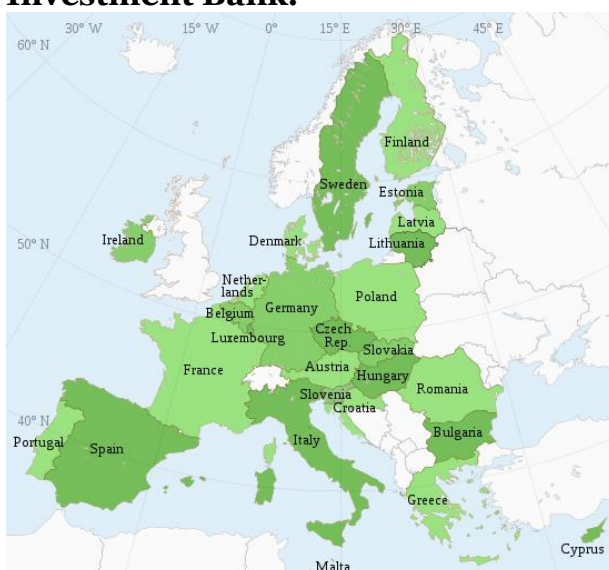


Daily Current Affairs: 10.05.2021

1. India-EU Leaders' Meeting



- At the invitation of the President of the European Council Mr. Charles Michel, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the India-EU Leaders' Meeting on 08 May 2021.
- The meeting was held in a hybrid format with the participation of leaders of all the 27 EU Member States as well as the President of the European Council and the European Commission.
- This is the first time that the EU hosted a meeting with India in the EU+27 format.
- They exchanged views on three key thematic areas: **i) foreign policy and security; ii) COVID-19, climate, and environment; and iii) trade, connectivity, and technology.**
- India and the EU launched an ambitious and comprehensive '**Connectivity Partnership**' which is focused on enhancing digital, energy, transport and people-to-people connectivity.
- Coinciding with the Leaders' Meeting, an **India-EU Business Roundtable** was organized to highlight the avenues for cooperation in climate, digital and healthcare.
- A finance contract of **Euro 150 million** for the **Pune Metro Rail Project** was signed by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and **European Investment Bank.**



- India-EU Leaders Meeting has set a significant milestone by providing a new direction to the Strategic Partnership and giving a fresh impetus for

implementing the ambitious **India-EU Roadmap 2025** adopted at the **15th India-EU Summit held in July 2020**.

- **Note: European Union (EU)** has recently joined **India's International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure-CDRI**.
- **Facts about the European Union (EU):**
Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium
Founded: 1 November 1993
Members Countries: 27
- The **United Kingdom** became the first member state to leave the EU on 31 January 2020.
- In 2012, the EU was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize**.

2. Fitch predicts India's GDP growth at 9.5%, S&P at 9.8% for FY22



GROWTH PROJECTION FOR FY22 (%)

Goldman Sachs	11.1
Barclays	11.0
Moody's	10.8
State Bank of India	10.4
UBS	10.0
S&P	9.8
Fitch Ratings	9.5
Credit Suisse	8.5-9
Standard Chartered	5.0

Source: Rating agencies

- **Fitch Ratings** has estimated the GDP (Gross domestic product) of the Indian economy to grow 9.5 percent in 2021-22 (April 2021 to March 2022). Fitch in March 2021 had expected an 12.8% GDP growth forecast for FY22.

- **S&P Global Ratings** has lowered the GDP growth forecast of the Indian economy to 9.8 percent for the financial year 2021-22 (FY22). S&P in March 2021 had expected an 11% GDP growth forecast for India for FY22.

3. Oil and Gas PSUs sign MoUs for Construction and Redevelopment of Shri Badrinath Dham as a Spiritual Smart Hill Town



- Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between the **Oil and Gas PSUs-Indian Oil, BPCL, HPCL, ONGC and GAIL**, and **Shri Badrinath Utthan Charitable Trust** for Construction and Redevelopment of **Shri Badrinath Dham, Uttarakhand as a Spiritual Smart Hill Town**.
- As per the MoUs, the Oil & Gas PSUs will be contributing Rs. 99.60 crore in the first phase of the developmental activities, including river embankment work, building all-terrain vehicular path, building bridges, beautifying existing bridges, establishing gurukul facilities with accommodation, creating toilet and drinking water facilities, installing streetlights, mural paintings etc.
- **Note:** Badrinath is one of the Char Dham - a set of four pilgrimage sites in India. The other Dhams are Dwaraka, Puri and Rameswaram.

