

Weekly Current Affairs

2nd Week May 2022

Important News: State

Madhya Pradesh PRI Election Row



Why In News?

- Recently Supreme Court of India ordered State Government to conduct Panchayati Raj Elections in the state without OBC reservations.

Details of the News:

- The honorable Court has directed Government to conduct the Urban Local Self Government and PRI elections without OBC reservation which earlier State Government provided for.
- The matter was under consideration before Justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar, AS Oka and CT Ravikumar bench.
- Court asked Government to notify elections within two weeks.
- Court also mandated other states of the country to follow the verdict.
- It said that the above decision is not just restricted to MP and Maharashtra but to the entire nation.
- The further said that before implementing reservation provision the Government has to qualify "Tripple Test".
- This test includes appointment of panels, collection of relevant empirical data local body-wise and ensuring that the reservation does not exceed 50% ceiling.
- Court also reiterated that that the election process cannot be delayed further as it is Constitutionally mandatory.

Government Stand:

- Government has shown signs of filling Review Petition before the Honorable Supreme Court.

Expert Views:



- According to the legal and Constitutional experts there is hardly any chance that the Court would entertain any review petition on the decision.

Ladli Laxmi scheme-2.0: Madhya Pradesh govt



Why in News?

- In Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, while launching the **Ladli Laxmi scheme-2.0**, has announced that the state government will pay the entire fee of Ladli Laxmis if they take admission to medical, IIT, IIM, or any institute.
- **Ladli Laxmi Utsav** will also be celebrated in MP from May 2 to May 12 every year.
- The Chief Minister also launched Ladli e-Sawad App.

About Ladli Laxmi Yojana:

- In order to fulfill the responsibility of the girl child from birth to her marriage, the government in MP has implemented Ladli Laxmi Yojana from 1st April 2007.
- In Madhya Pradesh, more than 42 lakh girls have been registered till April 2022 this year under Ladli Laxmi scheme.
- 25 thousand rupees will be given separately by the state government in two installments to the Ladli Laxmis who take admission in the college.

Source: TOI

Allahabad High Court Rejects Plea to Open Doors of Taj Mahal



Why in News?

- Recently a Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court rejected a PIL filed to open 22 doors of Taj Mahal.

Key Points:

- A PIL was filed in this behalf by Rajneesh Singh.
- It was argued that Taj Mahal was historically a Shiv Temple over which mausoleum was built by Mughal ruler Shah Jahan.
- Rajneesh Singh filed a PIL in UP High Court to order an archaeological survey by opening 22 locked doors.
- The Lucknow Bench dismissed the petition saying that purpose of PIL is not fulfilled in this petition and the issue does not entertain Public Interest here.

Note: The concept of Public Interest Litigation was initiated by Justice P. N. Bhagwati of Supreme Court of India.

Source: Times of India.

Important News: India

Supreme Court Puts All The Trials Of Cases Pertaining To Sedition Charges On Hold

Why In News?

- The Supreme Court ordered to hold the cases pending w.r.t. the sedition charges.



Key Points:

- In the previous hearing before Supreme Court on validity of Section 124A, Government of India agreed to file an affidavit to assure that it will re-examine the section.
- It was argued before court that provisions under Section 124A of IPC are violation of civil liberties and human rights.
- In this regard Government assured to come up with a solution to strike a balance between national security and civil liberties.
- Meanwhile the Court asked to put on hold to the ongoing trials in terms of Sedition charges already pending before courts.
- The supreme court also directed the Centre and State Governments not to file any fresh cases until the Government comes up with a fresh legislation.

Source: Indian Express and The Hindu

Criminalisation of Marital Rape



Why In News?

- Recently a bench of Delhi High Court delivered a split verdict on the issue of marital rape pending before it.

Key Points:

- The Delhi High Court on Tuesday gave a fractured verdict regarding the post marriage rape.
- In this judgement the two judge bench of the Delhi High Court had a split decision with Justice Shakhder calling the sexual intercourse with wife without her consent amounting to the rape.
- While Justice Shankar said that the exception under IPC regarding sex without consent as Constitutionally valid.

Other Important Facts:

- The petitioners have challenged the provisions under Section 375 of IPC which incorporates provisions regarding rape of a woman.
- According to the provisions of above section the sexual intercourse done by husband with his wife without her consent, if she is not minor, will not amount to the act of rape.
- Note: After the split verdict the case can now be filed before the Supreme Court for its consideration.

