

Daily Current Affairs: 03.05.2021

1. Shri Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates 'National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign-2021'



- Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated 'The National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign-2021' on 30th April, 2021.
- The conference was organized to interact with the States on challenges & strategies for effective crop management during the ensuing Kharif season.
- Shri Tomar appreciated the efforts of farmers for the record production for food grains (303.34 million tonnes), which is over 1.96% higher than the previous year's output (297.50 Million Tonnes).
- Agriculture and allied sectors registered a continuous growth in GDP contribution.
- The share of agriculture in GDP increased from 17.8% in 2019-20 to 19.9% in 2020-21 as per Economic Survey 2020-21.
- Shri Tomar announced the setting of higher production targets of food grains to 307 million tonnes for the year 2021-22.

2. NCW launches WhatsApp helpline number for pregnant women



- The National Commission for Women **(NCW)** has launched a WhatsApp helpline number for providing emergency medical assistance to pregnant women. The number is 9354954224.
- Expectant mothers from across the country can reach out to the Commission through this number which will be functional round the clock.



- About National Commission for Women (NCW): The National Commission for Women (NCW) is the statutory body of the Government of India, generally concerned with advising the government on all policy matters affecting women.
- It was established on 31 January 1992 under the provisions of the Indian Constitution, as defined in the 1990 National Commission for Women Act.
- The first head of the commission was Jayanti Patnaik.
- Rekha Sharma is the current chairperson.

3. Byju's, Jio Platforms in TIME Magazine's first-ever list of 100 most influential companies in 2021



- Reliance Industry Limited's (RIL) technology wing Jio Platforms and elearning startup Byju's have made it to the 'TIME100 Most Influential Companies', which is a new list and an expansion of the TIME100 franchise.
- The list comprises companies across various sectors including health care, entertainment, transportation, technology and more. According to the magazine, the list has been prepared after evaluation of key factors including relevance, impact, innovation, leadership, ambition and success.
- The magazine has listed RIL's Jio Platform for "leading digital transformation" in India.
- The magazine has credited Byju's for expanding e-learning in India. The company founded by Byju Raveendran has seen a sharp rise in popularity in 2020 as demand for online learning rose in the middle of the pandemic.
- Byju's has also been credited for getting a foothold in markets outside India including the US, UK, Indonesia, Mexico, and Brazil.
- **Note:** Even in India, Byju's is aggressively expanding and recently acquired Aakash Educational Services, a leading test-prep school, for almost \$1 billion.

4. India should be a 'Country of Particular Concern' for Religious Freedom: USCIRF Report

- The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has recommended for the second year in a row that the US Government put India on a list 'Country of Particular concern (CPC)' for the worst violations of religious freedoms in 2020.
- The annual report of the USCIRF also recommended to redesignate 10 nations as "countries of particular concern".





- These are Burma (Myanmar), China, Eritrea, Iran, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.
- In addition to India, USCIRF in its non-binding report recommended the State Department to add three more countries to the list: Russia, Syria and Vietnam.
- The recommendations of USCIRF are non-binding to the US Government.
- About the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF): It is a U.S. federal government commission created by the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

Founded: 28 October 1998 Headquarters: Washington, D.C.

Executive Director: Erin D. Singshinsuk

5. Guru Tegh Bahadur's 400th Prakash Purab





- The auspicious occasion of Guru Tegh Bahadur's 400th Prakash Purab was celebrated on May 1, 2021.
- He was the 9th of the 10 Gurus that founded the Sikh religion. He was also considered to be the leader of Sikhs from 1665 until his demise in 1675.
- **Note:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Sis Ganj Gurudwara in Delhi and offered prayers on the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Teg Bahadur.
- The gurudwara was built by Sikhs at the site where the ninth guru was beheaded by the Mughals in 1675.

6. Former Attorney General Soli Sorabjee passes away

• Former Attorney General of India and renowned jurist Soli Sorabjee passed away. Serving as a legal professional for nearly seven decades, Sorabjee occupied the highest office of the attorney general of India twice — first from 1989-90 and then from 1998-2004.



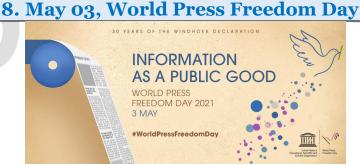


- He was awarded with Padma Vibhushan.
- From 1998-2004, he was also the Chairman of the UN sub-committee on the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights.

7. TV journalist Rohit Sardana passes away



- Television journalist Rohit Sardana, who was an executive editor and TV news anchor with the Aaj Tak channel of the India Today Group, passed away.
- Sardana was a recipient of the 2018 Ganesh Vidyarthi Puraskar Award.



- This year's World Press Freedom Day theme is "Information as a Public Good".
- The United Nations General Assembly declared May 3 to be World Press Freedom Day or just World Press Day, observed to raise awareness of the importance of freedom of the press and remind governments of their duty to respect and uphold the right to freedom of expression enshrined under Article 19 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and marking the anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration, a statement of free press principles put together by African newspaper journalists in Windhoek in 1991.



9. May 01, International Labour Day



- May 01 is the International Day of Workers or International Labour Day dedicated to workers across the world.
- The day, also called May Day, is also observed as a public holiday in many countries. Labour Day in India is celebrated as Antarrashtriya Shramik Diwas.
- Labour Day has its origins in the labour union movement in the United States in the 19th Century. In 1889, the Marxist International Socialist Congress adopted a resolution for a great international demonstration in which they demanded that the workers should not be made to work for more than 8 hours a day.