

## Daily Current Affairs: 04.05.2021

### 1. Government of India to provide Rs 15,000 crore to States for Capital Expenditure



- The Ministry of Finance has decided to provide an additional amount of upto Rs 15,000 crore to States as interest free 50 year loan for spending on capital projects.
- The Department of Expenditure has issued fresh guidelines in this regard on the “**Scheme of Financial Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure**” for the financial year 2021-22.
- **Capital expenditure** creates employment, especially for the poor and unskilled, has a high multiplier effect, enhances the future productive capacity of the economy, and results in a higher rate of economic growth.
- **Note:** The “Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure” was launched in 2020 to provide financial assistance for the states.
- Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided to the State Governments in the form of 50-year interest free loan. An amount not exceeding Rs.12,000 crore was earmarked for the scheme for the financial year 2020-21, and a sum of Rs.11,830.29 crore was released to the States.

### 2. TRIFED joins hands with The LINK Fund to work towards tribal development



Tribal Co-Operative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited  
Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India

- TRIFED has now entered into a collaborative project titled “**Sustainable Livelihoods for Tribal Households in India**” with The LINK Fund.

- TRIFED and The LINK Fund have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work together towards Tribal Development and employment generation.
- The MoU was signed by Shri Pravir Krishna, Managing Director TRIFED, and Tony Kalm, CEO and Co-founder, The LINK Fund.
- As a part of this association, both the organizations will also work together to create women-centered infrastructure and innovation and entrepreneurship.
- **The LINK Fund** is a practitioner-led fund that is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland and works to end extreme poverty and mitigate the effects of climate change.
- **Facts about Tribal Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (TRIFED):**  
**Founded:** 1987  
**Headquarters:** New Delhi  
**Parent agency:** Ministry of Tribal Affairs  
**Managing Director:** Pravir Krishna

### 3. India, Russia to establish a '2+2 ministerial dialogue' between Foreign and Defence Ministers



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin agreed to establish a new annual India-Russia 2+2 dialogue, involving the External Affairs Minister and Defence Ministers of the two nations.
- New Delhi's move to launch the 2+2 dialogue with Moscow is apparently aimed at striking a balance between India's growing strategic convergence with the United States in the Indo-Pacific region and its long-standing defence partnership with Russia.
- **Note:** Russia now has become part of a small group of countries with whom India has 2+2 dialogue of foreign and defence ministers. **India has such mechanisms with the US, Japan and Australia.**

### 4. Seven Indian Navy Ships deployed for Operation Samudra Setu II



- In support of the nation's fight against Covid-19 and as part of operation '**Samudra Setu II**', 7 Indian Naval ships viz. **Kolkata, Kochi, Talwar, Tabar, Trikand, Jalashwa** and **Airavat** have been deployed for shipment of liquid medical oxygen-filled cryogenic containers and associated medical equipment from various countries.
  - INS Kolkata and INS Talwar, missions deployed in Persian Gulf, were the first batch of ships that were immediately diverted for the task and entered the port of Manama, Bahrain.
  - The second batch of ships comprising Kochi, Trikand and Tabar missions deployed in Arabian sea have also been diverted to join the national effort.
- Note:** It may be recalled that Operation Samudra Setu was launched in 2020 by the Navy and around 4000 Indian citizens stranded in neighbouring countries, amidst COVID 19 outbreak, were successfully repatriated back to India.

## 5. 23rd ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting



Image: ASEAN

- Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs Riva Ganguly Das co-chaired the 23rd ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting 2021 with Permanent Secretary of Thailand Thani Thongphakdi.

- During the Meeting, the status of ongoing ASEAN-India cooperation was reviewed under the whole spectrum of political-security, economic, socio-cultural and developmental cooperation.
- The Meeting also deliberated on the steps to implement the ASEAN-India Plan of Action 2021-2025 and discussed ways to further strengthen the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership.
- The ASEAN Senior Officials welcomed India's proposal to celebrate the year 2022 as ASEAN-India Friendship Year as it marks the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-India sectoral partnership, 25th anniversary of dialogue partnership, 20th anniversary of Summit-level partnership and 10 years of Strategic Partnership.
- **Facts about Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN):** It is considered one of the most influential groupings in the region, and India and several other countries including the US, China, Japan and Australia are its dialogue partners.  
**The 10 member countries of ASEAN** are Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia.  
**Headquarters:** Jakarta, Indonesia  
**Founded:** 8 August 1967

#### 6. 1st instalment of Rs. 8873.6 crore for State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) released in advance



- As a special dispensation, the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance at the recommendation of the Ministry of Home Affairs has released in advance of the normal schedule the 1<sup>st</sup> instalment of the Central Share of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for the year 2021-22 to all the States.
- An amount of Rs. 8873.6 crore has been released to the States.
- **Note:** Normally, the first instalment of SDRF is released in the month of June as per the recommendations of the Finance Commission. Up to 50% of the amount released i.e. Rs.4436.8 crore can be used by the States for COVID-19 containment measures.

#### 7. Sanjay Kumar Mohanty takes over the charge of new Member (Operations & Business Development) Railway Board, Ministry of Railways





- Sanjay Kumar Mohanty has taken over the charge of new Member (Operations & Business Development) Railway Board (Ministry of Railways) and Ex. Officio Secretary to the Government of India.
- Shri Mohanty was General Manager, South Eastern Railway prior to his elevation to the post of Railway Board Member.
- Shri Mohanty worked in various important posts in Indian Railways viz. Principal Executive Director (Traffic Transportation)/Railway Board, Senior Deputy General Manager & Chief Vigilance Officer in East Coast Railway, Divisional Railway Manager in Khurda Road Division etc.

8. **The Japanese Government awarded the “Order of the Rising Sun” to a Japanese teacher, Shyamala Ganesh**



- Shyamala Ganesh, a Bengaluru-based Japanese teacher, was recently awarded the “Order of the Rising Sun” by the Japanese government.
- Shyamala is a Japanese instructor at the septuagenarian institution as well as the Ohara School of Ikebana in Bengaluru's RT Nagar.
- **About ‘Order of the Rising Sun’:** It is conferred on persons with achievements in international relations, promotion of Japanese culture,

environmental preservation, welfare or achievements in their fields. It was constituted by Japanese Emperor Meiji in 1875.

- **Facts about Japan:**

**Capital:** Tokyo.

**Currency:** Japanese yen

**Prime Minister:** Yoshihide Suga

## 9. Sitar Maestro Pandit Debu Chaudhuri passes away



- Pandit Devabrata (Debu) Chaudhuri performed across the world for over six decades, winning several honours, including the Padmabhushan, the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution in the field of music.
- He was also an educationist and author.