all actions of the developing countries to help them in their **fight against coronavirus. India and South Africa**, in October 2020, had requested the **World Health Organization (WHO) for TRIPS** waiver of certain IP provisions of COVID-19 vaccines so that that



developing countries can amplify vaccine production and provide access to COVID vaccines to the poorest of the poor people. **Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian** said in a press briefing that China, as the largest developing country is supportive of the developing world's demand for an IPR waiver for COVID-19 vaccines. He further said that China will back all actions so that developing countries can acquire vaccines in an equitable way to fight against the coronavirus.

## WHAT IS TRIPS AGREEMENT?

**TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights)** is an international agreement among the member countries of the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**. TRIPS establishes standards and regulations protection of IP (intellectual property) rights like industrial designs, patents, copyright, and protection of confidential information or trade secrets. **TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights)** came into effect in January 1995. TRIPS enables each WTO member countries to negotiate compulsory licenses for each patent or protection applying to each product. The concern of the **developing countries in 2001** over the narrow reading of **TRIPS by developed countries led to a round of talks** that later became the Doha Declaration, a WTO statement that enlists the scope of TRIPS.

# APPOINTMENTS

---

## RBI APPOINTED T RABI SANKAR AS DEPUTY GOVERNOR

❖ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** executive director **T Rabi Sankar** has been named as the **fourth Deputy Governor of central bank.**



the

❖ The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** has approved his appointment. He is in charge of the payments system, fintech, information technology and risk management at the RBI.

❖ **He succeeds BP Kanungo** as the deputy governor, who retired on April 2 after getting a one-year extension in his position.

❖ Sankar has long experience across a wide spectrum of central banking functions, particularly, exchange rate management, reserves portfolio management, public debt management, monetary operations, development, regulation and surveillance of **financial markets and of payment systems, and managing the Bank's IT infrastructure.**

## 1ST WOMAN COMMANDING OFFICER IN BRO

❖ **Vaishali S Hiwase** became the first woman officer to be appointed as **officer commanding in the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** where she will be responsible for providing connectivity through an **Indo-China border road.**



❖ **Vaishali is from Wardha, Maharashtra,** and has completed a successful demanding tenure in Kargil.

- ❖ In a first, the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** has appointed a woman officer to command a **Road Construction Company (RCC)** tasked to provide connectivity in a high-altitude area along the India-China border.

- Director-General of BRO: **Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chaudhary.**
- BRO Headquarters: **New Delhi.**

## T V SOMANATHAN APPOINTED AS FINANCE SECRETARY

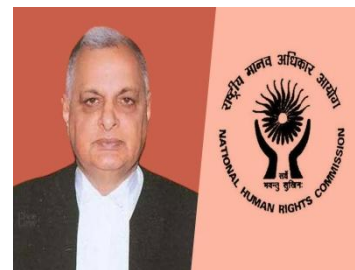
- ❖ The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the appointment of **T V Somanathan** as the new Finance Secretary. He will replace **Ajay Bhushan Pandey** who superannuated in February 2021.



- ❖ **Somanathan**, a **1987 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre**, was currently serving as the Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ Earlier, he has served as a **joint secretary in the Prime Minister's Office**. Somanathan was awarded the Gold Medal for the Best IAS trainee of his cohort. **He holds a PhD in Economics from Calcutta University** and is a chartered accountant, chartered management accountant and chartered secretary.

## JUSTICE PANT AS ACTING CHAIRPERSON OF NHRC

- ❖ The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** member Justice (retired) **Prafulla Chandra Pant** had been appointed the acting chairperson of the Commission with effect from April 25.



as

- ❖ **A former Supreme Court judge, Justice Pant** was appointed member of the NHRC on April 22, 2019. The post of a chairperson has been vacant since **Justice H.L. Dattu, a former Chief Justice of India**, completed his tenure on December 2, 2020.
  
- ❖ Previously, he was **appointed the first Chief Justice of the newly established Meghalaya High Court** at Shillong on 20th September 2013 and continued till 12th August 2014.
  - National Human Rights Commission Formed: **12 October 1993**;
  - National Human Rights Commission Jurisdiction: **Government of India**;
  - National Human Rights Commission Headquarters: **New Delhi**.

## BILL NELSON SWORN IN AS 14TH NASA ADMINISTRATOR

- ❖ **Former Senator Bill Nelson** was sworn in as the **14th NASA administrator** tasked with carrying out the **Biden-Harris administration's vision for the agency**.



- ❖ **Nelson served in the U.S. Senate for 18 years** from Florida as a payload specialist on space shuttle mission 61-C in 1986. and
  
- ❖ **Nelson has served in public office over four decades**, first in the **state legislature and U.S. Congress, then as State Treasurer**. He was elected three times to the United States Senate, representing Florida for 18 years.
  
- ❖ His committees included the breadth of government policy from defence, intelligence and foreign policy to finance commerce, and health care.
  - Headquarters of NASA: **Washington D.C., United States**.
  - NASA Founded: **1 October 1958**.

## MARTIN GRIFFITHS APPOINTED UN HUMANITARIAN CHIEF

- ❖ **Veteran British diplomat Martin Griffiths** has been appointed as the new Chief at the **United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)**, for a period of five years.

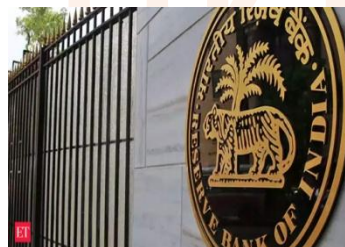


the

- ❖ **Griffiths will replace Mark Lowcock** as the new Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and **Emergency Relief Coordinator (USG/ERC)** of OCHA. He is currently serving as the **United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen**.
- ❖ The **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)** aims to strengthen the international response to complex emergencies and natural disasters.

## RBI APPOINTED JOSE J KATTOOR AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** has appointed **Jose J Kattoor Executive Director (ED)**. Prior to being promoted as ED, Kattoor was heading Bengaluru Regional Office of the **Reserve Bank as Regional Director for Karnataka**.



as  
Mr

- ❖ He will look after **Human Resource Management Department**, Corporate Strategy and Budget Department and Rajbhasha Department.
- ❖ **Mr Kattoor** has, over a span of three decades, served in communication, human resource management, financial inclusion, supervision, currency management and **other areas in the Reserve Bank**.
- ❖ He holds a post-graduate qualification from Institute of Rural Management, Anand, Bachelor of Law from Gujarat University, and **Advanced Management Program (AMP)** from Wharton

School of Business, Pennsylvania, besides having earned professional qualifications, including **Certified Associate of Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (CAIIB)**.

## UJJWALA SINGHANIA AS NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF FICCI FLO

❖ **Ujjwala Singhania** has been appointed as the **National President of FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO)**, the oldest women-led & women-centric business chamber of Southeast Asia.



❖ As the **38th National President of FLO Singhania** will focus on empowering women by facilitating an enabling environment that promotes entrepreneurship, industry participation and economic development of women.

❖ Under her leadership, FLO will carry out many interventions towards **fostering larger contributions of women in India's Industrial and economic growth story**.

## NEERA TANDEN APPOINTED AS SENIOR ADVISOR TO BIDEN

❖ **Indian-American Neera Tanden** has been appointed **senior adviser to U.S. President Joe Biden**. She is currently the president and CEO of a progressive think-tank, Center for American Progress (CAP).



❖ She withdrew her nomination as Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget **due to stiff opposition from Republican senators**.

❖ **Ms Tanden** previously served as a senior adviser for health reforms at the **US Department of Health and Human Services**.

## SUBODH JAISWAL APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR OF CBI

❖ IPS officer, **Subodh Jaiswal** has been appointed **Director the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**. He was the most senior officer among the three shortlisted for the post CBI Director.



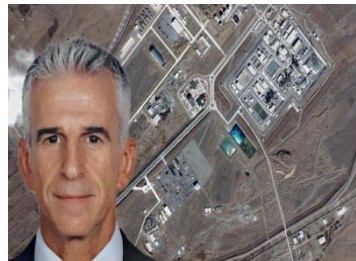
of  
of

- ❖ Jaiswal, along with KR Chandra and VS Kaumudi, was short-listed out of 109 officers for the top post by the high-powered committee led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ❖ Other members of the committee include **Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana** and **Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury**.
- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has based on the panel recommended by the Committee, approved the appointment of Shri Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, IPS (MH: 1985) as Director, **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** for a period of two years from the date of assumption of charge of the office or until further orders whichever is earlier.
- ❖ Who is Subodh Jaiswal: Subodh Jaiswal is a 1985-batch Maharashtra cadre IPS officer who is the chief of CISF. Earlier, he held the post of Mumbai Police Commissioner and Maharashtra DGP.
- ❖ He was appointed Mumbai Police Commissioner in 2018 and has also worked with the Maharashtra **Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS)** in the past. Subodh Jaiswal has also served with the Intelligence Bureau, **SPG (Special Protection Group)** and **R&AW (Research and Analysis Wing)** for over a decade.



## DAVID BARNEA APPOINTED AS NEW HEAD OF MOSSAD

❖ Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appointed **David Barnea** as the new head of the country's spy agency, the Mossad.



❖ Barnea, a former longtime Mossad operative, will succeed **Yossi Cohen** as head of Israel's intelligence agency on June 1. Cohen has served as Israel's spymaster since taking office in 2016.

❖ Barnea, who is in his 50s, lives in the Sharon region north of Tel Aviv. He did his military service in the **elite Sayeret Matkal special operations force**. About 30 years ago, he enlisted in the Mossad, where he became a case officer.

- Prime Minister of Israel: **Benjamin Netanyahu**.
- Israel Capital: **Jerusalem**.
- Israel Currency: **Israeli Shekel**.

## BVR SUBRAHMANYAM APPOINTED AS COMMERCE SECY

❖ The **appointments committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the appointment of **B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary Jammu & Kashmir** as an officer on special duty in the **Department of Commerce**.



❖ An order issued by the **Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**. Mr Subrahmanyam is a 1987 batch IAS officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre and was sent on **deputation to Jammu and Kashmir in June 2018**.

- ❖ He served as Chief Secretary when the State was bifurcated into two Union Territories in 2019. He is a widely experienced bureaucrat **having worked in Manmohan Singh Prime Minister's Office as Joint Secretary.**

## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

### APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTOR OF CBI

Recently, the **Central Government** has appointed '**Subodh Kumar Jaiswal**' as a new Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The Director of the CBI is appointed as **per section 4A of Delhi Special Police Establishment Act of 1946.**



the

### ABOUT THE CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (CBI)

The **CBI was set up in 1963** by a resolution of the **Ministry of Home Affairs**. Now, the CBI comes under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. The establishment of the CBI was **recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964)**. The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the **Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946**. The CBI is the main investigating agency of the Central Government. It also provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal. It is also the nodal police agency in India which coordinates investigations on behalf of Interpol Member countries. The **CBI is headed by a Director**. The CBI has jurisdiction to investigate offences **pertaining to 69 Central laws, 18 State Acts and 231 offences in the IPC.**

### APPOINTMENT OF CBI DIRECTOR

The **Director of CBI as Inspector General of Police, Delhi Special Police Establishment**, is responsible for the administration of the organisation. The **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013) amended the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act (1946)** and made the following changes with respect to appointment of the Director of CBI:

**Appointment Committee:** The Central Government shall appoint the Director of CBI on the recommendation of a **three-member committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson**, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India or Judge of the Supreme Court (SC) nominated by him. The **Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Act, 2014** made a change in the composition of the committee related to the appointment of the Director of CBI. It states that where there is no recognized leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha, then the leader of the single largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha would be a member of that committee.

**Tenure of Director:** The Director of CBI has been **provided security of two-year tenure in office** by the CVC Act, 2003.

**SC Rulings Related to CBI Director:** The six-month minimum residual tenure rule was introduced by the Supreme Court in a March 2019 order. **No officer with less than six months' tenure remaining can be considered for the post of chief.** Though the order in the **Prakash Singh** case pertained to the appointment of DGPs, it was extended to CBI Director too. In the **Prakash Singh case, 2006** the SC had stressed the point that appointment of DGPs “should be purely on the basis of merit and to insulate the office from all kinds of influences and pressures”. The Director of CBI is to hold the post for not less than **two years as held by the Vineet Narain judgment of 1998**. He/she may not be transferred except with the previous consent of the high-level committee.

The **SC in Union of India versus C. Dinakar, 2001** case has held that “ordinarily IPS officers of the senior most four batches in service on the date of retirement of CBI Director, irrespective of their empanelment, **shall be eligible for consideration for appointment to the post of CBI Director**”.

## DELHI SPECIAL POLICE ESTABLISHMENT ACT

The **Central Bureau of Investigation** traces its origin to the **Special Police Establishment (SPE)** which was set up in 1941 by the Government of India. The functions of the SPE then were to investigate cases of bribery and corruption in transactions with the **War & Supply Deptt. Of India** during World War II. Even after the end of the War, the need for a Central Government agency to investigate cases of bribery and corruption by Central Government employees was felt. The Delhi Special Police Establishment Act was **therefore brought into force in 1946**. The **CBI's power to investigate cases is derived from this Act**.

## CASES MAJORLY HANDLED BY CBI

- **Anti-Corruption Crimes** - for investigation of cases under the **Prevention of Corruption Act** against Public officials and the employees of Central Government, Public Sector Undertakings, Corporations or Bodies owned or controlled by the Government of India.
- **Economic Crimes** - for investigation of **major financial scams and serious economic frauds**, including crimes relating to Fake Indian Currency Notes, Bank Frauds and Cyber Crime, bank frauds, Import Export & Foreign Exchange violations, large-scale smuggling of narcotics, antiques, cultural property and smuggling of other contraband items etc.
- **Special Crimes** - for investigation of **serious and organized crime under the Indian Penal Code** and **other laws on the requests of State Governments** or on the orders of the **Supreme Court and High Courts** - such as cases of terrorism, bomb blasts, kidnapping for ransom and crimes committed by the mafia/the underworld.
- **Suo Moto Cases** - CBI can suo-moto take up investigation of **offences only in the Union Territories**. The Central Government can authorize CBI to investigate a crime in a State but only with the consent of the concerned State Government. The **Supreme Court and High Courts**, however, can order CBI to investigate a crime anywhere in the country without the consent of the State.

## CONCLUSION



**Delink the CBI from the administrative control of the government** - As long as the government of the day has the power to transfer and post officials of its choice in the CBI, the **investigating agency will not enjoy autonomy** and will be unable to investigate cases freely. Providing statutory status through legislation equivalent to that provided to the **Comptroller & Auditor General and the Election Commission** will help maintain the independence of the institution.

CLAT Gurukul



# AWARDS & HONOR

---



## NATIONAL PANCHAYAT AWARDS CONFERRED BY PM MODI

❖ The **National Panchayat Awards 2021** was conferred by **PM Modi**. Prime Minister will transfer the award money (as Grants-Aid) through the click of a button, ranging from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.50 lakh.



in-

❖ The amount will be directly transferred to the bank account of the Panchayats concerned in real-time. This is being done for the first time.

❖ The **National Panchayat Awards 2021** are being conferred under the following categories:

- Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar to 224 panchayats,
- Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar to 30-gram panchayats, Gram
- Panchayat Development Plan Award to 29-gram panchayats, Child-friendly Gram
- Panchayat Award to 30 Gram Panchayats and e-Panchayat Puraskar to 12 states.

## UNESCO WORLD PRESS FREEDOM PRIZE 2021

❖ Maria Ressa has been named as the 2021 laureate of the **UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize**.



the  
face

❖ The \$25,000 prize “**recognizes outstanding contributions to defence or promotion of press freedom especially in the of danger,**” according to UNESCO. The prize was named after Guillermo Cano Isaza, the Colombian journalist.

❖ UNESCO cited Ressa’s more than a 3-decade career as a **journalist**, including her work as CNN’s lead investigative reporter for Asia and as news chief of Philippine broadcast giant ABS-CBN.

- ❖ Recently, her citation added, Ressa “has been the target of online attacks and judicial processes” for her investigative work and her position as CEO of Rappler.

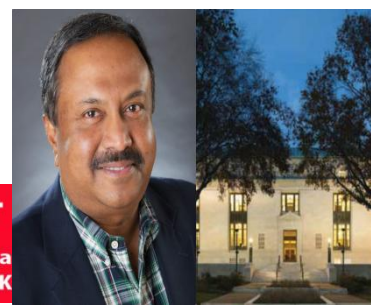
## 1ST INDIAN TO WIN ARAB WORLD NOBEL PRIZE

- ❖ **Mumbai born, Dr Tahera Qutbuddin**, a professor of Arabic Literature at the University of Chicago, recently became the **first person of Indian-origin to win the 15th Sheikh Zayed Book Award.**



- ❖ The award is considered to be the **Nobel Prize of the Arab world.** She won the award for her latest book, “**Arabic Oration – Art and Function**” published by Brill Academic Publishers of Leiden in 2019.
- ❖ In the book, she puts forth a **comprehensive theory of Arabic literature in its foundational oral period dating the seventh and eighth centuries AD.** She discusses its influence on modern-day sermons and lectures as well.

## SANKAR GHOSH ELECTED TO NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE





- ❖ **Sankar Ghosh, an award-winning Indian-origin immunologist**, has been elected to the prestigious **National Academy of Sciences** in recognition of his “distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. He was among the 120 newly elected members announced by the Academy.
- ❖ **Sankar Ghosh is the Silverstein and Hutt Family Professor of Microbiology** and Chair of the **Department of Microbiology & Immunology** at the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University.
- ❖ He is also a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has a deep interest in deciphering the complexities of transcriptional regulation — **the ways by which a cell regulates the conversion of DNA to RNA** to better understand the mechanisms of the immune system and the pathological changes that occur to its pathways in many diseases.

### IREDA CONFERRED 'GREEN URJA AWARD'

- ❖ **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA)** has been conferred with the “**Green Urja Award**” for being the Leading Public Institution in the Financing Institution for Renewable Energy this year by **Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC)**.



the

- ❖ **IREDA** gets the award for the pivotal and developmental role it plays in **Green Energy Financing**.
- ❖ Despite the pandemic time, IREDA has ended the year 2020-21 ended on a strong note and disbursed the **second-highest (from the date of inception)** amount of loan amounting to Rs. 8827 crore, which indicates that IREDA has the ability to translate this problem into an opportunity.

- ❖ The award recognises our immense contribution to the development of the Renewable Energy Sector in line with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.
- IREDA Headquarters location: **New Delhi**
- IREDA Founded: **11 March 1987**.

## NAGALAND'S NUKLU PHOM WON WHITLEY AWARDS 2021

- ❖ An environmentalist from Nagaland's remote Longleng district, **Nuku Phom** has won this year's **Whitley Awards 2021**, also known as the **Green Oscar**.
- ❖ **Nuku Phom's** name, along with that of five others, was announced recently in a virtual award ceremony organized by the **UK-based Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN)**. Nuku and his team want to offer alternatives that engage communities in conservation using the Amur falcon as a flagship.
- ❖ The award recognises Phom's efforts at establishing a new biodiversity peace corridor changing the fate of Amur Falcons, which come to roost in Nagaland each year, from being hunted by locals.
- ❖ **Worth £40,000**, the award is for creating a new network of **community-owned forests to protect Amur Falcons** and increase biodiversity in Nagaland.



## JANE GOODALL WON TEMPLETON PRIZE 2021

- ❖ The naturalist Jane Goodall has been announced as the 2021 winner of the Templeton Prize in recognition of her life's work on **animal intelligence and humanity**.





- ❖ Goodall built her global reputation on her groundbreaking studies of **chimpanzees in Tanzania in the 1960s.**
- ❖ The Templeton Prize is an annual award granted to a living person, in the estimation of the judges, “whose exemplary achievements advance Sir John Templeton’s philanthropic vision: harnessing the power of the sciences to explore the deepest questions of the universe and humankind’s place and purpose within it.”

#### *About Templeton Prize*

- Instituted: **1973**
- Presented by: **John Templeton Foundation**
- Reward(s): **£1.1 million**
- Currently held by: **Francis Collins**
- Awarded for: **Outstanding contributions in affirming life’s spiritual dimension, whether through insight, discovery, or practical works.**

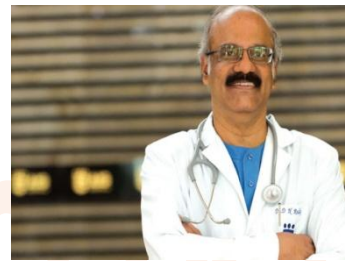
### SPICEHEALTH WINS GOLD STEVIE AWARD 2020

- ❖ SpiceHealth, a healthcare company founded by the **promoters of SpiceJet**, has won the Gold Award at the 2021 Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards for ‘**Most Valuable Medical Innovation**’ under **Covid19.**
- ❖ At a time when Covid-19 was at an all-time excessive in India in November 2020, SpiceHealth, beneath the management of Avani Singh, disrupted the **Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)** testing house by providing checks in cell laboratories at ₹499, versus the then-present rate of ₹2,400 in Delhi and helped convey down Covid-19 testing price dramatically throughout the nation.

- ❖ About the Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards: **The Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards are the one business awards program** to recognise innovation within the workplace in all 29 nations of the Asia-Pacific area.
- ❖ The Stevie Awards are broadly thought about to be the world's premier business awards, conferring recognition for achievement in applications akin to The **International Business Awards** for 19 years.

## 1ST INDIAN TO WIN RUDOLF V SCHINDLER AWARD

- ❖ **Padma Bhushan awardee** and noted gastroenterologist **Dr D Nageshwar Reddy**, who is also the chairman of AIG Hospitals, has won the **Rudolf V Schindler Award** from the **American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE)**.



- ❖ **Rudolf V Schindler Award** is the highest category in the prestigious Crystal Awards named after Dr Schindler who is considered as **“the father of gastroscopy.”**
- ❖ With this, **Dr Reddy becomes the first Indian medical practitioner** to win this award. Dr Reddy is one of the first to promote endoscopy in India and has led the charge of educating numerous endoscopists all over the world.

## BHARAT RATNA CNR RAO HONOURED WITH INT. ENI AWARD

- ❖ **Noted Indian scientist and Bharat Ratna Professor, C.N.R. Rao** has been felicitated with the **International Eni Award 2020** (also called the Energy Frontier award).



- ❖ The **International Eni Award** is considered to be the **Nobel Prize in Energy Research**. He has been conferred the prize for his work on metal oxides, carbon nanotubes and other materials and two-dimensional systems.
- ❖ **Professor Rao** will be presented the **Eni Awards 2020** on 14 October 2021, during an official ceremony held at the **Quirinal Palace in Rome**.
- ❖ The Eni Award is awarded annually by the **Italian oil and gas company Eni** to encourage better use of energy sources and increased environmental research.

## AMARTYA SEN CONFERRED WITH SPAIN'S TOP AWARD

- ❖ **Indian economist and Nobel Laureate, Amartya Kumar Sen** has been conferred with the ‘ **2021 Princess of Asturias Award**’ by **Spain** in the social sciences category.
- ❖ **Princess of Asturias Awards** is annual prizes awarded by the Princess of Asturias Foundation in Spain to individuals, entities or organizations from around the world who make notable achievements in the sciences, humanities, and public affairs.
- ❖ The **87-year-old Sen** was selected from **41 candidates of 20 nationalities** for “His research on **famines and his theory of human development**, welfare economics and the underlying mechanisms of poverty have contributed to the fight against injustice, inequality, disease and ignorance”.
- ❖ The award comprises a cash prize of 50,000 Euros along with a **Joan Miro sculpture** representing and symbolising the award, a diploma and insignia.



Sen

the

## INDIAN PEACEKEEPERS TO BE HONOURED WITH UN'S MEDAL

❖ **Corporal Yuvraj Singh, civilian peacekeeper Ivan Michael Picardo, and Moolchand Yadav** are among those to be honoured with the UN's prestigious medal.



❖ Corporal Yuvraj Singh was serving at the **United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)** while civilian peacekeeper Ivan Michael Picardo was associated with UNAMISS as a civil peacekeeper.

❖ Moolchand Yadav was associated with the **United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI)**.

❖ Three Indian peacekeepers, who laid down their lives while serving in **United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions** last year, are among 129 military, police and civilian personnel honoured with a prestigious UN medal awarded posthumously for courage and sacrifice in the line of duty.

❖ India is the fifth-largest contributor of uniformed personnel to UN peacekeeping with more than 5,500 military and police serving in peace operations in **Abyei, Cyprus, Congo, Lebanon, the Middle East, Somalia, South Sudan and Western Sahara, according to the UN.**



# SPORTS

---

## LEWIS HAMILTON WINS PORTUGUESE GRAND PRIX

❖ **Lewis Hamilton** overtook title rival **Max Verstappen** and Mercedes team-mate **Valtteri Bottas** to win the **Portuguese Grand Prix**.



❖ Verstappen finished second, while Bottas, who started from pole, came in a disappointing third place. **Sergio Perez** took the flag in fourth, with **Lando Norris** fifth for McLaren.

❖ The **reigning Formula One champion** dropped to third in the opening laps but made two impressive moves in nine race-winning laps to claim his second victory of the season.

## AICF LAUNCHED 'CHECKMATE COVID INITIATIVE'

❖ The All India Chess Federation has launched the 'Checkmate Covid Initiative' to help the chess community affected by the pandemic.



❖ The initiative was launched at an online event in the presence of **FIDE (World Chess Federation) president Arkady Dvorkovich**, **five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand**, World Rapid Chess Champion **Koneru Humpy**, AICF president **Sanjay Kapoor** and secretary **Bharat Singh Chauhan**.

❖ The idea is to not just help the chess community affected by COVID through financial aid, but also have a team of doctors that works round-the-clock to provide the right assistance.

- All India Chess Federation President: **Sanjay Kapoor**.
- All India Chess Federation Headquarters location: **Chennai**.
- All India Chess Federation Founded: **1951**.



## MARK SELBY BECOMES WORLD CHAMPION IN SNOOKER

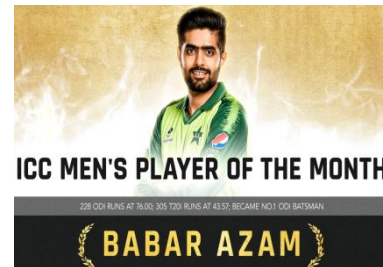
- ❖ **British professional snooker player Mark Selby** won the **world championship for the fourth time**. This time he won title of defeating **Shaun Murphy**.
- ❖ **Mark Selby** won the **2014, 2016, 2017 and 2021 world championships**. He ranked first in the world between 2015 and 2019.
- ❖ **World Snooker Championship** has been held annually since 1927. The game was played at the Crucible Theatre in **Sheffield, England**. The World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association organized a championship game.



the  
and

## BABAR AZAM NAMED AS ICC MEN'S PLAYER OF THE MONTH


- ❖ **Pakistani skipper Babar Azam** has been named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for April 2021 for his consistent and stellar performances across all formats in recently concluded series against South Africa.
- ❖ The ICC Player of the Month Awards recognise and **celebrate the best performances from both male and female cricketers across all forms of international cricket** throughout the year.
- ❖ Along with **Babar**, **Australian women's team wicketkeeper-batsman Alyssa Healy** also bagged the **ICC Women's Player of The Month** accolade for her incredible performances during the month of April.




the

- ❖ **Healy's consistency with the bat has played a significant role in Australia's dominance.** Healy has shown her class in all conditions and against all types of bowling in the recent series against New Zealand.

## MANCHESTER CITY CROWNED PREMIER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

- ❖ **Manchester City has crowned Premier League champions** the third time in four seasons after Manchester United crashed 2-1 defeat against Leicester.  for to a City
- ❖ United started the century **dominating English football**, now is the force with five titles in 10 seasons and the biggest spenders on transfers and salaries.
- ❖ **City has now won three Premier League titles and eight major trophies under Guardiola**, who last year signed a new two-year contract to remain at the club until 2023.

## RAFAEL NADAL WINS 10TH ITALIAN OPEN

- ❖ Rafael Nadal beat **world number one Novak Djokovic** to win a 10th **Italian Open title**. Second seed Nadal won through 7-5, 6-3 in 2hr 49min against the defending champion in the 57th career showdown between the pair.  1-6,
- ❖ The victory also earned Nadal a **36th ATP Masters 1000 crown**, equalling Djokovic's record since the series was established in 1990.
- ❖ In the women's category, **Polish teenager Iga Swiatek crushed Czech ninth seed Karolina Pliskova 6-0, 6-0** to win the Italian Open title. Swiatek, ranked 15, claimed her **third WTA title**.

## ASIA CUP T20 TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD IN SRI LANKA

- ❖ **The Asia Cup T20 tournament**, which was scheduled to be held in June in Sri Lanka, has been postponed indefinitely due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



be

- ❖ The tournament which was originally scheduled to be held in **September 2020 in Sri Lanka** was moved to **June 2021 due to COVID-19**.
- ❖ With all the teams planning for their Future Tour Programs (FTPs) for the next two years, the tournament is likely to happen only after the **2023 ICC 50-over World Cup**.
- ❖ A formal statement from the Asian Cricket Council is, however, yet to come. Initially, **Pakistan was supposed to host it**. However, due to tensions between India and Pakistan, the tournament was moved to the island nation.

## BARCELONA WOMEN BEATS CHELSEA WOMEN

- ❖ Barcelona Women beat Chelsea Women to win the **Women's Champions League trophy**.
- ❖ Chelsea conceded four goals in the first 36 minutes as Barcelona blew them away to win their first Women's Champions League in Gothenburg.



- ❖ **Barcelona is the first Spanish side to win the Women's Champions League**. Barcelona becomes the first club to win both the men's and women's Champions League, and this was the biggest ever winning margin in a women's final.

## U-17 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP TO BE HELD IN INDIA

- ❖ The U-17 women's World Cup will be held in India from October 11 to 30 next year, Fifa Council said on 21st May.
- ❖ India was earlier scheduled to host the 2020 U-17 World Cup it was postponed to 2021 before being cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ❖ The **FIFA Council** approved key dates for the international match calendars, including the dates of the 2022 U-17 World Cup in India.



but

- ❖ The Council also approved dates for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 (11-30 October 2022), **FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Costa Rica 2022** (10-28 August 2022), as well as a 14-team playoff for the FIFA Arab Cup 2021, taking place between 19 and 25 June this year and **Women's World Cup Australia and New Zealand 2023** from July 20 to August 20, 2023.

## HOCKEY INDIA PRESTIGIOUS ETIENNE GLICHITCH AWARD

- ❖ Hockey India has won the prestigious **Etienne Glichitch Award** in recognition of its contribution to the growth and development of the sport in the country.
- ❖ The awards were announced by the game's governing body during the **HockeyInvites virtual conference**. It was part of its 47th FIH Congress which concluded with the FIH Honorary Awards.
- ❖ *Other Awards presented as a part of the 47th FIH Congress:*



FIH

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- Pablo Negre Award ----- **Uzbekistan Hockey Federation**
- Theo Ikema Award ----- **Polish Hockey Association**
- HRH Sultan Azlan Shah Award ----- **Sharon Williamson of New Zealand**
- Guust Lathouwers Memorial Trophy ----- **Ivona Makar**

## MARY KOM WINS MEDAL AT ASIAN BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP

❖ **Indian pugilist Mary Kom**, lost to two-time world champion **Nazym Kyzaibay of Kazakhstan**, to settle for silver medal at the 2021 **ASBC Asian Boxing Championships in Dubai**.



- ❖ The five-time Asian Championships gold medallist Mary Kom was competing in a high-octane 51kg final.
- ❖ This is **the second silver for Mary Kom at the Asian Championships** who has previously won silver in 2008. Apart from this, she won world championship titles on five occasions including 2003, 2005, 2010, 2012, and 2017.
- ❖ Meanwhile, **Pooja Rani won the gold medal in the 75kg Women's Middle category final** at the Asian Boxing Championships. She defeated **Mavluda Movlonova in the gold medal clash**.

# DATES & DAYS

---

INT  
ERN  
ATI  
ONA  
L  
LAB  
OUR  
DA  
Y  
OBS  
ERV  
ED  
ON  
MA  
Y  
1ST

❖ **International Labour Day (also known as May Day or International Workers' Day)** is celebrated across the world 1st of May every year.



on the

❖ The day celebrates the struggle, dedication and commitment of the working class and is an annual public holiday in several countries.

of the

❖ On 1 May 1886, Chicago and a few other cities were the sites of a major union demonstration in support of the eight-hour workday demand.

❖ In 1889, the **International Socialist Conference** declared that in commemoration of the Haymarket affair, **1 May would be an international holiday for the labour force, now known as International Workers' Day.**

- Headquarters of International Labour Organization: **Geneva, Switzerland.**
- President of International Labour Organization: **Guy Ryder.**
- International Labour Organization Founded: **1919.**

## WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY: 3RD MAY

❖ **World Press Freedom Day** is observed globally on **3 May every year.** It is also known as World Press Day. The day pays tribute to journalists who have lost their lives.



also

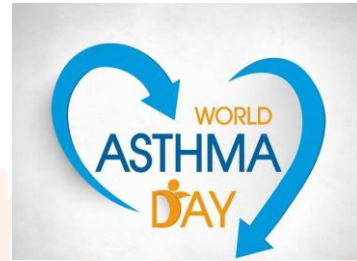
❖ They risk their lives at times or may even have to face tough situations in order to bring the news from different corners of the world in front of the public.

❖ This year's World Press Freedom Day theme "**Information as a Public Good**".

- ❖ The **theme is of urgent relevance to all countries across the world.** It recognizes the changing communications system that is impacting our health, our human rights, democracies and sustainable development.
- ❖ This was followed by the **Windhoek Declaration that was established to maintain the free press.** As the declaration was made on the 3rd of May, hence the **special day is observed each year on 3rd May.**

## WORLD ASTHMA DAY OBSERVED ON MAY 4TH

- ❖ **World Asthma Day** is observed every year on the 1st Tuesday of May. This year, **World Asthma Day is observed on May 4, 2021.**
- ❖ The day spread awareness about asthma disease and care around the world. Whilst the primary focus is supporting the person with asthma, support may also extend to family, friends and caregivers. **The theme for 2021 World Asthma Day is “Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions“.**
- ❖ **World Asthma Day** is annually organized by the **Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA).** In 1998, the first World Asthma Day was celebrated in more than 35 countries in conjunction with the first World Asthma Meeting in Barcelona, Spain.
- ❖ Asthma is a chronic disease of the lungs that causes breathing problems. Symptoms of asthma include **breathlessness, coughing, wheezing and a feeling of tightness in the chest.** These symptoms vary in frequency and severity.
- ❖ When the symptoms are not under control, the airways can become inflamed making breathing difficult. **Whilst asthma cannot be cured, the symptoms can be controlled enabling people with asthma to live full lives.**





## WORLD HAND HYGIENE DAY: MAY 5TH

❖ Every year, the **World Hand Hygiene Day** is observed on **5.**

❖ The day is **organised by the World Health Organization (WHO)** to raise awareness among people across the globe the importance of hand hygiene in warding off many serious infections.



May

about

❖ The **theme for 2021 is ‘Seconds Save Lives: Clean Your Hands’**. The day recognizes hand washing as one of the most effective actions that can be taken to avoid a huge range of infections including the COVID-19 virus.

- Director-General of the World Health Organization: **Tedros Adhanom.**
- Headquarters of WHO: **Geneva, Switzerland.**

## WORLD ATHLETICS DAY 2021: 5TH MAY

❖ The **World Athletics Day-2021** is observed on the 5 May. The is subject to adjustment, the date of **World Athletics Day** is **decided by the IAAF**, however, the month stays the same as



date

May.

❖ The **first World Athletics Day** was observed in **1996**. The objective of World Athletics Day is to boost the participation of youths in athletics.

basic

❖ The objective of **World Athletics day** is to increase public awareness about sports and to educate youngsters about the importance of sports. To **promote athletics as the primary sport**

**in schools and institution.** To establish athletics as the number one participation sport in schools all over the world.

## WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY: 8TH MAY

- ❖ **World Migratory Bird Day 2021** is observed globally on 8 May. The aim of the day is to **raise awareness of migratory birds** and the **importance of international cooperation to conserve them.**



May.

- ❖ **“Sing, Fly, Soar – Like a Bird!”** is the theme of this year’s World Migratory Bird Day. The 2021 **World Migratory Bird Day** theme is an invitation to people everywhere to connect and re-connect with nature by actively listening to – and watching birds – wherever they are.
- ❖ At the same time, the theme appeals to people around the world to use their own voices and creativity to express their shared appreciation of birds and nature.
- ❖ This day is organized by a collaborative partnership among two UN treaties the **Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)** and the **African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)** and the Colorado-based non-profit organization, Environment for the Americas (EFTA).
- ❖ This day is a global campaign dedicated to raising awareness of migratory birds and the need for international cooperation to conserve them.

## WORLD RED CROSS & RED CRESCENT DAY: 8TH MAY

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

❖ The **World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day** is observed every year on 8 May.

❖ The day aims to celebrate the principles of the **International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**, to reduce the suffering of people and enabling them to lead a dignified life with **independence, humanity, impartiality, universality, unity and neutrality**.



to

❖ Theme 2021 **World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day: 'Unstoppable'**

❖ **History of the day:** The day also marks the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant (8 May 1828), who was the founder of the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**. He was the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize.

- President of the ICRC: **Peter Maurer**.
- Headquarters of ICRC: **Geneva, Switzerland**.

## INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY OBSERVED ON MAY 12TH

❖ **International Nurse Day** is observed globally on **12 May every year**. This day is observed to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale**.




❖ She was also known as Lady with the Lamp. She was the founder of modern nursing and was a British social reformer and statistician.

❖ The theme of 2021 **International Nurses Day** is '**Nurses: A Voice to Lead – A vision for future healthcare**'.

- ❖ **Florence Nightingale** was put in charge of nursing British and allied soldiers in Turkey during the Crimean War.
- ❖ She is renowned for setting up the **Nightingale School of Nursing, at St. Thomas' Hospital** in London (opened 1860) in order to formalize nursing education. She was the **first woman awarded the Order of Merit (1907)**.
  - **International Council of Nurse's headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.**
  - International Council of Nurses founded: **1899.**
  - International Council of Nurses President: **Annette Kennedy.**

## NATIONAL DENGUE DAY OBSERVED ON MAY 16TH

- ❖ In India, the **National Dengue Day** is observed every year **16 May**.
- ❖ The day is an initiative by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, to raise awareness about dengue and its preventive measures, and preparedness for control of the vector-borne disease before the transmission season begins.
- ❖ Dengue is spread through the **bite of the female mosquito (Aedes aegypti)**. Dengue is a mosquito-borne disease that is caused by the dengue virus of **four distinct serotypes — DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3 and DEN-4**.
- ❖ Dengue, which is spread by the **Aedes albopictus species of mosquitos**, can lead to flu-like illness such as **severe muscle pain and nausea and can lead to death if not cured properly**.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIVING TOGETHER IN PEACE



❖ The **International Day of Living Together in Peace** is held on 16th May every year since 2018.



on

❖ The **UN General Assembly**, declared 16 May the **International Day of Living Together in Peace**, as a means of regularly mobilizing the efforts of the international community to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity.

of

❖ The Day aims to uphold the desire to live and act together, united in differences and diversity, in order to build a **sustainable world of peace, solidarity and harmony**.

❖ **The United Nations General Assembly** decided to celebrate **16th May as the International Day of Living Together in Peace** on 8th December 2017.

## WORLD'S AIDS VACCINE DAY: MAY 18TH

❖ **World AIDS Vaccine Day**, (also known as **HIV Vaccine Awareness Day**), is observed annually on May 18 to promote the continued urgent need for a vaccine to prevent infection and AIDS.



HIV

❖ The **first World AIDS Vaccine Day** was thus observed on May 18, 1998, to commemorate the anniversary of Clinton's speech.

❖ The **concept of World AIDS Vaccine Day** was proposed on May 18, 1997, during a commencement speech at Morgan State University **made by then-President Bill Clinton**, which underlined the need for a vaccine to curb the spread of HIV.

## INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY 2021



- ❖ **The International Museum Day** is celebrated on 18 May, since 1977, to raise awareness about the fact that “Museums an important means of **cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples**”.

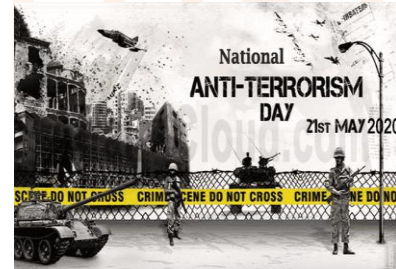


are

- ❖ The theme of International Museum Day 2021: “**The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine**”. It is coordinated by the International Council of Museums (ICOM).
  - President of International Council Of Museums: **Suay Aksoy**
  - International Council Of Museums Headquarters: **Paris, France.**

## NATIONAL ANTI TERRORISM DAY: MAY 21TH

- ❖ In India, the National Anti Terrorism Day is observed on 21 to commemorate the **death anniversary of former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi.**



May

- ❖ The day is also observed to spread the message of peace, harmony, and humankind and to promote unity among the people.

- ❖ **Rajiv Gandhi was India’s youngest Prime Minister.** He was appointed as the sixth Prime Minister of the country and **served the nation from 1984 to 1989.**

- ❖ Mr Gandhi was assassinated on May 21, 1991, by a human bomb. He was killed in Tamil Nadu in a campaign by a terrorist. Then, under the V.P. Singh government, the centre has decided to observe 21st May as Anti Terrorism Day.

