

Daily Current Affairs: 12.05.2021

1. India participates in the 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial 2021



- The 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial Meeting (ASM3) entitled “**Knowledge for a sustainable Arctic**”, was **co-organized by the governments of Japan and Iceland** and took place on 8 and 9 May 2021 in Tokyo.
- **ASM3** is the first Ministerial meeting being held in Asia.
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Science and Technology, Health and Family Welfare, and Earth Sciences represented India and shared India’s vision and long-term plans for research, work, and cooperation in the Arctic region with the stakeholders.
- The launch of **NISER** (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite mission, in collaboration with the USA, is underway.
- India’s contributions to the **Sustained Arctic Observational Network (SAON)** would continue.
- **Note:** The first two meetings—**ASM1** and **ASM2**—were held in the USA in 2016 and Germany in 2018, respectively.
- Since 2013, India enjoys ‘Observer’ status in the **Arctic Council** with twelve other countries (Japan, China, France, Germany, UK, Italy, Switzerland, Poland, Spain, Netherlands, Singapore, and South Korea).
- India’s engagement with the Arctic dates back to 1920 with the signing of the Svalbard Treaty in Paris.
- Since July 2008, India has a permanent research station in the Arctic called **Himadri** at NyAlesund, Svalbard Area in Norway.
- It has also deployed a multi-sensor moored observatory called **IndARC** in the Kongsfjorden fjord since July 2014.



2. Centre releases Rs. 8923.8 crore to Panchayats in 25 States



- The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance released an amount of Rs. 8,923.8 crore to 25 States for providing grants to the Rural Local Bodies (RLBs).
- The grants are meant for all the three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions – village, block and district.
- The amount released is the first instalment of the 'Untied Grants' for the year 2021-22.
- It may be utilised by the RLBs, among other things, for various prevention and mitigation measures needed to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Note:** As per the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission, the 1st instalment of untied grants was to be released to the States in the month of June, 2021.
- In view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic situation and at the recommendation of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the Ministry of Finance has decided to release the grant in advance of the normal schedule.

3. RBI sets up an advisory group to assist RRA 2.0



- The Reserve Bank of India has set up a **Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0)**, initially for a period of one year from May 01, 2021.
- The RRA will review the regulatory prescriptions internally as well as by seeking suggestions from the RBI regulated entities and other stakeholders on their simplification and ease of implementation.

- The RRA has constituted an Advisory Group, representing members from regulated entities, including compliance officers, to support the RRA in achieving the objective set forth in the terms of reference of RRA 2.0.
- **The composition of the Group is as under:**

1.	Shri S. Janakiraman, Managing Director, State Bank of India	Chairman
2.	Shri T. T. Srinivasaraghavan	Member
3.	Shri Gautam Thakur	Member
4.	Shri Subir Saha	Member
5.	Shri Ravi Duvvuru	Member
6.	Shri Abadaan Viccaji	Member

- **Note: Shri M. Rajeshwar Rao, Deputy Governor** has been appointed as the Regulations Review Authority.

4. Puducherry becomes 'Har Ghar Jal' UT



- Puducherry has become 'Har Ghar Jal' UT by ensuring that every rural home in the Union Territory gets a household tap connection.
- With this, the **UT becomes the fourth State/UT after Goa, Telangana and Andaman & Nicobar Islands** to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home under Union Government's flagship programme, Jal Jeevan Mission.
- All 1.16 lakh rural households in Puducherry have tap water supply now.
- **Note:** Further, the State of Punjab and the UTs of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu have also crossed the milestone of covering 75% of rural homes with assured tap water supply.
- **About JJM (Jal Jeevan Mission):** It is a flagship programme of the Union Government, which aims to provide tap water connection to every rural household of the country by 2024.

5. Ujjwala Singhania takes over as 38th National President FICCI FLO



- Ujjwala Singhania has been appointed as the 38th National President of **FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO)**, the oldest women-led & women-centric business chamber of Southeast Asia.



The Power to Empower

- **About FLO:** It was established in 1983, as a division of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) which is the apex body of industry and commerce in India.

6. IREDA bags “Green Urja Award”



- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) has been conferred with “Green Urja Award” for being the Leading Public Institution in Financing Institution for Renewable Energy this year by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC).
- The award was received by Shri Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), IREDA from Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, International Solar Alliance.
- IREDA gets the award for the pivotal and developmental role it plays in Green Energy Financing.
- **About Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA):** It is a Mini Ratna (Category – I) Government of India Enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

7. 2021 Madrid Open (Tennis)



- The 2021 Madrid Open was held at the Park Manzanares in Madrid, Spain from 30 April – 9 May 2021. It was the 19th edition of the event on the ATP Tour and 20th on the WTA Tour.
- **List of winners:**

Men's singles	Women's singles	Men's doubles	Women's doubles
Winner- Alexander Zverev (Germany)	Winner- Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)	Winner- Horacio Zeballos (Argentina), Marcel Granollers (Spain)	Winner- Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic), Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic)
Runner-up- Matteo Berrettini (Italy)	Runner-up- Ashleigh Barty (Australia)	Runner-up- Nikola Pietrangeli (Croatia), Mate Pavić (Croatia)	Runner-up- Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada), Demi Schuurs (Netherlands)



8. May 12, International Nurses Day



International Council of Nurses



12 MAY 2021
INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY

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- International Nurses Day (IND) is an international day observed around the world on 12 May (the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth) of each year, to mark the contributions that nurses make to society.
- The theme for the 2021 is **Nurses: A Voice to Lead - A vision for future healthcare.**