4. Telecom Department gives go-ahead for 5G Technology and Spectrum Trials



- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India, approved, permissions to Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) for conducting trials for use and applications of 5G technology.
- The applicants TSPs include Bharti Airtel Ltd., Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., Vodafone Idea Ltd. and MTNL.
- These TSPs have tied up with original equipment manufacturers and technology providers which are Ericsson, Nokia, Samsung and C-DOT.
- The experimental spectrum is being given in various bands which include the mid-band (3.2 GHz to 3.67 GHz), millimeter wave band (24.25 GHz to 28.5 GHz) and in the Sub-Gigahertz band (700 GHz).
- The TSPs are encouraged to conduct trials using **5Gi technology** in addition to the already known 5G Technology.
- **International Telecommunications Union (ITU)** has also approved the 5Gi technology, which was advocated by India, as it facilitates much larger reach of the 5G towers and Radio networks.
- The **5Gi technology** has been developed by IIT Madras, Centre of Excellence in Wireless Technology (CEWiT) and IIT Hyderabad.

5. MK Stalin takes oath as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister



- DMK (Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) chief MK Stalin was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, along with 33 members of his cabinet, by Governor Banwarilal Purohit at the Raj Bhavan in Chennai.

6. N Rangasamy takes oath as Puducherry Chief Minister



- All India NR Congress (AINRC) chief N Rangasamy was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Puducherry by Lieutenant Governor Tamilisai Soundarajan at Raj Nivas, Puducherry.
- Mr Rangasamy has become Chief Minister for the fourth time.

7. F1 Spanish Grand Prix 2021



- **British Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes)** won the F1 Spanish Grand Prix 2021 held at Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, Spain.
- **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull) got second position and **Valtteri Bottas** (Mercedes) got third position.
- **Note:** Lewis Hamilton claimed the 100th pole position of his career in Spanish Grand Prix 2021.

8. Veteran music composer Vanraj Bhatia passes away



- The 93-year-old Padma Shri awardee, who scored the music for Shyam Benegal classics like 'Ankur' and 'Bhumika' and TV series 'Yatra' and 'Bharat Ek Khoj', passed away.
- Among the awards he won the National Award for Best Music for Govind Nihalani's TV series 'Tamas' and also the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.
- He received India's fourth-highest civilian honour, the Padma Shri in 2012.

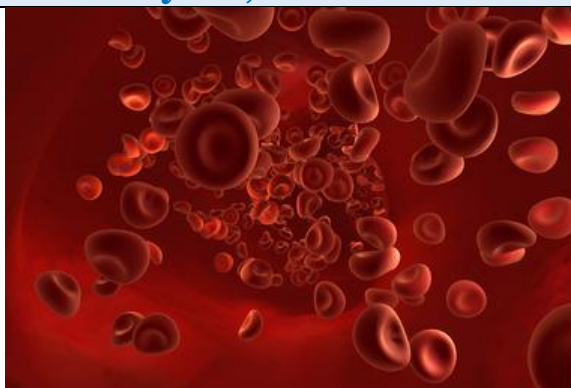
9. May 08, World Migratory Bird Day



- The theme for this World Migratory Bird Day is **Sing, Fly, Soar – Like a bird!**

- **World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD)** is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.
- All these activities can also be undertaken at any time of the year because of countries or regions observing the peak of migrations at different times, but the main days for the international celebrations on the **second Saturday in May and in October**.
- World Migratory Bird Day was initiated in 2006 by the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).
- The AEWA and the CMS are the two international wildlife treaties administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

10. May 08, World Thalassaemia Day



- **World Thalassaemia Day** is observed on May 8 every year, to mark attention towards Thalassaemia, a blood disorder characterized by abnormal formation of haemoglobin.
- This year's theme is "**Addressing Health Inequalities Across the Global Thalassaemia Community**".
- In India, every year over 10,000 children are diagnosed with Thalassaemia. Thalassaemia patients are mostly children who go through painful blood transfusions for several years in their life. A blood stem cell transplant is the only curative intervention available for a transfusion-free status with a normal life span for Thalassaemia patients.

11. May 08, World Red Cross Day



- The **World Red Cross Day** is celebrated to commemorate the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- The theme of the World Red Cross Day 2021 is **Together we are #unstoppable!**
- World Red Cross Day is also known as World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. The first **Red Cross Day** was celebrated on May 8, 1948.
- Red Cross Day is the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Henry Dunant was also the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize.

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