## WORLD BEE DAY: 20TH MAY

- ❖ World Bee Day is observed globally on 20th May every year. On this date, 20 May, the **pioneer of beekeeping Anton Janša was born in 1734 in Slovenia.**



year.  
Janša

- ❖ The purpose of the bee day is to **acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators in the ecosystem.** About 33% of the world’s food production depends on bees thus they are vital for the preservation of biodiversity, ecological balance in nature and helpful in reducing pollution.
- ❖ The theme of World Bee Day 2021 is “**Bee engaged: Build Back Better for Bees**”. The UN Member States approved Slovenia’s proposal to proclaim 20 May as World Bee Day in December 2017.
- ❖ The resolution called for the adoption of specific conservation measures and highlighted the **importance of the preservation of bees and their significance for humanity.** The first World Bee Day was observed in 2018.

## UNITED NATIONS INT. DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

- ❖ The United Nations celebrates **International Day for Biological Diversity** on 22 May every year to raise awareness about the issue of a significant reduction in biological diversity due to certain human activities.



- ❖ Biological Diversity comprises a **wide variety of plants, animals and microorganisms** including genetic differences within each species, for example, between varieties of crops and breeds of livestock.
- ❖ This year 2021 the theme is “**We’re part of the solution**”. The slogan was chosen to be a continuation of the momentum generated last year under the over-arching theme, “Our solutions

are in nature”, which served as a reminder that biodiversity remains the answer to several sustainable development challenges.

## WORLD HUNGER DAY OBSERVED ON 28TH MAY

❖ **World Hunger Day** is observed globally on **28 May year**. The objective of this day is to raise awareness about than 820 million people living in chronic hunger worldwide.



every  
more

❖ It is observed since 2011 to not only spread awareness about the **malaise of chronic hunger but also to solve hunger and poverty through sustainable undertakings**.

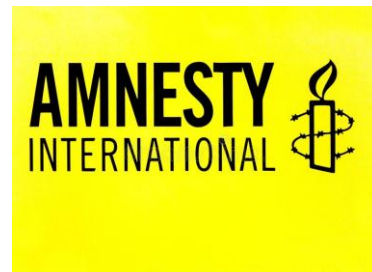
❖ The initiative recognizes the dire need to save nearly a quarter of a billion lives from malnourishment and chronic hunger. The need to provide **outreach globally during the pandemic for the distribution of food** is seen as paramount to save those who have been vulnerable even in pre-pandemic times.

❖ **History of the day: World Hunger Day** is an initiative by The **Hunger Project**, first started in the year 2011. This year marks the **11th annual WHD to look at hunger as a whole**.

❖ **India ranked 94 among 107 nations** in the Global Hunger Index 2020.

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DAY: MAY 28TH

❖ **Amnesty International Day** is observed every year on **28**, because it was on this day in 1961 that this non-governmental organization was founded in London.



May



- ❖ The **Amnesty International** was founded on **28 May 1961 in London**, following the publication of the article “**The Forgotten Prisoners**” in The Observer, a British newspaper, by the lawyer Peter Benenson.
- ❖ **Amnesty International is a non-governmental organization** that focuses on the protection of human rights, by working to prevent abuses to human rights, fight for justice for those whose rights have been violated, expand and enforce human rights protections in international law, by lobbying governments and other powerful groups and publicizing their violations.
- ❖ The **organisation has won the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize** for its “defence of human dignity against torture,” and the **United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights in 1978**.

## WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY: 31ST MAY

- ❖ Every year, on 31st May, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and global partners celebrate **World No Tobacco Day (WNTD)**.
- ❖ The annual campaign is an opportunity to **raise awareness on the harmful and deadly effects of tobacco use** and second-hand smoke exposure, and to discourage the use of tobacco in any form.
- ❖ This year theme of the 2021 WNTD is “**Commit to quit.**”
- ❖ This yearly celebration informs the public on the dangers of using tobacco, the business practices of tobacco companies, what **WHO is doing to fight the tobacco epidemic**, and what people around the world can do to claim their right to health and healthy living and to protect future generations.



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- ❖ World Health Organization on 15th May 1987 passed a resolution, calling for April 7, 1988, to be **the first World No Smoking Day**. This date was chosen as it was the 40th anniversary of the World Health Organization.
- ❖ Then on May 17, 1989, the World Health Organization passed a resolution calling for May 31 to be annually known as World No Tobacco Day. World No Tobacco Day has been observed every year on 31st May since 1989.
  - WHO was established on **7 April 1948**;
  - WHO is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**;
  - WHO current President is **Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**.

## FAO CELEBRATES WORLD MILK DAY

- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations celebrates **World Milk Day every year on 01st June** to recognize the importance of milk as a global food, to celebrate the dairy sector.



and

- ❖ It aims to encourage people to talk about the advantages of dairy with regards to health including nutrition, accessibility and affordability.
- ❖ This year, our theme will focus on **Sustainability in the dairy sector** with messages around the environment, nutrition and socio-economics. In doing so we will re-introduce dairy farming to the world.
- ❖ History of the day: **In 2001, World Milk Day was established by the Food and Agriculture Organisation** of the United Nations to recognize the importance of milk as a global food, and to celebrate the dairy sector.

- ❖ Each year since, the benefits of milk and dairy products have been actively promoted around the world, including **how dairy supports the livelihoods of one billion people.**

## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

### WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY (WPFDD): 3RD MAY

The **World Press Freedom Day (WPFDD)** is an annual celebration of press freedom, observed on 3rd May every year. The main celebration is organized by the **UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**. It is also known as **World Day**. The day also pays tribute to journalists who have lost their



The **and Press** lives.

It is announced by the **United Nations General Assembly** on 3rd May to spread awareness about the importance of Freedom of the Press in functioning, information providing, its significance and to awaken the government of its duty to uphold and respect the right to freedom of expression. The **theme of World Press Freedom Day 2021 is "Information as a Public Good"**. The theme focuses on the importance of cherishing information as a public good and explores ways to strengthen journalism.

#### The day highlights three key topics:

- Ways to ensure the economic viability of news media.
- Mechanisms for making sure about the transparency of internet companies.
- To strengthen **Media and Information Literacy (MIL)** capacities that will help people to recognise and value journalism as an important part of information as a public good.

The theme of World Press Freedom Day 2020 was "**Journalism without Fear or Favour**". A global campaign was launched by UNESCO on media and social media channels focussing on **Journalism without Fear or Favour**. On 4 -6 May 2020, various events including **High-level Dialogue on Press Freedom and Tackling Disinformation in the COVID-19 context**, webinars, and online discussions through Facebook Live, Youtube, and Microsoft teams, amongst other digital platforms will be held. **On the site of UNESCO, debates are available.**

*Sub-themes of the year 2020 are as follows:*

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

## BACKGROUND OF THE DAY

The day was proclaimed by the **UN General Assembly in 1993**, following the recommendation of **UNESCO's General Conference in 1991**. The day also marks the 1991 **Windhoek Declaration (adopted by UNESCO)**. It aimed towards the 'development of a free, independent and pluralistic press'.

**World Press Conference 2021:** The 2021 Global Conference was hosted by **UNESCO and the Government of Namibia**. It called for urgent attention to the threat of extinction faced by local news media around the world, a **crisis worsened by the Covid-19 pandemic**. It put forward ideas to tackle the challenges of our online media environment, push for more transparency of internet companies, strengthen safety of journalists, and improve their working conditions.

## FREEDOM OF PRESS IN INDIA

**Freedom of press** is not expressly protected by Indian legal system but it is impliedly **protected under article 19(1) (a) of the constitution**, which states - "**All citizens shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression**". In 1950, the Supreme Court in **Romesh Thappar v. State of Madras** observed that freedom of the press lay at the foundation of all democratic organisations.

However, **Freedom of press is also not absolute**. It faces certain restrictions under **Article 19(2)**, which are as follows- Matters related to interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.

**Related Rankings/Findings:** India has been ranked **142nd out of 180 nations in the World Press Freedom Index, 2021**, published by Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) or Reporters Without Borders. Reports such as '**Freedom in the World 2021 (Freedom House, US)**', '**2020 Human Rights Report (US State Department)**', '**Autocratisation Goes Viral (V-Dem Institute, Sweden)**' have all highlighted intimidation of journalists in India.

## CONCLUSION

Several cultural events are organised to determine the significance of press freedom. Initiatives of several nations are coordinated by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** and most of the time it serves as an organising partner to foster the freedom of expression. UNESCO conferred awards to deserving organisations, individuals or institutions that have made commendable contributions in the promotion and defence of press freedom in any part of the world. In India, it is celebrated to salute the media journalists who risked their lives in providing information or sometimes lost their lives in the duty itself. Various Government officers, ministers take part while organising several events like art exhibitions; honour awards for the journalists who have risked their lives on duty etc. on this day in India. **But due to the COVID-19 pandemic**, the celebration goes online. **World Press Freedom Conference 2020** provides an opportunity to journalists, civil society representatives, national authorities, academics etc. to discuss the **emerging challenges to press freedom and journalist's safety and to work together to find out the solutions**. Since 1993, the conference is organised annually. It will be from 18-20 October, 2020 in the Hague, The Netherlands.

**According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, everyone has the **right to freedom of opinion and expression**; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers. – **Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. We all know that in the development of any country,



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

**media plays a crucial role.** It does not only aware of people what is going on around the surrounding but also about the events which affect their lives. **Freedom of the Press should be taken seriously as the safety of journalists** while delivering information during their duties is of utmost importance. **Also, freedom of speech and expression right should be respected.**

CLAT Gurukul



# REPORT & INDEXES

LIC  
AS  
MO  
ST  
VA  
LU  
AB  
LE  
INS  
UR  
AN  
CE  
BR  
AN  
D  
GL  
OB  
AL  
LY

❖ The **state-owned insurance behemoth ‘Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)’** has emerged as the third strongest and the most valuable insurance brand globally, in **Brand Finance Insurance 100 report for 2021.**



tenth

❖ The **annual report is released by London-based brand valuation consultancy firm Brand Finance**, to identify the most valuable and strongest insurance brands globally.

- Most Valuable Indian Insurance Brand – **LIC (10th)**
- Most Strongest Indian Insurance Brand – **LIC (3rd)**
- Most Valuable Global Insurance Brand – **Ping An Insurance, China**
- Most Strongest Global Insurance Brand – **Poste Italiane, Italy**

❖ In the **strongest insurance brands category**, **Italy’s Poste Italiane** was at the top position, followed by Mapfre of the US and LIC of India.

## WIPRO BECOMES 3RD LARGEST INDIAN IT FIRM

❖ **Wipro regained its position as the 3rd largest Indian IT services company** by market capitalization of ₹ 2.65 trillion surpassing HCL Technologies’ ₹ 2.62 trillion market cap.



by

❖ TCS remains at the top of the list with a market cap of **₹ 11.51 trillion followed by Infosys.**

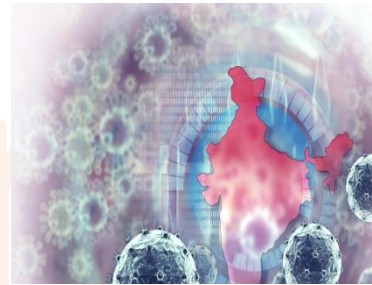
❖ Wipro has also announced its **commitment to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2040**, in line with the objective of the Paris Agreement to cap temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius.



- ❖ The **country's third-largest largest software services company** has set an intermediate target of 55 per cent reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 in absolute emission levels compared to its base year of 2016-17 (April-March).
  - Chairman of Wipro Limited: **Rishad Premji.**
  - Wipro Headquarters: **Bengaluru;**
  - Wipro MD and CEO: **Thierry Delaporte.**

## COVID-19 INDIA'S LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH

- ❖ According to the **Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation's (IHME)** most recent figures, the Covid-19 pandemic has been India's leading cause of death.
- ❖ **IHME is a non-profit global health research centre** based at the **University of Washington in the United States.**



- ❖ Death due to Covid-19 Pandemic: India has reported more than 2,15,000 deaths and has registered more than 19 million cases of coronavirus, second only to the United States.
- ❖ The pandemic's human toll is more than **twice the number of people killed in more than 320 natural disasters in** the last two decades (2000-2019).

Other Top Causes of Deaths in India:

- **Ischemic heart disease** (second),
- **Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease** (third),
- **Strokes** (fourth),

- **Diarrhoeal diseases** (fifth),
- **Neonatal disorders** (sixth),
- **Lower respiratory infections** (seventh),
- **Tuberculosis** (eighth),
- **Diabetes mellitus** (ninth) and
- **Chronic liver diseases, including cirrhosis** (tenth).

## INDIA LARGEST RECIPIENT OF REMITTANCE IN 2020

❖ India was the largest recipient of remittances in 2020, as per report, “**Migration and Development brief** “released by **World Bank**. India has been the largest recipient of remittances since 2008.



the  
the

- ❖ However, the **remittance received by India in 2020 was over USD 83 billion**, which is a drop of 0.2 per cent from 2019 (USD 83.3 billion). Globally, the remittance flow was USD 540 billion in 2020, which is 1.9% lower as compared to that of 2019, when it was **USD 548 billion**.
- ❖ **Top Five Countries: The top five remittance recipient countries in 2020**, in current US dollar terms, were **India, China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt**.
- ❖ The **top five recipients in 2020**, as a share of **gross domestic product (GDP)**, were, by contrast, smaller economies: **Tonga, Lebanon, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and El Salvador**.
- ❖ The **largest remittance-sending country in 2020 was United States (USD68 billion)**. It was followed by the UAE (USD43 billion), Saudi Arabia (USD34.5 billion), Switzerland (USD27.9 billion), Germany (USD22 billion), and China (USD18 billion).
- ❖ From India, the **Remittances outflow in 2020 was USD 7 billion**, against USD 7.5 billion in 2019.

## WORLD'S 50 GREATEST LEADER'S LIST

❖ **New Zealand Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern** has topped 'World's 50 Greatest Leaders' list for 2021, released by Fortune Magazine.



the

❖ The 'World's 50 Greatest Leaders' list for 2021 is the eighth edition of the annual list which celebrates leaders, some well-known and others who aren't so familiar, who made a difference amid the "truly unprecedented times" of the Covid-19 pandemic.

❖ From India, **Adar Poonawalla, the chief executive officer (CEO) of Serum Institute of India (SII)** is the only Indian among the top 10 names. He is placed in the 10th spot.

### Top 10 Fortune's World's 50 Greatest Leaders 2021


- **Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand**
- **mRNA Pioneers**
- **Dan Schulman, CEO of PayPal**
- **Dr John Nkengasong, director of Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention**
- **Adam Silver; Michele Roberts; Chris Paul, NBA Rescuers**
- **Jessica Tan, founder of Ping An Group**
- **Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury for the Church of England/Anglican Church**
- **Stacey Abrams, founder of Fair Fight**
- **Reshorna Fitzpatrick, pastor for Proceeding Word Church, Chicago**
- **Adar Poonawalla, CEO of Serum Institute of India**

## INDIA AS SECOND LARGEST INSURANCE TECH. MARKET



- ❖ India is the **second-largest insurance technology market in Asia-Pacific** and accounts for 35 per cent of the \$3.66 billion insurtech-focused venture capital invested in the region, according to **S&P Global Market Intelligence data**.
- ❖ The data showed that at least 335 private insurtechs are operating in **Asia-Pacific**, with about 122 of them disclosing \$3.66 billion in aggregate capital raised via private placement deals. China and India are collectively home to nearly half of private insurtech companies in the APAC region and attracted about 78 per cent of the investments.
- ❖ Insurance technology investors are attracted to India since **it is one of the fastest-growing insurance markets in the world**.

## INDIA CLIMBS TO THIRD SPOT EY INDEX

- ❖ India has moved a notch higher at the **third spot on EY's Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index** due to exceptional performance on the **solar photovoltaic (PV) front**.
- 
- ❖ India has moved one position above (3rd) from the previous index (4th), this is primarily because of the exceptional performance on the solar PV front. **The US retains the top position on RECAI 57**, China has remained a buoyant market and maintains the second position.
  - ❖ India also committed to setting up 450 GW for renewable energy power capacity (installed) by 2030 in the recent climate summit hosted by the US.

## GAUTAM ADANI BECOMES ASIA'S SECOND RICHEST MAN

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

❖ **Billionaire Gautam Adani has edged past Chinese tycoon Zhong Shanshan** to become the second-richest Asian, according to the **Bloomberg Billionaire Index**.



lost

❖ China's Zhong was the richest Asian till February when he lost the crown to **Mukesh Ambani, India's richest person and chairman of Reliance Industries Ltd.**

❖ However, while Ambani lost \$175.5 million this year, Adani's wealth surged by \$32.7 billion to touch \$66.5 billion, against Zhong's \$63.6 billion.

❖ Ambani's total wealth now stands at \$76.5 billion, making him the 13th richest in the world, followed by Adani at 14th.

- **Mukesh Ambani** ----- \$76.3B ----- India
- **Gautam Adani** ---- \$67.6B ---- India
- **Zhong Shanshan** ----- \$65.6B ----- China

## FORBES UNVEILED LIST OF HIGHEST PAID ATHLETES

❖ Forbes has unveiled its annual list of the 10 highest-paid athletes of the year.



❖ **UFC star Conor McGregor has topped the Forbes list** by earning \$180 million in the past year beating soccer superstars Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo to become the highest-paid athlete in the world.

❖ The factors used by Forbes' for calculation include all prize money, salaries and bonuses earned between May 1, 2020, and May 1, 2021.



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

***Ranking Index***

- **Conor McGregor** (Ireland) MMA \$180 million
- **Lionel Messi** (Argentina) Soccer \$130 million
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** (Portugal) Soccer \$120 million
- **Dak Prescott** (United States) Football \$107.5 million
- **Lebron James** (United States) Basketball \$96.5 million

CLAT Gurukul





# SCIENCE & TECH.

---

## CHINA'S FIRST EVER MARS ROVER 'ZHURONG'

❖ **China has named its first-ever Mars rover “Zhurong”** an ancient fire god ahead of a landing attempt on the Red Planet in May.



after

❖ The **China National Space Administration (CNSA)** revealed the name at the **sixth China Space Day held in Nanjing**. The Chinese name for Mars, “**Huoxing,**” literally means “**fire star.**”

❖ **Zhurong was the most popular of 10 shortlisted names** for a public vote that opened in January, and that choice was backed by an expert panel and the CNSA itself.

❖ The **rover carries panoramic and multispectral cameras and instruments to analyze the composition of rocks.** Zhurong will also investigate subsurface characteristics with ground-penetrating radar if all goes according to plan.

## NASA'S PARKER SOLAR PROBE

❖ **NASA's Parker Solar Probe** detected a natural radio signal, indicating that the spacecraft had passed through the **planet's upper atmosphere.** In nearly 30 years, this was first direct measurement of Venus's atmosphere.



the

❖ The **historic Parker Solar Probe mission from NASA** will transform our perception of the sun, where changing conditions will spread across the solar system, impacting Earth and other worlds.



- ❖ The **Parker Solar Probe would fly through the sun's atmosphere**, getting closer to the surface than any spacecraft before it, enduring extreme heat and radiation, and supplying mankind with the closest-ever observations of a star.
- ❖ **Parker Solar Probe** has three distinct scientific goals:
  - ❖ Follow the energy flow that heats and speeds up the **solar wind and solar corona**. Investigate the structure and dynamics of plasma and magnetic fields at solar wind sources. Explore how energetic particles are accelerated and transported.

## ISRO DEVELOPS VENTILATORS & OXYGEN CONCENTRATORS

- ❖ The **Indian Space Research Organisation's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**, has developed three different types of ventilators and an oxygen concentrator at time when a shortage of this critical medical equipment resulted in the deaths of many Covid-19 patients across the country.



- ❖ Based on designs, features and specifications, we have named them, **Prana, VaU and Svasta**. All three are user-friendly, fully automated and with **touch-screen specifications, meeting all safety standards**. **Technology transfer** will be done for the commercial production of these **three ventilators and the one oxygen concentrator** by this month itself.
- ❖ **About the Prana, VaU, Svasta and Shwaas:** Prana is meant to deliver respiratory gas to the patient by automated compression of an **Ambu bag**, **Svasta** is designed to work without electric power, and the VaU is a low-cost ventilator equivalent to commercially available high-end ventilators.

## CHINA'S ROVER 'ZHURONG' SUCCESSFULLY LANDED ON MARS

❖ China successfully achieved the feat of landing its **first Mars Rover 'Zhu Rong' on the red planet**, on May 15, 2021, becoming the only second nation to do so.



❖ Till date, only the **United States has successfully landed its rover on Mars**. All other countries that have tried have either crashed or lost contact soon after reaching the surface.

❖ The vehicle used a combination of a protective capsule, a parachute & a rocket platform to make the descent.

❖ **Zhurong, which means God of Fire**, was carried to **Mars on the Tianwen-1 orbiter**. China's Mars rover, called Zhurong after an ancient fire god in Chinese mythology, will part ways with the lander by driving down a foldable ramp. Once it has deployed, the rover is expected to spend at least 90 Mars days.

## DRDO DEVELOPED ANTIBODY DETECTION KIT 'DIPCOVAN'

❖ India's **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has developed a Covid-19 antibody detection kit.



❖ The **DIPCOVAN kit** can detect both spikes as well as nucleocapsid proteins of Coronavirus with a high sensitivity of 97%.

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- ❖ It has been approved by the **Indian Council of Medical Research** and has been developed by the **Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences lab** of DRDO in association with Delhi's Vanguard Diagnostics Pvt Ltd.
- ❖ About the DIPCOVAN: DIPCOVAN is intended for the qualitative detection of IgG antibodies in human serum or plasma, targeting **SARS-CoV-2 related antigens**.
- ❖ It offers a significantly faster turnaround time of just 75 minutes to conduct the test without any cross-reactivity with other diseases. The kit has a shelf life of 18 months.

## NASA & ISRO DEVELOPS EARTH SYSTEM OBSERVATORY

- ❖ The US space agency, **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** is developing a new system called the Earth System Observatory, to mitigate efforts related to climate change and disaster mitigation.
- ❖ NASA has also partnered with **the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** which will provide **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)**.
- ❖ **NISAR will carry two radar systems** to measure changes in the **Earth's surface**, during one of the observatory's first missions intended as a pathfinder.
- ❖ The **Earth System Observatory** will be a set of missions designed to study "**designated observables**" such as aerosols, clouds and weather, water supply, and the Earth's surface and ecosystems, for an unprecedented understanding of the critical interactions between Earth's atmosphere, land, ocean, and ice processes, which determines how the changing climate will play out at regional and local levels, on near and long-term time scales.



- ❖ Each new satellite under **Earth System Observatory** will be uniquely **designed to create 3D, holistic view of Earth, from bedrock to atmosphere, providing a new architecture to advanced space-borne Earth observation systems.**

## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

### NASA'S OSIRIS-REX MISSION

Recently, **NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft departed from asteroid Bennu, and started its two-year long journey back to Earth. OSIRIS-REx is NASA's first mission to visit a near-Earth asteroid, survey its surface and collect a sample from it.**

### ABOUT OSIRIS-REX MISSION

It is the **United States' first asteroid sample return mission**, aiming to collect and carry a pristine, unaltered sample from an asteroid back to earth for scientific study. The **OSIRIS-REx (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer)** spacecraft was launched in 2016 for the journey to Bennu. The mission is essentially a seven-year-long voyage and will conclude when at least 60 grams of samples are delivered back to the Earth (in 2023). As per the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**, the mission promises to bring the largest amount of extraterrestrial material back to the Earth since the Apollo era. **Apollo was the NASA program** that resulted in American astronauts' making a total of 11 space flights and walking on the moon (1968-72). The spacecraft contains five instruments meant to explore Bennu including cameras, a spectrometer and a laser altimeter. Recently, the spacecraft's robotic arm called the **Touch-And-Go Sample Acquisition Mechanism (TAGSAM)**, made an attempt to **"TAG" the asteroid at a sample site and collected a sample.**

### SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MISSION

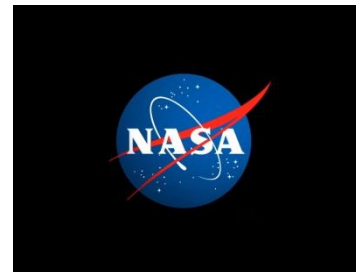
Scientists will use the **asteroid samples to study the formation of the solar system** and of habitable planets such as Earth. NASA will also distribute a part of the samples to laboratories worldwide and will

reserve about 75% of the samples for future generations who can study it with technologies not yet created.

**Asteroid Bennu: Bennu is an ancient asteroid**, currently more than 200 million miles from Earth. It is about as tall as the **Empire State Building (US)** and is named after an Egyptian deity. The asteroid was discovered by a team from the **NASA-funded Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research** team in 1999. It is known that this asteroid is a B-type asteroid, implying that it contains significant amounts of carbon and various other minerals. **Because of its high carbon content, it reflects about 4% of the light that hits it**, which is very low when compared with a planet like Venus, which reflects about 65% of the light that hits it. Earth reflects about 30%. **Around 20-40% of Bennu's interior** is empty space and scientists believe that it was formed in the first 10 million years of the solar system's formation, implying that it is roughly 4.5 billion years old. There is a slight possibility that Bennu, which is classified as a **Near Earth Object (NEO)**, might strike the Earth in the next century, between the years 2175 and 2199. NEOs are comets and asteroids nudged by the gravitational attraction of nearby planets into orbits which allows them to enter the Earth's neighbourhood. Bennu is believed to have been born in the Main Asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter and because of gravitational tugs from other celestial objects and the slight push asteroids get when they release absorbed sunlight, the asteroid is coming closer to Earth. Bennu offers scientists a window into the early solar system as it was first taking shape billions of years ago and tossing ingredients that could have helped seed life on Earth. Significantly, Bennu hasn't undergone drastic changes since its formation over billions of years ago and therefore it contains chemicals and rocks dating back to the birth of the solar system. It is also relatively close to the Earth.

## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS & SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)

The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** is independent agency of the executive branch of the United States federal government responsible for the civilian space program, as well as aeronautics and aerospace research. **Established under the National Aeronautics and Space Act 1958.** Headquarters: Washington, DC, USA



an  
well

**History: Following World War II**, the United States was in direct competition with the erstwhile Soviet Union (the superpower that was disbanded into several sovereign nations including the **Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, the Ukraine**, etc. in 1991). That **period was called “Cold War”**. It was the Soviet Union’s launch of Sputnik on October 4, 1957, that first put an object into orbit around Earth. It was followed in November by the even larger Sputnik II, which carried the dog Laika. Only in late January 1958, the United States could launch Explorer 1, hoisted aloft by the Army’s rocket team, using rocket technology developed from World War II. Though a small spacecraft weighing only 30 pounds, it discovered what are now **known as the Van Allen radiation belts**, named for the **University of Iowa scientist Dr. James Van Allen**, launching the new discipline of space science. Explorer 1 was followed in March, 1958 by the Navy’s Vanguard 1, 6 inches in diameter and weighing only 3 pounds. NASA’s birth was directly related to the launch of the Sputniks and the ensuing race to demonstrate technological superiority in space. Driven by the competition of the Cold War, on July 29, 1958, **President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act**, providing for research into the problems of flight within Earth’s atmosphere and in space.

## WHAT ARE THE ASTEROIDS?

These are **rocky objects that orbit the Sun**, much smaller than planets. They are also called minor planets. **According to NASA, 9,94,383 is the count of known asteroids**, the remnants from the formation of the solar system over 4.6 billion years ago.



**Asteroids are divided into three classes:** First, those found in the **main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter**, which is estimated to contain somewhere between 1.1-1.9 million asteroids. The second group is that of trojans, which are asteroids that share an orbit with a larger planet. The third classification is **Near-Earth Asteroids (NEA)**, which have orbits that pass close by the Earth. Those that cross the Earth’s orbit are called Earth-crossers. More than 10,000 such asteroids are known, out of which over 1,400 are classified as **Potentially Hazardous Asteroids (PHAs)**. PHAs are currently defined based on parameters that measure the **asteroid’s potential to make threatening close approaches to the Earth.**

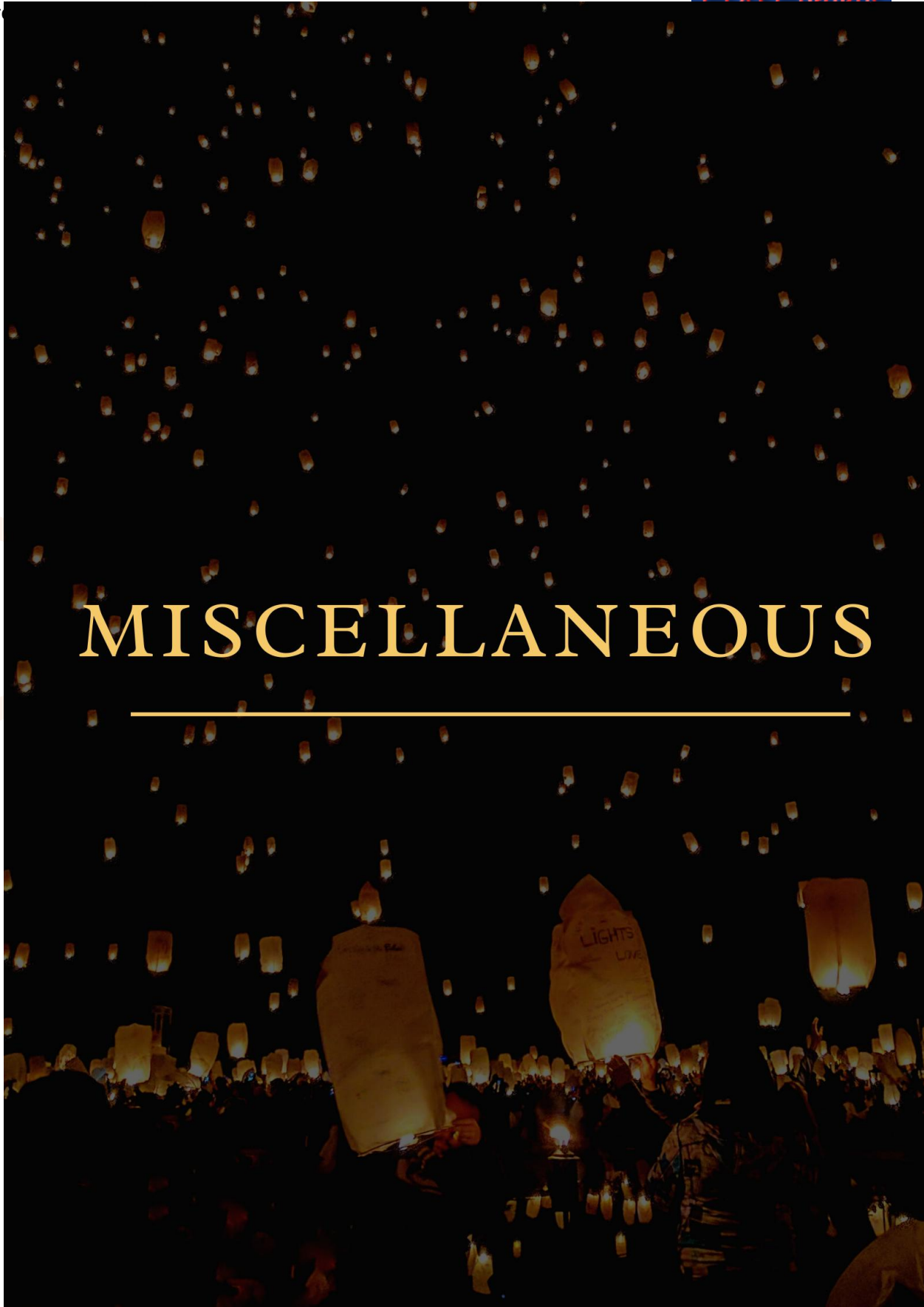


Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

Specifically, all asteroids with an **Earth Minimum Orbit Intersection Distance (MOID)** of 0.05 au or less and an absolute magnitude (H) of 22.0 or less are considered PHAs.

CLAT Gurukul





# MISCELLANEOUS

---



## ANAND MAHINDRA LAUNCHED 'OXYGEN ON WHEELS'

❖ The **Mahindra Group Chairman, Anand Mahindra** has rolled out a project titled **‘Oxygen on Wheels’** to ease the transportation of oxygen from producing plants to hospitals homes, following acute oxygen shortage amid a severe second wave of coronavirus.



and

❖ The **‘Oxygen on Wheels’ initiative will bridge the gap between oxygen production and its transportation in India**, especially in Maharashtra.

❖ Mahindra has lined up around 70 Bolero pickup trucks to connect oxygen producers with hospitals and homes, to deliver oxygen cylinders. **The project is being implemented through Mahindra Logistics.**

❖ Apart from this, an operations control centre has been established and the storage location is replenished from the local refilling plant. A direct-to-consumer model is also being conceived.

- Mahindra Group CEO: **Pawan Kumar Goenka.**
- Mahindra Group Founded: **2 October 1945, Ludhiana.**

## WORLD'S LARGEST AEROPLANE BY STRATOLAUNCH

❖ The **world’s largest aeroplane**, designed to transport hypersonic vehicles and facilitate easy access to space, **soared clear skies over California’s Mojave Desert.**



into

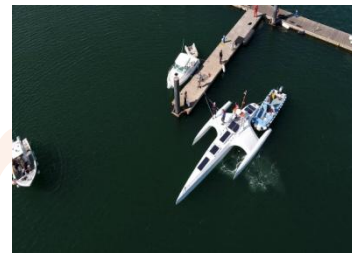
❖ The company Stratolaunch designed it to transport hypersonic vehicles and facilitate easy access to space.

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- ❖ The aircraft named ‘Roc’ features a twin-fuselage design and the longest wingspan ever flown, at 385 feet (117 m), surpassing the Hughes H-4 Hercules flying boat of 321 feet (98 m).
- ❖ The Stratolaunch is intended to carry a 550,000-pound payload and will be able to launch rockets from high altitude.
  - Stratolaunch Headquarters: **Mojave, California, USA.**
  - Stratolaunch CEO & President: **Jean Floyd.**

## WORLD'S FIRST UNMANNED VESSEL 'MAYFLOWER 400'

- ❖ **World’s First Unmanned Vessel named “Mayflower 400”** to Navigate Across the Atlantic. It has been built by the marine research organization **ProMare in collaboration IBM.**



is set  
with

- ❖ It will begin its transatlantic voyage on May 15, 2021, to track aquatic mammals, analyze plastic in the water, and study marine pollution.
- ❖ **About the Mayflower 400: Mayflower 400** is a completely autonomous ship. It is a 15-m-long trimaran that weighs 9 tons. It is powered by Artificial Intelligence and the Sun’s energy via solar panels.
- ❖ **ProMare invested \$1 million** along with global contributions in the form of technology from **India, the United States, and Switzerland to build the ship.**
- ❖ The ship, equipped with a smart captain, six high-tech cameras and radars, has been trained with audio data to avoid collisions, correct its course, detect marine animals, and gather information of the population of the aquatic animals.

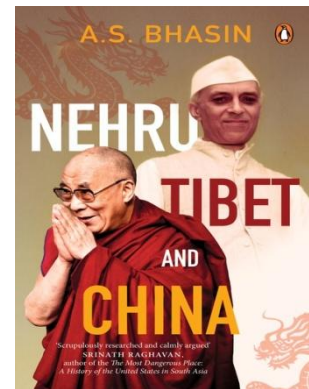
- ❖ The **ship can also listen to whales with a self-activating hydrophone**. Currently, the ship is trained to handle 50 meters high waves. **Mayflower 400 autonomous ship** provides an edge to the scientists in exploring the rough seas as the ship will be unmanned.

- IBM Chief Executive Officer (CEO): **Arvind Krishna**.
- IBM Headquarters: **Armonk, USA**.

## BOOK TITLED 'NEHRU, TIBET & CHINA' RELEASED

- ❖ A book has titled “Nehru, Tibet and China” authored by **Avtar Singh Bhasin**.

- ❖ The book based on years of meticulous archival research, this in fascinating detail, analyses the events from **1949 to the Indo-China war in 1962** and its aftermath to explore the answers to burning questions.



book  
these

- ❖ History of India, Tibet and China: On 1 October 1949, the **People’s Republic of China came into being** and changed forever the course of Asian history.
- ❖ Power moved from the hands of the **nationalist Kuomintang government to the Communist Party of China headed by Mao Tse Tung**. All of a sudden, it was not only an assertive China that India had to deal with but also an increasingly complex situation in Tibet which was reeling under pressure from China.

## FASTEST ASCENT OF MOUNT EVEREST RECORD BROKEN

- ❖ **Tsang Yin-hung, a Hong Kong-based mountaineer,** created the record of the **world's fastest ascent of Everest by a woman,** within the time of just under 26 hours.



has

- ❖ The **44-year-old Tsang,** scaled the 8,848.86-metre (29,031 feet) Everest mountain in a record time of 25 hours and 50 minutes on May 23. **It was her third attempt of scaling the Himalayan peak.**
- ❖ In 2017, Tsang became the **first Hong Kong woman to reach the top of the mountain peak.** Before this, the record of fastest woman to conquer Everest was held by **Nepali Phunjo Jhangmu Lama,** who had completed the climb in 39 hours 6 minutes in 2018.

CLAT Gurukul



# **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**MAY  
01ST - 31ST MAY**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

10. NATIONAL AFFAIRS .....

11. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.....

12. ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.....

13. APPOINTMENTS.....

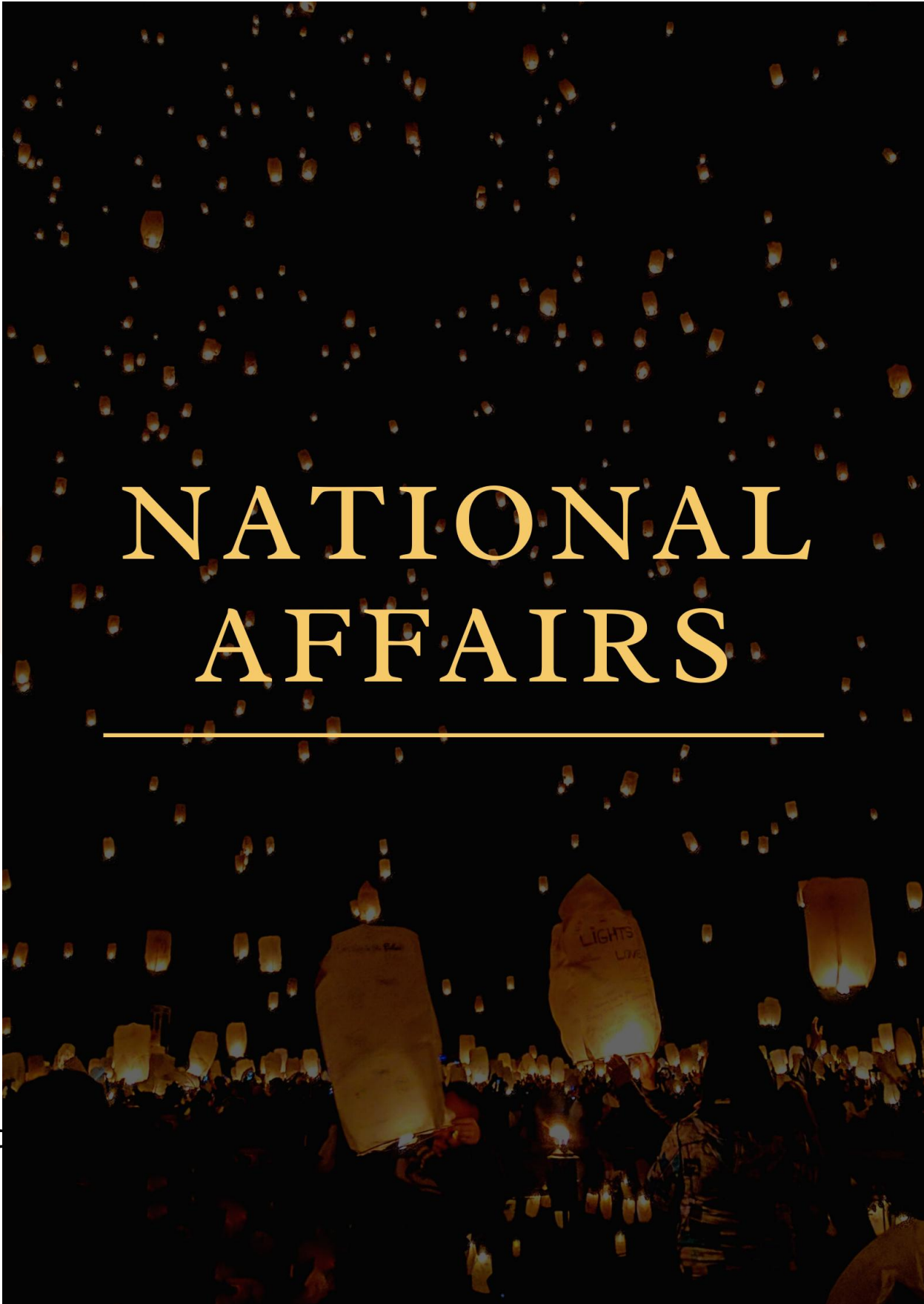
14. AWARDS AND HONORS.....

15. IMPORTANT DATES & SPORTS.....

16. REPORTS AND INDEXES.....

17. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY.....

