

## Daily Current Affairs: 06.05.2021

### 1. Indian Army launches first Green Solar Energy Harnessing Plant in Sikkim



- The Indian Army launched the first Green Solar Energy Harnessing Plant in North Sikkim to harness renewable energy for its troops.
- The Green Solar Energy plant with a capacity of 56 KVA, at an altitude of 16,000 ft, will use vanadium-based battery technology.
- The project has been accomplished in collaboration with IIT, Mumbai.
- A team of faculty from IIT, Mumbai, led by Prof Prakash Ghosh and troops, finished the project.
- **Note:** In January 2021, Vanadium was discovered in Arunachal Pradesh. This was the first discovery of Vanadium in India.
- India consumes 4% of global vanadium production in the world.
- **Vanadium** is a hard, silver-grey metallic element. Vanadium is found in over 60 different minerals including vanadinite, carnotite, roscoelite and patronite.
- Vanadium can be used to make steel alloys, for use in space vehicles, nuclear reactors and aircraft carriers, etc.



- **Facts about Sikkim:** Sikkim is a state in northeast India, bordered by Bhutan, Tibet and Nepal.  
**Capital:** Gangtok  
**Governor:** Ganga Prasad  
**Chief Minister:** Prem Singh Tamang

## 2. Petroleum Minister flags off 1st supply of Used Cooking Oil-based Biodiesel from Indian Oil's Tikrikalan Terminal



- Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan remotely flagged off the first supply of UCO (Used Cooking Oil) based Biodiesel blended Diesel under the EOI Scheme from Indian Oil's Tikrikalan Terminal, Delhi.
- To create an eco-system for collection and conversion of UCO into Biodiesel and developing entrepreneurship opportunities, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel, along with Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, had initiated Expressions of Interest for **“Procurement of Bio-diesel produced from Used Cooking Oil”** on the occasion of **World Biofuel Day on 10th August 2019**.
- Indian Oil has started constructing eight Biodiesels plants across Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh.
- **Biodiesel** is an alternative fuel, similar to conventional or ‘fossil’ diesel. It can be produced from vegetable oils, animal fats, tallow and waste cooking oil.
- A significant advantage of Biodiesel is its carbon-neutrality, i.e. the oilseed absorbs the same amount of CO<sub>2</sub> as is released when the fuel is combusted in a vehicle. Also, Biodiesel is rapidly biodegradable and completely non-toxic.

## 3. Mamata Banerjee takes oath as West Bengal CM for 3rd consecutive term



- In West Bengal, TMC chief Mamata Banerjee was sworn-in as the Chief Minister of the state for the third consecutive term.
- Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar administered her oath of office and secrecy at a simple ceremony held at the Raj Bhavan in Kolkata.

- In the 2021 West Bengal elections, the TMC secured 213 out of the 292 Assembly seats, while the BJP emerged as the second-largest party with 77 seats.
- **Note:** Ms. Banerjee has become the second woman in the country to be sworn in as Chief Minister of any state consecutively for three terms after former Chief Minister of Delhi, Sheila Dixit.

#### 4. Ministry of Food Processing Industries issues guidelines for 'Production Linked Incentive Scheme for the Food Processing Industry'



- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has issued detailed operational scheme guidelines for 'Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry' (PLISFPI).
- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched an online portal for the beneficiaries.
- As a part of Prime Minister's announcement of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, Government of India has approved a new Central Sector Scheme namely 'Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry' for implementation during 2021-22 to 2026-27 with an outlay of Rs. 10,900 crore.
- Ministry of Food Processing Industries is inviting applications for availing sales based incentives and grants for undertaking Branding & Marketing activities abroad under the scheme from three categories of Applicants:
- **Category-I:** Applicants are large entities who apply for Incentive based on Sales and Investment Criteria. Applicants under this category could undertake Branding & Marketing activities abroad also and apply for grant under the scheme with a common application.
- **Category-II:** SMEs Applicants manufacturing innovative/ organic products who apply for PLI Incentive based on Sales.
- **Category-III:** Applicants applying solely for grant for undertaking Branding & Marketing activities abroad.

#### 5. Justice P.C. Pant appointed as the Acting Chairperson of NHRC

- The Hon'ble President of India has authorized Justice (Retired) Prafulla Chandra Pant, Member, National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India, to act as its Chairperson w.e.f. 25th April, 2021.

- Prior to his appointment as Member, NHRC on 22 April, 2019, he was a Judge of the Supreme Court of India from 13th August, 2014 to 29th August, 2017.



- He held the position of Chief Justice of the High Court of Meghalaya from September 20, 2013 to August 12, 2014.
- **About National Human Rights Commission of India (NHRC):** It is a statutory public body constituted on 12 October 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Ordinance of 28 September 1993. It was given a statutory basis by the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

## 6. Mark Selby becomes World Snooker Champion for 4th time



- In Snooker, English professional player Mark Selby has become the World Snooker Champion for the 4th time.
- Selby won the Championship defeating Shaun Murphy by 18-15 victory at Crucible Theatre, England.
- Selby won the Championship title in 2014, 2016, 2017 also.

## 7. Sri Lanka Thisara Perera announces retirement from international cricket

- Sri Lanka all-rounder and former captain, Thisara Perera announced his retirement from international cricket.
- Thisara Perera, who made his international debut in 2009, has featured in 6 Tests, 166 ODIs and 84 T20Is in his 12-year-long international career.





- Perera has hit 2,338 runs and picked up 135 wickets in ODI cricket while he managed 51 wickets and 1204 runs in T20I cricket.
- Thisara Perea was also part of Sri Lanka's 2014 T20 World Cup-winning team.

#### **8. Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan passes away**



- Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan, one of India's well-known religious leaders and the oldest serving Bishop passed away at 103.
- An outstanding religious leader and a humanitarian, Dr. Philipose, was awarded the Padma Bhushan by President Ram Nath Kovind in 2018.