18. MISCELLANEOUS.....



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS

MA  
MTA  
BAN  
ERJ  
EE  
TAK  
ES  
OAT  
H  
AS  
WB  
CM  
FOR  
3RD  
TIM  
E

❖ **Mamata Banerjee** was sworn in as **West Bengal Chief Minister for the third time** in the shadow of Covid and post-violence in parts of the state.



poll

❖ The oath ceremony took place with Covid protocols in place at “**Throne Room**” at the **Raj Bhavan**. The rest of the cabinet and the council of ministers will be sworn in on May 9, the **birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore**.

the

❖ **Mamata Banerjee** won a landslide victory in the Bengal election to secure a **third straight term**. The Trinamool won 213 of 292 seats while its strongest rival, BJP, finished second with 77 seats.

## N RANGASAMY SWORN IN AS CM OF PUDUCHERRY

❖ The **All India NR Congress (AINRC)** founder leader **N Rangasamy** has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of the **Union Territory of Puducherry**, for a record fourth time, on 07, 2021.



May

❖ **N Rangasamy** was administered the oath of office and secrecy by **Lieutenant governor (additional charge) Tamilisai Soundararajan**.

by

❖ Prior to this, the 71-year-old served as **Chief Minister of Puducherry from 2001 to 2008** as a member of the Indian National Congress and then from 2011 to 2016 as a member of AINRC. It will be the first time that Rangasamy will be heading a coalition cabinet, **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** in the UT, which has members from **BJP and AINRC**.

## DMK CHIEF MK STALIN AS CM OF TAMIL NADU



- ❖ **Tamil Nadu governor Banwarilal Purohit** has appointed **Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) chief MK Stalin** as chief minister of Tamil Nadu.



the

- ❖ The 68-year-old is the son of the former five-term Tamil Nadu chief minister, the **late M Karunanidhi**.
- ❖ The **DMK-led alliance won 159 seats**, well ahead of the majority mark of 118 seats. The party alone won 133 seats in the election.
- ❖ **In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections**, Stalin led the **United Progressive Alliance (UPA)**, of which the DMK is a constituent, to victory in 38 out of 39 parliamentary seats in Tamil Nadu.

## INDIAN NAVY LAUNCHED OPERATION SAMUDRA SETU-II

- ❖ The **Indian Navy has launched Operation Samudra Setu-II** to help in faster transportation of medical oxygen other requirements from other countries to India, amid its worsening COVID-19 pandemic.



and

- ❖ **As a part of operation 'Samudra Setu II'**, seven Indian Naval ships have been deployed for shipment of liquid medical oxygen-filled cryogenic containers and associated medical equipment from various countries. These warships are **Kolkata, Kochi, Talwar, Tabar, Trikand, Jalashwa and Airavat**.
- ❖ In 2020, the Indian Navy launched **Operation Samudra Setu**, as part of the **Vande Bharat Mission**, to repatriate approximately 4,000 stranded and distressed Indian citizens from the **Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Iran**.

## N. SITHARAMAN ATTENDED ADB ANNUAL MEETING

- ❖ **Nirmala Sitharaman**, India's Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister and the **Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Governor**, recently attended the ADB's annual meeting 2021's Governors' Seminar on "Cooperation for a Resilient Future.



- ❖ **Sitharaman** praised the **Asian Development Bank** for providing timely financial support for both Covid and non-Covid ventures.
- ❖ **ADB is a regional development bank**. Its headquarters are in **Manila, Philippines**, and it was established on December 19, 1966. It has been designated as an official UN Observer. Currently, the **Asian Development Bank has 68 members, 49 of whom are Asian**.
- ❖ The bank is open to non-regional developing countries and members of the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP, previously the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East or ECAFE)**.

## G20 TOURISM MINISTER'S MEETING 2021

- ❖ **Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture (I/c), Prahlad Singh Patel** participated in G20 Tourism Ministers' Meeting held in Italy on 4th May 2021.



- ❖ This dialogue aimed to collaborate in protecting tourism businesses, jobs and taking initiatives to frame policy guidelines to support the **sustainable and resilient recovery of travel and tourism**.

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- ❖ He also conveyed India's support for the Principles for the transition to a green travel and tourism economy submitted by UNWTO as a further contribution to the policy area "**Green Transformation**" to embrace sustainability in tourism.
- ❖ Patel also highlighted the **initiatives taken by the Ministry of Tourism** to promote community-based tourism and rural tourism by involving the local population in employment opportunities and income-generating activities through sustainable and responsible tourism.
- ❖ The **Minister concluded with thanks to the Italian G20 Presidency** for its leadership and India will continue its support and cooperation to ensure further progress under **Indonesia's G20 Presidency in 2022**.

## PUDUCHERRY BECOMES 'HAR GHAR JAL' UT

- ❖ Puducherry has achieved the **target of 100% piped water connection** in rural areas under the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**. Earlier, Goa, **Telangana and Andaman & Nicobar Islands** have provided tap water supply to every rural home under Jal Jeevan Mission.



- ❖ So, **Puducherry is the fourth State/UT** to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home under Jal Jeevan Mission.
- ❖ **Jal Jeevan Mission** is being implemented in partnership with **States/ UTs to provide safe tap water to every rural home by 2024**. The **State of Punjab and the UTs of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu** have covered over 75% of rural homes with assured tap water supply.

## INDIA & INDONESIA NAVIES CONDUCTED NAVAL EXERCISE

❖ The **Indian and Indonesian Navies** conducted **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** in the southern Arabian Sea with a on further improving their interoperability.



focus

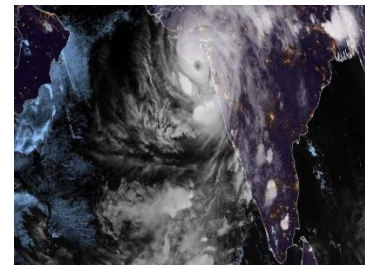
❖ The exercise was **aimed at improving interoperability** and understanding between both the friendly navies.

❖ From the **Indian Navy**, **INS Sharda**, an **Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV)** with a Chetak helicopter participated in the exercise. From the **Indonesian Navy**, **KRI Sultan Hasanudin**, a 90m Corvette took part in the exercise.

❖ **About the PASSEX: PASSEXes** are regularly conducted by IN with units of Friendly Foreign Countries. **The last PASSEX between IN and the Indonesian Navy** was conducted on 13 Mar 21 between INS Kalpeni, IN Dornier and KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda.

### CYCLONE TAUKATE HITS MANY STATES OF INDIA

❖ **Cyclone Taukate** has obtained its maximum intensity in wee hours of Sunday and has now become a **Very Severe Cyclonic Storm** (wind speed of 118 to 166 km/hr).



the

❖ The latest cyclone alert issued by the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has said that this storm would reach close to **Gujarat coast, Maharashtra, Goa.**

❖ Light to moderate intensity rainfall is expected to continue over coastal Karnataka and Kerala till Monday.

### HP GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED AYUSH GHAR-DWAR INITIATIVE

Page 11  
5

- ❖ **Himachal Government has launched the ‘Ayush Ghar-Dwar’** program to keep the home isolated Covid-19 positive patients healthy by practising Yoga.



- ❖ This program has been **started by the Department of AYUSH** in collaboration with the **Art of Living organisation**. Yoga Bharti’s instructors would provide their services in the program.
- ❖ During the launch, about 80 home isolated Covid positive patients from all over the state were also connected virtually.
- ❖ Under the program, approximately 1000 virtual groups on social media **platforms like zoom, WhatsApp and Google meet** will be formed to connect with COVID positive patients in home isolation.
- ❖ The initiative intends to provide a **holistic healthcare approach through AYUSH** to ensure not only physical but also mental, social and spiritual wellbeing.

## PM CARES FUND FOR CHILDREN ORPHANED IN COVID-19

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a **number of welfare measures** for children who lost their parents to COVID-19.



of

❖ All children who have lost either **both parents or surviving parents or legal guardians or adoptive parents** due to COVID-19 will be supported under **PM-CARES for Children scheme**. The welfare measures have been listed below:

❖ **Fixed Deposit in the name of the child:** The government has announced the “PM-CARES for Children” scheme under **which fixed deposits will be opened in the names of such children** from the PM-CARES fund.

❖ The total corpus of the fund will be Rs 10 lakh for each child. This corpus will be used to give a monthly financial support/ stipend when the child reaches 18 years of age, for the next five years to take care of his or her personal requirements.

❖ **Education:** Children under 10 years will be given admission to the nearest **Kendriya Vidyalaya or in a private school** as a day scholar. Children between 11-18 years of age will be given admission to any central government residential school such as Sainik School and Navodaya Vidyalaya.

❖ **Health Insurance:** Each child will be enrolled as a beneficiary under **Ayushman Bharat Scheme (PM-JAY)** with a health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh. The premium amount for these children will be paid by PM CARES, till they attain the age of 18 years.

PINARAYI VIJAYAN TAKE OATH AS KERALA CM



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- ❖ **Pinarayi Vijayan** was sworn as Kerala Chief Minister for the **second time** in the shadow of the Covid-19 crisis in the state.
- ❖ The oath ceremony took place with Covid protocols in place at the **Central Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram.**
- ❖ **Governor Arif Mohammed Khan** administered the oath of office to 76-year-old Vijayan. It is the second stint of the Marxist veteran in the top office.
- ❖ **The new Left Democratic Front (LDF)** government bucked the trends, as Kerala usually alternates between the Left and a Congress government, by registering a dominant win in the 6 April assembly polls. **The LDF won 99 of 140 seats.**

## INS RAJPUT TO BE DECOMMISSIONED FROM INDIAN NAVY

- ❖ The **first destroyer of the Indian Navy**, INS Rajput, will be decommissioned on May 21. It was commissioned on 04 May 1980.
- ❖ After rendering service for 41 years, it will be decommissioned at the **Naval Dockyard of Visakhapatnam.** INS Rajput was built by Russia in the 61 Communards Shipyard. Its Original Russian name was ‘**Nadezhny**’.
- ❖ INS Rajput served for both Western and Eastern Fleets and its first commanding officer was **Capt Gulab Mohanlal Hiranandani.**
- ❖ It is the 1st Indian Naval Ship to be associated with an Indian Army regiment – the **Rajput Regiment.** It participated in many operations including **Operation Aman, Operation Pawan, Operation Cactus, etc.**



## SIX INDIAN HERITAGE SITES ADDED TO UNESCO LIST

❖ The **Union Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel** recently announced that around six cultural heritage sites have been added to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



❖ With this, the total number of sites in the **UNESCO World Heritage Sites Tentative list has increased to 48.**

❖ The following six places have successfully entered the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage sites.

- Ganga Ghats of Varanasi
- Temples of Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu
- Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh
- Maharashtra Military Architecture
- Hire Benkal Megalithic site
- Bhedaghat Lametaghat of Narmada Valley in Madhya Pradesh

## SEVERE CYCLONIC STORM 'YAAS' TO HIT INDIA

❖ A category 5 cyclonic storm has been forecasted to make its landfall along the **coastline of West Bengal and Odisha** between May 26-27.



❖ Once formed, the cyclone will be named 'Yaas'. **Yaas will be as deadly as Amphan** which was also formed in the Bay of Bengal in May last year. **Yaas, named by Oman** as such, refers to a Jasmine-like tree that has a good fragrance.



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- ❖ A rotational list of the names of cyclones is maintained by the **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)**, with the names specific for each tropical zone.
- ❖ If a cyclone is especially deadly then its name is never used and is replaced by another name. The list has a total of 169 names at present which will be used on a rotational basis.
  - World Meteorological Organisation Headquarters: **Geneva, Switzerland**
  - World Meteorological Organisation Founded: **23 March 1950**
  - World Meteorological Organisation President: **David Grimes.**

## HARSH VARDHAN CHAIRED 74TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

- ❖ Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chairman of WHO Executive Board, **Dr Harsh Vardhan**, chaired the 74th World Health Assembly in virtual mode.

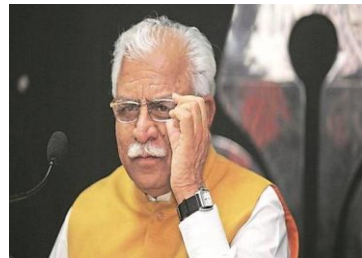


in

- ❖ According to Dr Harsh Vardhan, the executive board has asked for further efforts which can ensure fair and equitable access to **COVID-19 vaccines under COVAX Facility.**
- ❖ **Director-General of World Health Organisation, Dr Tedros**, also participated in the event.
- ❖ Board recommended 74th World Health Assembly to consider the report on **mental health preparedness and response for the Covid-19 pandemic.**
- ❖ It further recommended endorsing updated comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan for 2013 to 2030 and encouraged WHO to work in collaboration with **World Organisation for Animal Health and Food & Agriculture Organisation** so that source of zoonotic virus can be identified.

## HARYANA GOVT. LAUNCHED 'SANJEEVANI PARIYOJANA'

- ❖ Haryana government has launched an anti-Covid “**Sanjeevani Pariyojana**”, which will provide supervised **quick medical care at home for people**, with mild to moderate symptoms of Covid-19, residing in rural areas.



and

- ❖ This Pariyojana has been launched to extend medical care in rural areas where awareness regarding the second wave of Covid-19 and related treatment remains low.
- ❖ It is an important step of bringing medical care for the people who need it most and when they need it most.
- ❖ Under the initiative: The scope of medical advice will be expanded beyond qualified doctors as **it will mobilize 200 final year and pre-final year medical students** and interns by connecting them to consultants and experts.
- ❖ The initiative comprises an Integrated Command and Control Centre to manage critical resources such as **ambulance tracking, oxygen supply, hospital beds availability, besides, door-to-door awareness campaign**. Thus, it will help the district administration in keeping a bird’s eye view of the entire healthcare system.

## KERALA GOVT. INITIATED NEW SMART KITCHEN SCHEME



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- ❖ **Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan** has announced a secretary-level committee will formulate guidelines and recommendations on implementation of the “**Smart Kitchen Scheme**” in state to fulfil commitments of the **Left Democratic Front (LDF)**.
- ❖ It aims to account and reduce the workload of women’s domestic labour. **Smart Kitchen Scheme will be launched by July 10, 2021.**
- ❖ Under the scheme, women of state will be given loan to refurbish their kitchen. Loan will be provided with a low-interest rate in instalment schemes. Scheme seeks to **reduce workload of women’s domestic labour.**

## RAJNATH SINGH LAUNCHED SEHAT OPD PORTAL

- ❖ **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** has launched the ‘**Services e-Health Assistance & Tele-consultation (SeHAT) OPD portal**, through video conferencing.

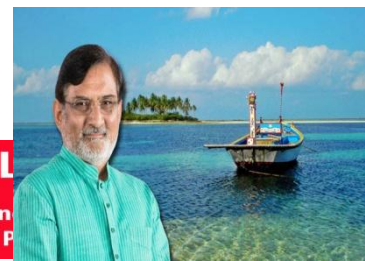


- ❖ The main motive of the portal is to provide telemedicine services to the serving Armed Forces personnel, veterans and their families.
- ❖ **About the Portal:** The portal can be accessed at <https://sehatopd.in/>, to avail the telemedicine services. **SeHAT OPD portal is the final version with advanced safety features.**

## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

### LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REGULATION

2021



**Residents of Lakshadweep** have been protesting against some new regulations that have been introduced by their new administrator Praful Khoda Patel. The citizens are even saying that the **administrator is not working for the island**. The new rules allow the liquor to be sold on the island, bans beef and plans to disenfranchise the islanders of various counts.

## WHAT IS DRAFT LDAR 2021?

The **Draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation, 2021 or LDAR 2021** was notified on the official website of the administration. Its proposal is to change the existing land ownership on the island. It also aims to modify the usage in Lakshadweep by **providing sweeping, arbitrary, unchecked powers to the government**. This in turn is directly interfering with the island's resident's right to possess and retain their property. The Regulation also gives the powers to the Government to choose any land for **“development” activities that have been provided under its regulation**. Once the land is picked, it could be used as per the government sees fit.

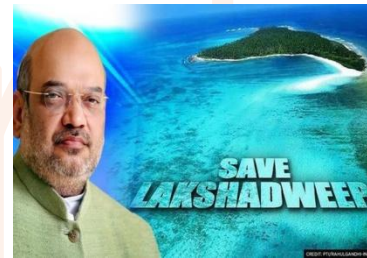
## MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE DRAFT

- **Introduction of the anti-social Activities Regulation Bill, 2021:** The government introduced a draft detention law called the **Prevention of Anti-Social Activities**, which if implemented can empower the administration to detain anyone without public disclosure for up to one year.
- **Beef Ban:** The government also introduced the **draft Lakshadweep Animal Preservation Regulation 2021**, which if implemented will ban the slaughter of cows, calves of a cow, bulls and bullocks.
- **Land Development Initiatives:** Since Lakshadweep is a Union Territory without an Assembly it is directly controlled by the Centre. The administration introduced the Draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation, 2021, which if implemented will empower the government to take any piece of land owned by any **common man in the island for “development” purposes**.

- **Diversion of all cargo to Mangalore:** The administration has introduced measures diverting all cargo to Mangalore. The move has been met with opposition because, prior to this, majority of the local businessmen relied on Beypore port in Kerala, a state with which the islanders have strong cultural ties.
- **Decision to allow functioning of liquor bars:** Lakshadweep is a **Muslim-majority region** with Malayalam being the dominant language. The islands are **non-alcoholic zones**. However, Patel gave his nod for businesses to open liquor bars in the island, stating that such a move will promote tourism.

## PEOPLE'S CONCERN RELATED TO THE DRAFT

As per the citizens the following are the reasons for the discontent of the citizens/ residents: The 10 inhabited islands were under a two month lockdown. The **Lakshadweep administration** is accused of exploitation of the public's inability at time to mobilise arbitrary legislation. Locals also say that these regulations are out of sync with the socio-political and environmental requirements. **Many islanders also suspect that LDAR** might have been issued for seeking real estate interests to usurp small holdings of property owned by islanders. The islanders also fear that the LDAR may provide for forcible eviction. It puts the onus on the owner to develop the holding as per plan by the authority. The **Regulation also provides for unchecked power to the Government and its bodies** interfering with the rights of the islanders to retain their property.



this

The **people of Lakshadweep** have also opposed the administrator of trying to interfere in the traditional life by introducing a ban on buying or selling beef products. The **Goonda Act being introduced in the island that has negligible crime** rate and revoking of restrictions on alcohol for benefit of tourism also have attracted criticism from the islanders. Some things that were equally non satisfactory were that the **island descended from being COVID 19 free region** to developing more than 6800 cases in a

year. Also the mandatory quarantine if the island bound travellers was done away with in the leadership of Praful Khoda Patel.

The protests got a **wider reach when Kerala MP Elamaram Kareem** wrote to **President Ram Nath Kovind** alleging that several casual laborers lost their jobs in the wake of new reforms. Further, sheds and equipment of fishermen were demolished without any warning by the new administration on the **account of violating the Coast Guard Act**. The new administration also said that islanders should rely on **Mangalore (Karnataka) rather than Beypore (Kerala)** for freight transit. People from Lakshadweep also have been taking it to social media writing they need help. The new administration has been destroying our land, tweeted a local resident of Lakshadweep.

## LAKSHADWEEP (INDIAN UNION TERRITORY)

- **About:** India's smallest Union Territory, Lakshadweep is an archipelago consisting of 36 islands with an area of 32 sq km. It is directly under the control of the Centre through an administrator.
- There are three main group of islands: **Amindivi Islands, Laccadive Islands, Minicoy Island**. Amindivi Islands are the northernmost while Minicoy island is the southernmost. **All are tiny islands of coral origin (Atoll)** and are surrounded by fringing reefs. The **Capital is Kavaratti** and it is also the principal town of the UT. Pitti island, which is uninhabited, has a bird sanctuary.
- **Population:** More than 93% of the population who are indigenous, are Muslims and majority of them belong to the Shafi School of the Sunni Sect. Malayalam is spoken in all the islands except Minicoy where people speak Mahl which is written in Divehi script and is spoken in Maldives also. The entire indigenous population has been classified as Scheduled Tribes because of their economic and social backwardness. **There are no Scheduled Castes in this Union Territory**. The main occupation of the people is fishing, coconut cultivation and coir twisting. Tourism is an emerging industry.



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- **Organic Agricultural Area:** Recently, the entire Lakshadweep group of islands has been declared as an organic agricultural area under the **Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) of India.**

CLAT Gurukul





# INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

---



## UK: 1ST NATION TO ANNOUNCE SELF DRIVING CARS

❖ The **United Kingdom** has become the first country to announce regulation for the use of self-driving vehicles at speeds.



low

❖ The UK wants to be at the forefront in rolling out autonomous driving technology. The **Government of the UK** forecasts that around **40%** of UK cars will have **self-driving capabilities** by 2035.

❖ **Most of the self-driving systems maintain an internal map.** They use lasers, sensors and radars to map their surroundings. Based on the map created, instructions are delivered to the actuators of the vehicle.

## NATO LAUNCHED EXERCISE 'DEFENDER EUROPE-21'

❖ **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** has launched military exercises “**DEFENDER-Europe 21**” in **Albania** thousands of military forces from the United States and other countries in the first such large-scale drills since World War II Western Balkans.



joint  
with  
in the

❖ **Albania is playing a critical part in the DEFENDER-Europe 21** exercise with Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore operations taking place.

❖ **DEFENDER-Europe** is an annual large-scale U.S. Army-led, multinational exercise, defensive in nature and focused on deterring aggression, which this year focuses on building operational readiness and **interoperability with NATO and a greater number of allies and partners over a wider area of operations than ever before.**

## INDIA & RUSSIA 2+2 MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE

❖ **India and Russia have agreed to establish a '2+2 Ministerial Dialogue' at the Foreign & Defence Minister level between the countries.**



two

❖ **Russia is the 4th country and 1st Non-Quad member country with India has established the '2+2 Ministerial dialogue' mechanism.**

which

❖ **India has such a mechanism with the US, Japan and Australia.** It is expected to boost the bilateral strategic partnership between India & Russia.

❖ **Relations between India and Russia are rooted in history, mutual trust and mutually beneficial cooperation.** This is a strategic partnership that has withstood the test of time, and which enjoys the support of the people of both countries.

❖ **Diplomatic relations between India and Russia began even before India achieved independence, on 13 April 1947.**

## INDIA & UK ROADMAP FOR BILATERAL TRADE PARTNERSHIP

❖ **The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson held a virtual Summit meeting.**



❖ **During the Summit meeting, both the leaders unveiled an ambitious 10-year road map to elevate the India-UK bilateral relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership. The UK prime minister Boris Johnson announced a new India-UK trade investment worth £1 billion.**

*Apart from this, India and the UK inked nine pacts.*

- ❖ These pacts were in areas such as **migration and mobility, digital and technology, telecommunications, energy and medicines, counter-terrorism**, besides agreeing to boost collaboration in dealing with climate change through a new partnership on renewables and power.
- ❖ They also launched **Enhanced Trade Partnership**, which included negotiation for a **comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**, including consideration of an interim trade agreement to deliver early gains. The two nations set an ambitious target of more than doubling bilateral trade by 2030.

## INDIA-FRANCE-AUSTRALIA TRILATERAL DIALOGUE

- ❖ The **first-ever India-France-Australia Trilateral Foreign Ministerial Dialogue** was held in London, UK, on the sidelines of the **G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting**.



- ❖ The **meeting was attended by External Affairs Minister, Dr S. Jaishankar** from India, France's Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Mr **Jean-Yves Le Drian** and Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, **Senator Marise Payne**.
- ❖ The **France, India, Australia trilateral meet** was launched in **September 2020 at Foreign Secretaries'** levels but has been elevated to ministerial level within one year of its inception. It has three joint priorities which are maritime security, environment, and multilateralism.
- ❖ The **G7 foreign ministers meeting is the first in-person meeting of foreign minister** of the grouping amid pandemic, with the last such meeting taking place in 2019.

## HOSTILITIES ESCALATED B/W ISRAEL & HAMAS

- ❖ The **Israeli military has bombarded rockets in different areas in Gaza**. It is the most intense airstrikes in Gaza since
- ❖ **Hamas had red hundreds of rockets towards Israel on Monday**. After that, Israel has carried out **hundreds of airstrikes in Gaza**.



2014.

- ❖ The **Gaza-based Palestinian group, Hamas**, had red rockets towards Israel in protest of the clash between Israeli police and Palestinian protesters in the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Al-Aqsa Mosque is located in Jerusalem. It is the third holiest place for Muslims.

### *About the Hamas:*

- It was **founded in 1987**.
  - It is a **Palestinian Sunni-Islamic fundamentalist organization**.
  - It is active in the **West Bank and Gaza Strip region of the Palestine**.
  - It opposes the **secular approach of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict**.
- Israel Capital is **Jerusalem** and the currency is the **Israeli shekel**.
  - **Benjamin Netanyahu is the Prime Minister of Israel**.

## NEPAL PM KP OLI LOST VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

- ❖ **Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli** has lost the **vote confidence in the House of Representatives**. K P Sharma 93 votes in his favour while 124 voted against him.
- ❖ In the **275-member House of Representatives**, he required




of  
Oli got

at least

136 Votes to win the **trust vote in the lower of the House of Representatives.**

- ❖ After the **NCP (Nationalist Congress Party)** withdrew its support from the government, PM Oli faced a vote of confidence. In January, **K P Sharma Oli** was expelled from the primary membership of the **Nepal Communist Party** for his decision to dissolve the Parliament.
  - **Nepal capital is Kathmandu** and the currency is Nepalese Rupees.
  - President of Nepal: **Bidya Devi Bhandari**

## KP SHARMA OLİ RE-APPOINTED AS PM OF NEPAL

- ❖ In Nepal, **KP Sharma Oli** was re-appointed as the **Prime Minister** of the country by **President Bidhya Devi Bhandari**.
- ❖ Oli was administered the **oath of office by the President** on May 14, 2021. Now, he must prove that he has majority support in the House within 30 days. This will be his **third stint as Prime Minister**.
- ❖ The **decision to re-appoint Oli** was taken after none of the **opposition party could secure majority seats in the House to form a new government** or apply for it in the provided time frame (by 9 pm on 13 May 2021).
- ❖ As a result, Oli, who is the **leader of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-UML)**, the largest party in the **House of Representatives**, was appointed for **Prime Minister**, as per the provision of 76(3) of the **Constitution of Nepal**.
- ❖ It must be noted that, on 10 May 2021, Oli failed to obtain a **vote of confidence in the House of Representatives**, gaining only 93 of the total 232 votes cast, which was 43 votes short of

reaching the 136-vote majority required to win the confidence vote. As a result, Oli was automatically relieved from his post.

## ITALY TO HOST GLOBAL G20 HEALTH SUMMIT

❖ The Global G20 Health Summit was co-hosted by **European Commission** along with Italy as part of its G20 presidency amid the surge and spread of coronavirus cases.



❖ The summit adopted the **agenda to overcome the Covid-pandemic**. It also decided to develop and endorse a **Rome Declaration of principles**.

19

❖ As per WHO officials, **the future of the pandemic is in hands of G20 leaders**. G20 has also contributed to the launch of ACT-Accelerator as it was launched after G20 called for a global mechanism to accelerate the development of tests, treatments and vaccines.

❖ **ACT-Accelerator is used for "Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator"**. It is also called Global Collaboration to Accelerate Development, Production and Equitable Access to COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines.

## UK LAUNCHED PLAN FOR 'GLOBAL PANDEMIC RADAR'


❖ The United Kingdom will develop an **advanced international pathogen surveillance network** to identify Covid-19 variants and emerging diseases.



❖ This Global Pandemic Radar will ensure the **early detection of new variants** and emerging pathogens, so vaccines and treatments needed to stop them can be rapidly developed.

- ❖ **Prime minister Boris Johnson** announced the plans, ahead of the Global Health Summit hosted by **Italy and the European Union (EU)**.
- ❖ About the radar: The radar is expected to be fully up and running with a network of surveillance hubs before the end of 2021, with the aim of **significantly improving global health security going into next year**.
- ❖ **WHO will lead an implementation group, supported by global health charity** the Wellcome Trust, to launch the new international partnership to identify, track and share data on new coronavirus variants and monitor vaccine resistance in populations.

## OPENING OF NEW CONSULATE GENERAL IN MALDIVES

- ❖ Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the opening of a **new Consulate General of India in Addu City, the Maldives in 2021**.  has
- ❖ India and Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links steeped in antiquity. Maldives occupies an important place in the 'Neighbourhood First Policy' and the **'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision of the Government of India**.
- ❖ About the Consulate General: The opening of a Consulate General in Addu City will help augment India's diplomatic presence in the Maldives and make it commensurate with the existing and aspired level of engagement.
- ❖ **The momentum and energy in the bilateral relationship** have reached unprecedented levels under the leadership of **Prime Minister Modi and President Solih**.

- ❖ This is also a forward-looking step in pursuit of our national priority of growth and development or ‘**SabkaSaathSabka Vikas**’ **Augmentation** of India’s diplomatic presence will, inter-alia, provide market access for Indian companies and bolster Indian exports of goods and services.
- ❖ This would have a direct impact in augmenting domestic production and employment in line with our goal of a self-reliant India or ‘**Atmanirbhar Bharat**’.

## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

### ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CLASHES OVER JERUSALEM

Recently, **Israeli armed forces attacked Al-Aqsa Mosque** in the Haram esh-Sharif in Jerusalem, ahead of a march by **Zionist nationalists commemorating Israel’s capture of the eastern half the city in 1967**. The threatened eviction of dozens of Palestinian families in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah escalated the crisis further. **Zionism is a worldwide Jewish movement** that resulted in the establishment and development of the state of Israel and that now supports the state of Israel as a Jewish homeland.



of

**Al-Aqsa Mosque:** It is one of the holiest structures in the Islamic faith. It sits inside a 35-acre site known by **Muslims as Haram al-Sharif**, or the Noble Sanctuary, and by Jews as the Temple Mount. The site is part of the **Old City of Jerusalem**, sacred to **Christians, Jews and Muslims**. It is believed to have been completed early in the eighth century and faces the Dome of the Rock, the golden-domed Islamic shrine that is a widely recognized symbol of Jerusalem. **The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO**, has classified the Old City of Jerusalem and its walls as a World Heritage Site.



## CONFLICT OVER JERUSALEM: ISRAEL-PALESTINE

Jerusalem has been at the centre of the **Israeli-Palestinian conflict**. According to the original **1947 United Nations (UN)** partition plan, Jerusalem was proposed to be an international city. But in the **first Arab Israel war of 1948**, the Israelis captured the western half of the city, and Jordan took the eastern part, including the Old City that houses **Haram al-Sharif**. Israel captured East Jerusalem from Jordan in the **Six-Day War 1967 and annexed it later**. Since its annexation, Israel has expanded settlements in East Jerusalem. Israel sees the whole city as its “**unified, eternal capital**”, whereas the Palestinian leadership across the political spectrum have maintained that they would not accept any compromise formula for the future **Palestinian state unless East Jerusalem is its capital**.

**Sheikh Jarrah Issue:** Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were forced out of their homes when the State of Israel was created in historical Palestine in 1948. Twenty-eight of those Palestinian families moved to **Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem** to settle there. In 1956, when East Jerusalem was ruled by Jordan, the **Jordanian Ministry of Construction and Development** and the UN Relief and Works Agency facilitated the construction of houses for these families in **Sheikh Jarrah**. But Israel would capture **East Jerusalem from Jordan in 1967**. By the early 1970s, Jewish agencies started demanding the families leave the land. Earlier this year (2021), the Central Court in East Jerusalem upheld a decision to evict four Palestinian families from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah in favor of Jewish settlers. The issue remains unresolved and potentially inflammable.

## INDIA'S STAND ON ISRAEL-PALESTINE ISSUE

**India recognised Israel in 1950** but it is also the first non-Arab country to recognise **Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)** as the sole representative of the Palestinian. India is also one of the first countries to recognise the statehood of Palestine in 1988. In 2014, **India favored UNHRC's resolution** to probe Israel's human rights violations in Gaza. Despite supporting the probe, **India abstained from voting against Israel in UNHRC in 2015**. As a part of Link West Policy, India has de-hyphenated its relationship with **Israel and Palestine in 2018** to treat both the countries mutually independent and exclusive. In June 2019, India voted in favor of a decision introduced by Israel in the



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

**UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** that objected to granting consultative status to a Palestinian non-governmental organization. So far India has tried to maintain the image of its **historical moral supporter for Palestinian self-determination**, and at the same time to engage in the military, economic, and other strategic relations with Israel.

## RELATED DEVELOPMENTS ON THE ISSUE

In March 2021, **International Criminal Court (ICC)** launched investigations into the war crimes in Palestinian territories occupied by **Israel (West Bank and the Gaza Strip)**. In April 2021, the US restored at least USD 235 million in financial assistance to the Palestinians.

The world at large needs to come together for a peaceful solution but the reluctance of the Israeli government and other involved parties have aggravated the issue more. Thus a balanced approach would help to maintain favorable relations with Arab countries as well as Israel. The recent **normalization agreements between Israel and the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco, known as the Abraham Accords**, are the steps in the right direction. All regional powers should envisage peace between the two countries on line of Abraham Accords.

# ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

---

## NG FINANCIAL SYSTEM

- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has joined the **Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS)** as a member. The central bank joined the NGFS on April 23, 2021.



- ❖ Green finance assumed significance in the context of climate change. The **RBI expects to benefit from the membership of NGFS** by learning from and contributing to global efforts on green finance, which has assumed significance in the context of climate change.

- ❖ **Launched at the Paris One Planet Summit on December 12, 2017**, the NGFS is a group of central banks and supervisors willing to share best practices and contribute to the development of environment and climate risk management in the financial sector, while mobilising mainstream finance to support the transition towards a sustainable economy.

## RBI'S TERM LIQUIDITY FACILITY FOR HEALTHCARE

- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta** has announced a Covid-19 healthcare package of Rs 50,000 crore, for lending to entities such as vaccine makers, medical equipment suppliers, hospitals and related sectors, besides the patients in need of funds for treatment.



Das

- ❖ About the **Covid-19 healthcare package**: The new on-tap special liquidity facility of Rs 50,000 crore will be made available to the banks at the repo rate, **for access to emergency health security amid the economic stress** due to the second wave of Covid-19 in India.

- ❖ Banks can give loans under this facility till March 31, 2022. This **Covid loan will be provided for a tenure of up to 3 years** and will be classified as a priority sector loan till repayment or maturity.

## RBI CONSTITUTED ADVISORY GROUP TO ASSIST RRA 2.0

- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has constituted an advisory group to assist the **second Regulatory Review Authority (RRA 2.0)**, which was set by the central bank May 01, 2021 to streamline regulations and reduce the compliance burden of regulated entities. The Advisory Group will be headed by **SBI Managing Director S Janakiraman**.



on

Other members of the 6-member advisory group are:

- **T T Srinivasaraghavan** (Former Managing Director and Non-Executive Director, Sundaram Finance),
  - **Gautam Thakur** (Chairman, Saraswat Co-operative Bank),
  - **Subir Saha** (Group Chief Compliance Officer, ICICI Bank),
  - **Ravi Duvvuru** (President and CCO, Jana Small Finance Bank),
  - **Abadaan Viccaji** (Chief Compliance Officer, HSBC India)
- ❖ About the **RRA 2.0: The second Regulatory Review Authority (RRA 2.0)**, has been set up for a period of one year from May 01, 2021, to review the regulations, circulars, reporting systems and compliance procedures for streamlining them and making them more effective.
  - ❖ The group will assist the **RRA 2.0 by identifying regulations, guidelines, and returns** that can be rationalised, and submit reports periodically to RRA containing the recommendations/suggestions.

## DOT GRANTED PERMISSIONS FOR 5G TRIAL INDIA

❖ The **Government of India's Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has granted permission to Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) to conduct trials for the use and implementations of 5G technology.



use


- ❖ **Reliance JioInfocomm Ltd., Bharti Airtel Ltd., Vodafone Idea Ltd., and MTNL** are among the TSPs that have applied. The trials are currently scheduled to last for six months.
- ❖ Each TSP will be required to perform trials in rural, semi-urban, and urban areas to ensure that the benefits of 5G technology are spread across the country.
- ❖ Goal: To test 5G spectrum propagation characteristics, particularly in the context of India; to model tune and evaluate chosen equipment and vendors; to test indigenous technology; to test applications; and to test 5G phones and devices.
- ❖ To allow **Industry 4.0, 5G technology** is expected to provide a better user experience in terms of data download speeds (**expected to be 10 times faster than 4G**), up to three times greater spectrum performance, and ultra low latency.

## UNITED NATIONS PROJECTED INDIA'S GDP GROWTH



- ❖ The **United Nations** has projected that the **Indian economy would grow at 10.1 per cent** in the calendar year 2022, nearly double the 5.9 per cent growth forecast for the country in the January report.
- ❖ But cautioned that the **growth outlook of 2021 was “highly fragile”** as the country was the **“new hotbed of the pandemic.”**
- ❖ The mid-year update said that India will register a **7.5-per cent growth rate** in the calendar year 2021, after an **estimated contraction of 6.8 per cent in 2020.**
  - United Nations Headquarters in **New York, USA.**
  - **Mr Antonio Guterres** is the **Secretary-General of the United Nations.**

## INDIA LOST FARZAD-B GAS FIELD OF IRAN

- ❖ India lost the **ONGC Videsh Ltd-discovered Farzad-B gas in the Persian Gulf** after Iran awarded a contract for developing the giant gas field to a local company.  **field**
- ❖ **The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)** has signed a contract worth USD 1.78 billion with **Petropars Group for the development of Farzad B Gas Field in the Persian Gulf.**
- ❖ The field holds 23 trillion cubic feet of in-place gas reserves, of which about 60 per cent is recoverable. It also holds gas condensates of about 5,000 barrels per billion cubic feet of gas.
- ❖ **ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), the overseas investment arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC),** had in 2008 discovered a giant gas field in the Farsi offshore exploration block.

## FDI JUMPS 19% TO USD 59.64 BILLION IN 2020-21

❖ **Foreign direct investments (FDI)** into the country grew per cent to USD 59.64 billion during 2020-21 on account of measures taken by the government on the fronts of **policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business.**



19

- ❖ Total FDI, including equity, re-invested earnings and capital, rose 10 per cent to the “highest ever” of USD 81.72 billion during 2020-21 as against USD 74.39 billion in 2019-20.
- ❖ In terms of top investor countries, **Singapore is at the top with a 29 per cent share.**
- ❖ It was followed by the US (23 per cent) and Mauritius (9 per cent) during the last fiscal. FDI equity inflow grew by 19 per cent in 2020-21 (USD 59.64 billion), compared to 2019-20 (USD 49.98 billion).

## RBI RELEASED ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020-21

❖ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has published its annual and highlights “asset quality of banks and their preparedness requires close monitoring for higher provisioning for upcoming quarters”.



report

- ❖ In its annual report, the **central bank said the country’s growth prospects** now essentially depend on how fast India can arrest the second wave of COVID-19 infections.
- ❖ **RBI Annual Report 2021:** RBI in its semi-annual financial stability report **earlier highlighted bad loan ratio of banks could rise to 13.5%** under the baseline stress scenario by September 2021.

Page 14

3





- ❖ **The Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) of banks** improved from 66.6% in March 2020 to 75.5% by December 2020, because of prudent provisioning by banks above regulatory prescriptions on accounts availing moratorium and undergoing restructuring.
- ❖ The **capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR)** of banks increased to 15.9% by December 2020, in March it was 14.8%. In its report, RBI cautioned “banks being lenders will have to provide a true picture of bad loans after **Supreme Court lifted the interim stay on classifying non-performing assets (NPA)** in March 2021.
- ❖ According to it, waiver of compound interest on all loan accounts opted for a moratorium during March-August 2020 would put stress on the financial health of banks.
- ❖ The **Gross NPA ratio of banks decreased from 8.2% in March 2020 to 6.8% in December 2020**. The Gross NPA ratio for non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs) increased from 6.8% in March to 5.7% in December 2020.
- ❖ The capital adequacy ratio of NBFCs increased from 24.8% in December 2020 to 23.7% in March. Frauds reported by banks fell by 25% in value terms in just one year to Rs 1.38 lakh crore at the end of fiscal year ended March 2021, **data released by the RBI as part of its annual report showed.**

## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

### TRIPS WAIVER FOR COVID-19 VACCINES

Recently, **India and South Africa** have piloted the proposal to waive provisions of the TRIPS agreement on **Covid-19 vaccines, drugs, therapeutics, and related technologies**. This proposal has been now backed by the U.S also. The TRIPS waiver proposal would give immunity to member countries from a legal challenge at the WTO if **domestic Intellectual Property Regulation (IPR)** laws suspend or do not enforce IP protection. The core idea behind this TRIPS proposal is that the IPR should not become barriers in scaling up production of medical products essential to combat Covid-19. However, the TRIPS waiver is unlikely to solve India's Covid-19 vaccine shortage. Instead of trying to obtain an IP waiver, the Indian government must enable vaccine manufacturers to expand production (**through compulsory licensing**) & **reduce inefficiencies in procurement & distribution**.



key

their

## TRIPS AGREEMENT & INDIA LAW

The **TRIPS agreement was negotiated in 1995** at the WTO, it requires all its signatory countries to enact domestic law. It guarantees minimum standards of IP protection. Such legal consistency enables innovators to monetise their intellectual property in multiple countries. **In 2001, the WTO signed the Doha Declaration**, which clarified that in a public health emergency, governments could compel companies to license their patents to manufacturers, even if they did not think the offered price was acceptable. **This provision, commonly referred to as “compulsory licensing”, was already built into the TRIPS Agreement and the Doha declaration** only clarified its usage. **Under Section 92 of the 1970 Indian Patents Act**, the central government has the power to allow compulsory licenses to be issued at any time in case of a national emergency or circumstances of extreme urgency.

*Why is the TRIPS waiver unlikely to solve India's Covid-19 vaccine shortage?*

**Complex Intellectual Property Mechanism:** The process of vaccine development and manufacturing has several steps, and involves a complex intellectual property mechanism. **Different types of IP rights** apply to different steps and there is no one kind of IP that could unlock the secret to manufacturing a vaccine. The expertise to manufacture it may be protected as a trade secret, and the data from clinical trials to test vaccine safety and efficacy may be protected by copyright.

**Complex Manufacturing Mechanism:** Manufacturing vaccines will need to design the process for manufacturing the vaccines, source necessary **raw materials, build production facilities, and conduct clinical trials** to get regulatory approvals. The manufacturing process itself has different steps, some of which may be subcontracted to other parties. Thus, a patent waiver alone does not empower manufacturers to start vaccine production immediately.

## NEED FOR INVOKING COMPULSORY LICENSING

**Plugging Shortage of Vaccine:** The richest countries have **cornered about 80 percent of vaccine supplies so far.** While India needs to supplement its output to ensure that a population of over 1.4 billion which is above 18 years of age **gets about 1.8 billion doses at the earliest.** Thus, compulsory licensing can be used to augment the supply of drugs and other therapeutics.



India  
900

**Nudging Voluntary Licensing:** An assertive posture on compulsory licences would also have the advantage of forcing **several pharmaceutical companies to offer licences voluntarily.**

**Leading By Example:** Licensing Covaxin widely would enable India to live up to its reputation of being the **‘pharmacy of the world’** and also put pressure on developed countries to transfer their vaccine technology to developing countries. Thus, the government should not only transfer **Covaxin’s technology to domestic pharmaceutical companies,** to boost national supplies, but also offer it to foreign corporations. By unlocking its vaccine technical know-how to the world, India would demonstrate its resolve to walk the talk on the TRIPS waiver.

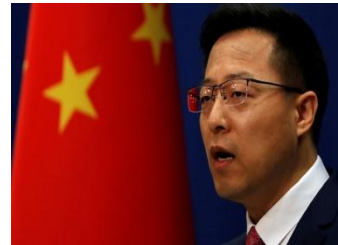
## CHINA TO SUPPORT GLOBAL TRIPS WAIVER

China on May 17, 2021, said that it will support India’s and South Africa’s proposal for a temporary waiver of **Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)** for coronavirus vaccines.

Page 14

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

It further mentioned that Beijing will contribute to all actions of the developing countries to help them in their **fight against coronavirus. India and South Africa**, in October 2020, had requested the **World Health Organization (WHO) for TRIPS** waiver of certain IP provisions of COVID-19 vaccines so that that



developing countries can amplify vaccine production and provide access to COVID vaccines to the poorest of the poor people. **Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian** said in a press briefing that China, as the largest developing country is supportive of the developing world's demand for an IPR waiver for COVID-19 vaccines. He further said that China will back all actions so that developing countries can acquire vaccines in an equitable way to fight against the coronavirus.

## WHAT IS TRIPS AGREEMENT?

**TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights)** is an international agreement among the member countries of the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**. TRIPS establishes standards and regulations protection of IP (intellectual property) rights like industrial designs, patents, copyright, and protection of confidential information or trade secrets. **TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights)** came into effect in January 1995. TRIPS enables each WTO member countries to negotiate compulsory licenses for each patent or protection applying to each product. The concern of the **developing countries in 2001** over the narrow reading of **TRIPS by developed countries led to a round of talks** that later became the Doha Declaration, a WTO statement that enlists the scope of TRIPS.

# APPOINTMENTS

---

## RBI APPOINTED T RABI SANKAR AS DEPUTY GOVERNOR

❖ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** executive director **T Rabi Sankar** has been named as the **fourth Deputy Governor of central bank.**



the

❖ The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** has approved his appointment. He is in charge of the payments system, fintech, information technology and risk management at the RBI.

❖ **He succeeds BP Kanungo** as the deputy governor, who retired on April 2 after getting a one-year extension in his position.

❖ Sankar has long experience across a wide spectrum of central banking functions, particularly, exchange rate management, reserves portfolio management, public debt management, monetary operations, development, regulation and surveillance of **financial markets and of payment systems, and managing the Bank's IT infrastructure.**

## 1ST WOMAN COMMANDING OFFICER IN BRO

❖ **Vaishali S Hiwase** became the first woman officer to be appointed as **officer commanding in the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** where she will be responsible for providing connectivity through an **Indo-China border road.**



❖ **Vaishali is from Wardha, Maharashtra,** and has completed a successful demanding tenure in Kargil.

- ❖ In a first, the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** has appointed a woman officer to command a **Road Construction Company (RCC)** tasked to provide connectivity in a high-altitude area along the India-China border.

- Director-General of BRO: **Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chaudhary.**
- BRO Headquarters: **New Delhi.**

## T V SOMANATHAN APPOINTED AS FINANCE SECRETARY

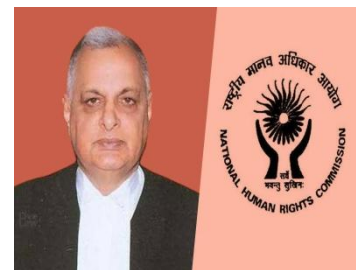
- ❖ The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the appointment of **T V Somanathan** as the new Finance Secretary. He will replace **Ajay Bhushan Pandey** who superannuated in February 2021.



- ❖ **Somanathan**, a **1987 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre**, was currently serving as the Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ Earlier, he has served as a **joint secretary in the Prime Minister's Office**. Somanathan was awarded the Gold Medal for the Best IAS trainee of his cohort. **He holds a PhD in Economics from Calcutta University** and is a chartered accountant, chartered management accountant and chartered secretary.

## JUSTICE PANT AS ACTING CHAIRPERSON OF NHRC

- ❖ The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** member Justice (retired) **Prafulla Chandra Pant** had been appointed the acting chairperson of the Commission with effect from April 25.



as

- ❖ **A former Supreme Court judge, Justice Pant** was appointed member of the NHRC on April 22, 2019. The post of a chairperson has been vacant since **Justice H.L. Dattu, a former Chief Justice of India**, completed his tenure on December 2, 2020.
  
- ❖ Previously, he was **appointed the first Chief Justice of the newly established Meghalaya High Court** at Shillong on 20th September 2013 and continued till 12th August 2014.
  - National Human Rights Commission Formed: **12 October 1993**;
  - National Human Rights Commission Jurisdiction: **Government of India**;
  - National Human Rights Commission Headquarters: **New Delhi**.

## BILL NELSON SWORN IN AS 14TH NASA ADMINISTRATOR

- ❖ **Former Senator Bill Nelson** was sworn in as the **14th NASA administrator** tasked with carrying out the **Biden-Harris administration's vision for the agency**.



- ❖ **Nelson served in the U.S. Senate for 18 years** from Florida as a payload specialist on space shuttle mission 61-C in 1986. and
  
- ❖ **Nelson has served in public office over four decades**, first in the **state legislature and U.S. Congress, then as State Treasurer**. He was elected three times to the United States Senate, representing Florida for 18 years.
  
- ❖ His committees included the breadth of government policy from defence, intelligence and foreign policy to finance commerce, and health care.
  - Headquarters of NASA: **Washington D.C., United States**.
  - NASA Founded: **1 October 1958**.

## MARTIN GRIFFITHS APPOINTED UN HUMANITARIAN CHIEF



- ❖ **Veteran British diplomat Martin Griffiths** has been appointed as the new Chief at the **United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)**, for a period of five years.



the

- ❖ **Griffiths will replace Mark Lowcock** as the new Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and **Emergency Relief Coordinator (USG/ERC)** of OCHA. He is currently serving as the **United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen**.
- ❖ The **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)** aims to strengthen the international response to complex emergencies and natural disasters.

## RBI APPOINTED JOSE J KATTOOR AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** has appointed **Jose J Kattoor Executive Director (ED)**. Prior to being promoted as ED, Kattoor was heading Bengaluru Regional Office of the **Reserve Bank as Regional Director for Karnataka**.



as  
Mr

- ❖ He will look after **Human Resource Management Department**, Corporate Strategy and Budget Department and Rajbhasha Department.
- ❖ **Mr Kattoor** has, over a span of three decades, served in communication, human resource management, financial inclusion, supervision, currency management and **other areas in the Reserve Bank**.
- ❖ He holds a post-graduate qualification from Institute of Rural Management, Anand, Bachelor of Law from Gujarat University, and **Advanced Management Program (AMP)** from Wharton

School of Business, Pennsylvania, besides having earned professional qualifications, including **Certified Associate of Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (CAIIB)**.

## UJJWALA SINGHANIA AS NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF FICCI FLO

❖ **Ujjwala Singhania** has been appointed as the **National President of FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO)**, the oldest women-led & women-centric business chamber of Southeast Asia.



❖ As the **38th National President of FLO Singhania** will focus on empowering women by facilitating an enabling environment that promotes entrepreneurship, industry participation and economic development of women.

❖ Under her leadership, FLO will carry out many interventions towards **fostering larger contributions of women in India's Industrial and economic growth story**.

## NEERA TANDEN APPOINTED AS SENIOR ADVISOR TO BIDEN

❖ **Indian-American Neera Tanden** has been appointed **senior adviser to U.S. President Joe Biden**. She is currently the president and CEO of a progressive think-tank, Center for American Progress (CAP).



❖ She withdrew her nomination as Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget **due to stiff opposition from Republican senators**.

❖ **Ms Tanden** previously served as a senior adviser for health reforms at the **US Department of Health and Human Services**.

## SUBODH JAISWAL APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR OF CBI

❖ IPS officer, **Subodh Jaiswal** has been appointed **Director the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**. He was the most senior officer among the three shortlisted for the post CBI Director.



of  
of

❖ Jaiswal, along with KR Chandra and VS Kaumudi, was short-listed out of 109 officers for the top post by the high-powered committee led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

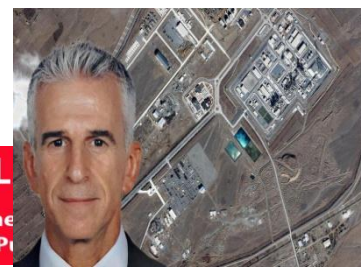
❖ Other members of the committee include **Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana** and **Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury**.

❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has based on the panel recommended by the Committee, approved the appointment of Shri Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, IPS (MH: 1985) as Director, **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** for a period of two years from the date of assumption of charge of the office or until further orders whichever is earlier.

❖ Who is Subodh Jaiswal: Subodh Jaiswal is a 1985-batch Maharashtra cadre IPS officer who is the chief of CISF. Earlier, he held the post of Mumbai Police Commissioner and Maharashtra DGP.

❖ He was appointed Mumbai Police Commissioner in 2018 and has also worked with the Maharashtra **Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS)** in the past. Subodh Jaiswal has also served with the Intelligence Bureau, **SPG (Special Protection Group)** and **R&AW (Research and Analysis Wing)** for over a decade.


## DAVID BARNEA APPOINTED AS NEW HEAD OF MOSSAD



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- ❖ Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appointed **David Barnea as the new head of the country's spy agency, the Mossad.**
  
- ❖ Barnea, a former longtime Mossad operative, will succeed **Yossi Cohen as head of Israel's intelligence agency** on June 1. Cohen has served as Israel's spymaster since taking office in 2016.
  
- ❖ Barnea, who is in his 50s, lives in the Sharon region north of Tel Aviv. He did his military service in the **elite Sayeret Matkal special operations force**. About 30 years ago, he enlisted in the Mossad, where he became a case officer.
  - Prime Minister of Israel: **Benjamin Netanyahu.**
  - Israel Capital: **Jerusalem.**
  - Israel Currency: **Israeli Shekel.**

## BVR SUBRAHMANYAM APPOINTED AS COMMERCE SECY

- ❖ The **appointments committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the appointment of **B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary Jammu & Kashmir** as an officer on special duty in the **Department of Commerce**.
  
- ❖ An order issued by the **Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**. Mr Subrahmanyam is a 1987 batch IAS officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre and was sent on **deputation to Jammu and Kashmir in June 2018**.
  
- ❖ He served as Chief Secretary when the State was bifurcated into two Union Territories in 2019. He is a widely experienced bureaucrat **having worked in Manmohan Singh Prime Minister's Office as Joint Secretary**.

## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

### APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTOR OF CBI

Recently, the **Central Government** has appointed ‘**Subodh Kumar Jaiswal**’ as a new Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The Director of the CBI is appointed as **per section 4A of Delhi Special Police Establishment Act of 1946.**



the

### ABOUT THE CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (CBI)

The **CBI was set up in 1963** by a resolution of the **Ministry of Home Affairs**. Now, the CBI comes under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. The establishment of the CBI was **recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964)**. The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the **Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946**. The CBI is the main investigating agency of the Central Government. It also provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal. It is also the nodal police agency in India which coordinates investigations on behalf of Interpol Member countries. The **CBI is headed by a Director**. The CBI has jurisdiction to investigate offences **pertaining to 69 Central laws, 18 State Acts and 231 offences in the IPC.**

### APPOINTMENT OF CBI DIRECTOR

The **Director of CBI as Inspector General of Police, Delhi Special Police Establishment**, is responsible for the administration of the organisation. The **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013)** **amended the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act (1946)** and made the following changes with respect to appointment of the Director of CBI:

Page 15



**Appointment Committee:** The Central Government shall appoint the Director of CBI on the recommendation of a **three-member committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson**, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India or Judge of the Supreme Court (SC) nominated by him. The **Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Act, 2014** made a change in the composition of the committee related to the appointment of the Director of CBI. It states that where there is no recognized leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha, then the leader of the single largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha would be a member of that committee.

**Tenure of Director:** The Director of CBI has been **provided security of two-year tenure in office** by the CVC Act, 2003.

**SC Rulings Related to CBI Director:** The six-month minimum residual tenure rule was introduced by the Supreme Court in a March 2019 order. **No officer with less than six months' tenure remaining can be considered for the post of chief.** Though the order in the **Prakash Singh case** pertained to the appointment of DGPs, it was extended to CBI Director too. In the **Prakash Singh case, 2006** the SC had stressed the point that appointment of DGPs “should be purely on the basis of merit and to insulate the office from all kinds of influences and pressures”. The Director of CBI is to hold the post for not less than **two years as held by the Vineet Narain judgment of 1998**. He/she may not be transferred except with the previous consent of the high-level committee.

The **SC in Union of India versus C. Dinakar, 2001** case has held that “ordinarily IPS officers of the senior most four batches in service on the date of retirement of CBI Director, irrespective of their empanelment, **shall be eligible for consideration for appointment to the post of CBI Director**”.

## DELHI SPECIAL POLICE ESTABLISHMENT ACT

The **Central Bureau of Investigation traces its origin to the Special Police Establishment (SPE)** which was set up in 1941 by the Government of India. The functions of the SPE then were to investigate cases of bribery and corruption in transactions with the **War & Supply Deptt. Of India** during World War II. Even after the end of the War, the need for a Central Government agency to investigate cases of

bribery and corruption by Central Government employees was felt. The Delhi Special Police Establishment Act was **therefore brought into force in 1946**. The **CBI's power to investigate cases is derived from this Act**.

## CASES MAJORLY HANDLED BY CBI

- **Anti-Corruption Crimes** - for investigation of cases under the **Prevention of Corruption Act** against Public officials and the employees of Central Government, Public Sector Undertakings, Corporations or Bodies owned or controlled by the Government of India.
- **Economic Crimes** - for investigation of **major financial scams and serious economic frauds**, including crimes relating to Fake Indian Currency Notes, Bank Frauds and Cyber Crime, bank frauds, Import Export & Foreign Exchange violations, large-scale smuggling of narcotics, antiques, cultural property and smuggling of other contraband items etc.
- **Special Crimes** - for investigation of **serious and organized crime under the Indian Penal Code and other laws on the requests of State Governments** or on the orders of the **Supreme Court and High Courts** - such as cases of terrorism, bomb blasts, kidnapping for ransom and crimes committed by the mafia/the underworld.
- **Suo Moto Cases** - CBI can suo-moto take up investigation of **offences only in the Union Territories**. The Central Government can authorize CBI to investigate a crime in a State but only with the consent of the concerned State Government. The **Supreme Court and High Courts**, however, can order CBI to investigate a crime anywhere in the country without the consent of the State.

## CONCLUSION

∞ **Delink the CBI from the administrative control of the government** - As long as the government of the day has the power to transfer and post officials of its choice in the CBI, the **investigating agency**



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

**will not enjoy autonomy** and will be unable to investigate cases freely. Providing statutory status through legislation equivalent to that provided to the **Comptroller & Auditor General and the Election Commission** will help maintain the independence of the institution.

CLAT Gurukul





# AWARDS & HONOR

---



Page 16  
0

## NATIONAL PANCHAYAT AWARDS CONFERRED BY PM MODI

❖ The **National Panchayat Awards 2021** was conferred by **PM Modi**. Prime Minister will transfer the award money (as Grants-Aid) through the click of a button, ranging from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.50 lakh.



in-

❖ The amount will be directly transferred to the bank account of the Panchayats concerned in real-time. This is being done for the first time.

❖ The **National Panchayat Awards 2021** are being conferred under the following categories:

- Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar to 224 panchayats,
- Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar to 30-gram panchayats, Gram
- Panchayat Development Plan Award to 29-gram panchayats, Child-friendly Gram
- Panchayat Award to 30 Gram Panchayats and e-Panchayat Puraskar to 12 states.

## UNESCO WORLD PRESS FREEDOM PRIZE 2021

❖ Maria Ressa has been named as the 2021 laureate of the **UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize**.



the face

❖ The \$25,000 prize “**recognizes outstanding contributions to defence or promotion of press freedom especially in the of danger,**” according to UNESCO. The prize was named after Guillermo Cano Isaza, the Colombian journalist.

❖ UNESCO cited Ressa’s more than a 3-decade career as a **journalist**, including her work as CNN’s lead investigative reporter for Asia and as news chief of Philippine broadcast giant ABS-CBN.

Page 16

1

- ❖ Recently, her citation added, Ressa “has been the target of online attacks and judicial processes” for her investigative work and her position as CEO of Rappler.

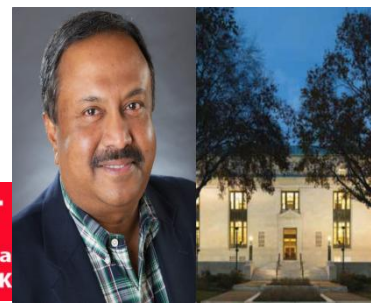
## 1ST INDIAN TO WIN ARAB WORLD NOBEL PRIZE

- ❖ **Mumbai born, Dr Tahera Qutbuddin**, a professor of Arabic Literature at the University of Chicago, recently became the **first person of Indian-origin to win the 15th Sheikh Zayed Book Award.**



- ❖ The award is considered to be the **Nobel Prize of the Arab world.** She won the award for her latest book, “**Arabic Oration – Art and Function**” published by Brill Academic Publishers of Leiden in 2019.
- ❖ In the book, she puts forth a **comprehensive theory of Arabic literature in its foundational oral period dating the seventh and eighth centuries AD.** She discusses its influence on modern-day sermons and lectures as well.

## SANKAR GHOSH ELECTED TO NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE



- ❖ **Sankar Ghosh, an award-winning Indian-origin immunologist**, has been elected to the prestigious **National Academy of Sciences** in recognition of his “distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. He was among the 120 newly elected members announced by the Academy.
- ❖ **Sankar Ghosh is the Silverstein and Hutt Family Professor of Microbiology** and Chair of the **Department of Microbiology & Immunology** at the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University.
- ❖ He is also a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has a deep interest in deciphering the complexities of transcriptional regulation — **the ways by which a cell regulates the conversion of DNA to RNA** to better understand the mechanisms of the immune system and the pathological changes that occur to its pathways in many diseases.

### IREDA CONFERRED 'GREEN URJA AWARD'

- ❖ **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA)** has been conferred with the “**Green Urja Award**” for being the Leading Public Institution in the Financing Institution for Renewable Energy this year by **Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC)**.



the

- ❖ **IREDA** gets the award for the pivotal and developmental role it plays in **Green Energy Financing**.
- ❖ Despite the pandemic time, IREDA has ended the year 2020-21 ended on a strong note and disbursed the **second-highest (from the date of inception)** amount of loan amounting to Rs. 8827 crore, which indicates that IREDA has the ability to translate this problem into an opportunity.

- ❖ The award recognises our immense contribution to the development of the Renewable Energy Sector in line with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.
- IREDA Headquarters location: **New Delhi**
- IREDA Founded: **11 March 1987**.

## NAGALAND'S NUKLU PHOM WON WHITLEY AWARDS 2021

- ❖ An environmentalist from Nagaland's remote Longleng district, **Nuku Phom** has won this year's **Whitley Awards 2021**, also known as the **Green Oscar**.
- ❖ **Nuku Phom's** name, along with that of five others, was announced recently in a virtual award ceremony organized by the **UK-based Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN)**. Nuku and his team want to offer alternatives that engage communities in conservation using the Amur falcon as a flagship.
- ❖ The award recognises Phom's efforts at establishing a new biodiversity peace corridor changing the fate of Amur Falcons, which come to roost in Nagaland each year, from being hunted by locals.
- ❖ **Worth £40,000**, the award is for creating a new network of **community-owned forests to protect Amur Falcons** and increase biodiversity in Nagaland.



## JANE GOODALL WON TEMPLETON PRIZE 2021

- ❖ The naturalist Jane Goodall has been announced as the 2021 winner of the Templeton Prize in recognition of her life's work on **animal intelligence and humanity**.





- ❖ Goodall built her global reputation on her groundbreaking studies of **chimpanzees in Tanzania in the 1960s.**
- ❖ The Templeton Prize is an annual award granted to a living person, in the estimation of the judges, “whose exemplary achievements advance Sir John Templeton’s philanthropic vision: harnessing the power of the sciences to explore the deepest questions of the universe and humankind’s place and purpose within it.”

#### *About Templeton Prize*

- Instituted: **1973**
- Presented by: **John Templeton Foundation**
- Reward(s): **£1.1 million**
- Currently held by: **Francis Collins**
- Awarded for: **Outstanding contributions in affirming life’s spiritual dimension, whether through insight, discovery, or practical works.**

### SPICEHEALTH WINS GOLD STEVIE AWARD 2020

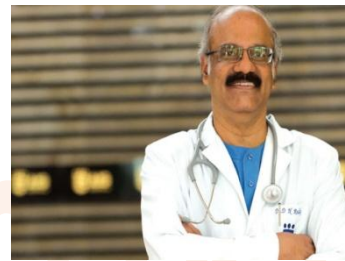
- ❖ SpiceHealth, a healthcare company founded by the **promoters of SpiceJet**, has won the Gold Award at the 2021 Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards for ‘**Most Valuable Medical Innovation**’ under **Covid19.**
- ❖ At a time when Covid-19 was at an all-time excessive in India in November 2020, SpiceHealth, beneath the management of Avani Singh, disrupted the **Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)** testing house by providing checks in cell laboratories at ₹499, versus the then-present rate of ₹2,400 in Delhi and helped convey down Covid-19 testing price dramatically throughout the nation.

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- ❖ About the Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards: **The Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards are the one business awards program** to recognise innovation within the workplace in all 29 nations of the Asia-Pacific area.
- ❖ The Stevie Awards are broadly thought about to be the world's premier business awards, conferring recognition for achievement in applications akin to The **International Business Awards** for 19 years.

## 1ST INDIAN TO WIN RUDOLF V SCHINDLER AWARD

- ❖ **Padma Bhushan awardee** and noted gastroenterologist **Dr D Nageshwar Reddy**, who is also the chairman of AIG Hospitals, has won the **Rudolf V Schindler Award** from the **American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE)**.



- ❖ **Rudolf V Schindler Award** is the highest category in the prestigious Crystal Awards named after Dr Schindler who is considered as **“the father of gastroscopy.”**
- ❖ With this, **Dr Reddy becomes the first Indian medical practitioner** to win this award. Dr Reddy is one of the first to promote endoscopy in India and has led the charge of educating numerous endoscopists all over the world.

## BHARAT RATNA CNR RAO HONOURED WITH INT. ENI AWARD

- ❖ **Noted Indian scientist and Bharat Ratna Professor, C.N.R. Rao** has been felicitated with the **International Eni Award 2020** (also called the Energy Frontier award).



- ❖ The **International Eni Award** is considered to be the **Nobel Prize in Energy Research**. He has been conferred the prize for his work on metal oxides, carbon nanotubes and other materials and two-dimensional systems.
- ❖ **Professor Rao** will be presented the **Eni Awards 2020** on 14 October 2021, during an official ceremony held at the **Quirinal Palace in Rome**.
- ❖ The Eni Award is awarded annually by the **Italian oil and gas company Eni** to encourage better use of energy sources and increased environmental research.

## AMARTYA SEN CONFERRED WITH SPAIN'S TOP AWARD

- ❖ **Indian economist and Nobel Laureate, Amartya Kumar Sen** has been conferred with the ‘ **2021 Princess of Asturias Award**’ by **Spain** in the social sciences category.
- ❖ **Princess of Asturias Awards** is annual prizes awarded by the Princess of Asturias Foundation in Spain to individuals, entities or organizations from around the world who make notable achievements in the sciences, humanities, and public affairs.
- ❖ The **87-year-old Sen** was selected from **41 candidates of 20 nationalities** for “His research on **famines and his theory of human development**, welfare economics and the underlying mechanisms of poverty have contributed to the fight against injustice, inequality, disease and ignorance”.
- ❖ The award comprises a cash prize of 50,000 Euros along with a **Joan Miro sculpture** representing and symbolising the award, a diploma and insignia.



Sen

the

## INDIAN PEACEKEEPERS TO BE HONOURED WITH UN'S MEDAL



- ❖ **Corporal Yuvraj Singh, civilian peacekeeper Ivan Michael Picardo, and Moolchand Yadav** are among those to be honoured with the UN's prestigious medal.



- ❖ Corporal Yuvraj Singh was serving at the **United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)** while civilian peacekeeper Ivan Michael Picardo was associated with UNAMISS as a civil peacekeeper.
- ❖ Moolchand Yadav was associated with the **United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI)**.
- ❖ Three Indian peacekeepers, who laid down their lives while serving in **United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions** last year, are among 129 military, police and civilian personnel honoured with a prestigious UN medal awarded posthumously for courage and sacrifice in the line of duty.
- ❖ India is the fifth-largest contributor of uniformed personnel to UN peacekeeping with more than 5,500 military and police serving in peace operations in **Abyei, Cyprus, Congo, Lebanon, the Middle East, Somalia, South Sudan and Western Sahara, according to the UN.**



# SPORTS

## LEWIS HAMILTON WINS PORTUGUESE GRAND PRIX

❖ **Lewis Hamilton** overtook title rival **Max Verstappen** and Mercedes team-mate **Valtteri Bottas** to win the **Portuguese Grand Prix**.



❖ Verstappen finished second, while Bottas, who started from pole, came in a disappointing third place. **Sergio Perez** took the flag in fourth, with **Lando Norris** fifth for McLaren.

❖ The **reigning Formula One champion** dropped to third in the opening laps but made two impressive moves in nine race-winning laps to claim his second victory of the season.

## AICF LAUNCHED 'CHECKMATE COVID INITIATIVE'

❖ The All India Chess Federation has launched the 'Checkmate Covid Initiative' to help the chess community affected by the pandemic.



❖ The initiative was launched at an online event in the presence of **FIDE (World Chess Federation) president Arkady Dvorkovich, five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand, World Rapid Chess Champion Koneru Humpy, AICF president Sanjay Kapoor** and secretary **Bharat Singh Chauhan**.

❖ The idea is to not just help the chess community affected by COVID through financial aid, but also have a team of doctors that works round-the-clock to provide the right assistance.

- All India Chess Federation President: **Sanjay Kapoor**.
- All India Chess Federation Headquarters location: **Chennai**.
- All India Chess Federation Founded: **1951**.

## MARK SELBY BECOMES WORLD CHAMPION IN SNOOKER

❖ **British professional snooker player Mark Selby** won the **world championship for the fourth time**. This time he won title of defeating **Shaun Murphy**.



the

❖ **Mark Selby** won the **2014, 2016, 2017 and 2021 world championships**. He ranked first in the world between 2015 and 2019.

and

❖ **World Snooker Championship** has been held annually since 1927. The game was played at the Crucible Theatre in **Sheffield, England**. The World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association organized a championship game.

## BABAR AZAM NAMED AS ICC MEN'S PLAYER OF THE MONTH

❖ **Pakistani skipper Babar Azam** has been named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for April 2021 for his consistent and stellar performances across all formats in recently concluded series against South Africa.



the

❖ The ICC Player of the Month Awards recognise and **celebrate the best performances from both male and female cricketers across all forms of international cricket** throughout the year.

❖ Along with **Babar**, **Australian women's team wicketkeeper-batsman Alyssa Healy** also bagged the **ICC Women's Player of The Month** accolade for her incredible performances during the month of April.

Page 17

1

- ❖ **Healy’s consistency with the bat has played a significant role in Australia’s dominance.** Healy has shown her class in all conditions and against all types of bowling in the recent series against New Zealand.

## MANCHESTER CITY CROWNED PREMIER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

- ❖ **Manchester City has crowned Premier League champions** the third time in four seasons after Manchester United crashed 2-1 defeat against Leicester.



for  
to a  
City

- ❖ United started the century **dominating English football**, now is the force with five titles in 10 seasons and the biggest spenders on transfers and salaries.
- ❖ **City has now won three Premier League titles and eight major trophies under Guardiola**, who last year signed a new two-year contract to remain at the club until 2023.

## RAFAEL NADAL WINS 10TH ITALIAN OPEN

- ❖ Rafael Nadal beat **world number one Novak Djokovic** to 10th **Italian Open title**. Second seed Nadal won through 7-5, 6-3 in 2hr 49min against the defending champion in the 57th career showdown between the pair.



win a  
1-6,

- ❖ The victory also earned Nadal a **36th ATP Masters 1000 crown**, equalling Djokovic’s record since the series was established in 1990.
- ❖ In the women’s category, **Polish teenager Iga Swiatek crushed Czech** ninth seed Karolina Pliskova 6-0, 6-0 to win the Italian Open title. Swiatek, ranked 15, claimed her **third WTA title**.

Page 17  
2

## ASIA CUP T20 TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD IN SRI LANKA

❖ **The Asia Cup T20 tournament**, which was scheduled to be held in June in Sri Lanka, has been postponed indefinitely due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



be

❖ The tournament which was originally scheduled to be held in **September 2020 in Sri Lanka** was moved to **June 2021 due to COVID-19**.

❖ With all the teams planning for their Future Tour Programs (FTPs) for the next two years, the tournament is likely to happen only after the **2023 ICC 50-over World Cup**.

❖ A formal statement from the Asian Cricket Council is, however, yet to come. Initially, **Pakistan was supposed to host it**. However, due to tensions between India and Pakistan, the tournament was moved to the island nation.

## BARCELONA WOMEN BEATS CHELSEA WOMEN

❖ Barcelona Women beat Chelsea Women to win the **Women’s Champions League trophy**.



❖ Chelsea conceded four goals in the first 36 minutes as Barcelona blew them away to win their first Women’s Champions League in Gothenburg.

❖ **Barcelona is the first Spanish side to win the Women’s Champions League**. Barcelona becomes the first club to win both the men’s and women’s Champions League, and this was the biggest ever winning margin in a women’s final.

Page 17  
3

## U-17 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP TO BE HELD IN INDIA

- ❖ The U-17 women's World Cup will be held in India from October 11 to 30 next year, Fifa Council said on 21st May.
- ❖ India was earlier scheduled to host the 2020 U-17 World Cup it was postponed to 2021 before being cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ❖ The FIFA Council approved key dates for the international match calendars, including the dates of the 2022 U-17 World Cup in India.



but

- ❖ The Council also approved dates for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 (11-30 October 2022), FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Costa Rica 2022 (10-28 August 2022), as well as a 14-team playoff for the FIFA Arab Cup 2021, taking place between 19 and 25 June this year and Women's World Cup Australia and New Zealand 2023 from July 20 to August 20, 2023.

## HOCKEY INDIA PRESTIGIOUS ETIENNE GLICHITCH AWARD

- ❖ Hockey India has won the prestigious Etienne Glichitch Award in recognition of its contribution to the growth and development of the sport in the country.



- ❖ The awards were announced by the game's governing body during the HockeyInvites virtual conference. It was part of its 47th FIH Congress which concluded with the FIH Honorary Awards.

FIH

- ❖ Other Awards presented as a part of the 47th FIH Congress:

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- Pablo Negre Award ----- **Uzbekistan Hockey Federation**
- Theo Ikema Award ----- **Polish Hockey Association**
- HRH Sultan Azlan Shah Award ----- **Sharon Williamson of New Zealand**
- Guust Lathouwers Memorial Trophy ----- **Ivona Makar**

## MARY KOM WINS MEDAL AT ASIAN BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP

❖ **Indian pugilist Mary Kom**, lost to two-time world champion **Nazym Kyzaibay of Kazakhstan**, to settle for silver medal at the 2021 **ASBC Asian Boxing Championships in Dubai**.



- ❖ The five-time Asian Championships gold medallist Mary Kom was competing in a high-octane 51kg final.
- ❖ This is **the second silver for Mary Kom at the Asian Championships** who has previously won silver in 2008. Apart from this, she won world championship titles on five occasions including 2003, 2005, 2010, 2012, and 2017.
- ❖ Meanwhile, **Pooja Rani won the gold medal in the 75kg Women's Middle category final** at the Asian Boxing Championships. She defeated **Mavluda Movlonova in the gold medal clash**.



# DATES & DAYS

---

INT  
ERN  
ATI  
ONA  
L  
LAB  
OUR  
DA  
Y  
OBS  
ERV  
ED  
ON  
MA  
Y  
1ST

❖ **International Labour Day (also known as May Day or International Workers' Day)** is celebrated across the world 1st of May every year.



on the

❖ The day celebrates the struggle, dedication and commitment of the working class and is an annual public holiday in several countries.

of the

❖ On 1 May 1886, Chicago and a few other cities were the sites of a major union demonstration in support of the eight-hour workday demand.

❖ In 1889, the **International Socialist Conference** declared that in commemoration of the Haymarket affair, **1 May would be an international holiday for the labour force, now known as International Workers' Day.**

- Headquarters of International Labour Organization: **Geneva, Switzerland.**
- President of International Labour Organization: **Guy Ryder.**
- International Labour Organization Founded: **1919.**

## WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY: 3RD MAY

❖ **World Press Freedom Day** is observed globally on **3 May every year.** It is also known as World Press Day. The day pays tribute to journalists who have lost their lives.



also

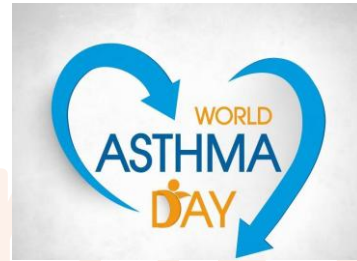
❖ They risk their lives at times or may even have to face tough situations in order to bring the news from different corners of the world in front of the public.

❖ This year's World Press Freedom Day theme "**Information as a Public Good**".

- ❖ The **theme is of urgent relevance to all countries across the world.** It recognizes the changing communications system that is impacting our health, our human rights, democracies and sustainable development.
- ❖ This was followed by the **Windhoek Declaration that was established to maintain the free press.** As the declaration was made on the 3rd of May, hence the **special day is observed each year on 3rd May.**

## WORLD ASTHMA DAY OBSERVED ON MAY 4TH

- ❖ **World Asthma Day** is observed every year on the 1st Tuesday of May. This year, **World Asthma Day is observed on May 4, 2021.**
- ❖ The day spread awareness about asthma disease and care around the world. Whilst the primary focus is supporting the person with asthma, support may also extend to family, friends and caregivers. **The theme for 2021 World Asthma Day is “Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions“.**
- ❖ **World Asthma Day** is annually organized by the **Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA).** In 1998, the first World Asthma Day was celebrated in more than 35 countries in conjunction with the first World Asthma Meeting in Barcelona, Spain.
- ❖ Asthma is a chronic disease of the lungs that causes breathing problems. Symptoms of asthma include **breathlessness, coughing, wheezing and a feeling of tightness in the chest.** These symptoms vary in frequency and severity.
- ❖ When the symptoms are not under control, the airways can become inflamed making breathing difficult. **Whilst asthma cannot be cured, the symptoms can be controlled enabling people with asthma to live full lives.**



## WORLD HAND HYGIENE DAY: MAY 5TH

❖ Every year, the **World Hand Hygiene Day** is observed on **5.**

❖ The day is **organised by the World Health Organization (WHO)** to raise awareness among people across the globe the importance of hand hygiene in warding off many serious infections.



May

about

❖ The **theme for 2021 is ‘Seconds Save Lives: Clean Your Hands’**. The day recognizes hand washing as one of the most effective actions that can be taken to avoid a huge range of infections including the COVID-19 virus.

- Director-General of the World Health Organization: **Tedros Adhanom.**
- Headquarters of WHO: **Geneva, Switzerland.**

## WORLD ATHLETICS DAY 2021: 5TH MAY

❖ The **World Athletics Day-2021** is observed on the 5 May. The is subject to adjustment, the date of **World Athletics Day is decided by the IAAF**, however, the month stays the same as



date

May.

❖ The **first World Athletics Day was observed in 1996**. The objective of World Athletics Day is to boost the participation of youths in athletics.

basic

❖ The objective of **World Athletics day** is to increase public awareness about sports and to educate youngsters about the importance of sports. To **promote athletics as the primary sport**

**in schools and institution.** To establish athletics as the number one participation sport in schools all over the world.

## WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY: 8TH MAY

- ❖ **World Migratory Bird Day 2021** is observed globally on 8 May. The aim of the day is to **raise awareness of migratory birds** and the **importance of international cooperation to conserve them.**



May.

- ❖ **“Sing, Fly, Soar – Like a Bird!”** is the theme of this year’s World Migratory Bird Day. The 2021 **World Migratory Bird Day** theme is an invitation to people everywhere to connect and re-connect with nature by actively listening to – and watching birds – wherever they are.
- ❖ At the same time, the theme appeals to people around the world to use their own voices and creativity to express their shared appreciation of birds and nature.
- ❖ This day is organized by a collaborative partnership among two UN treaties the **Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)** and the **African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)** and the Colorado-based non-profit organization, Environment for the Americas (EFTA).
- ❖ This day is a global campaign dedicated to raising awareness of migratory birds and the need for international cooperation to conserve them.

## WORLD RED CROSS & RED CRESCENT DAY: 8TH MAY

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

❖ The **World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day** is observed every year on 8 May.

❖ The day aims to celebrate the principles of the **International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**, to reduce the suffering of people and enabling them to lead a dignified life with **independence, humanity, impartiality, universality, unity and neutrality**.



to

❖ Theme 2021 **World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day: 'Unstoppable'**

❖ **History of the day:** The day also marks the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant (8 May 1828), who was the founder of the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**. He was the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize.

- President of the ICRC: **Peter Maurer**.
- Headquarters of ICRC: **Geneva, Switzerland**.

## INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY OBSERVED ON MAY 12TH

❖ **International Nurse Day** is observed globally on **12 May every year**. This day is observed to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale**.



❖ She was also known as Lady with the Lamp. She was the founder of modern nursing and was a British social reformer and statistician.

❖ The theme of 2021 **International Nurses Day** is '**Nurses: A Voice to Lead – A vision for future healthcare**'.

- ❖ **Florence Nightingale** was put in charge of nursing British and allied soldiers in Turkey during the Crimean War.
  
- ❖ She is renowned for setting up the **Nightingale School of Nursing, at St. Thomas' Hospital** in London (opened 1860) in order to formalize nursing education. She was the **first woman awarded the Order of Merit (1907)**.
  - **International Council of Nurse's headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.**
  - International Council of Nurses founded: **1899.**
  - International Council of Nurses President: **Annette Kennedy.**

## NATIONAL DENGUE DAY OBSERVED ON MAY 16TH

- ❖ In India, the **National Dengue Day** is observed every year **16 May**. on
- ❖ The day is an initiative by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, to raise awareness about dengue and its preventive measures, and preparedness for control of the vector-borne disease before the transmission season begins.
- ❖ Dengue is spread through the **bite of the female mosquito (Aedes aegypti)**. Dengue is a mosquito-borne disease that is caused by the dengue virus of **four distinct serotypes — DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3 and DEN-4**.
- ❖ Dengue, which is spread by the **Aedes albopictus species of mosquitos**, can lead to flu-like illness such as **severe muscle pain and nausea and can lead to death if not cured properly**.



## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIVING TOGETHER IN PEACE



❖ The **International Day of Living Together in Peace** is held on 16th May every year since 2018.



on

❖ The **UN General Assembly**, declared 16 May the **International Day of Living Together in Peace**, as a means of regularly mobilizing the efforts of the international community to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity.

of

❖ The Day aims to uphold the desire to live and act together, united in differences and diversity, in order to build a **sustainable world of peace, solidarity and harmony**.

❖ **The United Nations General Assembly** decided to celebrate **16th May as the International Day of Living Together in Peace** on 8th December 2017.

## WORLD'S AIDS VACCINE DAY: MAY 18TH

❖ **World AIDS Vaccine Day**, (also known as **HIV Vaccine Awareness Day**), is observed annually on May 18 to promote the continued urgent need for a vaccine to prevent infection and AIDS.



HIV

❖ The **first World AIDS Vaccine Day** was thus observed on May 18, 1998, to commemorate the anniversary of Clinton's speech.

❖ The **concept of World AIDS Vaccine Day** was proposed on May 18, 1997, during a commencement speech at Morgan State University **made by then-President Bill Clinton**, which underlined the need for a vaccine to curb the spread of HIV.

## INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY 2021





- ❖ **The International Museum Day** is celebrated on 18 May, since 1977, to raise awareness about the fact that “Museums an important means of **cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples**”.

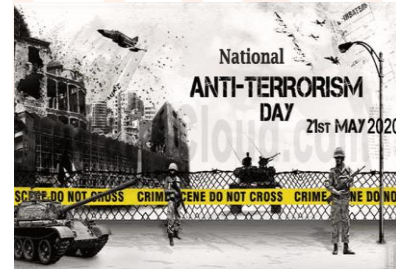


are

- ❖ The theme of International Museum Day 2021: “**The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine**”. It is coordinated by the International Council of Museums (ICOM).
  - President of International Council Of Museums: **Suay Aksoy**
  - International Council Of Museums Headquarters: **Paris, France.**

## NATIONAL ANTI TERRORISM DAY: MAY 21TH

- ❖ In India, the National Anti Terrorism Day is observed on 21 to commemorate the **death anniversary of former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi.**



May

- ❖ The day is also observed to spread the message of peace, harmony, and humankind and to promote unity among the people.

- ❖ **Rajiv Gandhi was India’s youngest Prime Minister.** He was appointed as the sixth Prime Minister of the country and **served the nation from 1984 to 1989.**

- ❖ Mr Gandhi was assassinated on May 21, 1991, by a human bomb. He was killed in Tamil Nadu in a campaign by a terrorist. Then, under the V.P. Singh government, the centre has decided to observe 21st May as Anti Terrorism Day.

## WORLD BEE DAY: 20TH MAY

- ❖ World Bee Day is observed globally on 20th May every year. On this date, 20 May, the **pioneer of beekeeping Anton Janša was born in 1734 in Slovenia.**



year.  
Janša

- ❖ The purpose of the bee day is to **acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators in the ecosystem.** About 33% of the world’s food production depends on bees thus they are vital for the preservation of biodiversity, ecological balance in nature and helpful in reducing pollution.
- ❖ The theme of World Bee Day 2021 is “**Bee engaged: Build Back Better for Bees**”. The UN Member States approved Slovenia’s proposal to proclaim 20 May as World Bee Day in December 2017.
- ❖ The resolution called for the adoption of specific conservation measures and highlighted the **importance of the preservation of bees and their significance for humanity.** The first World Bee Day was observed in 2018.

## UNITED NATIONS INT. DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

- ❖ The United Nations celebrates **International Day for Biological Diversity** on 22 May every year to raise awareness about the issue of a significant reduction in biological diversity due to certain human activities.



- ❖ Biological Diversity comprises a **wide variety of plants, animals and microorganisms** including genetic differences within each species, for example, between varieties of crops and breeds of livestock.
- ❖ This year 2021 the theme is “**We’re part of the solution**”. The slogan was chosen to be a continuation of the momentum generated last year under the over-arching theme, “Our solutions

are in nature”, which served as a reminder that biodiversity remains the answer to several sustainable development challenges.

## WORLD HUNGER DAY OBSERVED ON 28TH MAY

❖ **World Hunger Day** is observed globally on **28 May year**. The objective of this day is to raise awareness about than 820 million people living in chronic hunger worldwide.



every  
more

❖ It is observed since 2011 to not only spread awareness about the **malaise of chronic hunger but also to solve hunger and poverty through sustainable undertakings**.

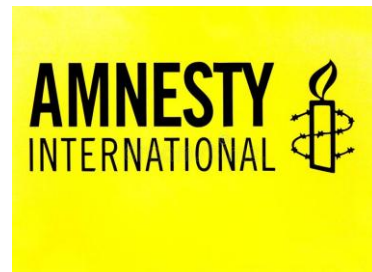
❖ The initiative recognizes the dire need to save nearly a quarter of a billion lives from malnourishment and chronic hunger. The need to provide **outreach globally during the pandemic for the distribution of food** is seen as paramount to save those who have been vulnerable even in pre-pandemic times.

❖ **History of the day: World Hunger Day** is an initiative by The **Hunger Project**, first started in the year 2011. This year marks the **11th annual WHD to look at hunger as a whole**.

❖ **India ranked 94 among 107 nations** in the Global Hunger Index 2020.

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DAY: MAY 28TH

❖ **Amnesty International Day** is observed every year on **28**, because it was on this day in 1961 that this non-governmental organization was founded in London.



May

- ❖ The **Amnesty International** was founded on **28 May 1961 in London**, following the publication of the article “**The Forgotten Prisoners**” in The Observer, a British newspaper, by the lawyer Peter Benenson.
- ❖ **Amnesty International is a non-governmental organization** that focuses on the protection of human rights, by working to prevent abuses to human rights, fight for justice for those whose rights have been violated, expand and enforce human rights protections in international law, by lobbying governments and other powerful groups and publicizing their violations.
- ❖ The **organisation has won the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize** for its “defence of human dignity against torture,” and the **United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights in 1978**.

## WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY: 31ST MAY

- ❖ Every year, on 31st May, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and global partners celebrate **World No Tobacco Day (WNTD)**.
- ❖ The annual campaign is an opportunity to **raise awareness on the harmful and deadly effects of tobacco use** and second-hand smoke exposure, and to discourage the use of tobacco in any form.
- ❖ This year theme of the 2021 WNTD is “**Commit to quit.**”
- ❖ This yearly celebration informs the public on the dangers of using tobacco, the business practices of tobacco companies, what **WHO is doing to fight the tobacco epidemic**, and what people around the world can do to claim their right to health and healthy living and to protect future generations.



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- ❖ World Health Organization on 15th May 1987 passed a resolution, calling for April 7, 1988, to be **the first World No Smoking Day**. This date was chosen as it was the 40th anniversary of the World Health Organization.
  
- ❖ Then on May 17, 1989, the World Health Organization passed a resolution calling for May 31 to be annually known as World No Tobacco Day. World No Tobacco Day has been observed every year on 31st May since 1989.
  - WHO was established on **7 April 1948**;
  - WHO is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**;
  - WHO current President is **Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**.

## FAO CELEBRATES WORLD MILK DAY

- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations celebrates **World Milk Day every year on 01st June** to recognize the importance of milk as a global food, to celebrate the dairy sector.



and

- ❖ It aims to encourage people to talk about the advantages of dairy with regards to health including nutrition, accessibility and affordability.
  
- ❖ This year, our theme will focus on **Sustainability in the dairy sector** with messages around the environment, nutrition and socio-economics. In doing so we will re-introduce dairy farming to the world.
  
- ❖ History of the day: **In 2001, World Milk Day was established by the Food and Agriculture Organisation** of the United Nations to recognize the importance of milk as a global food, and to celebrate the dairy sector.

- ❖ Each year since, the benefits of milk and dairy products have been actively promoted around the world, including **how dairy supports the livelihoods of one billion people.**

## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

### WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY (WPFDD): 3RD MAY

The **World Press Freedom Day (WPFDD)** is an annual celebration of press freedom, observed on 3rd May every year. The main celebration is organized by the **UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**. It is also known as **World Day**. The day also pays tribute to journalists who have lost their



The  
and  
Press  
lives.

It is announced by the **United Nations General Assembly** on 3rd May to spread awareness about the importance of Freedom of the Press in functioning, information providing, its significance and to awaken the government of its duty to uphold and respect the right to freedom of expression. The **theme of World Press Freedom Day 2021 is "Information as a Public Good"**. The theme focuses on the importance of cherishing information as a public good and explores ways to strengthen journalism.

#### The day highlights three key topics:

- Ways to ensure the economic viability of news media.
- Mechanisms for making sure about the transparency of internet companies.
- To strengthen **Media and Information Literacy (MIL)** capacities that will help people to recognise and value journalism as an important part of information as a public good.

The theme of World Press Freedom Day 2020 was "**Journalism without Fear or Favour**". A global campaign was launched by UNESCO on media and social media channels focussing on **Journalism without Fear or Favour**. On 4 -6 May 2020, various events including **High-level Dialogue on Press Freedom and Tackling Disinformation in the COVID-19 context**, webinars, and online discussions through Facebook Live, Youtube, and Microsoft teams, amongst other digital platforms will be held. **On the site of UNESCO, debates are available.**

*Sub-themes of the year 2020 are as follows:*

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

## BACKGROUND OF THE DAY

The day was proclaimed by the **UN General Assembly in 1993**, following the recommendation of **UNESCO's General Conference in 1991**. The day also marks the 1991 **Windhoek Declaration (adopted by UNESCO)**. It aimed towards the 'development of a free, independent and pluralistic press'.

**World Press Conference 2021:** The 2021 Global Conference was hosted by **UNESCO and the Government of Namibia**. It called for urgent attention to the threat of extinction faced by local news media around the world, a **crisis worsened by the Covid-19 pandemic**. It put forward ideas to tackle the challenges of our online media environment, push for more transparency of internet companies, strengthen safety of journalists, and improve their working conditions.

## FREEDOM OF PRESS IN INDIA

**Freedom of press** is not expressly protected by Indian legal system but it is impliedly **protected under article 19(1) (a) of the constitution**, which states - "**All citizens shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression**". In 1950, the Supreme Court in **Romesh Thappar v. State of Madras** observed that freedom of the press lay at the foundation of all democratic organisations.

However, **Freedom of press is also not absolute**. It faces certain restrictions under **Article 19(2)**, which are as follows- Matters related to interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.

**Related Rankings/Findings:** India has been ranked **142nd out of 180 nations in the World Press Freedom Index, 2021**, published by Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) or Reporters Without Borders. Reports such as '**Freedom in the World 2021 (Freedom House, US)**', '**2020 Human Rights Report (US State Department)**', '**Autocratisation Goes Viral (V-Dem Institute, Sweden)**' have all highlighted intimidation of journalists in India.

## CONCLUSION

Several cultural events are organised to determine the significance of press freedom. Initiatives of several nations are coordinated by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** and most of the time it serves as an organising partner to foster the freedom of expression. UNESCO conferred awards to deserving organisations, individuals or institutions that have made commendable contributions in the promotion and defence of press freedom in any part of the world. In India, it is celebrated to salute the media journalists who risked their lives in providing information or sometimes lost their lives in the duty itself. Various Government officers, ministers take part while organising several events like art exhibitions; honour awards for the journalists who have risked their lives on duty etc. on this day in India. **But due to the COVID-19 pandemic**, the celebration goes online. **World Press Freedom Conference 2020** provides an opportunity to journalists, civil society representatives, national authorities, academics etc. to discuss the **emerging challenges to press freedom and journalist's safety and to work together to find out the solutions**. Since 1993, the conference is organised annually. It will be from 18-20 October, 2020 in the Hague, The Netherlands.

According to the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, everyone has the **right to freedom of opinion and expression**; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers. – **Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. We all know that in the development of any country,





Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

**media plays a crucial role.** It does not only aware of people what is going on around the surrounding but also about the events which affect their lives. **Freedom of the Press should be taken seriously as the safety of journalists** while delivering information during their duties is of utmost importance. **Also, freedom of speech and expression right should be respected.**

CLAT Gurukul



# REPORT & INDEXES

LIC  
AS  
MO  
ST  
VA  
LU  
AB  
LE  
INS  
UR  
AN  
CE  
BR  
AN  
D  
GL  
OB  
AL  
LY

❖ The **state-owned insurance behemoth ‘Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)’** has emerged as the third strongest and the most valuable insurance brand globally, in **Brand Finance Insurance 100 report for 2021.**



tenth

❖ The **annual report is released by London-based brand valuation consultancy firm Brand Finance**, to identify the most valuable and strongest insurance brands globally.

- Most Valuable Indian Insurance Brand – **LIC (10th)**
- Most Strongest Indian Insurance Brand – **LIC (3rd)**
- Most Valuable Global Insurance Brand – **Ping An Insurance, China**
- Most Strongest Global Insurance Brand – **Poste Italiane, Italy**

❖ In the **strongest insurance brands category**, **Italy’s Poste Italiane** was at the top position, followed by Mapfre of the US and LIC of India.

## WIPRO BECOMES 3RD LARGEST INDIAN IT FIRM

❖ **Wipro regained its position as the 3rd largest Indian IT services company** by market capitalization of ₹ 2.65 trillion surpassing HCL Technologies’ ₹ 2.62 trillion market cap.



by

❖ TCS remains at the top of the list with a market cap of ₹ 11.51 trillion followed by Infosys.

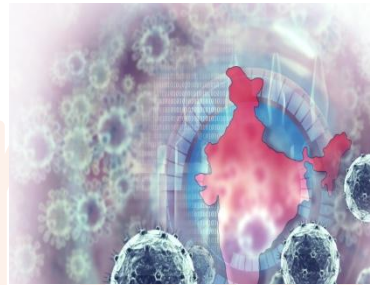
❖ Wipro has also announced its **commitment to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2040**, in line with the objective of the Paris Agreement to cap temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius.

- ❖ The **country's third-largest largest software services company** has set an intermediate target of 55 per cent reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 in absolute emission levels compared to its base year of 2016-17 (April-March).

- Chairman of Wipro Limited: **Rishad Premji.**
- Wipro Headquarters: **Bengaluru;**
- Wipro MD and CEO: **Thierry Delaporte.**

## COVID-19 INDIA'S LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH

- ❖ According to the **Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation's (IHME)** most recent figures, the Covid-19 pandemic has been India's leading cause of death.



- ❖ **IHME is a non-profit global health research centre** based at the **University of Washington in the United States.**

- ❖ **Death due to Covid-19 Pandemic:** India has reported more than 2,15,000 deaths and has registered more than 19 million cases of coronavirus, second only to the United States.

- ❖ The pandemic's human toll is more than **twice the number of people killed in more than 320 natural disasters in** the last two decades (2000-2019).

Other Top Causes of Deaths in India:

- **Ischemic heart disease** (second),
- **Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease** (third),
- **Strokes** (fourth),

- **Diarrhoeal diseases** (fifth),
- **Neonatal disorders** (sixth),
- **Lower respiratory infections** (seventh),
- **Tuberculosis** (eighth),
- **Diabetes mellitus** (ninth) and
- **Chronic liver diseases, including cirrhosis** (tenth).

## INDIA LARGEST RECIPIENT OF REMITTANCE IN 2020

❖ India was the largest recipient of remittances in 2020, as per report, “**Migration and Development brief** “released by **World Bank**. India has been the largest recipient of remittances since 2008.



the  
the

- ❖ However, the **remittance received by India in 2020 was over USD 83 billion**, which is a drop of 0.2 per cent from 2019 (USD 83.3 billion). Globally, the remittance flow was USD 540 billion in 2020, which is 1.9% lower as compared to that of 2019, when it was **USD 548 billion**.
- ❖ **Top Five Countries: The top five remittance recipient countries in 2020**, in current US dollar terms, were **India, China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt**.
- ❖ The **top five recipients in 2020**, as a share of **gross domestic product (GDP)**, were, by contrast, smaller economies: **Tonga, Lebanon, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and El Salvador**.
- ❖ The **largest remittance-sending country in 2020 was United States (USD68 billion)**. It was followed by the UAE (USD43 billion), Saudi Arabia (USD34.5 billion), Switzerland (USD27.9 billion), Germany (USD22 billion), and China (USD18 billion).
- ❖ From India, the **Remittances outflow in 2020 was USD 7 billion**, against USD 7.5 billion in 2019.

## WORLD'S 50 GREATEST LEADER'S LIST

❖ **New Zealand Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern** has topped ‘World’s 50 Greatest Leaders’ list for 2021, released by Fortune Magazine.



the

❖ The ‘World’s 50 Greatest Leaders’ list for 2021 is the eighth edition of the annual list which celebrates leaders, some well-known and others who aren’t so familiar, who made a difference amid the “truly unprecedented times” of the Covid-19 pandemic.

❖ From India, **Adar Poonawalla, the chief executive officer (CEO) of Serum Institute of India (SII)** is the only Indian among the top 10 names. He is placed in the 10th spot.

### Top 10 Fortune’s World’s 50 Greatest Leaders 2021

- **Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand**
- **mRNA Pioneers**
- **Dan Schulman, CEO of PayPal**
- **Dr John Nkengasong, director of Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention**
- **Adam Silver; Michele Roberts; Chris Paul, NBA Rescuers**
- **Jessica Tan, founder of Ping An Group**
- **Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury for the Church of England/Anglican Church**
- **Stacey Abrams, founder of Fair Fight**
- **Reshorna Fitzpatrick, pastor for Proceeding Word Church, Chicago**
- **Adar Poonawalla, CEO of Serum Institute of India**

## INDIA AS SECOND LARGEST INSURANCE TECH. MARKET



- ❖ India is the **second-largest insurance technology market in Asia-Pacific** and accounts for 35 per cent of the \$3.66 billion insurtech-focused venture capital invested in the region, according to **S&P Global Market Intelligence data**.
- ❖ The data showed that at least 335 private insurtechs are operating in **Asia-Pacific**, with about 122 of them disclosing \$3.66 billion in aggregate capital raised via private placement deals. China and India are collectively home to nearly half of private insurtech companies in the APAC region and attracted about 78 per cent of the investments.
- ❖ Insurance technology investors are attracted to India since **it is one of the fastest-growing insurance markets in the world**.

## INDIA CLIMBS TO THIRD SPOT EY INDEX

- ❖ India has moved a notch higher at the **third spot on EY's Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index** due to exceptional performance on the **solar photovoltaic (PV) front**.



- ❖ India has moved one position above (3rd) from the previous index (4th), this is primarily because of the exceptional performance on the solar PV front. **The US retains the top position on RECAI 57**, China has remained a buoyant market and maintains the second position.
- ❖ India also committed to setting up 450 GW for renewable energy power capacity (installed) by 2030 in the recent climate summit hosted by the US.

## GAUTAM ADANI BECOMES ASIA'S SECOND RICHEST MAN

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

❖ **Billionaire Gautam Adani has edged past Chinese tycoon Zhong Shanshan** to become the second-richest Asian, according to the **Bloomberg Billionaire Index**.



lost

❖ China's Zhong was the richest Asian till February when he lost the crown to **Mukesh Ambani, India's richest person and chairman of Reliance Industries Ltd.**

❖ However, while Ambani lost \$175.5 million this year, Adani's wealth surged by \$32.7 billion to touch \$66.5 billion, against Zhong's \$63.6 billion.

❖ Ambani's total wealth now stands at \$76.5 billion, making him the 13th richest in the world, followed by Adani at 14th.

- **Mukesh Ambani** ----- \$76.3B ----- India
- **Gautam Adani** ---- \$67.6B ---- India
- **Zhong Shanshan** ----- \$65.6B ----- China

## FORBES UNVEILED LIST OF HIGHEST PAID ATHLETES

❖ Forbes has unveiled its annual list of the 10 highest-paid athletes of the year.



❖ **UFC star Conor McGregor has topped the Forbes list** by earning \$180 million in the past year beating soccer superstars Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo to become the highest-paid athlete in the world.

❖ The factors used by Forbes' for calculation include all prize money, salaries and bonuses earned between May 1, 2020, and May 1, 2021.





Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

***Ranking Index***

- **Conor McGregor** (Ireland) MMA \$180 million
- **Lionel Messi** (Argentina) Soccer \$130 million
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** (Portugal) Soccer \$120 million
- **Dak Prescott** (United States) Football \$107.5 million
- **Lebron James** (United States) Basketball \$96.5 million

CLAT Gurukul



# SCIENCE & TECH.

---

Page 20

1

## CHINA'S FIRST EVER MARS ROVER 'ZHURONG'

❖ **China has named its first-ever Mars rover “Zhurong”** an ancient fire god ahead of a landing attempt on the Red Planet in May.



after

❖ The **China National Space Administration (CNSA)** revealed the name at the **sixth China Space Day held in Nanjing**. The Chinese name for Mars, “**Huoxing,**” literally means “**fire star.**”

❖ **Zhurong was the most popular of 10 shortlisted names** for a public vote that opened in January, and that choice was backed by an expert panel and the CNSA itself.

❖ The **rover carries panoramic and multispectral cameras and instruments to analyze the composition of rocks.** Zhurong will also investigate subsurface characteristics with ground-penetrating radar if all goes according to plan.

## NASA'S PARKER SOLAR PROBE

❖ **NASA's Parker Solar Probe** detected a natural radio signal, indicating that the spacecraft had passed through the **planet's upper atmosphere.** In nearly 30 years, this was first direct measurement of Venus's atmosphere.



the

❖ The **historic Parker Solar Probe mission from NASA** will transform our perception of the sun, where changing conditions will spread across the solar system, impacting Earth and other worlds.

- ❖ The **Parker Solar Probe would fly through the sun's atmosphere**, getting closer to the surface than any spacecraft before it, enduring extreme heat and radiation, and supplying mankind with the closest-ever observations of a star.
- ❖ **Parker Solar Probe** has three distinct scientific goals:
  - ❖ Follow the energy flow that heats and speeds up the **solar wind and solar corona**. Investigate the structure and dynamics of plasma and magnetic fields at solar wind sources. Explore how energetic particles are accelerated and transported.

## ISRO DEVELOPS VENTILATORS & OXYGEN CONCENTRATORS

- ❖ The **Indian Space Research Organisation's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**, has developed three different types of ventilators and an oxygen concentrator at time when a shortage of this critical medical equipment resulted in the deaths of many Covid-19 patients across the country.



- ❖ Based on designs, features and specifications, we have named them, **Prana, VaU and Svasta**. All three are user-friendly, fully automated and with **touch-screen specifications, meeting all safety standards**. **Technology transfer** will be done for the commercial production of these **three ventilators and the one oxygen concentrator** by this month itself.
- ❖ **About the Prana, VaU, Svasta and Shwaas:** Prana is meant to deliver respiratory gas to the patient by automated compression of an **Ambu bag**, **Svasta** is designed to work without electric power, and the VaU is a low-cost ventilator equivalent to commercially available high-end ventilators.

## CHINA'S ROVER 'ZHURONG' SUCCESSFULLY LANDED ON MARS

❖ China successfully achieved the feat of landing its **first Mars Rover 'Zhu Rong' on the red planet**, on May 15, 2021, becoming the only second nation to do so.



❖ Till date, only the **United States has successfully landed its rover on Mars**. All other countries that have tried have either crashed or lost contact soon after reaching the surface.

❖ The vehicle used a combination of a protective capsule, a parachute & a rocket platform to make the descent.

❖ **Zhurong, which means God of Fire**, was carried to **Mars on the Tianwen-1 orbiter**. China's Mars rover, called Zhurong after an ancient fire god in Chinese mythology, will part ways with the lander by driving down a foldable ramp. Once it has deployed, the rover is expected to spend at least 90 Mars days.

## DRDO DEVELOPED ANTIBODY DETECTION KIT 'DIPCOVAN'

❖ India's **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has developed a Covid-19 antibody detection kit.




❖ The **DIPCOVAN kit** can detect both spikes as well as nucleocapsid proteins of Coronavirus with a high sensitivity of 97%.

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- ❖ It has been approved by the **Indian Council of Medical Research** and has been developed by the **Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences lab** of DRDO in association with Delhi's Vanguard Diagnostics Pvt Ltd.
- ❖ About the DIPCOVAN: DIPCOVAN is intended for the qualitative detection of IgG antibodies in human serum or plasma, targeting **SARS-CoV-2 related antigens**.
- ❖ It offers a significantly faster turnaround time of just 75 minutes to conduct the test without any cross-reactivity with other diseases. The kit has a shelf life of 18 months.

## NASA & ISRO DEVELOPS EARTH SYSTEM OBSERVATORY

- ❖ The US space agency, **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** is developing a new system called the Earth System Observatory, to mitigate efforts related to climate change and disaster mitigation.
- 
- ❖ NASA has also partnered with **the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** which will provide **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)**.
  - ❖ **NISAR will carry two radar systems** to measure changes in the **Earth's surface**, during one of the observatory's first missions intended as a pathfinder.
  - ❖ The **Earth System Observatory** will be a set of missions designed to study “**designated observables**” such as aerosols, clouds and weather, water supply, and the Earth's surface and ecosystems, for an unprecedented understanding of the critical interactions between Earth's atmosphere, land, ocean, and ice processes, which determines how the changing climate will play out at regional and local levels, on near and long-term time scales.

- ❖ Each new satellite under **Earth System Observatory** will be uniquely **designed to create 3D, holistic view of Earth, from bedrock to atmosphere, providing a new architecture to advanced space-borne Earth observation systems.**

## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

### NASA'S OSIRIS-REX MISSION

Recently, **NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft departed from asteroid Bennu, and started its two-year long journey back to Earth. OSIRIS-REx is NASA's first mission to visit a near-Earth asteroid, survey its surface and collect a sample from it.**

### ABOUT OSIRIS-REX MISSION

It is the **United States' first asteroid sample return mission**, aiming to collect and carry a pristine, unaltered sample from an asteroid back to earth for scientific study. The **OSIRIS-REx (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer)** spacecraft was launched in 2016 for the journey to Bennu. The mission is essentially a seven-year-long voyage and will conclude when at least 60 grams of samples are delivered back to the Earth (in 2023). As per the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**, the mission promises to bring the largest amount of extraterrestrial material back to the Earth since the Apollo era. **Apollo was the NASA program** that resulted in American astronauts' making a total of 11 space flights and walking on the moon (1968-72). The spacecraft contains five instruments meant to explore Bennu including cameras, a spectrometer and a laser altimeter. Recently, the spacecraft's robotic arm called the **Touch-And-Go Sample Acquisition Mechanism (TAGSAM)**, made an attempt to **"TAG" the asteroid at a sample site and collected a sample.**

### SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MISSION

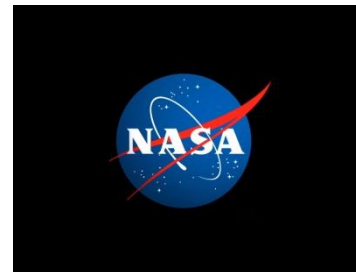
- 6 Scientists will use the **asteroid samples to study the formation of the solar system** and of habitable planets such as Earth. NASA will also distribute a part of the samples to laboratories worldwide and will

reserve about 75% of the samples for future generations who can study it with technologies not yet created.

**Asteroid Bennu: Bennu is an ancient asteroid**, currently more than 200 million miles from Earth. It is about as tall as the **Empire State Building (US)** and is named after an Egyptian deity. The asteroid was discovered by a team from the **NASA-funded Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research** team in 1999. It is known that this asteroid is a B-type asteroid, implying that it contains significant amounts of carbon and various other minerals. **Because of its high carbon content, it reflects about 4% of the light that hits it**, which is very low when compared with a planet like Venus, which reflects about 65% of the light that hits it. Earth reflects about 30%. **Around 20-40% of Bennu's interior** is empty space and scientists believe that it was formed in the first 10 million years of the solar system's formation, implying that it is roughly 4.5 billion years old. There is a slight possibility that Bennu, which is classified as a **Near Earth Object (NEO)**, might strike the Earth in the next century, between the years 2175 and 2199. NEOs are comets and asteroids nudged by the gravitational attraction of nearby planets into orbits which allows them to enter the Earth's neighbourhood. Bennu is believed to have been born in the Main Asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter and because of gravitational tugs from other celestial objects and the slight push asteroids get when they release absorbed sunlight, the asteroid is coming closer to Earth. Bennu offers scientists a window into the early solar system as it was first taking shape billions of years ago and tossing ingredients that could have helped seed life on Earth. Significantly, Bennu hasn't undergone drastic changes since its formation over billions of years ago and therefore it contains chemicals and rocks dating back to the birth of the solar system. It is also relatively close to the Earth.

## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS & SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)

The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** is independent agency of the executive branch of the United States federal government responsible for the civilian space program, as well as aeronautics and aerospace research. **Established under the National Aeronautics and Space Act 1958.** Headquarters: Washington, DC, USA



an  
well



**History: Following World War II**, the United States was in direct competition with the erstwhile Soviet Union (the superpower that was disbanded into several sovereign nations including the **Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, the Ukraine**, etc. in 1991). That **period was called “Cold War”**. It was the Soviet Union’s launch of Sputnik on October 4, 1957, that first put an object into orbit around Earth. It was followed in November by the even larger Sputnik II, which carried the dog Laika. Only in late January 1958, the United States could launch Explorer 1, hoisted aloft by the Army’s rocket team, using rocket technology developed from World War II. Though a small spacecraft weighing only 30 pounds, it discovered what are now **known as the Van Allen radiation belts**, named for the **University of Iowa scientist Dr. James Van Allen**, launching the new discipline of space science. Explorer 1 was followed in March, 1958 by the Navy’s Vanguard 1, 6 inches in diameter and weighing only 3 pounds. NASA’s birth was directly related to the launch of the Sputniks and the ensuing race to demonstrate technological superiority in space. Driven by the competition of the Cold War, on July 29, 1958, **President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act**, providing for research into the problems of flight within Earth’s atmosphere and in space.

## WHAT ARE THE ASTEROIDS?

These are **rocky objects that orbit the Sun**, much smaller than planets. They are also called minor planets. **According to NASA, 9,94,383 is the count of known asteroids**, the remnants from the formation of the solar system over 4.6 billion years ago.



**Asteroids are divided into three classes:** First, those found in the **main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter**, which is estimated to contain somewhere between 1.1-1.9 million asteroids. The second group is that of trojans, which are asteroids that share an orbit with a larger planet. The third classification is **Near-Earth Asteroids (NEA)**, which have orbits that pass close by the Earth. Those that cross the Earth’s orbit are called Earth-crossers. More than 10,000 such asteroids are known, out of which over 1,400 are classified as **Potentially Hazardous Asteroids (PHAs)**. PHAs are currently defined based on parameters that measure the **asteroid’s potential to make threatening close approaches to the Earth.**



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

Specifically, all asteroids with an **Earth Minimum Orbit Intersection Distance (MOID)** of 0.05 au or less and an absolute magnitude (H) of 22.0 or less are considered PHAs.

CLAT Gurukul





# MISCELLANEOUS

---

## ANAND MAHINDRA LAUNCHED 'OXYGEN ON WHEELS'

❖ The **Mahindra Group Chairman, Anand Mahindra** has rolled out a project titled **'Oxygen on Wheels'** to ease the transportation of oxygen from producing plants to hospitals homes, following acute oxygen shortage amid a severe second wave of coronavirus.



and

❖ The **'Oxygen on Wheels'** initiative will bridge the gap between oxygen production and its transportation in India, especially in Maharashtra.

❖ Mahindra has lined up around 70 Bolero pickup trucks to connect oxygen producers with hospitals and homes, to deliver oxygen cylinders. **The project is being implemented through Mahindra Logistics.**

❖ Apart from this, an operations control centre has been established and the storage location is replenished from the local refilling plant. A direct-to-consumer model is also being conceived.

- Mahindra Group CEO: **Pawan Kumar Goenka.**
- Mahindra Group Founded: **2 October 1945, Ludhiana.**

## WORLD'S LARGEST AEROPLANE BY STRATOLAUNCH

❖ The **world's largest aeroplane**, designed to transport hypersonic vehicles and facilitate easy access to space, **soared clear skies over California's Mojave Desert.**

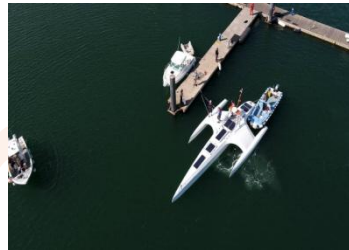


into

❖ The company Stratolaunch designed it to transport hypersonic vehicles and facilitate easy access to space.

- ❖ The aircraft named 'Roc' features a twin-fuselage design and the longest wingspan ever flown, at 385 feet (117 m), surpassing the Hughes H-4 Hercules flying boat of 321 feet (98 m).
- ❖ The Stratolaunch is intended to carry a 550,000-pound payload and will be able to launch rockets from high altitude.
  - Stratolaunch Headquarters: **Mojave, California, USA.**
  - Stratolaunch CEO & President: **Jean Floyd.**

## WORLD'S FIRST UNMANNED VESSEL 'MAYFLOWER 400'

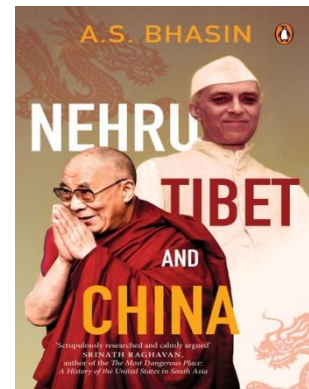
- ❖ **World's First Unmanned Vessel named "Mayflower 400"** is set to Navigate Across the Atlantic. It has been built by the marine research organization **ProMare in collaboration with IBM.** 
- ❖ It will begin its transatlantic voyage on May 15, 2021, to track aquatic mammals, analyze plastic in the water, and study marine pollution.
- ❖ **About the Mayflower 400:** Mayflower 400 is a completely autonomous ship. It is a 15-m-long trimaran that weighs 9 tons. It is powered by Artificial Intelligence and the Sun's energy via solar panels.
- ❖ **ProMare invested \$1 million** along with global contributions in the form of technology from **India, the United States, and Switzerland to build the ship.**
- ❖ The ship, equipped with a smart captain, six high-tech cameras and radars, has been trained with audio data to avoid collisions, correct its course, detect marine animals, and gather information of the population of the aquatic animals.

- ❖ The **ship can also listen to whales with a self-activating hydrophone**. Currently, the ship is trained to handle 50 meters high waves. **Mayflower 400 autonomous ship** provides an edge to the scientists in exploring the rough seas as the ship will be unmanned.

- IBM Chief Executive Officer (CEO): **Arvind Krishna**.
- IBM Headquarters: **Armonk, USA**.

## BOOK TITLED 'NEHRU, TIBET & CHINA' RELEASED

- ❖ A book has titled “**Nehru, Tibet and China**” authored by **Avtar Singh Bhasin**.



book  
these

- ❖ The book based on years of meticulous archival research, this in fascinating detail, analyses the events from **1949 to the Indo-China war in 1962** and its aftermath to explore the answers to burning questions.
- ❖ History of India, Tibet and China: On 1 October 1949, the **People’s Republic of China came into being** and changed forever the course of Asian history.
- ❖ Power moved from the hands of the **nationalist Kuomintang government to the Communist Party of China headed by Mao Tse Tung**. All of a sudden, it was not only an assertive China that India had to deal with but also an increasingly complex situation in Tibet which was reeling under pressure from China.

## FASTEST ASCENT OF MOUNT EVEREST RECORD BROKEN

- ❖ **Tsang Yin-hung, a Hong Kong-based mountaineer,** created the record of the **world's fastest ascent of Everest by a woman,** within the time of just under 26 hours.



has

- ❖ The **44-year-old Tsang,** scaled the 8,848.86-metre (29,031 feet) Everest mountain in a record time of 25 hours and 50 minutes on May 23. **It was her third attempt of scaling the Himalayan peak.**
- ❖ In 2017, Tsang became the **first Hong Kong woman to reach the top of the mountain peak.** Before this, the record of fastest woman to conquer Everest was held by **Nepali Phunjo Jhangmu Lama,** who had completed the climb in 39 hours 6 minutes in 2018.



# **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**MAY  
01ST - 31ST MAY**





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

19. NATIONAL AFFAIRS .....

20. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.....

21. ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.....

22. APPOINTMENTS.....

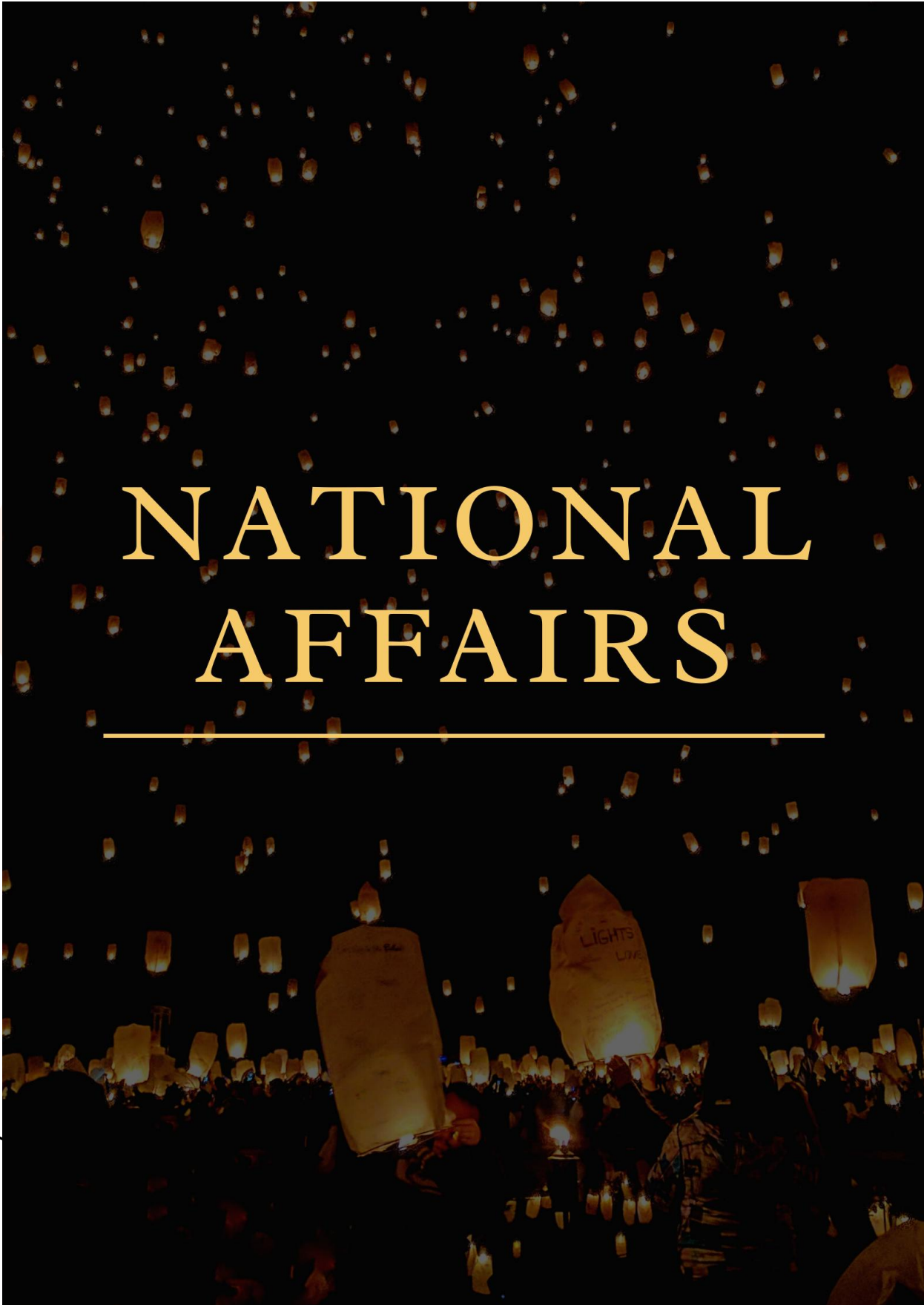
23. AWARDS AND HONORS.....

24. IMPORTANT DATES & SPORTS.....

25. REPORTS AND INDEXES.....

26. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY.....

27. MISCELLANEOUS.....



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS

MA  
MTA  
BAN  
ERJ  
EE  
TAK  
ES  
OAT  
H  
AS  
WB  
CM  
FOR  
3RD  
TIM  
E

Page 21  
7

❖ **Mamata Banerjee** was sworn in as **West Bengal Chief Minister for the third time** in the shadow of Covid and post-violence in parts of the state.



poll

❖ The oath ceremony took place with Covid protocols in place at “**Throne Room**” at the **Raj Bhavan**. The rest of the cabinet and the council of ministers will be sworn in on May 9, the **birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore**.

❖ **Mamata Banerjee** won a landslide victory in the Bengal election to secure a **third straight term**. The Trinamool won 213 of 292 seats while its strongest rival, BJP, finished second with 77 seats.

## N RANGASAMY SWORN IN AS CM OF PUDUCHERRY

❖ The **All India NR Congress (AINRC)** founder leader **N Rangasamy** has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of the **Union Territory of Puducherry**, for a record fourth time, on 07, 2021.



May

❖ **N Rangasamy** was administered the oath of office and secrecy by **Lieutenant governor (additional charge) Tamilisai Soundararajan**.

❖ Prior to this, the 71-year-old served as **Chief Minister of Puducherry from 2001 to 2008** as a member of the Indian National Congress and then from 2011 to 2016 as a member of AINRC. It will be the first time that Rangasamy will be heading a coalition cabinet, **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** in the UT, which has members from **BJP and AINRC**.

## DMK CHIEF MK STALIN AS CM OF TAMIL NADU

❖ **Tamil Nadu governor Banwarilal Purohit** has appointed **Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) chief MK Stalin** as chief minister of Tamil Nadu.



the

❖ The 68-year-old is the son of the former five-term Tamil Nadu chief minister, the **late M Karunanidhi**.

❖ The **DMK-led alliance won 159 seats**, well ahead of the majority mark of 118 seats. The party alone won 133 seats in the election.

❖ **In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections**, Stalin led the **United Progressive Alliance (UPA)**, of which the DMK is a constituent, to victory in 38 out of 39 parliamentary seats in Tamil Nadu.

## INDIAN NAVY LAUNCHED OPERATION SAMUDRA SETU-II

❖ The **Indian Navy has launched Operation Samudra Setu-II** to help in faster transportation of medical oxygen other requirements from other countries to India, amid its worsening COVID-19 pandemic.



and

❖ **As a part of operation 'Samudra Setu II'**, seven Indian Naval ships have been deployed for shipment of liquid medical oxygen-filled cryogenic containers and associated medical equipment from various countries. These warships are **Kolkata, Kochi, Talwar, Tabar, Trikand, Jalashwa and Airavat**.

❖ In 2020, the Indian Navy launched **Operation Samudra Setu**, as part of the **Vande Bharat Mission**, to repatriate approximately 4,000 stranded and distressed Indian citizens from the **Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Iran**.

## N. SITHARAMAN ATTENDED ADB ANNUAL MEETING

- ❖ **Nirmala Sitharaman**, India's Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister and the **Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Governor**, recently attended the ADB's annual meeting 2021's Governors' Seminar on "Cooperation for a Resilient Future.



- ❖ **Sitharaman** praised the **Asian Development Bank** for providing timely financial support for both Covid and non-Covid ventures.
- ❖ **ADB is a regional development bank**. Its headquarters are in **Manila, Philippines**, and it was established on December 19, 1966. It has been designated as an official UN Observer. Currently, the **Asian Development Bank has 68 members, 49 of whom are Asian**.
- ❖ The bank is open to non-regional developing countries and members of the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP, previously the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East or ECAFE)**.

## G20 TOURISM MINISTER'S MEETING 2021

- ❖ **Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture (I/c), Prahlad Singh Patel** participated in G20 Tourism Ministers' Meeting held in Italy on 4th May 2021.



- ❖ This dialogue aimed to collaborate in protecting tourism businesses, jobs and taking initiatives to frame policy guidelines to support the **sustainable and resilient recovery of travel and tourism**.

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- ❖ He also conveyed India's support for the Principles for the transition to a green travel and tourism economy submitted by UNWTO as a further contribution to the policy area "**Green Transformation**" to embrace sustainability in tourism.
- ❖ Patel also highlighted the **initiatives taken by the Ministry of Tourism** to promote community-based tourism and rural tourism by involving the local population in employment opportunities and income-generating activities through sustainable and responsible tourism.
- ❖ The **Minister concluded with thanks to the Italian G20 Presidency** for its leadership and India will continue its support and cooperation to ensure further progress under **Indonesia's G20 Presidency in 2022**.

## PUDUCHERRY BECOMES 'HAR GHAR JAL' UT

- ❖ Puducherry has achieved the **target of 100% piped water connection** in rural areas under the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**. Earlier, Goa, **Telangana and Andaman & Nicobar Islands** have provided tap water supply to every rural home under Jal Jeevan Mission.



- ❖ So, **Puducherry is the fourth State/UT** to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home under Jal Jeevan Mission.
- ❖ **Jal Jeevan Mission** is being implemented in partnership with **States/ UTs to provide safe tap water to every rural home by 2024**. The **State of Punjab and the UTs of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu** have covered over 75% of rural homes with assured tap water supply.

## INDIA & INDONESIAN NAVIES CONDUCTED NAVAL EXERCISE

❖ The **Indian and Indonesian Navies** conducted **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** in the southern Arabian Sea with a focus on further improving their interoperability.



focus

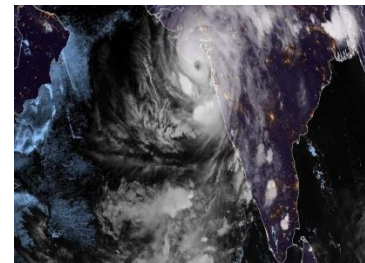
❖ The exercise was **aimed at improving interoperability** and understanding between both the friendly navies.

❖ From the **Indian Navy**, **INS Sharda**, an **Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV)** with a Chetak helicopter participated in the exercise. From the **Indonesian Navy**, **KRI Sultan Hasanudin**, a 90m Corvette took part in the exercise.

❖ **About the PASSEX: PASSEXes** are regularly conducted by IN with units of Friendly Foreign Countries. **The last PASSEX between IN and the Indonesian Navy** was conducted on 13 Mar 21 between INS Kalpeni, IN Dornier and KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda.

## CYCLONE TAUKATE HITS MANY STATES OF INDIA

❖ **Cyclone Taukate** has obtained its maximum intensity in wee hours of Sunday and has now become a **Very Severe Cyclonic Storm** (wind speed of 118 to 166 km/hr).



the

❖ The latest cyclone alert issued by the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has said that this storm would reach close to **Gujarat coast, Maharashtra, Goa**.

❖ Light to moderate intensity rainfall is expected to continue over coastal Karnataka and Kerala till Monday.

## HP GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED AYUSH GHAR-DWAR INITIATIVE

- ❖ **Himachal Government has launched the ‘Ayush Ghar-Dwar’** program to keep the home isolated Covid-19 positive patients healthy by practising Yoga.



- ❖ This program has been **started by the Department of AYUSH** in collaboration with the **Art of Living organisation**. Yoga Bharti’s instructors would provide their services in the program.
- ❖ During the launch, about 80 home isolated Covid positive patients from all over the state were also connected virtually.
- ❖ Under the program, approximately 1000 virtual groups on social media **platforms like zoom, WhatsApp and Google meet** will be formed to connect with COVID positive patients in home isolation.
- ❖ The initiative intends to provide a **holistic healthcare approach through AYUSH** to ensure not only physical but also mental, social and spiritual wellbeing.

## PM CARES FUND FOR CHILDREN ORPHANED IN COVID-19



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a **number of welfare measures** for children who lost their parents to COVID-19.



of

❖ All children who have lost either **both parents or surviving parents or legal guardians or adoptive parents** due to COVID-19 will be supported under **PM-CARES for Children scheme**. The welfare measures have been listed below:

❖ **Fixed Deposit in the name of the child:** The government has announced the “PM-CARES for Children” scheme under **which fixed deposits will be opened in the names of such children** from the PM-CARES fund.

❖ The total corpus of the fund will be Rs 10 lakh for each child. This corpus will be used to give a monthly financial support/ stipend when the child reaches 18 years of age, for the next five years to take care of his or her personal requirements.

❖ **Education:** Children under 10 years will be given admission to the nearest **Kendriya Vidyalaya or in a private school** as a day scholar. Children between 11-18 years of age will be given admission to any central government residential school such as Sainik School and Navodaya Vidyalaya.

❖ **Health Insurance:** Each child will be enrolled as a beneficiary under **Ayushman Bharat Scheme (PM-JAY)** with a health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh. The premium amount for these children will be paid by PM CARES, till they attain the age of 18 years.

## PINARAYI VIJAYAN TAKE OATH AS KERALA CM



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- ❖ **Pinarayi Vijayan** was sworn as Kerala Chief Minister for the **second time** in the shadow of the Covid-19 crisis in the state.
- ❖ The oath ceremony took place with Covid protocols in place at the **Central Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram.**
- ❖ **Governor Arif Mohammed Khan** administered the oath of office to 76-year-old Vijayan. It is the second stint of the Marxist veteran in the top office.
- ❖ **The new Left Democratic Front (LDF)** government bucked the trends, as Kerala usually alternates between the Left and a Congress government, by registering a dominant win in the 6 April assembly polls. **The LDF won 99 of 140 seats.**

## INS RAJPUT TO BE DECOMMISSIONED FROM INDIAN NAVY

- ❖ The **first destroyer of the Indian Navy**, INS Rajput, will be decommissioned on May 21. It was commissioned on 04 May 1980.
- ❖ After rendering service for 41 years, it will be decommissioned at the **Naval Dockyard of Visakhapatnam.** INS Rajput was built by Russia in the 61 Communards Shipyard. Its Original Russian name was ‘**Nadezhny**’.
- ❖ INS Rajput served for both Western and Eastern Fleets and its first commanding officer was **Capt Gulab Mohanlal Hiranandani.**
- ❖ It is the 1st Indian Naval Ship to be associated with an Indian Army regiment – the **Rajput Regiment.** It participated in many operations including **Operation Aman, Operation Pawan, Operation Cactus, etc.**



## SIX INDIAN HERITAGE SITES ADDED TO UNESCO LIST

❖ The **Union Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel** recently announced that around six cultural heritage sites have been added to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



❖ With this, the total number of sites in the **UNESCO World Heritage Sites Tentative list has increased to 48.**

❖ The following six places have successfully entered the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage sites.

- Ganga Ghats of Varanasi
- Temples of Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu
- Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh
- Maharashtra Military Architecture
- Hire Benkal Megalithic site
- Bhedaghat Lametaghat of Narmada Valley in Madhya Pradesh

## SEVERE CYCLONIC STORM 'YAAS' TO HIT INDIA

❖ A category 5 cyclonic storm has been forecasted to make its landfall along the **coastline of West Bengal and Odisha** between May 26-27.



❖ Once formed, the cyclone will be named 'Yaas'. **Yaas will be as deadly as Amphan** which was also formed in the Bay of Bengal in May last year. **Yaas, named by Oman** as such, refers to a Jasmine-like tree that has a good fragrance.

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- ❖ A rotational list of the names of cyclones is maintained by the **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)**, with the names specific for each tropical zone.
- ❖ If a cyclone is especially deadly then its name is never used and is replaced by another name. The list has a total of 169 names at present which will be used on a rotational basis.
  - World Meteorological Organisation Headquarters: **Geneva, Switzerland**
  - World Meteorological Organisation Founded: **23 March 1950**
  - World Meteorological Organisation President: **David Grimes.**

## HARSH VARDHAN CHAIRED 74TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

- ❖ Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chairman of WHO Executive Board, **Dr Harsh Vardhan**, chaired the 74th World Health Assembly in virtual mode.

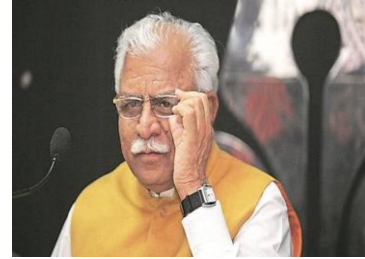


in

- ❖ According to Dr Harsh Vardhan, the executive board has asked for further efforts which can ensure fair and equitable access to **COVID-19 vaccines under COVAX Facility.**
- ❖ **Director-General of World Health Organisation, Dr Tedros**, also participated in the event.
- ❖ Board recommended 74th World Health Assembly to consider the report on **mental health preparedness and response for the Covid-19 pandemic.**
- ❖ It further recommended endorsing updated comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan for 2013 to 2030 and encouraged WHO to work in collaboration with **World Organisation for Animal Health and Food & Agriculture Organisation** so that source of zoonotic virus can be identified.

## HARYANA GOVT. LAUNCHED 'SANJEEVANI PARIYOJANA'

- ❖ Haryana government has launched an anti-Covid “**Sanjeevani Pariyojana**”, which will provide supervised **quick medical care at home for people**, with mild to moderate symptoms of Covid-19, residing in rural areas.



and

- ❖ This Pariyojana has been launched to extend medical care in rural areas where awareness regarding the second wave of Covid-19 and related treatment remains low.
- ❖ It is an important step of bringing medical care for the people who need it most and when they need it most.
- ❖ Under the initiative: The scope of medical advice will be expanded beyond qualified doctors as **it will mobilize 200 final year and pre-final year medical students** and interns by connecting them to consultants and experts.
- ❖ The initiative comprises an Integrated Command and Control Centre to manage critical resources such as **ambulance tracking, oxygen supply, hospital beds availability, besides, door-to-door awareness campaign**. Thus, it will help the district administration in keeping a bird’s eye view of the entire healthcare system.

## KERALA GOVT. INITIATED NEW SMART KITCHEN SCHEME



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- ❖ **Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan** has announced a secretary-level committee will formulate guidelines and recommendations on implementation of the “**Smart Kitchen Scheme**” in state to fulfil commitments of the **Left Democratic Front (LDF)**.
- ❖ It aims to account and reduce the workload of women’s domestic labour. **Smart Kitchen Scheme will be launched by July 10, 2021.**
- ❖ Under the scheme, women of state will be given loan to refurbish their kitchen. Loan will be provided with a low-interest rate in instalment schemes. Scheme seeks to **reduce workload of women’s domestic labour.**

## RAJNATH SINGH LAUNCHED SEHAT OPD PORTAL

- ❖ **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** has launched the ‘**Services e-Health Assistance & Tele-consultation (SeHAT) OPD portal**, through video conferencing.

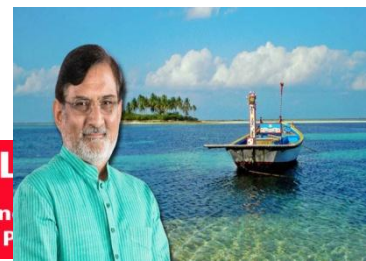


- ❖ The main motive of the portal is to provide telemedicine services to the serving Armed Forces personnel, veterans and their families.
- ❖ **About the Portal:** The portal can be accessed at <https://sehatopd.in/>, to avail the telemedicine services. **SeHAT OPD portal is the final version with advanced safety features.**

## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

### LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REGULATION

2021



**Residents of Lakshadweep** have been protesting against some new regulations that have been introduced by their new administrator Praful Khoda Patel. The citizens are even saying that the **administrator is not working for the island**. The new rules allow the liquor to be sold on the island, bans beef and plans to disenfranchise the islanders of various counts.

## WHAT IS DRAFT LDAR 2021?

The **Draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation, 2021 or LDAR 2021** was notified on the official website of the administration. Its proposal is to change the existing land ownership on the island. It also aims to modify the usage in Lakshadweep by **providing sweeping, arbitrary, unchecked powers to the government**. This in turn is directly interfering with the island's resident's right to possess and retain their property. The Regulation also gives the powers to the Government to choose any land for **“development” activities that have been provided under its regulation**. Once the land is picked, it could be used as per the government sees fit.

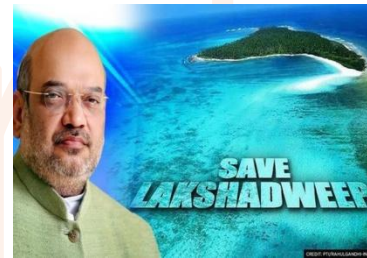
## MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE DRAFT

- **Introduction of the anti-social Activities Regulation Bill, 2021:** The government introduced a draft detention law called the **Prevention of Anti-Social Activities**, which if implemented can empower the administration to detain anyone without public disclosure for up to one year.
- **Beef Ban:** The government also introduced the **draft Lakshadweep Animal Preservation Regulation 2021**, which if implemented will ban the slaughter of cows, calves of a cow, bulls and bullocks.
- **Land Development Initiatives:** Since Lakshadweep is a Union Territory without an Assembly it is directly controlled by the Centre. The administration introduced the Draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation, 2021, which if implemented will empower the government to take any piece of land owned by any **common man in the island for “development” purposes**.

- **Diversion of all cargo to Mangalore:** The administration has introduced measures diverting all cargo to Mangalore. The move has been met with opposition because, prior to this, majority of the local businessmen relied on Beypore port in Kerala, a state with which the islanders have strong cultural ties.
- **Decision to allow functioning of liquor bars:** Lakshadweep is a **Muslim-majority region** with Malayalam being the dominant language. The islands are **non-alcoholic zones**. However, Patel gave his nod for businesses to open liquor bars in the island, stating that such a move will promote tourism.

## PEOPLE'S CONCERN RELATED TO THE DRAFT

As per the citizens the following are the reasons for the discontent of the citizens/ residents: The 10 inhabited islands were under a two month lockdown. The **Lakshadweep administration** is accused of exploitation of the public's inability at time to mobilise arbitrary legislation. Locals also say that these regulations are out of sync with the socio-political and environmental requirements. **Many islanders also suspect that LDAR** might have been issued for seeking real estate interests to usurp small holdings of property owned by islanders. The islanders also fear that the LDAR may provide for forcible eviction. It puts the onus on the owner to develop the holding as per plan by the authority. The **Regulation also provides for unchecked power to the Government and its bodies** interfering with the rights of the islanders to retain their property.



this

The **people of Lakshadweep** have also opposed the administrator of trying to interfere in the traditional life by introducing a ban on buying or selling beef products. The **Goonda Act being introduced in the island that has negligible crime** rate and revoking of restrictions on alcohol for benefit of tourism also have attracted criticism from the islanders. Some things that were equally non satisfactory were that the **island descended from being COVID 19 free region** to developing more than 6800 cases in a



year. Also the mandatory quarantine if the island bound travellers was done away with in the leadership of Praful Khoda Patel.

The protests got a **wider reach when Kerala MP Elamaram Kareem** wrote to **President Ram Nath Kovind** alleging that several casual laborers lost their jobs in the wake of new reforms. Further, sheds and equipment of fishermen were demolished without any warning by the new administration on the **account of violating the Coast Guard Act**. The new administration also said that islanders should rely on **Mangalore (Karnataka) rather than Beypore (Kerala)** for freight transit. People from Lakshadweep also have been taking it to social media writing they need help. The new administration has been destroying our land, tweeted a local resident of Lakshadweep.

## LAKSHADWEEP (INDIAN UNION TERRITORY)

- **About:** India's smallest Union Territory, Lakshadweep is an archipelago consisting of 36 islands with an area of 32 sq km. It is directly under the control of the Centre through an administrator.
- There are three main group of islands: **Amindivi Islands, Laccadive Islands, Minicoy Island**. Amindivi Islands are the northernmost while Minicoy island is the southernmost. **All are tiny islands of coral origin (Atoll)** and are surrounded by fringing reefs. The **Capital is Kavaratti** and it is also the principal town of the UT. Pitti island, which is uninhabited, has a bird sanctuary.
- **Population:** More than 93% of the population who are indigenous, are Muslims and majority of them belong to the Shafi School of the Sunni Sect. Malayalam is spoken in all the islands except Minicoy where people speak Mahl which is written in Divehi script and is spoken in Maldives also. The entire indigenous population has been classified as Scheduled Tribes because of their economic and social backwardness. **There are no Scheduled Castes in this Union Territory**. The main occupation of the people is fishing, coconut cultivation and coir twisting. Tourism is an emerging industry.



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- **Organic Agricultural Area:** Recently, the entire Lakshadweep group of islands has been declared as an organic agricultural area under the **Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) of India.**

CLAT Gurukul





# INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

---

## UK: 1ST NATION TO ANNOUNCE SELF DRIVING CARS

❖ The **United Kingdom** has become the first country to announce regulation for the use of self-driving vehicles at speeds.



low

❖ The UK wants to be at the forefront in rolling out autonomous driving technology. The **Government of the UK** forecasts that around **40%** of UK cars will have **self-driving capabilities by 2035**.

❖ **Most of the self-driving systems maintain an internal map.** They use lasers, sensors and radars to map their surroundings. Based on the map created, instructions are delivered to the actuators of the vehicle.

## NATO LAUNCHED EXERCISE 'DEFENDER EUROPE-21'

❖ **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** has launched military exercises “**DEFENDER-Europe 21**” in **Albania** thousands of military forces from the United States and other countries in the first such large-scale drills since World War II Western Balkans.



joint  
with  
in the

❖ **Albania is playing a critical part in the DEFENDER-Europe 21** exercise with Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore operations taking place.

❖ **DEFENDER-Europe** is an annual large-scale U.S. Army-led, multinational exercise, defensive in nature and focused on deterring aggression, which this year focuses on building operational readiness and **interoperability with NATO and a greater number of allies and partners over a wider area of operations than ever before.**

## INDIA & RUSSIA 2+2 MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE

❖ **India and Russia have agreed to establish a '2+2 Ministerial Dialogue' at the Foreign & Defence Minister level between the countries.**



two

❖ **Russia is the 4th country and 1st Non-Quad member country with which India has established the '2+2 Ministerial dialogue' mechanism.**

which

❖ **India has such a mechanism with the US, Japan and Australia.** It is expected to boost the bilateral strategic partnership between India & Russia.

❖ **Relations between India and Russia are rooted in history, mutual trust and mutually beneficial cooperation.** This is a strategic partnership that has withstood the test of time, and which enjoys the support of the people of both countries.

❖ **Diplomatic relations between India and Russia began even before India achieved independence, on 13 April 1947.**

## INDIA & UK ROADMAP FOR BILATERAL TRADE PARTNERSHIP

❖ **The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson held a virtual Summit meeting.**



❖ **During the Summit meeting, both the leaders unveiled an ambitious 10-year road map to elevate the India-UK bilateral relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership. The UK prime minister Boris Johnson announced a new India-UK trade investment worth £1 billion.**

*Apart from this, India and the UK inked nine pacts.*

- ❖ These pacts were in areas such as **migration and mobility, digital and technology, telecommunications, energy and medicines, counter-terrorism**, besides agreeing to boost collaboration in dealing with climate change through a new partnership on renewables and power.
- ❖ They also launched **Enhanced Trade Partnership**, which included negotiation for a **comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**, including consideration of an interim trade agreement to deliver early gains. The two nations set an ambitious target of more than doubling bilateral trade by 2030.

## INDIA-FRANCE-AUSTRALIA TRILATERAL DIALOGUE

- ❖ The **first-ever India-France-Australia Trilateral Foreign Ministerial Dialogue** was held in London, UK, on the sidelines of the **G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting**.



- ❖ The **meeting was attended by External Affairs Minister, Dr S. Jaishankar** from India, France's Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Mr **Jean-Yves Le Drian** and Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, **Senator Marise Payne**.
- ❖ The **France, India, Australia trilateral meet** was launched in **September 2020 at Foreign Secretaries' levels** but has been elevated to ministerial level within one year of its inception. It has three joint priorities which are maritime security, environment, and multilateralism.
- ❖ The **G7 foreign ministers meeting is the first in-person meeting of foreign minister** of the grouping amid pandemic, with the last such meeting taking place in 2019.

## HOSTILITIES ESCALATED B/W ISRAEL & HAMAS

- ❖ The **Israeli military has bombarded rockets in different areas in Gaza**. It is the most intense airstrikes in Gaza since
- ❖ **Hamas had red hundreds of rockets towards Israel on Monday**. After that, Israel has carried out **hundreds of airstrikes in Gaza**.
- ❖ The **Gaza-based Palestinian group, Hamas**, had red rockets towards Israel in protest of the clash between Israeli police and Palestinian protesters in the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Al-Aqsa Mosque is located in Jerusalem. It is the third holiest place for Muslims.



2014.

### *About the Hamas:*

- It was **founded in 1987**.
  - It is a **Palestinian Sunni-Islamic fundamentalist organization**.
  - It is active in the **West Bank and Gaza Strip region of the Palestine**.
  - It opposes the **secular approach of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict**.
- Israel Capital is **Jerusalem** and the currency is the **Israeli shekel**.
  - **Benjamin Netanyahu is the Prime Minister of Israel**.

## NEPAL PM KP OLI LOST VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

- ❖ **Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli** has lost the **vote confidence in the House of Representatives**. K P Sharma 93 votes in his favour while 124 voted against him.
- ❖ In the **275-member House of Representatives**, he required




of  
Oli got  
  
at least

Page 23  
8

136 Votes to win the **trust vote in the lower of the House of Representatives.**

- ❖ After the **NCP (Nationalist Congress Party)** withdrew its support from the government, PM Oli faced a vote of confidence. In January, **K P Sharma Oli** was expelled from the primary membership of the **Nepal Communist Party** for his decision to dissolve the Parliament.
  - **Nepal capital is Kathmandu** and the currency is Nepalese Rupees.
  - President of Nepal: **Bidya Devi Bhandari**

## KP SHARMA OLİ RE-APPOINTED AS PM OF NEPAL

- ❖ In Nepal, **KP Sharma Oli** was re-appointed as the **Prime Minister** of the country by **President Bidhya Devi Bhandari**.
- ❖ Oli was administered the **oath of office by the President** on May 14, 2021. Now, he must prove that he has majority support in the House within 30 days. **This will be his third stint as Prime Minister.**
- ❖ The **decision to re-appoint Oli** was taken after none of the **opposition party could secure majority seats in the House to form a new government** or apply for it in the provided time frame (by 9 pm on 13 May 2021).
- ❖ As a result, Oli, who is the **leader of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-UML)**, the largest party in the **House of Representatives**, was appointed for **Prime Minister**, as per the provision of 76(3) of the **Constitution of Nepal**.
- ❖ It must be noted that, on 10 May 2021, Oli failed to obtain a **vote of confidence in the House of Representatives**, gaining only 93 of the total 232 votes cast, which was 43 votes short of



reaching the 136-vote majority required to win the confidence vote. As a result, Oli was automatically relieved from his post.

## ITALY TO HOST GLOBAL G20 HEALTH SUMMIT

❖ The Global G20 Health Summit was co-hosted by **European Commission** along with Italy as part of its G20 presidency amid the surge and spread of coronavirus cases.



❖ The summit adopted the **agenda to overcome the Covid-pandemic**. It also decided to develop and endorse a **Rome Declaration of principles**.

19

❖ As per WHO officials, **the future of the pandemic is in hands of G20 leaders**. G20 has also contributed to the launch of ACT-Accelerator as it was launched after G20 called for a global mechanism to accelerate the development of tests, treatments and vaccines.

❖ **ACT-Accelerator is used for "Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator"**. It is also called Global Collaboration to Accelerate Development, Production and Equitable Access to COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines.

## UK LAUNCHED PLAN FOR 'GLOBAL PANDEMIC RADAR'


❖ The United Kingdom will develop an **advanced international pathogen surveillance network** to identify Covid-19 variants and emerging diseases.



❖ This Global Pandemic Radar will ensure the **early detection of new variants** and emerging pathogens, so vaccines and treatments needed to stop them can be rapidly developed.

- ❖ **Prime minister Boris Johnson** announced the plans, ahead of the Global Health Summit hosted by **Italy and the European Union (EU)**.
- ❖ About the radar: The radar is expected to be fully up and running with a network of surveillance hubs before the end of 2021, with the aim of **significantly improving global health security going into next year**.
- ❖ **WHO will lead an implementation group, supported by global health charity** the Wellcome Trust, to launch the new international partnership to identify, track and share data on new coronavirus variants and monitor vaccine resistance in populations.

## OPENING OF NEW CONSULATE GENERAL IN MALDIVES

- ❖ Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the opening of a **new Consulate General of India in Addu City, the Maldives in 2021**.  has
- ❖ India and Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links steeped in antiquity. Maldives occupies an important place in the 'Neighbourhood First Policy' and the **'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision of the Government of India**.
- ❖ About the Consulate General: The opening of a Consulate General in Addu City will help augment India's diplomatic presence in the Maldives and make it commensurate with the existing and aspired level of engagement.
- ❖ **The momentum and energy in the bilateral relationship** have reached unprecedented levels under the leadership of **Prime Minister Modi and President Solih**.

- ❖ This is also a forward-looking step in pursuit of our national priority of growth and development or ‘**SabkaSaathSabka Vikas**’ **Augmentation** of India’s diplomatic presence will, inter-alia, provide market access for Indian companies and bolster Indian exports of goods and services.
- ❖ This would have a direct impact in augmenting domestic production and employment in line with our goal of a self-reliant India or ‘**Atmanirbhar Bharat**’.

## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

### ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CLASHES OVER JERUSALEM

Recently, **Israeli armed forces attacked Al-Aqsa Mosque** in the Haram esh-Sharif in Jerusalem, ahead of a march by **Zionist nationalists commemorating Israel’s capture of the eastern half the city in 1967**. The threatened eviction of dozens of Palestinian families in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah escalated the crisis further. **Zionism is a worldwide Jewish movement** that resulted in the establishment and development of the state of Israel and that now supports the state of Israel as a Jewish homeland.



of

**Al-Aqsa Mosque:** It is one of the holiest structures in the Islamic faith. It sits inside a 35-acre site known by **Muslims as Haram al-Sharif**, or the Noble Sanctuary, and by Jews as the Temple Mount. The site is part of the **Old City of Jerusalem**, sacred to **Christians, Jews and Muslims**. It is believed to have been completed early in the eighth century and faces the Dome of the Rock, the golden-domed Islamic shrine that is a widely recognized symbol of Jerusalem. **The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO**, has classified the Old City of Jerusalem and its walls as a World Heritage Site.

## CONFLICT OVER JERUSALEM: ISRAEL-PALESTINE

Jerusalem has been at the centre of the **Israeli-Palestinian conflict**. According to the original **1947 United Nations (UN)** partition plan, Jerusalem was proposed to be an international city. But in the **first Arab Israel war of 1948**, the Israelis captured the western half of the city, and Jordan took the eastern part, including the Old City that houses **Haram al-Sharif**. Israel captured East Jerusalem from Jordan in the **Six-Day War 1967 and annexed it later**. Since its annexation, Israel has expanded settlements in East Jerusalem. Israel sees the whole city as its “**unified, eternal capital**”, whereas the Palestinian leadership across the political spectrum have maintained that they would not accept any compromise formula for the future **Palestinian state unless East Jerusalem is its capital**.

**Sheikh Jarrah Issue:** Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were forced out of their homes when the State of Israel was created in historical Palestine in 1948. Twenty-eight of those Palestinian families moved to **Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem** to settle there. In 1956, when East Jerusalem was ruled by Jordan, the **Jordanian Ministry of Construction and Development** and the UN Relief and Works Agency facilitated the construction of houses for these families in **Sheikh Jarrah**. But Israel would capture **East Jerusalem from Jordan in 1967**. By the early 1970s, Jewish agencies started demanding the families leave the land. Earlier this year (2021), the Central Court in East Jerusalem upheld a decision to evict four Palestinian families from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah in favor of Jewish settlers. The issue remains unresolved and potentially inflammable.

## INDIA'S STAND ON ISRAEL-PALESTINE ISSUE

**India recognised Israel in 1950** but it is also the first non-Arab country to recognise **Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)** as the sole representative of the Palestinian. India is also one of the first countries to recognise the statehood of Palestine in 1988. In 2014, **India favored UNHRC's resolution** to probe Israel's human rights violations in Gaza. Despite supporting the probe, **India abstained from voting against Israel in UNHRC in 2015**. As a part of Link West Policy, India has de-hyphenated its relationship with **Israel and Palestine in 2018** to treat both the countries mutually independent and exclusive. In June 2019, India voted in favor of a decision introduced by Israel in the



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

**UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** that objected to granting consultative status to a Palestinian non-governmental organization. So far India has tried to maintain the image of its **historical moral supporter for Palestinian self-determination**, and at the same time to engage in the military, economic, and other strategic relations with Israel.

## RELATED DEVELOPMENTS ON THE ISSUE

In March 2021, **International Criminal Court (ICC)** launched investigations into the war crimes in Palestinian territories occupied by **Israel (West Bank and the Gaza Strip)**. In April 2021, the US restored at least USD 235 million in financial assistance to the Palestinians.

The world at large needs to come together for a peaceful solution but the reluctance of the Israeli government and other involved parties have aggravated the issue more. Thus a balanced approach would help to maintain favorable relations with Arab countries as well as Israel. The recent **normalization agreements between Israel and the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco, known as the Abraham Accords**, are the steps in the right direction. All regional powers should envisage peace between the two countries on line of Abraham Accords.

# ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

---

## NG FINANCIAL SYSTEM

❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has joined the **Central Banks and Supervisors Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS)** as a member. The central bank joined the NGFS on April 23, 2021.

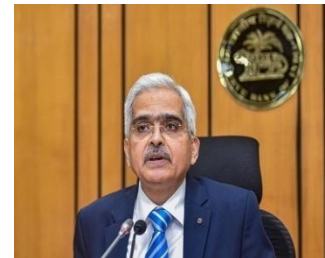


❖ Green finance assumed significance in the context of climate change. The **RBI expects to benefit from the membership of NGFS** by learning from and contributing to global efforts on green finance, which has assumed significance in the context of climate change.

❖ **Launched at the Paris One Planet Summit on December 12, 2017**, the NGFS is a group of central banks and supervisors willing to share best practices and contribute to the development of environment and climate risk management in the financial sector, while mobilising mainstream finance to support the transition towards a sustainable economy.

## RBI'S TERM LIQUIDITY FACILITY FOR HEALTHCARE

❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta** has announced a Covid-19 healthcare package of Rs 50,000 crore, for lending to entities such as vaccine makers, medical equipment suppliers, hospitals and related sectors, besides the patients in need of funds for treatment.



Das

❖ About the **Covid-19 healthcare package**: The new on-tap special liquidity facility of Rs 50,000 crore will be made available to the banks at the repo rate, **for access to emergency health security amid the economic stress** due to the second wave of Covid-19 in India.

- ❖ Banks can give loans under this facility till March 31, 2022. This **Covid loan will be provided for a tenure of up to 3 years** and will be classified as a priority sector loan till repayment or maturity.

## RBI CONSTITUTED ADVISORY GROUP TO ASSIST RRA 2.0

- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has constituted an advisory group to assist the **second Regulatory Review Authority (RRA 2.0)**, which was set by the central bank May 01, 2021 to streamline regulations and reduce the compliance burden of regulated entities. The Advisory Group will be headed by **SBI Managing Director S Janakiraman**.



on

Other members of the 6-member advisory group are:

- **T T Srinivasaraghavan** (Former Managing Director and Non-Executive Director, Sundaram Finance),
  - **Gautam Thakur** (Chairman, Saraswat Co-operative Bank),
  - **Subir Saha** (Group Chief Compliance Officer, ICICI Bank),
  - **Ravi Duvvuru** (President and CCO, Jana Small Finance Bank),
  - **Abadaan Viccaji** (Chief Compliance Officer, HSBC India)
- ❖ About the **RRA 2.0: The second Regulatory Review Authority (RRA 2.0)**, has been set up for a period of one year from May 01, 2021, to review the regulations, circulars, reporting systems and compliance procedures for streamlining them and making them more effective.
  - ❖ The group will assist the **RRA 2.0 by identifying regulations, guidelines, and returns** that can be rationalised, and submit reports periodically to RRA containing the recommendations/suggestions.



## DOT GRANTED PERMISSIONS FOR 5G TRIAL INDIA

❖ The **Government of India's Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has granted permission to Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) to conduct trials for the and implementations of 5G technology.



use


- ❖ **Reliance JioInfocomm Ltd., Bharti Airtel Ltd., Vodafone Idea Ltd., and MTNL** are among the TSPs that have applied. The trials are currently scheduled to last for six months.
- ❖ Each TSP will be required to perform trials in rural, semi-urban, and urban areas to ensure that the benefits of 5G technology are spread across the country.
- ❖ Goal: To test 5G spectrum propagation characteristics, particularly in the context of India; to model tune and evaluate chosen equipment and vendors; to test indigenous technology; to test applications; and to test 5G phones and devices.
- ❖ To allow **Industry 4.0, 5G technology** is expected to provide a better user experience in terms of data download speeds (**expected to be 10 times faster than 4G**), up to three times greater spectrum performance, and ultra low latency.

## UNITED NATIONS PROJECTED INDIA'S GDP GROWTH



- ❖ The **United Nations** has projected that the **Indian economy would grow at 10.1 per cent** in the calendar year 2022, nearly double the 5.9 per cent growth forecast for the country in the January report.
- ❖ But cautioned that the **growth outlook of 2021 was “highly fragile”** as the country was the **“new hotbed of the pandemic.”**
- ❖ The mid-year update said that India will register a **7.5-per cent growth rate** in the calendar year 2021, after an **estimated contraction of 6.8 per cent in 2020.**
  - United Nations Headquarters in **New York, USA.**
  - **Mr Antonio Guterres** is the **Secretary-General of the United Nations.**

## INDIA LOST FARZAD-B GAS FIELD OF IRAN

- ❖ India lost the **ONGC Videsh Ltd-discovered Farzad-B gas in the Persian Gulf** after Iran awarded a contract for developing the giant gas field to a local company.  **field**
- ❖ **The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)** has signed a contract worth USD 1.78 billion with **Petropars Group for the development of Farzad B Gas Field in the Persian Gulf.**
- ❖ The field holds 23 trillion cubic feet of in-place gas reserves, of which about 60 per cent is recoverable. It also holds gas condensates of about 5,000 barrels per billion cubic feet of gas.
- ❖ **ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), the overseas investment arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC),** had in 2008 discovered a giant gas field in the Farsi offshore exploration block.

## FDI JUMPS 19% TO USD 59.64 BILLION IN 2020-21

- ❖ **Foreign direct investments (FDI)** into the country grew per cent to USD 59.64 billion during 2020-21 on account of measures taken by the government on the fronts of **policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business.**



19

- ❖ Total FDI, including equity, re-invested earnings and capital, rose 10 per cent to the “highest ever” of USD 81.72 billion during 2020-21 as against USD 74.39 billion in 2019-20.
- ❖ In terms of top investor countries, **Singapore is at the top with a 29 per cent share.**
- ❖ It was followed by the US (23 per cent) and Mauritius (9 per cent) during the last fiscal. FDI equity inflow grew by 19 per cent in 2020-21 (USD 59.64 billion), compared to 2019-20 (USD 49.98 billion).

## RBI RELEASED ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020-21

- ❖ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has published its annual and highlights “asset quality of banks and their preparedness requires close monitoring for higher provisioning for upcoming quarters”.



report

- ❖ In its annual report, the **central bank said the country’s growth prospects** now essentially depend on how fast India can arrest the second wave of COVID-19 infections.
- ❖ **RBI Annual Report 2021:** RBI in its semi-annual financial stability report **earlier highlighted bad loan ratio of banks could rise to 13.5%** under the baseline stress scenario by September 2021.



- ❖ **The Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) of banks** improved from 66.6% in March 2020 to 75.5% by December 2020, because of prudent provisioning by banks above regulatory prescriptions on accounts availing moratorium and undergoing restructuring.
- ❖ The **capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR)** of banks increased to 15.9% by December 2020, in March it was 14.8%. In its report, RBI cautioned “banks being lenders will have to provide a true picture of bad loans after **Supreme Court lifted the interim stay on classifying non-performing assets (NPA)** in March 2021.
- ❖ According to it, waiver of compound interest on all loan accounts opted for a moratorium during March-August 2020 would put stress on the financial health of banks.
- ❖ The **Gross NPA ratio of banks decreased from 8.2% in March 2020 to 6.8% in December 2020**. The Gross NPA ratio for non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs) increased from 6.8% in March to 5.7% in December 2020.
- ❖ The capital adequacy ratio of NBFCs increased from 24.8% in December 2020 to 23.7% in March. Frauds reported by banks fell by 25% in value terms in just one year to Rs 1.38 lakh crore at the end of fiscal year ended March 2021, **data released by the RBI as part of its annual report showed.**

## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

### TRIPS WAIVER FOR COVID-19 VACCINES

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

Recently, **India and South Africa** have piloted the proposal to waive provisions of the TRIPS agreement on **Covid-19 vaccines, drugs, therapeutics, and related technologies**. This proposal has been now backed by the U.S also. The TRIPS waiver proposal would give immunity to member countries from a legal challenge at the WTO if **domestic Intellectual Property Regulation (IPR)** laws suspend or do not enforce IP protection. The core idea behind this TRIPS proposal is that the IPR should not become barriers in scaling up production of medical products essential to combat Covid-19. However, the TRIPS waiver is unlikely to solve India's Covid-19 vaccine shortage. Instead of trying to obtain an IP waiver, the Indian government must enable vaccine manufacturers to expand production (**through compulsory licensing**) & **reduce inefficiencies in procurement & distribution**.



key

their

## TRIPS AGREEMENT & INDIA LAW

The **TRIPS agreement was negotiated in 1995** at the WTO, it requires all its signatory countries to enact domestic law. It guarantees minimum standards of IP protection. Such legal consistency enables innovators to monetise their intellectual property in multiple countries. **In 2001, the WTO signed the Doha Declaration**, which clarified that in a public health emergency, governments could compel companies to license their patents to manufacturers, even if they did not think the offered price was acceptable. **This provision, commonly referred to as “compulsory licensing”, was already built into the TRIPS Agreement and the Doha declaration** only clarified its usage. **Under Section 92 of the 1970 Indian Patents Act**, the central government has the power to allow compulsory licenses to be issued at any time in case of a national emergency or circumstances of extreme urgency.

*Why is the TRIPS waiver unlikely to solve India's Covid-19 vaccine shortage?*

**Complex Intellectual Property Mechanism:** The process of vaccine development and manufacturing has several steps, and involves a complex intellectual property mechanism. **Different types of IP rights** apply to different steps and there is no one kind of IP that could unlock the secret to manufacturing a vaccine. The expertise to manufacture it may be protected as a trade secret, and the data from clinical trials to test vaccine safety and efficacy may be protected by copyright.

**Complex Manufacturing Mechanism:** Manufacturing vaccines will need to design the process for manufacturing the vaccines, source necessary **raw materials, build production facilities, and conduct clinical trials** to get regulatory approvals. The manufacturing process itself has different steps, some of which may be subcontracted to other parties. Thus, a patent waiver alone does not empower manufacturers to start vaccine production immediately.

## NEED FOR INVOKING COMPULSORY LICENSING

**Plugging Shortage of Vaccine:** The richest countries have **cornered about 80 percent of vaccine supplies so far.** While India needs to supplement its output to ensure that a population of over 1.4 billion which is above 18 years of age **gets about 1.8 billion doses at the earliest.** Thus, compulsory licensing can be used to augment the supply of drugs and other therapeutics.



India  
900

**Nudging Voluntary Licensing:** An assertive posture on compulsory licences would also have the advantage of forcing **several pharmaceutical companies to offer licences voluntarily.**

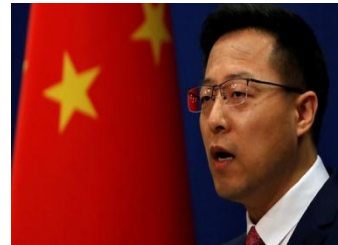
**Leading By Example:** Licensing Covaxin widely would enable India to live up to its reputation of being the **‘pharmacy of the world’** and also put pressure on developed countries to transfer their vaccine technology to developing countries. Thus, the government should not only transfer **Covaxin’s technology to domestic pharmaceutical companies,** to boost national supplies, but also offer it to foreign corporations. By unlocking its vaccine technical know-how to the world, India would demonstrate its resolve to walk the talk on the TRIPS waiver.

## CHINA TO SUPPORT GLOBAL TRIPS WAIVER

China on May 17, 2021, said that it will support India’s and South Africa’s proposal for a temporary waiver of **Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)** for coronavirus vaccines.

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

It further mentioned that Beijing will contribute to all actions of the developing countries to help them in their **fight against coronavirus. India and South Africa**, in October 2020, had requested the **World Health Organization (WHO) for TRIPS** waiver of certain IP provisions of COVID-19 vaccines so that that



developing countries can amplify vaccine production and provide access to COVID vaccines to the poorest of the poor people. **Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian** said in a press briefing that China, as the largest developing country is supportive of the developing world's demand for an IPR waiver for COVID-19 vaccines. He further said that China will back all actions so that developing countries can acquire vaccines in an equitable way to fight against the coronavirus.

## WHAT IS TRIPS AGREEMENT?

**TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights)** is an international agreement among the member countries of the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**. TRIPS establishes standards and regulations protection of IP (intellectual property) rights like industrial designs, patents, copyright, and protection of confidential information or trade secrets. **TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights)** came into effect in January 1995. TRIPS enables each WTO member countries to negotiate compulsory licenses for each patent or protection applying to each product. The concern of the **developing countries in 2001** over the narrow reading of **TRIPS by developed countries led to a round of talks** that later became the Doha Declaration, a WTO statement that enlists the scope of TRIPS.

# APPOINTMENTS

---



## RBI APPOINTED T RABI SANKAR AS DEPUTY GOVERNOR

❖ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** executive director **T Rabi Sankar** has been named as the **fourth Deputy Governor** of central bank.



the

❖ The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** has approved his appointment. He is in charge of the payments system, fintech, information technology and risk management at the RBI.

❖ **He succeeds BP Kanungo** as the deputy governor, who retired on April 2 after getting a one-year extension in his position.

❖ Sankar has long experience across a wide spectrum of central banking functions, particularly, exchange rate management, reserves portfolio management, public debt management, monetary operations, development, regulation and surveillance of **financial markets and of payment systems, and managing the Bank's IT infrastructure.**

## 1ST WOMAN COMMANDING OFFICER IN BRO

❖ **Vaishali S Hiwase** became the first woman officer to be appointed as **officer commanding in the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** where she will be responsible for providing connectivity through an **Indo-China border road.**



❖ **Vaishali is from Wardha, Maharashtra,** and has completed a successful demanding tenure in Kargil.

- ❖ In a first, the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** has appointed a woman officer to command a **Road Construction Company (RCC)** tasked to provide connectivity in a high-altitude area along the India-China border.

- Director-General of BRO: **Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chaudhary.**
- BRO Headquarters: **New Delhi.**

## T V SOMANATHAN APPOINTED AS FINANCE SECRETARY

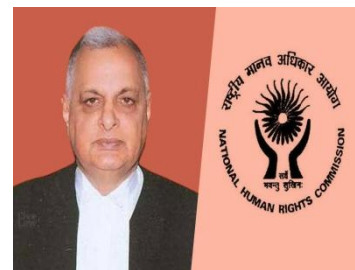
- ❖ The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the appointment of **T V Somanathan** as the new Finance Secretary. He will replace **Ajay Bhushan Pandey** who superannuated in February 2021.



- ❖ **Somanathan**, a **1987 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre**, was currently serving as the Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ Earlier, he has served as a **joint secretary in the Prime Minister's Office**. Somanathan was awarded the Gold Medal for the Best IAS trainee of his cohort. **He holds a PhD in Economics from Calcutta University** and is a chartered accountant, chartered management accountant and chartered secretary.

## JUSTICE PANT AS ACTING CHAIRPERSON OF NHRC

- ❖ The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** member Justice (retired) **Prafulla Chandra Pant** had been appointed the acting chairperson of the Commission with effect from April 25.



as

- ❖ A former Supreme Court judge, Justice Pant was appointed member of the NHRC on April 22, 2019. The post of a chairperson has been vacant since Justice H.L. Dattu, a former Chief Justice of India, completed his tenure on December 2, 2020.
- ❖ Previously, he was appointed the first Chief Justice of the newly established Meghalaya High Court at Shillong on 20th September 2013 and continued till 12th August 2014.
  - National Human Rights Commission Formed: **12 October 1993;**
  - National Human Rights Commission Jurisdiction: **Government of India;**
  - National Human Rights Commission Headquarters: **New Delhi.**

## BILL NELSON SWORN IN AS 14TH NASA ADMINISTRATOR

- ❖ Former Senator Bill Nelson was sworn in as the 14th NASA administrator tasked with carrying out the Biden-Harris administration's vision for the agency.



- ❖ Nelson served in the U.S. Senate for 18 years from Florida as a payload specialist on space shuttle mission 61-C in 1986. and
- ❖ Nelson has served in public office over four decades, first in the state legislature and U.S. Congress, then as State Treasurer. He was elected three times to the United States Senate, representing Florida for 18 years.
- ❖ His committees included the breadth of government policy from defence, intelligence and foreign policy to finance commerce, and health care.
  - Headquarters of NASA: **Washington D.C., United States.**
  - NASA Founded: **1 October 1958.**

## MARTIN GRIFFITHS APPOINTED UN HUMANITARIAN CHIEF

- ❖ **Veteran British diplomat Martin Griffiths** has been appointed as the new Chief at the **United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)**, for a period of five years.



the

- ❖ **Griffiths will replace Mark Lowcock** as the new Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and **Emergency Relief Coordinator (USG/ERC)** of OCHA. He is currently serving as the **United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen**.
- ❖ The **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)** aims to strengthen the international response to complex emergencies and natural disasters.

## RBI APPOINTED JOSE J KATTOOR AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** has appointed **Jose J Kattoor Executive Director (ED)**. Prior to being promoted as ED, Kattoor was heading Bengaluru Regional Office of the **Reserve Bank as Regional Director for Karnataka**.



as  
Mr

- ❖ He will look after **Human Resource Management Department**, Corporate Strategy and Budget Department and Rajbhasha Department.
- ❖ **Mr Kattoor** has, over a span of three decades, served in communication, human resource management, financial inclusion, supervision, currency management and **other areas in the Reserve Bank**.
- ❖ He holds a post-graduate qualification from Institute of Rural Management, Anand, Bachelor of Law from Gujarat University, and **Advanced Management Program (AMP)** from Wharton

School of Business, Pennsylvania, besides having earned professional qualifications, including **Certified Associate of Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (CAIIB)**.

## UJJWALA SINGHANIA AS NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF FICCI FLO

❖ **Ujjwala Singhania** has been appointed as the **National President of FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO)**, the oldest women-led & women-centric business chamber of Southeast Asia.



❖ As the **38th National President of FLO Singhania** will focus on empowering women by facilitating an enabling environment that promotes entrepreneurship, industry participation and economic development of women.

❖ Under her leadership, FLO will carry out many interventions towards **fostering larger contributions of women in India's Industrial and economic growth story**.

## NEERA TANDEN APPOINTED AS SENIOR ADVISOR TO BIDEN

❖ **Indian-American Neera Tanden** has been appointed **senior adviser to U.S. President Joe Biden**. She is currently the president and CEO of a progressive think-tank, Center for American Progress (CAP).



❖ She withdrew her nomination as Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget **due to stiff opposition from Republican senators**.

❖ **Ms Tanden** previously served as a senior adviser for health reforms at the **US Department of Health and Human Services**.

## SUBODH JAISWAL APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR OF CBI

❖ IPS officer, **Subodh Jaiswal** has been appointed **Director the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**. He was the most senior officer among the three shortlisted for the post CBI Director.



of  
of

❖ Jaiswal, along with KR Chandra and VS Kaumudi, was short-listed out of 109 officers for the top post by the high-powered committee led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

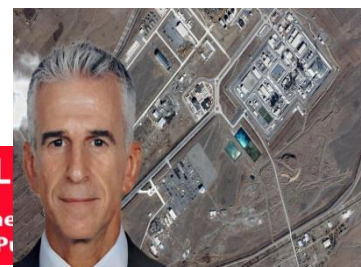
❖ Other members of the committee include **Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana** and **Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury**.

❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has based on the panel recommended by the Committee, approved the appointment of Shri Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, IPS (MH: 1985) as Director, **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** for a period of two years from the date of assumption of charge of the office or until further orders whichever is earlier.

❖ Who is Subodh Jaiswal: Subodh Jaiswal is a 1985-batch Maharashtra cadre IPS officer who is the chief of CISF. Earlier, he held the post of Mumbai Police Commissioner and Maharashtra DGP.

❖ He was appointed Mumbai Police Commissioner in 2018 and has also worked with the Maharashtra **Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS)** in the past. Subodh Jaiswal has also served with the Intelligence Bureau, **SPG (Special Protection Group)** and **R&AW (Research and Analysis Wing)** for over a decade.


## DAVID BARNEA APPOINTED AS NEW HEAD OF MOSSAD



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- ❖ Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appointed **David Barnea** as the new head of the country's spy agency, the **Mossad**.
  
- ❖ Barnea, a former longtime Mossad operative, will succeed **Yossi Cohen** as head of Israel's intelligence agency on June 1. Cohen has served as Israel's spymaster since taking office in 2016.
  
- ❖ Barnea, who is in his 50s, lives in the Sharon region north of Tel Aviv. He did his military service in the **elite Sayeret Matkal special operations force**. About 30 years ago, he enlisted in the Mossad, where he became a case officer.
  - Prime Minister of Israel: **Benjamin Netanyahu**.
  - Israel Capital: **Jerusalem**.
  - Israel Currency: **Israeli Shekel**.

## BVR SUBRAHMANYAM APPOINTED AS COMMERCE SECY

- ❖ The **appointments committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the appointment of **B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary Jammu & Kashmir** as an officer on special duty in the **Department of Commerce**.
  
- ❖ An order issued by the **Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**. Mr Subrahmanyam is a 1987 batch IAS officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre and was sent on **deputation to Jammu and Kashmir in June 2018**.
  
- ❖ He served as Chief Secretary when the State was bifurcated into two Union Territories in 2019. He is a widely experienced bureaucrat **having worked in Manmohan Singh Prime Minister's Office as Joint Secretary**.

## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

### APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTOR OF CBI

Recently, the **Central Government** has appointed ‘**Subodh Kumar Jaiswal**’ as a new Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The Director of the CBI is appointed as **per section 4A of Delhi Special Police Establishment Act of 1946.**



the

### ABOUT THE CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (CBI)

The **CBI was set up in 1963** by a resolution of the **Ministry of Home Affairs**. Now, the CBI comes under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. The establishment of the CBI was **recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964)**. The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the **Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946**. The CBI is the main investigating agency of the Central Government. It also provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal. It is also the nodal police agency in India which coordinates investigations on behalf of Interpol Member countries. The **CBI is headed by a Director**. The CBI has jurisdiction to investigate offences **pertaining to 69 Central laws, 18 State Acts and 231 offences in the IPC.**

### APPOINTMENT OF CBI DIRECTOR

The **Director of CBI as Inspector General of Police, Delhi Special Police Establishment**, is responsible for the administration of the organisation. The **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013)** amended the **Delhi Special Police Establishment Act (1946)** and made the following changes with respect to appointment of the Director of CBI:

Page 26





**Appointment Committee:** The Central Government shall appoint the Director of CBI on the recommendation of a **three-member committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson**, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India or Judge of the Supreme Court (SC) nominated by him. The **Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Act, 2014** made a change in the composition of the committee related to the appointment of the Director of CBI. It states that where there is no recognized leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha, then the leader of the single largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha would be a member of that committee.

**Tenure of Director:** The Director of CBI has been **provided security of two-year tenure in office** by the CVC Act, 2003.

**SC Rulings Related to CBI Director:** The six-month minimum residual tenure rule was introduced by the Supreme Court in a March 2019 order. **No officer with less than six months' tenure remaining can be considered for the post of chief.** Though the order in the **Prakash Singh case** pertained to the appointment of DGPs, it was extended to CBI Director too. In the **Prakash Singh case, 2006** the SC had stressed the point that appointment of DGPs “should be purely on the basis of merit and to insulate the office from all kinds of influences and pressures”. The Director of CBI is to hold the post for not less than **two years as held by the Vineet Narain judgment of 1998**. He/she may not be transferred except with the previous consent of the high-level committee.

The **SC in Union of India versus C. Dinakar, 2001** case has held that “ordinarily IPS officers of the senior most four batches in service on the date of retirement of CBI Director, irrespective of their empanelment, **shall be eligible for consideration for appointment to the post of CBI Director**”.

## DELHI SPECIAL POLICE ESTABLISHMENT ACT

The **Central Bureau of Investigation traces its origin to the Special Police Establishment (SPE)** which was set up in 1941 by the Government of India. The functions of the SPE then were to investigate cases of bribery and corruption in transactions with the **War & Supply Deptt. Of India** during World War II. Even after the end of the War, the need for a Central Government agency to investigate cases of

bribery and corruption by Central Government employees was felt. The Delhi Special Police Establishment Act was **therefore brought into force in 1946**. The **CBI's power to investigate cases is derived from this Act**.

## CASES MAJORLY HANDLED BY CBI

- **Anti-Corruption Crimes** - for investigation of cases under the **Prevention of Corruption Act** against Public officials and the employees of Central Government, Public Sector Undertakings, Corporations or Bodies owned or controlled by the Government of India.
- **Economic Crimes** - for investigation of **major financial scams and serious economic frauds**, including crimes relating to Fake Indian Currency Notes, Bank Frauds and Cyber Crime, bank frauds, Import Export & Foreign Exchange violations, large-scale smuggling of narcotics, antiques, cultural property and smuggling of other contraband items etc.
- **Special Crimes** - for investigation of **serious and organized crime under the Indian Penal Code and other laws on the requests of State Governments** or on the orders of the **Supreme Court and High Courts** - such as cases of terrorism, bomb blasts, kidnapping for ransom and crimes committed by the mafia/the underworld.
- **Suo Moto Cases** - CBI can suo-moto take up investigation of **offences only in the Union Territories**. The Central Government can authorize CBI to investigate a crime in a State but only with the consent of the concerned State Government. The **Supreme Court and High Courts**, however, can order CBI to investigate a crime anywhere in the country without the consent of the State.

## CONCLUSION

↳ **Delink the CBI from the administrative control of the government** - As long as the government of the day has the power to transfer and post officials of its choice in the CBI, the **investigating agency**



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

**will not enjoy autonomy** and will be unable to investigate cases freely. Providing statutory status through legislation equivalent to that provided to the **Comptroller & Auditor General and the Election Commission** will help maintain the independence of the institution.

CLAT Gurukul



# AWARDS & HONOR

---



## NATIONAL PANCHAYAT AWARDS CONFERRED BY PM MODI

❖ The **National Panchayat Awards 2021** was conferred by **PM Modi**. Prime Minister will transfer the award money (as Grants-Aid) through the click of a button, ranging from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.50 lakh.



in-

❖ The amount will be directly transferred to the bank account of the Panchayats concerned in real-time. This is being done for the first time.

❖ The **National Panchayat Awards 2021** are being conferred under the following categories:

- Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar to 224 panchayats,
- Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar to 30-gram panchayats, Gram
- Panchayat Development Plan Award to 29-gram panchayats, Child-friendly Gram
- Panchayat Award to 30 Gram Panchayats and e-Panchayat Puraskar to 12 states.

## UNESCO WORLD PRESS FREEDOM PRIZE 2021

❖ Maria Ressa has been named as the 2021 laureate of the **UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize**.



the face

❖ The \$25,000 prize “**recognizes outstanding contributions to defence or promotion of press freedom especially in the of danger,**” according to UNESCO. The prize was named after Guillermo Cano Isaza, the Colombian journalist.

❖ UNESCO cited Ressa’s more than a 3-decade career as a **journalist**, including her work as CNN’s lead investigative reporter for Asia and as news chief of Philippine broadcast giant ABS-CBN.

- ❖ Recently, her citation added, Ressa “has been the target of online attacks and judicial processes” for her investigative work and her position as CEO of Rappler.

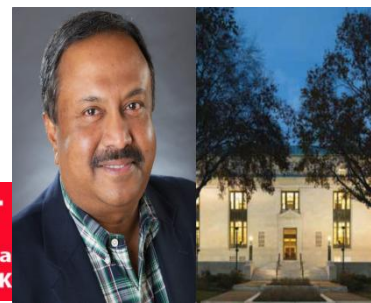
## 1ST INDIAN TO WIN ARAB WORLD NOBEL PRIZE

- ❖ **Mumbai born, Dr Tahera Qutbuddin**, a professor of Arabic Literature at the University of Chicago, recently became the **first person of Indian-origin to win the 15th Sheikh Zayed Book Award.**



- ❖ The award is considered to be the **Nobel Prize of the Arab world.** She won the award for her latest book, “**Arabic Oration – Art and Function**” published by Brill Academic Publishers of Leiden in 2019.
- ❖ In the book, she puts forth a **comprehensive theory of Arabic literature in its foundational oral period dating the seventh and eighth centuries AD.** She discusses its influence on modern-day sermons and lectures as well.

## SANKAR GHOSH ELECTED TO NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE



- ❖ **Sankar Ghosh, an award-winning Indian-origin immunologist**, has been elected to the prestigious **National Academy of Sciences** in recognition of his “distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. He was among the 120 newly elected members announced by the Academy.
- ❖ **Sankar Ghosh is the Silverstein and Hutt Family Professor of Microbiology** and Chair of the **Department of Microbiology & Immunology** at the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University.
- ❖ He is also a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has a deep interest in deciphering the complexities of transcriptional regulation — **the ways by which a cell regulates the conversion of DNA to RNA** to better understand the mechanisms of the immune system and the pathological changes that occur to its pathways in many diseases.

### IREDA CONFERRED 'GREEN URJA AWARD'

- ❖ **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA)** has been conferred with the “**Green Urja Award**” for being the Leading Public Institution in the Financing Institution for Renewable Energy this year by **Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC)**.



the

- ❖ **IREDA** gets the award for the pivotal and developmental role it plays in **Green Energy Financing**.
- ❖ Despite the pandemic time, IREDA has ended the year 2020-21 ended on a strong note and disbursed the **second-highest (from the date of inception)** amount of loan amounting to Rs. 8827 crore, which indicates that IREDA has the ability to translate this problem into an opportunity.

- ❖ The award recognises our immense contribution to the development of the Renewable Energy Sector in line with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

- IREDA Headquarters location: **New Delhi**
- IREDA Founded: **11 March 1987**.

## NAGALAND'S NUKLU PHOM WON WHITLEY AWARDS 2021

- ❖ An environmentalist from Nagaland's remote Longleng district, **Nuku Phom** has won this year's **Whitley Awards 2021**, also known as the **Green Oscar**.



- ❖ **Nuku Phom's name**, along with that of five others, was announced recently in a virtual award ceremony organized by the **UK-based Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN)**. Nuku and his team want to offer alternatives that engage communities in conservation using the Amur falcon as a flagship.
- ❖ The award recognises Phom's efforts at establishing a new biodiversity peace corridor changing the fate of Amur Falcons, which come to roost in Nagaland each year, from being hunted by locals.
- ❖ **Worth £40,000**, the award is for creating a new network of **community-owned forests to protect Amur Falcons** and increase biodiversity in Nagaland.

## JANE GOODALL WON TEMPLETON PRIZE 2021

- ❖ The naturalist Jane Goodall has been announced as the 2021 winner of the Templeton Prize in recognition of her life's work on **animal intelligence and humanity**.





- ❖ Goodall built her global reputation on her groundbreaking studies of **chimpanzees in Tanzania in the 1960s.**
- ❖ The Templeton Prize is an annual award granted to a living person, in the estimation of the judges, “whose exemplary achievements advance Sir John Templeton’s philanthropic vision: harnessing the power of the sciences to explore the deepest questions of the universe and humankind’s place and purpose within it.”

#### *About Templeton Prize*

- Instituted: **1973**
- Presented by: **John Templeton Foundation**
- Reward(s): **£1.1 million**
- Currently held by: **Francis Collins**
- Awarded for: **Outstanding contributions in affirming life’s spiritual dimension, whether through insight, discovery, or practical works.**

### SPICEHEALTH WINS GOLD STEVIE AWARD 2020

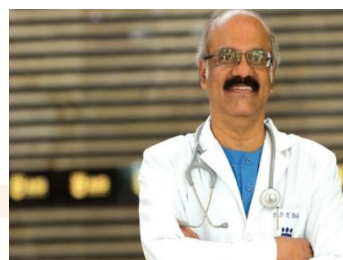
- ❖ SpiceHealth, a healthcare company founded by the **promoters of SpiceJet**, has won the Gold Award at the 2021 Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards for ‘**Most Valuable Medical Innovation**’ under **Covid19.**
- ❖ At a time when Covid-19 was at an all-time excessive in India in November 2020, SpiceHealth, beneath the management of Avani Singh, disrupted the **Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)** testing house by providing checks in cell laboratories at ₹499, versus the then-present rate of ₹2,400 in Delhi and helped convey down Covid-19 testing price dramatically throughout the nation.

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- ❖ About the Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards: **The Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards are the one business awards program** to recognise innovation within the workplace in all 29 nations of the Asia-Pacific area.
- ❖ The Stevie Awards are broadly thought about to be the world's premier business awards, conferring recognition for achievement in applications akin to The **International Business Awards** for 19 years.

## 1ST INDIAN TO WIN RUDOLF V SCHINDLER AWARD

- ❖ **Padma Bhushan awardee** and noted gastroenterologist **Dr D Nageshwar Reddy**, who is also the chairman of AIG Hospitals, has won the **Rudolf V Schindler Award** from the **American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE)**.



- ❖ **Rudolf V Schindler Award** is the highest category in the prestigious Crystal Awards named after Dr Schindler who is considered as **“the father of gastroscopy.”**
- ❖ With this, **Dr Reddy becomes the first Indian medical practitioner** to win this award. Dr Reddy is one of the first to promote endoscopy in India and has led the charge of educating numerous endoscopists all over the world.

## BHARAT RATNA CNR RAO HONOURED WITH INT. ENI AWARD

- ❖ **Noted Indian scientist and Bharat Ratna Professor, C.N.R. Rao** has been felicitated with the **International Eni Award 2020** (also called the Energy Frontier award).



- ❖ The **International Eni Award** is considered to be the **Nobel Prize in Energy Research**. He has been conferred the prize for his work on metal oxides, carbon nanotubes and other materials and two-dimensional systems.
- ❖ **Professor Rao** will be presented the **Eni Awards 2020** on 14 October 2021, during an official ceremony held at the **Quirinal Palace in Rome**.
- ❖ The Eni Award is awarded annually by the **Italian oil and gas company Eni** to encourage better use of energy sources and increased environmental research.

## AMARTYA SEN CONFERRED WITH SPAIN'S TOP AWARD

- ❖ **Indian economist and Nobel Laureate, Amartya Kumar** has been conferred with the ‘ **2021 Princess of Asturias Award**’ by **Spain** in the social sciences category.
- ❖ **Princess of Asturias Awards** is annual prizes awarded by the Princess of Asturias Foundation in Spain to individuals, entities or organizations from around the world who make notable achievements in the sciences, humanities, and public affairs.
- ❖ The **87-year-old Sen** was selected from **41 candidates of 20 nationalities** for “His research on **famines and his theory of human development**, welfare economics and the underlying mechanisms of poverty have contributed to the fight against injustice, inequality, disease and ignorance”.
- ❖ The award comprises a cash prize of 50,000 Euros along with a **Joan Miro sculpture** representing and symbolising the award, a diploma and insignia.



Sen

the

## INDIAN PEACEKEEPERS TO BE HONOURED WITH UN'S MEDAL

❖ **Corporal Yuvraj Singh, civilian peacekeeper Ivan Michael Picardo, and Moolchand Yadav** are among those to be honoured with the UN's prestigious medal.



❖ Corporal Yuvraj Singh was serving at the **United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)** while civilian peacekeeper Ivan Michael Picardo was associated with UNAMISS as a civil peacekeeper.

❖ Moolchand Yadav was associated with the **United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI)**.

❖ Three Indian peacekeepers, who laid down their lives while serving in **United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions** last year, are among 129 military, police and civilian personnel honoured with a prestigious UN medal awarded posthumously for courage and sacrifice in the line of duty.

❖ India is the fifth-largest contributor of uniformed personnel to UN peacekeeping with more than 5,500 military and police serving in peace operations in **Abyei, Cyprus, Congo, Lebanon, the Middle East, Somalia, South Sudan and Western Sahara, according to the UN.**



# SPORTS

## LEWIS HAMILTON WINS PORTUGUESE GRAND PRIX

❖ **Lewis Hamilton** overtook title rival **Max Verstappen** and Mercedes team-mate **Valtteri Bottas** to win the Portuguese Grand Prix.



❖ Verstappen finished second, while Bottas, who started from pole, came in a disappointing third place. **Sergio Perez** took the flag in fourth, with **Lando Norris** fifth for McLaren.

❖ The reigning **Formula One** champion dropped to third in the opening laps but made two impressive moves in nine race-winning laps to claim his second victory of the season.

## AICF LAUNCHED 'CHECKMATE COVID INITIATIVE'

❖ The All India Chess Federation has launched the 'Checkmate Covid Initiative' to help the chess community affected by the pandemic.



❖ The initiative was launched at an online event in the presence of **FIDE (World Chess Federation) president Arkady Dvorkovich**, **five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand**, World Rapid Chess Champion **Koneru Humpy**, AICF president **Sanjay Kapoor** and secretary **Bharat Singh Chauhan**.

❖ The idea is to not just help the chess community affected by COVID through financial aid, but also have a team of doctors that works round-the-clock to provide the right assistance.

- All India Chess Federation President: **Sanjay Kapoor**.
- All India Chess Federation Headquarters location: **Chennai**.
- All India Chess Federation Founded: **1951**.

## MARK SELBY BECOMES WORLD CHAMPION IN SNOOKER

❖ **British professional snooker player Mark Selby** won the **world championship for the fourth time**. This time he won title of defeating **Shaun Murphy**.



the

❖ **Mark Selby** won the **2014, 2016, 2017 and 2021 world championships**. He ranked first in the world between 2015 and 2019.

and

❖ **World Snooker Championship** has been held annually since 1927. The game was played at the Crucible Theatre in **Sheffield, England**. The World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association organized a championship game.

## BABAR AZAM NAMED AS ICC MEN'S PLAYER OF THE MONTH

❖ **Pakistani skipper Babar Azam** has been named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for April 2021 for his consistent and stellar performances across all formats in recently concluded series against South Africa.



the

❖ The ICC Player of the Month Awards recognise and **celebrate the best performances from both male and female cricketers across all forms of international cricket** throughout the year.

❖ Along with **Babar**, **Australian women's team wicketkeeper-batsman Alyssa Healy** also bagged the **ICC Women's Player of The Month** accolade for her incredible performances during the month of April.

Page 27  
8

- ❖ **Healy’s consistency with the bat has played a significant role in Australia’s dominance.** Healy has shown her class in all conditions and against all types of bowling in the recent series against New Zealand.

## MANCHESTER CITY CROWNED PREMIER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

- ❖ **Manchester City has crowned Premier League champions** the third time in four seasons after Manchester United crashed 2-1 defeat against Leicester.



for  
to a  
City

- ❖ United started the century **dominating English football**, now is the force with five titles in 10 seasons and the biggest spenders on transfers and salaries.
- ❖ **City has now won three Premier League titles and eight major trophies under Guardiola**, who last year signed a new two-year contract to remain at the club until 2023.

## RAFAEL NADAL WINS 10TH ITALIAN OPEN

- ❖ Rafael Nadal beat **world number one Novak Djokovic** to 10th **Italian Open title**. Second seed Nadal won through 7-5, 6-3 in 2hr 49min against the defending champion in the 57th career showdown between the pair.



win a  
1-6,

- ❖ The victory also earned Nadal a **36th ATP Masters 1000 crown**, equalling Djokovic’s record since the series was established in 1990.
- ❖ In the women’s category, **Polish teenager Iga Swiatek crushed Czech** ninth seed Karolina Pliskova 6-0, 6-0 to win the Italian Open title. Swiatek, ranked 15, claimed her **third WTA title**.



## ASIA CUP T20 TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD IN SRI LANKA

❖ **The Asia Cup T20 tournament**, which was scheduled to be held in June in Sri Lanka, has been postponed indefinitely due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



be

❖ The tournament which was originally scheduled to be held in **September 2020 in Sri Lanka** was moved to **June 2021 due to COVID-19**.

❖ With all the teams planning for their Future Tour Programs (FTPs) for the next two years, the tournament is likely to happen only after the **2023 ICC 50-over World Cup**.

❖ A formal statement from the Asian Cricket Council is, however, yet to come. Initially, **Pakistan was supposed to host it**. However, due to tensions between India and Pakistan, the tournament was moved to the island nation.

## BARCELONA WOMEN BEATS CHELSEA WOMEN

❖ Barcelona Women beat Chelsea Women to win the **Women’s Champions League trophy**.



❖ Chelsea conceded four goals in the first 36 minutes as Barcelona blew them away to win their first Women’s Champions League in Gothenburg.

❖ **Barcelona is the first Spanish side to win the Women’s Champions League**. Barcelona becomes the first club to win both the men’s and women’s Champions League, and this was the biggest ever winning margin in a women’s final.

Page 28

0

## U-17 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP TO BE HELD IN INDIA

- ❖ **The U-17 women’s World Cup will be held in India** from October 11 to 30 next year, Fifa Council said on 21st May.
- ❖ India was earlier scheduled to host the 2020 U-17 World Cup it was postponed to 2021 before being cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ❖ The **FIFA Council** approved key dates for the international match calendars, including the dates of the 2022 U-17 World Cup in India.
- ❖ The Council also approved dates for the **FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup India 2022** (11-30 October 2022), **FIFA U-20 Women’s World Cup Costa Rica 2022** (10-28 August 2022), as well as a 14-team playoff for the **FIFA Arab Cup 2021**, taking place between 19 and 25 June this year and **Women’s World Cup Australia and New Zealand 2023** from July 20 to August 20, 2023.



but

## HOCKEY INDIA PRESTIGIOUS ETIENNE GLICHITCH AWARD

- ❖ Hockey India has won the prestigious **Etienne Glichitch Award** in recognition of its contribution to the growth and development of the sport in the country.
- ❖ The awards were announced by the game’s governing body during the **HockeyInvites virtual conference**. It was part of its 47th FIH Congress which concluded with the FIH Honorary Awards.
- ❖ *Other Awards presented as a part of the 47th FIH Congress:*



FIH

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- Pablo Negre Award ----- **Uzbekistan Hockey Federation**
- Theo Ikema Award ----- **Polish Hockey Association**
- HRH Sultan Azlan Shah Award ----- **Sharon Williamson of New Zealand**
- Guust Lathouwers Memorial Trophy ----- **Ivona Makar**

## MARY KOM WINS MEDAL AT ASIAN BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP

❖ **Indian pugilist Mary Kom**, lost to two-time world champion **Nazym Kyzaibay of Kazakhstan**, to settle for silver medal at the 2021 **ASBC Asian Boxing Championships in Dubai**.



- ❖ The five-time Asian Championships gold medallist Mary Kom was competing in a high-octane 51kg final.
- ❖ This is **the second silver for Mary Kom at the Asian Championships** who has previously won silver in 2008. Apart from this, she won world championship titles on five occasions including 2003, 2005, 2010, 2012, and 2017.
- ❖ Meanwhile, **Pooja Rani won the gold medal in the 75kg Women's Middle category final** at the Asian Boxing Championships. She defeated **Mavluda Movlonova in the gold medal clash**.

# DATES & DAYS

---

INTERNATIONAL  
LABOUR  
OUR  
DAY  
OBSERVED  
ON  
MAY  
1ST

❖ **International Labour Day (also known as May Day or International Workers' Day)** is celebrated across the world 1st of May every year.



on the

❖ The day celebrates the struggle, dedication and commitment of the working class and is an annual public holiday in several countries.

of the

❖ On 1 May 1886, Chicago and a few other cities were the sites of a major union demonstration in support of the eight-hour workday demand.

❖ In 1889, the **International Socialist Conference** declared that in commemoration of the Haymarket affair, **1 May would be an international holiday for the labour force, now known as International Workers' Day.**

- Headquarters of International Labour Organization: **Geneva, Switzerland.**
- President of International Labour Organization: **Guy Ryder.**
- International Labour Organization Founded: **1919.**

## WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY: 3RD MAY

❖ **World Press Freedom Day** is observed globally on **3 May every year.** It is also known as World Press Day. The day pays tribute to journalists who have lost their lives.



also

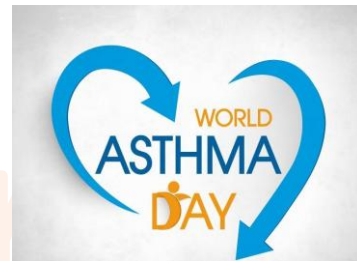
❖ They risk their lives at times or may even have to face tough situations in order to bring the news from different corners of the world in front of the public.

❖ This year's World Press Freedom Day theme "**Information as a Public Good**".

- ❖ The **theme is of urgent relevance to all countries across the world.** It recognizes the changing communications system that is impacting our health, our human rights, democracies and sustainable development.
- ❖ This was followed by the **Windhoek Declaration that was established to maintain the free press.** As the declaration was made on the 3rd of May, hence the **special day is observed each year on 3rd May.**

## WORLD ASTHMA DAY OBSERVED ON MAY 4TH

- ❖ **World Asthma Day** is observed every year on the 1st Tuesday of May. This year, **World Asthma Day is observed on May 4, 2021.**
- ❖ The day spread awareness about asthma disease and care around the world. Whilst the primary focus is supporting the person with asthma, support may also extend to family, friends and caregivers. **The theme for 2021 World Asthma Day is “Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions“.**
- ❖ **World Asthma Day** is annually organized by the **Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA).** In 1998, the first World Asthma Day was celebrated in more than 35 countries in conjunction with the first World Asthma Meeting in Barcelona, Spain.
- ❖ Asthma is a chronic disease of the lungs that causes breathing problems. Symptoms of asthma include **breathlessness, coughing, wheezing and a feeling of tightness in the chest.** These symptoms vary in frequency and severity.
- ❖ When the symptoms are not under control, the airways can become inflamed making breathing difficult. **Whilst asthma cannot be cured, the symptoms can be controlled enabling people with asthma to live full lives.**



## WORLD HAND HYGIENE DAY: MAY 5TH

❖ Every year, the **World Hand Hygiene Day** is observed on **5.**

❖ The day is **organised by the World Health Organization (WHO)** to raise awareness among people across the globe the importance of hand hygiene in warding off many serious infections.



May

about

❖ The **theme for 2021 is ‘Seconds Save Lives: Clean Your Hands’**. The day recognizes hand washing as one of the most effective actions that can be taken to avoid a huge range of infections including the COVID-19 virus.

- Director-General of the World Health Organization: **Tedros Adhanom.**
- Headquarters of WHO: **Geneva, Switzerland.**

## WORLD ATHLETICS DAY 2021: 5TH MAY

❖ The **World Athletics Day-2021** is observed on the 5 May. The is subject to adjustment, the date of **World Athletics Day** is **decided by the IAAF**, however, the month stays the same as



date

May.

❖ The **first World Athletics Day** was observed in **1996**. The objective of World Athletics Day is to boost the participation of youths in athletics.

basic

❖ The objective of **World Athletics day** is to increase public awareness about sports and to educate youngsters about the importance of sports. To **promote athletics as the primary sport**

**in schools and institution.** To establish athletics as the number one participation sport in schools all over the world.

## WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY: 8TH MAY

- ❖ **World Migratory Bird Day 2021** is observed globally on 8 May. The aim of the day is to **raise awareness of migratory birds** and the **importance of international cooperation to conserve them.**



May.

- ❖ **“Sing, Fly, Soar – Like a Bird!”** is the theme of this year’s World Migratory Bird Day. The 2021 **World Migratory Bird Day** theme is an invitation to people everywhere to connect and re-connect with nature by actively listening to – and watching birds – wherever they are.
- ❖ At the same time, the theme appeals to people around the world to use their own voices and creativity to express their shared appreciation of birds and nature.
- ❖ This day is organized by a collaborative partnership among two UN treaties the **Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)** and the **African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)** and the Colorado-based non-profit organization, Environment for the Americas (EFTA).
- ❖ This day is a global campaign dedicated to raising awareness of migratory birds and the need for international cooperation to conserve them.

## WORLD RED CROSS & RED CRESCENT DAY: 8TH MAY



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

❖ The **World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day** is observed every year on 8 May.

❖ The day aims to celebrate the principles of the **International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**, to reduce the suffering of people and enabling them to lead a dignified life with **independence, humanity, impartiality, universality, unity and neutrality**.



to

❖ Theme 2021 **World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day: ‘Unstoppable’**

❖ **History of the day:** The day also marks the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant (8 May 1828), who was the founder of the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**. He was the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize.

- President of the ICRC: **Peter Maurer**.
- Headquarters of ICRC: **Geneva, Switzerland**.

## INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY OBSERVED ON MAY 12TH

❖ **International Nurse Day** is observed globally on **12 May every year**. This day is observed to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale**.




❖ She was also known as Lady with the Lamp. She was the founder of modern nursing and was a British social reformer and statistician.

❖ The theme of 2021 **International Nurses Day** is ‘**Nurses: A Voice to Lead – A vision for future healthcare**’.

- ❖ **Florence Nightingale** was put in charge of nursing British and allied soldiers in Turkey during the Crimean War.
- ❖ She is renowned for setting up the **Nightingale School of Nursing, at St. Thomas' Hospital** in London (opened 1860) in order to formalize nursing education. She was the **first woman awarded the Order of Merit (1907)**.
  - **International Council of Nurse's headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.**
  - International Council of Nurses founded: **1899.**
  - International Council of Nurses President: **Annette Kennedy.**

## NATIONAL DENGUE DAY OBSERVED ON MAY 16TH

- ❖ In India, the **National Dengue Day** is observed every year **16 May**.
- ❖ The day is an initiative by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, to raise awareness about dengue and its preventive measures, and preparedness for control of the vector-borne disease before the transmission season begins.
- ❖ Dengue is spread through the **bite of the female mosquito (Aedes aegypti)**. Dengue is a mosquito-borne disease that is caused by the dengue virus of **four distinct serotypes — DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3 and DEN-4**.
- ❖ Dengue, which is spread by the **Aedes albopictus species of mosquitos**, can lead to flu-like illness such as **severe muscle pain and nausea and can lead to death if not cured properly**.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIVING TOGETHER IN PEACE



❖ The **International Day of Living Together in Peace** is held on 16th May every year since 2018.



❖ The **UN General Assembly**, declared 16 May the **International Day of Living Together in Peace**, as a means of regularly mobilizing the efforts of the international community to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity.

❖ The Day aims to uphold the desire to live and act together, united in differences and diversity, in order to build a **sustainable world of peace, solidarity and harmony**.

❖ **The United Nations General Assembly** decided to celebrate **16th May as the International Day of Living Together in Peace** on 8th December 2017.

## WORLD'S AIDS VACCINE DAY: MAY 18TH

❖ **World AIDS Vaccine Day**, (also known as **HIV Vaccine Awareness Day**), is observed annually on May 18 to promote the continued urgent need for a vaccine to prevent infection and AIDS.



HIV

❖ The **first World AIDS Vaccine Day** was thus observed on May 18, 1998, to commemorate the anniversary of Clinton's speech.

❖ The **concept of World AIDS Vaccine Day** was proposed on May 18, 1997, during a commencement speech at Morgan State University **made by then-President Bill Clinton**, which underlined the need for a vaccine to curb the spread of HIV.

## INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY 2021



- ❖ **The International Museum Day** is celebrated on 18 May, since 1977, to raise awareness about the fact that “Museums an important means of **cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples**”.

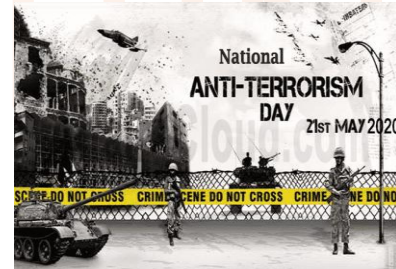


are

- ❖ The theme of International Museum Day 2021: “**The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine**”. It is coordinated by the International Council of Museums (ICOM).
  - President of International Council Of Museums: **Suay Aksoy**
  - International Council Of Museums Headquarters: **Paris, France.**

## NATIONAL ANTI TERRORISM DAY: MAY 21TH

- ❖ In India, the National Anti Terrorism Day is observed on 21 to commemorate the **death anniversary of former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi.**



May

- ❖ The day is also observed to spread the message of peace, harmony, and humankind and to promote unity among the people.

- ❖ **Rajiv Gandhi was India’s youngest Prime Minister.** He was appointed as the sixth Prime Minister of the country and **served the nation from 1984 to 1989.**

- ❖ Mr Gandhi was assassinated on May 21, 1991, by a human bomb. He was killed in Tamil Nadu in a campaign by a terrorist. Then, under the V.P. Singh government, the centre has decided to observe 21st May as Anti Terrorism Day.

## WORLD BEE DAY: 20TH MAY

- ❖ World Bee Day is observed globally on 20th May every year. On this date, 20 May, the **pioneer of beekeeping Anton Janša** was born in 1734 in Slovenia.



year.  
**Janša**

- ❖ The purpose of the bee day is to **acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators in the ecosystem**. About 33% of the world’s food production depends on bees thus they are vital for the preservation of biodiversity, ecological balance in nature and helpful in reducing pollution.
- ❖ The theme of World Bee Day 2021 is “**Bee engaged: Build Back Better for Bees**”. The UN Member States approved Slovenia’s proposal to proclaim 20 May as World Bee Day in December 2017.
- ❖ The resolution called for the adoption of specific conservation measures and highlighted the **importance of the preservation of bees and their significance for humanity**. The first World Bee Day was observed in 2018.

## UNITED NATIONS INT. DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

- ❖ The United Nations celebrates **International Day for Biological Diversity** on 22 May every year to raise awareness about the issue of a significant reduction in biological diversity due to certain human activities.



- ❖ Biological Diversity comprises a **wide variety of plants, animals and microorganisms** including genetic differences within each species, for example, between varieties of crops and breeds of livestock.
- ❖ This year 2021 the theme is “**We’re part of the solution**”. The slogan was chosen to be a continuation of the momentum generated last year under the over-arching theme, “Our solutions

are in nature”, which served as a reminder that biodiversity remains the answer to several sustainable development challenges.

## WORLD HUNGER DAY OBSERVED ON 28TH MAY

❖ **World Hunger Day** is observed globally on **28 May year**. The objective of this day is to raise awareness about than 820 million people living in chronic hunger worldwide.



every  
more

❖ It is observed since 2011 to not only spread awareness about the **malaise of chronic hunger but also to solve hunger and poverty through sustainable undertakings.**

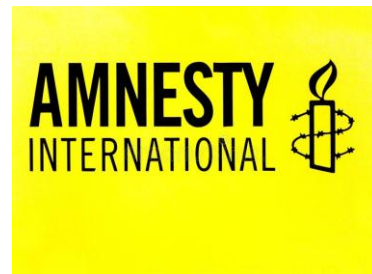
❖ The initiative recognizes the dire need to save nearly a quarter of a billion lives from malnourishment and chronic hunger. The need to provide **outreach globally during the pandemic for the distribution of food** is seen as paramount to save those who have been vulnerable even in pre-pandemic times.

❖ **History of the day: World Hunger Day** is an initiative by The **Hunger Project**, first started in the year 2011. This year marks the **11th annual WHD to look at hunger as a whole.**

❖ **India ranked 94 among 107 nations** in the Global Hunger Index 2020.

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DAY: MAY 28TH

❖ **Amnesty International Day** is observed every year on **28**, because it was on this day in 1961 that this non-governmental organization was founded in London.



May

- ❖ The **Amnesty International** was founded on **28 May 1961 in London**, following the publication of the article “**The Forgotten Prisoners**” in The Observer, a British newspaper, by the lawyer Peter Benenson.
- ❖ **Amnesty International is a non-governmental organization** that focuses on the protection of human rights, by working to prevent abuses to human rights, fight for justice for those whose rights have been violated, expand and enforce human rights protections in international law, by lobbying governments and other powerful groups and publicizing their violations.
- ❖ The **organisation has won the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize** for its “defence of human dignity against torture,” and the **United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights in 1978**.

## WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY: 31ST MAY

- ❖ Every year, on 31st May, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and global partners celebrate **World No Tobacco Day (WNTD)**.
- ❖ The annual campaign is an opportunity to **raise awareness on the harmful and deadly effects of tobacco use** and second-hand smoke exposure, and to discourage the use of tobacco in any form.
- ❖ This year theme of the 2021 WNTD is “**Commit to quit.**”
- ❖ This yearly celebration informs the public on the dangers of using tobacco, the business practices of tobacco companies, what **WHO is doing to fight the tobacco epidemic**, and what people around the world can do to claim their right to health and healthy living and to protect future generations.

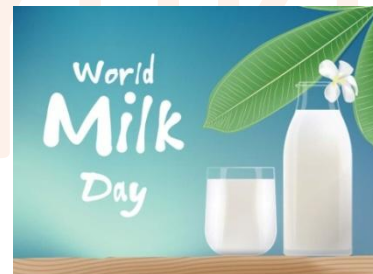


Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- ❖ World Health Organization on 15th May 1987 passed a resolution, calling for April 7, 1988, to be **the first World No Smoking Day**. This date was chosen as it was the 40th anniversary of the World Health Organization.
  
- ❖ Then on May 17, 1989, the World Health Organization passed a resolution calling for May 31 to be annually known as World No Tobacco Day. World No Tobacco Day has been observed every year on 31st May since 1989.
  - WHO was established on **7 April 1948**;
  - WHO is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**;
  - WHO current President is **Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**.

## FAO CELEBRATES WORLD MILK DAY

- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations celebrates **World Milk Day every year on 01st June** to recognize the importance of milk as a global food, to celebrate the dairy sector.



and

- ❖ It aims to encourage people to talk about the advantages of dairy with regards to health including nutrition, accessibility and affordability.
  
- ❖ This year, our theme will focus on **Sustainability in the dairy sector** with messages around the environment, nutrition and socio-economics. In doing so we will re-introduce dairy farming to the world.
  
- ❖ History of the day: **In 2001, World Milk Day was established by the Food and Agriculture Organisation** of the United Nations to recognize the importance of milk as a global food, and to celebrate the dairy sector.



- ❖ Each year since, the benefits of milk and dairy products have been actively promoted around the world, including **how dairy supports the livelihoods of one billion people.**

## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

### WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY (WPFDD): 3RD MAY

The **World Press Freedom Day (WPFDD)** is an annual celebration of press freedom, observed on 3rd May every year. The main celebration is organized by the **UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**. It is also known as **World Day**. The day also pays tribute to journalists who have lost their



The **and Press** lives.

It is announced by the **United Nations General Assembly** on 3rd May to spread awareness about the importance of Freedom of the Press in functioning, information providing, its significance and to awaken the government of its duty to uphold and respect the right to freedom of expression. The **theme of World Press Freedom Day 2021 is "Information as a Public Good"**. The theme focuses on the importance of cherishing information as a public good and explores ways to strengthen journalism.

**The day highlights three key topics:**

- Ways to ensure the economic viability of news media.
- Mechanisms for making sure about the transparency of internet companies.
- To strengthen **Media and Information Literacy (MIL)** capacities that will help people to recognise and value journalism as an important part of information as a public good.

The theme of World Press Freedom Day 2020 was "**Journalism without Fear or Favour**". A global campaign was launched by UNESCO on media and social media channels focussing on **Journalism without Fear or Favour**. On 4 -6 May 2020, various events including **High-level Dialogue on Press Freedom and Tackling Disinformation in the COVID-19 context**, webinars, and online discussions through Facebook Live, Youtube, and Microsoft teams, amongst other digital platforms will be held. **On the site of UNESCO, debates are available.**

*Sub-themes of the year 2020 are as follows:*

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

## BACKGROUND OF THE DAY

The day was proclaimed by the **UN General Assembly in 1993**, following the recommendation of **UNESCO's General Conference in 1991**. The day also marks the 1991 **Windhoek Declaration (adopted by UNESCO)**. It aimed towards the 'development of a free, independent and pluralistic press'.

**World Press Conference 2021:** The 2021 Global Conference was hosted by **UNESCO and the Government of Namibia**. It called for urgent attention to the threat of extinction faced by local news media around the world, a **crisis worsened by the Covid-19 pandemic**. It put forward ideas to tackle the challenges of our online media environment, push for more transparency of internet companies, strengthen safety of journalists, and improve their working conditions.

## FREEDOM OF PRESS IN INDIA

**Freedom of press** is not expressly protected by Indian legal system but it is impliedly **protected under article 19(1) (a) of the constitution**, which states - "**All citizens shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression**". In 1950, the Supreme Court in **Romesh Thappar v. State of Madras** observed that freedom of the press lay at the foundation of all democratic organisations.

However, **Freedom of press is also not absolute**. It faces certain restrictions under **Article 19(2)**, which are as follows- Matters related to interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.

**Related Rankings/Findings:** India has been ranked **142nd out of 180 nations in the World Press Freedom Index, 2021**, published by Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) or Reporters Without Borders. Reports such as '**Freedom in the World 2021 (Freedom House, US)**', '**2020 Human Rights Report (US State Department)**', '**Autocratisation Goes Viral (V-Dem Institute, Sweden)**' have all highlighted intimidation of journalists in India.

## CONCLUSION

Several cultural events are organised to determine the significance of press freedom. Initiatives of several nations are coordinated by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** and most of the time it serves as an organising partner to foster the freedom of expression. UNESCO conferred awards to deserving organisations, individuals or institutions that have made commendable contributions in the promotion and defence of press freedom in any part of the world. In India, it is celebrated to salute the media journalists who risked their lives in providing information or sometimes lost their lives in the duty itself. Various Government officers, ministers take part while organising several events like art exhibitions; honour awards for the journalists who have risked their lives on duty etc. on this day in India. **But due to the COVID-19 pandemic**, the celebration goes online. **World Press Freedom Conference 2020** provides an opportunity to journalists, civil society representatives, national authorities, academics etc. to discuss the **emerging challenges to press freedom and journalist's safety and to work together to find out the solutions**. Since 1993, the conference is organised annually. It will be from 18-20 October, 2020 in the Hague, The Netherlands.

According to the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, everyone has the **right to freedom of opinion and expression**; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers. – **Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. We all know that in the development of any country,



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

**media plays a crucial role.** It does not only aware of people what is going on around the surrounding but also about the events which affect their lives. **Freedom of the Press should be taken seriously as the safety of journalists** while delivering information during their duties is of utmost importance. **Also, freedom of speech and expression right should be respected.**

CLAT Gurukul



# REPORT & INDEXES

---

LIC  
AS  
MO  
ST  
VA  
LU  
AB  
LE  
INS  
UR  
AN  
CE  
BR  
AN  
D  
GL  
OB  
AL  
LY

❖ The **state-owned insurance behemoth ‘Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)’** has emerged as the third strongest and the most valuable insurance brand globally, in **Brand Finance Insurance 100 report for 2021.**



tenth

❖ The **annual report is released by London-based brand valuation consultancy firm Brand Finance**, to identify the most valuable and strongest insurance brands globally.

- Most Valuable Indian Insurance Brand – **LIC (10th)**
- Most Strongest Indian Insurance Brand – **LIC (3rd)**
- Most Valuable Global Insurance Brand – **Ping An Insurance, China**
- Most Strongest Global Insurance Brand – **Poste Italiane, Italy**

❖ In the **strongest insurance brands category**, **Italy’s Poste Italiane** was at the top position, followed by Mapfre of the US and LIC of India.

## WIPRO BECOMES 3RD LARGEST INDIAN IT FIRM

❖ **Wipro regained its position as the 3rd largest Indian IT services company** by market capitalization of ₹ 2.65 trillion surpassing HCL Technologies’ ₹ 2.62 trillion market cap.



by

❖ **TCS remains at the top of the list with a market cap of ₹ 11.51 trillion followed by Infosys.**

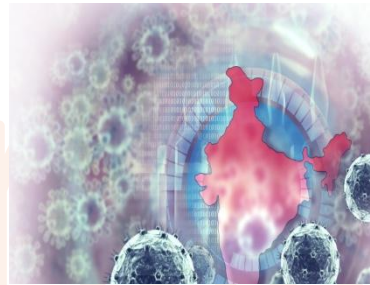
❖ **Wipro has also announced its commitment to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2040**, in line with the objective of the Paris Agreement to cap temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius.

- ❖ The **country's third-largest largest software services company** has set an intermediate target of 55 per cent reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 in absolute emission levels compared to its base year of 2016-17 (April-March).

- Chairman of Wipro Limited: **Rishad Premji.**
- Wipro Headquarters: **Bengaluru;**
- Wipro MD and CEO: **Thierry Delaporte.**

## COVID-19 INDIA'S LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH

- ❖ According to the **Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation's (IHME)** most recent figures, the Covid-19 pandemic has been India's leading cause of death.



- ❖ **IHME is a non-profit global health research centre** based at the **University of Washington in the United States.**

- ❖ **Death due to Covid-19 Pandemic:** India has reported more than 2,15,000 deaths and has registered more than 19 million cases of coronavirus, second only to the United States.

- ❖ The pandemic's human toll is more than **twice the number of people killed in more than 320 natural disasters in** the last two decades (2000-2019).

Other Top Causes of Deaths in India:

- **Ischemic heart disease** (second),
- **Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease** (third),
- **Strokes** (fourth),

- **Diarrhoeal diseases** (fifth),
- **Neonatal disorders** (sixth),
- **Lower respiratory infections** (seventh),
- **Tuberculosis** (eighth),
- **Diabetes mellitus** (ninth) and
- **Chronic liver diseases, including cirrhosis** (tenth).

## INDIA LARGEST RECIPIENT OF REMITTANCE IN 2020

- ❖ India was the largest recipient of remittances in 2020, as per the report, “**Migration and Development brief** “released by **World Bank**. India has been the largest recipient of remittances since 2008.  the the
- ❖ However, the **remittance received by India in 2020 was over USD 83 billion**, which is a drop of 0.2 per cent from 2019 (USD 83.3 billion). Globally, the remittance flow was USD 540 billion in 2020, which is 1.9% lower as compared to that of 2019, when it was **USD 548 billion**.
- ❖ **Top Five Countries: The top five remittance recipient countries in 2020**, in current US dollar terms, were **India, China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt**.
- ❖ The **top five recipients in 2020**, as a share of **gross domestic product (GDP)**, were, by contrast, smaller economies: **Tonga, Lebanon, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and El Salvador**.
- ❖ The **largest remittance-sending country in 2020 was United States (USD68 billion)**. It was followed by the UAE (USD43 billion), Saudi Arabia (USD34.5 billion), Switzerland (USD27.9 billion), Germany (USD22 billion), and China (USD18 billion).
- ❖ From India, the **Remittances outflow in 2020 was USD 7 billion**, against USD 7.5 billion in 2019.



## WORLD'S 50 GREATEST LEADER'S LIST

❖ **New Zealand Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern** has topped ‘World’s 50 Greatest Leaders’ list for 2021, released by Fortune Magazine.



the

❖ The ‘World’s 50 Greatest Leaders’ list for 2021 is the eighth edition of the annual list which celebrates leaders, some well-known and others who aren’t so familiar, who made a difference amid the “truly unprecedented times” of the Covid-19 pandemic.

❖ From India, **Adar Poonawalla, the chief executive officer (CEO) of Serum Institute of India (SII)** is the only Indian among the top 10 names. He is placed in the 10th spot.

### Top 10 Fortune’s World’s 50 Greatest Leaders 2021

- **Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand**
- **mRNA Pioneers**
- **Dan Schulman, CEO of PayPal**
- **Dr John Nkengasong, director of Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention**
- **Adam Silver; Michele Roberts; Chris Paul, NBA Rescuers**
- **Jessica Tan, founder of Ping An Group**
- **Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury for the Church of England/Anglican Church**
- **Stacey Abrams, founder of Fair Fight**
- **Reshorna Fitzpatrick, pastor for Proceeding Word Church, Chicago**
- **Adar Poonawalla, CEO of Serum Institute of India**

## INDIA AS SECOND LARGEST INSURANCE TECH. MARKET



- ❖ India is the **second-largest insurance technology market in Asia-Pacific** and accounts for 35 per cent of the \$3.66 billion insurtech-focused venture capital invested in the region, according to **S&P Global Market Intelligence data**.
- ❖ The data showed that at least 335 private insurtechs are operating in **Asia-Pacific**, with about 122 of them disclosing \$3.66 billion in aggregate capital raised via private placement deals. China and India are collectively home to nearly half of private insurtech companies in the APAC region and attracted about 78 per cent of the investments.
- ❖ Insurance technology investors are attracted to India since **it is one of the fastest-growing insurance markets in the world**.

## INDIA CLIMBS TO THIRD SPOT EY INDEX

- ❖ India has moved a notch higher at the **third spot on EY's Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index** due to exceptional performance on the **solar photovoltaic (PV) front**.



- ❖ India has moved one position above (3rd) from the previous index (4th), this is primarily because of the exceptional performance on the solar PV front. **The US retains the top position on RECAI 57**, China has remained a buoyant market and maintains the second position.
- ❖ India also committed to setting up 450 GW for renewable energy power capacity (installed) by 2030 in the recent climate summit hosted by the US.

## GAUTAM ADANI BECOMES ASIA'S SECOND RICHEST MAN

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

❖ **Billionaire Gautam Adani has edged past Chinese tycoon Zhong Shanshan** to become the second-richest Asian, according to the **Bloomberg Billionaire Index**.



lost

❖ China's Zhong was the richest Asian till February when he lost the crown to **Mukesh Ambani, India's richest person and chairman of Reliance Industries Ltd.**

❖ However, while Ambani lost \$175.5 million this year, Adani's wealth surged by \$32.7 billion to touch \$66.5 billion, against Zhong's \$63.6 billion.

❖ Ambani's total wealth now stands at \$76.5 billion, making him the 13th richest in the world, followed by Adani at 14th.

- **Mukesh Ambani** ----- \$76.3B ----- India
- **Gautam Adani** ---- \$67.6B ---- India
- **Zhong Shanshan** ----- \$65.6B ----- China

## FORBES UNVEILED LIST OF HIGHEST PAID ATHLETES

❖ Forbes has unveiled its annual list of the 10 highest-paid athletes of the year.



❖ **UFC star Conor McGregor has topped the Forbes list** by earning \$180 million in the past year beating soccer superstars Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo to become the highest-paid athlete in the world.

❖ The factors used by Forbes' for calculation include all prize money, salaries and bonuses earned between May 1, 2020, and May 1, 2021.



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

***Ranking Index***

- **Conor McGregor** (Ireland) MMA \$180 million
- **Lionel Messi** (Argentina) Soccer \$130 million
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** (Portugal) Soccer \$120 million
- **Dak Prescott** (United States) Football \$107.5 million
- **Lebron James** (United States) Basketball \$96.5 million

CLAT Gurukul





# SCIENCE & TECH.

---

## CHINA'S FIRST EVER MARS ROVER 'ZHURONG'

❖ **China has named its first-ever Mars rover “Zhurong”** an ancient fire god ahead of a landing attempt on the Red Planet in May.



after

❖ The **China National Space Administration (CNSA)** revealed the name at the **sixth China Space Day held in Nanjing**. The Chinese name for Mars, “**Huoxing,**” literally means “**fire star.**”

❖ **Zhurong was the most popular of 10 shortlisted names** for a public vote that opened in January, and that choice was backed by an expert panel and the CNSA itself.

❖ The **rover carries panoramic and multispectral cameras and instruments to analyze the composition of rocks.** Zhurong will also investigate subsurface characteristics with ground-penetrating radar if all goes according to plan.

## NASA'S PARKER SOLAR PROBE

❖ **NASA's Parker Solar Probe** detected a natural radio signal, indicating that the spacecraft had passed through the **planet's upper atmosphere.** In nearly 30 years, this was first direct measurement of Venus's atmosphere.



the

❖ The **historic Parker Solar Probe mission from NASA** will transform our perception of the sun, where changing conditions will spread across the solar system, impacting Earth and other worlds.

- ❖ The **Parker Solar Probe would fly through the sun's atmosphere**, getting closer to the surface than any spacecraft before it, enduring extreme heat and radiation, and supplying mankind with the closest-ever observations of a star.
- ❖ **Parker Solar Probe** has three distinct scientific goals:
  - ❖ Follow the energy flow that heats and speeds up the **solar wind and solar corona**. Investigate the structure and dynamics of plasma and magnetic fields at solar wind sources. Explore how energetic particles are accelerated and transported.

## ISRO DEVELOPS VENTILATORS & OXYGEN CONCENTRATORS

- ❖ The **Indian Space Research Organisation's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**, has developed three different types of ventilators and an oxygen concentrator at time when a shortage of this critical medical equipment resulted in the deaths of many Covid-19 patients across the country.



- ❖ Based on designs, features and specifications, we have named them, **Prana, VaU and Svasta**. All three are user-friendly, fully automated and with **touch-screen specifications, meeting all safety standards**. **Technology transfer** will be done for the commercial production of these **three ventilators and the one oxygen concentrator** by this month itself.
- ❖ **About the Prana, VaU, Svasta and Shwaas:** Prana is meant to deliver respiratory gas to the patient by automated compression of an **Ambu bag**, **Svasta** is designed to work without electric power, and the VaU is a low-cost ventilator equivalent to commercially available high-end ventilators.

## CHINA'S ROVER 'ZHURONG' SUCCESSFULLY LANDED ON MARS

❖ China successfully achieved the feat of landing its **first Mars Rover 'Zhu Rong' on the red planet**, on May 15, 2021, becoming the only second nation to do so.



❖ Till date, only the **United States has successfully landed its rover on Mars**. All other countries that have tried have either crashed or lost contact soon after reaching the surface.

❖ The vehicle used a combination of a protective capsule, a parachute & a rocket platform to make the descent.

❖ **Zhurong, which means God of Fire**, was carried to **Mars on the Tianwen-1 orbiter**. China's Mars rover, called Zhurong after an ancient fire god in Chinese mythology, will part ways with the lander by driving down a foldable ramp. Once it has deployed, the rover is expected to spend at least 90 Mars days.

## DRDO DEVELOPED ANTIBODY DETECTION KIT 'DIPCOVAN'

❖ India's **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has developed a Covid-19 antibody detection kit.



❖ The **DIPCOVAN kit** can detect both spikes as well as nucleocapsid proteins of Coronavirus with a high sensitivity of 97%.

Page 31  
1



Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- ❖ It has been approved by the **Indian Council of Medical Research** and has been developed by the **Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences lab** of DRDO in association with Delhi's Vanguard Diagnostics Pvt Ltd.
- ❖ About the DIPCOVAN: DIPCOVAN is intended for the qualitative detection of IgG antibodies in human serum or plasma, targeting **SARS-CoV-2 related antigens**.
- ❖ It offers a significantly faster turnaround time of just 75 minutes to conduct the test without any cross-reactivity with other diseases. The kit has a shelf life of 18 months.

## NASA & ISRO DEVELOPS EARTH SYSTEM OBSERVATORY

- ❖ The US space agency, **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** is developing a new system called the Earth System Observatory, to mitigate efforts related to climate change and disaster mitigation.
- ❖ NASA has also partnered with **the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** which will provide **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)**.
- ❖ **NISAR will carry two radar systems** to measure changes in the **Earth's surface**, during one of the observatory's first missions intended as a pathfinder.
- ❖ The **Earth System Observatory** will be a set of missions designed to study "**designated observables**" such as aerosols, clouds and weather, water supply, and the Earth's surface and ecosystems, for an unprecedented understanding of the critical interactions between Earth's atmosphere, land, ocean, and ice processes, which determines how the changing climate will play out at regional and local levels, on near and long-term time scales.



- ❖ Each new satellite under **Earth System Observatory** will be uniquely **designed to create 3D**, holistic view of Earth, from bedrock to atmosphere, providing a new architecture to advanced space-borne Earth observation systems.

## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

### NASA'S OSIRIS-REX MISSION

Recently, NASA's **OSIRIS-REx spacecraft departed from asteroid Bennu**, and started its two-year long journey back to Earth. **OSIRIS-REx is NASA's first mission** to visit a near-Earth asteroid, survey its surface and collect a sample from it.

### ABOUT OSIRIS-REX MISSION

It is the **United States' first asteroid sample return mission**, aiming to collect and carry a pristine, unaltered sample from an asteroid back to earth for scientific study. The **OSIRIS-REx (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer)** spacecraft was launched in 2016 for the journey to Bennu. The mission is essentially a seven-year-long voyage and will conclude when at least 60 grams of samples are delivered back to the Earth (in 2023). As per the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**, the mission promises to bring the largest amount of extraterrestrial material back to the Earth since the Apollo era. **Apollo was the NASA program** that resulted in American astronauts' making a total of 11 space flights and walking on the moon (1968-72). The spacecraft contains five instruments meant to explore Bennu including cameras, a spectrometer and a laser altimeter. Recently, the spacecraft's robotic arm called the **Touch-And-Go Sample Acquisition Mechanism (TAGSAM)**, made an attempt to **"TAG" the asteroid at a sample site and collected a sample.**

### SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MISSION

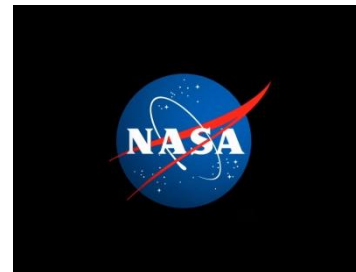
- 3 Scientists will use the **asteroid samples to study the formation of the solar system** and of habitable planets such as Earth. NASA will also distribute a part of the samples to laboratories worldwide and will

reserve about 75% of the samples for future generations who can study it with technologies not yet created.

**Asteroid Bennu: Bennu is an ancient asteroid**, currently more than 200 million miles from Earth. It is about as tall as the **Empire State Building (US)** and is named after an Egyptian deity. The asteroid was discovered by a team from the **NASA-funded Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research** team in 1999. It is known that this asteroid is a B-type asteroid, implying that it contains significant amounts of carbon and various other minerals. **Because of its high carbon content, it reflects about 4% of the light that hits it**, which is very low when compared with a planet like Venus, which reflects about 65% of the light that hits it. Earth reflects about 30%. **Around 20-40% of Bennu's interior** is empty space and scientists believe that it was formed in the first 10 million years of the solar system's formation, implying that it is roughly 4.5 billion years old. There is a slight possibility that Bennu, which is classified as a **Near Earth Object (NEO)**, might strike the Earth in the next century, between the years 2175 and 2199. NEOs are comets and asteroids nudged by the gravitational attraction of nearby planets into orbits which allows them to enter the Earth's neighbourhood. Bennu is believed to have been born in the Main Asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter and because of gravitational tugs from other celestial objects and the slight push asteroids get when they release absorbed sunlight, the asteroid is coming closer to Earth. Bennu offers scientists a window into the early solar system as it was first taking shape billions of years ago and tossing ingredients that could have helped seed life on Earth. Significantly, Bennu hasn't undergone drastic changes since its formation over billions of years ago and therefore it contains chemicals and rocks dating back to the birth of the solar system. It is also relatively close to the Earth.

## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS & SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)

The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** is independent agency of the executive branch of the United States federal government responsible for the civilian space program, as well as aeronautics and aerospace research. **Established under the National Aeronautics and Space Act 1958.** Headquarters: Washington, DC, USA



an  
well

**History: Following World War II**, the United States was in direct competition with the erstwhile Soviet Union (the superpower that was disbanded into several sovereign nations including the **Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, the Ukraine**, etc. in 1991). That **period was called “Cold War”**. It was the Soviet Union’s launch of Sputnik on October 4, 1957, that first put an object into orbit around Earth. It was followed in November by the even larger Sputnik II, which carried the dog Laika. Only in late January 1958, the United States could launch Explorer 1, hoisted aloft by the Army’s rocket team, using rocket technology developed from World War II. Though a small spacecraft weighing only 30 pounds, it discovered what are now **known as the Van Allen radiation belts**, named for the **University of Iowa scientist Dr. James Van Allen**, launching the new discipline of space science. Explorer 1 was followed in March, 1958 by the Navy’s Vanguard 1, 6 inches in diameter and weighing only 3 pounds. NASA’s birth was directly related to the launch of the Sputniks and the ensuing race to demonstrate technological superiority in space. Driven by the competition of the Cold War, on July 29, 1958, **President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act**, providing for research into the problems of flight within Earth’s atmosphere and in space.

## WHAT ARE THE ASTEROIDS?

These are **rocky objects that orbit the Sun**, much smaller than planets. They are also called minor planets. **According to NASA, 9,94,383 is the count of known asteroids**, the remnants from the formation of the solar system over 4.6 billion years ago.



**Asteroids are divided into three classes:** First, those found in the **main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter**, which is estimated to contain somewhere between 1.1-1.9 million asteroids. The second group is that of trojans, which are asteroids that share an orbit with a larger planet. The third classification is **Near-Earth Asteroids (NEA)**, which have orbits that pass close by the Earth. Those that cross the Earth’s orbit are called Earth-crossers. More than 10,000 such asteroids are known, out of which over 1,400 are classified as **Potentially Hazardous Asteroids (PHAs)**. PHAs are currently defined based on parameters that measure the **asteroid’s potential to make threatening close approaches to the Earth.**

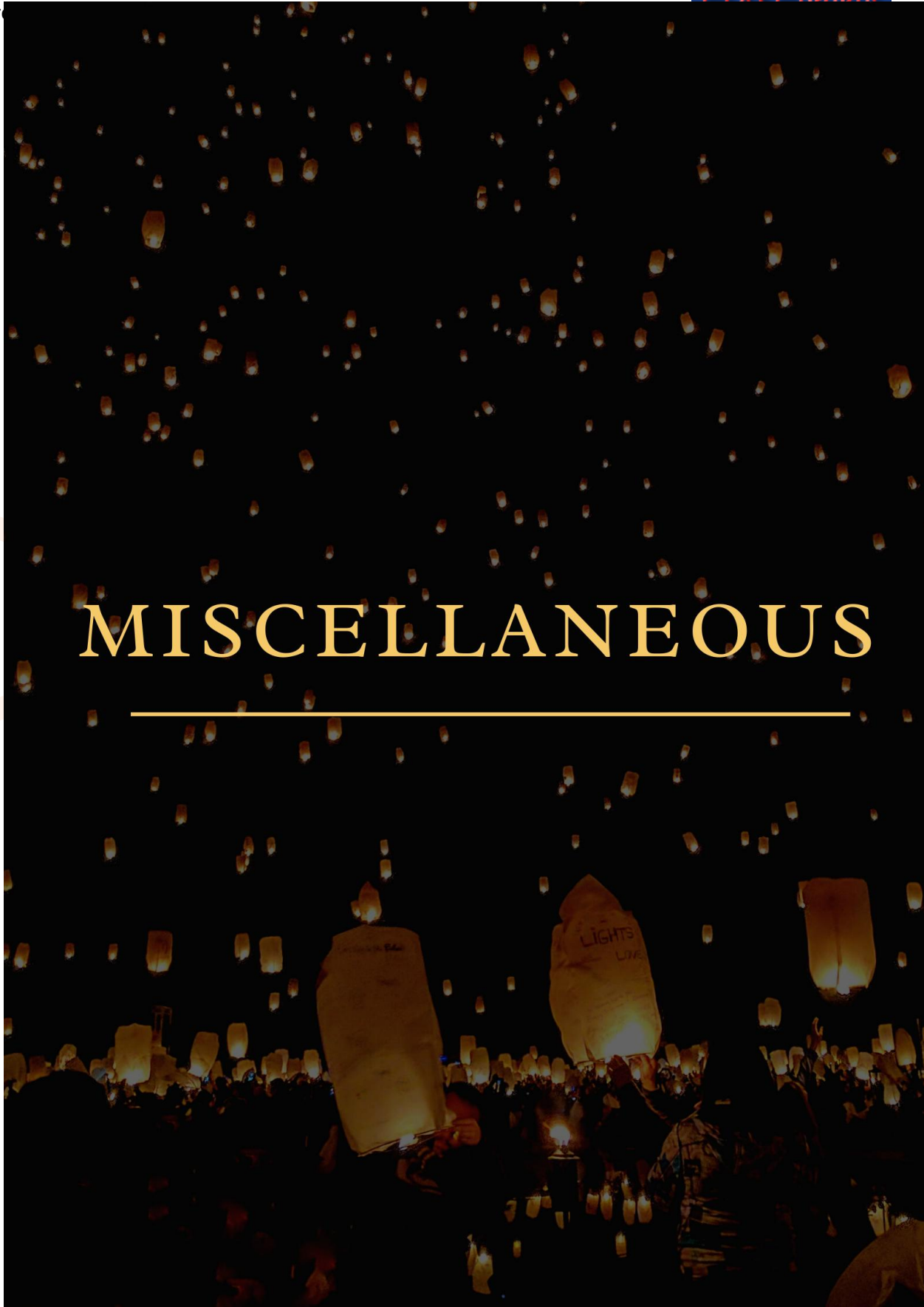


Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

Specifically, all asteroids with an **Earth Minimum Orbit Intersection Distance (MOID)** of 0.05 au or less and an absolute magnitude (H) of 22.0 or less are considered PHAs.

CLAT Gurukul





# MISCELLANEOUS

---

## ANAND MAHINDRA LAUNCHED 'OXYGEN ON WHEELS'

❖ The **Mahindra Group Chairman, Anand Mahindra** has rolled out a project titled **'Oxygen on Wheels'** to ease the transportation of oxygen from producing plants to hospitals homes, following acute oxygen shortage amid a severe second wave of coronavirus.



and

❖ The **'Oxygen on Wheels'** initiative will bridge the gap between oxygen production and its transportation in India, especially in Maharashtra.

❖ Mahindra has lined up around 70 Bolero pickup trucks to connect oxygen producers with hospitals and homes, to deliver oxygen cylinders. **The project is being implemented through Mahindra Logistics.**

❖ Apart from this, an operations control centre has been established and the storage location is replenished from the local refilling plant. A direct-to-consumer model is also being conceived.

- Mahindra Group CEO: **Pawan Kumar Goenka.**
- Mahindra Group Founded: **2 October 1945, Ludhiana.**

## WORLD'S LARGEST AEROPLANE BY STRATOLAUNCH

❖ The **world's largest aeroplane**, designed to transport hypersonic vehicles and facilitate easy access to space, **soared clear skies over California's Mojave Desert.**



into

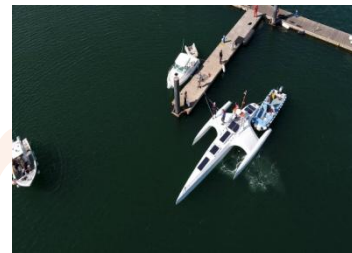
❖ The company Stratolaunch designed it to transport hypersonic vehicles and facilitate easy access to space.

Current Affairs Compendium-May 2021

- ❖ The aircraft named 'Roc' features a twin-fuselage design and the longest wingspan ever flown, at 385 feet (117 m), surpassing the Hughes H-4 Hercules flying boat of 321 feet (98 m).
- ❖ The Stratolaunch is intended to carry a 550,000-pound payload and will be able to launch rockets from high altitude.
  - Stratolaunch Headquarters: **Mojave, California, USA.**
  - Stratolaunch CEO & President: **Jean Floyd.**

## WORLD'S FIRST UNMANNED VESSEL 'MAYFLOWER 400'

- ❖ **World's First Unmanned Vessel named "Mayflower 400"** to Navigate Across the Atlantic. It has been built by the marine research organization **ProMare in collaboration IBM.**



is set

with

- ❖ It will begin its transatlantic voyage on May 15, 2021, to track aquatic mammals, analyze plastic in the water, and study marine pollution.
- ❖ **About the Mayflower 400: Mayflower 400** is a completely autonomous ship. It is a 15-m-long trimaran that weighs 9 tons. It is powered by Artificial Intelligence and the Sun's energy via solar panels.
- ❖ **ProMare invested \$1 million** along with global contributions in the form of technology from **India, the United States, and Switzerland to build the ship.**
- ❖ The ship, equipped with a smart captain, six high-tech cameras and radars, has been trained with audio data to avoid collisions, correct its course, detect marine animals, and gather information of the population of the aquatic animals.



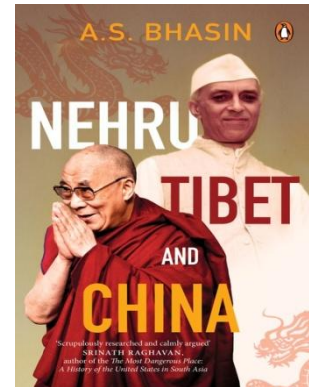
- ❖ The **ship can also listen to whales with a self-activating hydrophone**. Currently, the ship is trained to handle 50 meters high waves. **Mayflower 400 autonomous ship** provides an edge to the scientists in exploring the rough seas as the ship will be unmanned.

- IBM Chief Executive Officer (CEO): **Arvind Krishna**.
- IBM Headquarters: **Armonk, USA**.

## BOOK TITLED 'NEHRU, TIBET & CHINA' RELEASED

- ❖ A book has titled “**Nehru, Tibet and China**” authored by **Avtar Singh Bhasin**.

- ❖ The book based on years of meticulous archival research, this in fascinating detail, analyses the events from **1949 to the Indo-China war in 1962** and its aftermath to explore the answers to burning questions.



book  
these

- ❖ History of India, Tibet and China: On 1 October 1949, **the People’s Republic of China came into being** and changed forever the course of Asian history.
- ❖ Power moved from the hands of the **nationalist Kuomintang government to the Communist Party of China headed by Mao Tse Tung**. All of a sudden, it was not only an assertive China that India had to deal with but also an increasingly complex situation in Tibet which was reeling under pressure from China.

## FASTEST ASCENT OF MOUNT EVEREST RECORD BROKEN

- ❖ **Tsang Yin-hung, a Hong Kong-based mountaineer,** created the record of the **world's fastest ascent of Everest by a woman,** within the time of just under 26 hours.



has

- ❖ The **44-year-old Tsang,** scaled the 8,848.86-metre (29,031 feet) Everest mountain in a record time of 25 hours and 50 minutes on May 23. **It was her third attempt of scaling the Himalayan peak.**
- ❖ In 2017, Tsang became the **first Hong Kong woman to reach the top of the mountain peak.** Before this, the record of fastest woman to conquer Everest was held by **Nepali Phunjo Jhangmu Lama,** who had completed the climb in 39 hours 6 minutes in 2018.

CLAT Gurukul



/clatgurukul admin@clatgurukul.com



CLAT 2022/2023

**Best CLAT  
Online  
Coaching**

**Watch CLAT  
Prep. Videos**

**Watch Now**

**Our Mentors**

**Anurag Sir | Abhinav Sir | Saurabh Sir | Nilanjan Sir**

**+91 8294394519**

**/CLATGurukul**

**www.clatgurukul.com**

Scan these QR Codes to join the most relevant channels for CLAT

Telegram -



You Tube-



Website-



Our App-





Get **700+**  
Hours Classroom Study

& **600+**  
Sectional Tests

& **500+**  
Hours Video Lectures

clatgurukul.com





# CLAT Gurukul

 /clatgurukul  admin@clatgurukul.com



## Best **CLAT** Coaching Online

Most comprehensive  
Course for  
**CLAT 2022 and 2023**

New Pattern Example Questions

**SUBSCRIBE OUR CHANNEL NOW**

 +91 8294394519

 /CLATGurukul

 www.clatgurukul.com



[f /clatgurukul](https://www.facebook.com/clatgurukul) [✉ admin@clatgurukul.com](mailto:admin@clatgurukul.com)



**ONLINE**

**CG EXPRESS  
CRASH COURSE  
FOR CLAT**

**50%<sup>OFF</sup>**

**LIMITED TIME**

**ENROLLMENT  
STARTED!**

**+91 8294394519**

[clatgurukul.com](http://clatgurukul.com)



# NEWS POINTERS DAILY



CLAT GURUKUL OFFERS THE BEST IN CLASS ONLINE COURSES FOR CLAT ASPIRANTS

**JOIN NOW AND GET ATTACTIVE DISCOUNTS ON COURSES FOR CLAT 2020 AND CLAT 2023**

CLATgurukul CLATgurukul /CLAT-gurukul /CLAT-gurukul

[www.clatgurukul.com](http://www.clatgurukul.com) | [www.online.clatgurukul.com](http://www.online.clatgurukul.com)

JOIN OUR TELEGRAM CHANNEL, AND DISCUSSION GROUP, FOR REGULAR READING MATERIALS, PRACTICE QUIZ, DOUBT CARIFICATION etc. Search for CLAT Gurukul



**Best Coaching for CLAT and other LAW Entrance Examinations**

[www.clatgurukul.com](http://www.clatgurukul.com)

24/B, Beside Bikaner Sweets, Sahdev Mahato Marg, S K Puri, Patna

7903086545





# CLAT Gurukul