Source : Times of India and Indian Express

Sedition vs Civil Liberties:

Why In News?

- Recently Government of India has filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court of India regarding its review of Section 124A of IPC.

News In Detail:

- Ministry of Home Affairs has assured the Honorable Court that it will revisit the provisions of Section 124A of IPC.



- The above mentioned section incorporates the provisions regarding sedition against the nation.
- These provisions are considered to be against the civil liberties human rights.
- The Attorney General Venugopal affirmed before Court that Government is committed to re-examine the Section 124A in the wake of modern civil liberties and other rights.
- In the proceeding Supreme Court also asked Government whether it should review the 1962 Kedarnath Singh vs State of Bihar case.
- In its reply Attorney General said that the Court does not need to further review the above case.
- He requested Court to wait for some time.
- He assured the Court that essential amendments shall be done to strike a balance between the civil liberties and the security and integrity of the nation.

Section 124A:

- Section 124A of Indian Penal Code has not been drafted by the Indian Parliament as such.
- Instead it is of colonial origin.
- It was drafted by “Thomas Macaulay” in the year 1870.
- The provisions under this section empowers the state to imprison any person for 3 years if found guilty of promoting hatred against the state.
- The provisions regarding above mentioned clause include use of words spoken or written and even the signs used to protest against the state.
- This makes the law vulnerable for misuse against the citizens protesting against the government or its policies even if they stand genuine.

Indian Population Count To Go Digital:

Why In News?

- Recently Home Minister Shri Amit Shah has announced that next census of India shall be done 100% digitally.

Details of The News:

- Shah is on two days official visit to Assam.
- In the state capital Guwahati, while inaugurating Directorate of Census Operations (Assam) building, made announcement regarding above issue.



- He said that efforts will be made to facilitate question answering through mobile phones itself.
- A new software is underway to carry on the census activities.
- Efforts are made to link the births and deaths to the census data which will allow census to update automatically after every birth and death.
- The data shall also be linked to the electoral roll so as to incorporate the person automatically as soon as he attains the age of 18 years.

Other Facts:

- It is noteworthy here that census is regular decadal exercise.
- It was first done in India in the year 1870.
- Since 1881 it has been carried on on a regular basis.
- Last census was done in the year 2011.
- Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the census has been delayed for the first time in Indian History.

Significance:

- It will provide real time data.
- It will take over the decadal census method adopted since 1881.
- It won't be necessary now to wait for ten years for population updation.
- Also the labour required to carry on the head count shall be minimized.

NMCG organises webinar on Waste Water Management

Why in News?

- Recently, the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** in association with APAC News Network organised the 6th Edition of the monthly 'Webinar with Universities' series on 'Igniting Young Minds, Rejuvenating Rivers'.
- The theme for the webinar was 'Waste Water Management.'

Key Points

- The session was presided over by **G. Asok Kumar, Director General, NMCG.**
- The DG, NMCG said in 2014, Prime Minister launched the **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan** which became a huge success.



- In 2019, various departments dealing with water issues were merged to form the **Jal Shakti Ministry** to holistically deal with the challenges.
- This was followed by the launch and execution of **Jal Shakti Abhiyan-1 and Jal Shakti Abhiyan-2: Catch the Rain, Where it Falls, When it Falls**, focusing on asset creation & awareness generation and rainwater harvesting respectively.
- Monetization of sludge and treated water is one of the focus areas of **Namami Gange Programme** under the banner of 'Arth Ganga'.
- Under Namami Gange Programme, around 164 Sewage Treatment Plants are being constructed worth Rs. 25000 crores that will help to treat around 5000 MLD of wastewater.

About National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG):

- NMCG was registered as a society on 12th August 2011 under the Societies Registration Act 1860.
- It acted as implementation arm of **National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)** which was constituted under the provisions of the **Environment (Protection) Act (EPA), 1986**.
- NGRBA has since been dissolved with effect from the 7th October 2016, consequent to constitution of National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga (referred as National Ganga Council).

Source: PIB

Sagarmala projects



- Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal chaired the meeting of the **National Sagarmala Apex Committee (NSAC)** at Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi.

Key Points

- The Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways has formulated a plan under the **Sagarmala Programme** for carrying out “Holistic Development of Coastal Districts”.
- The committee reviewed the Sagarmala program along with review of development of port linked Road and Rail connectivity project, development of Floating jetties and Inland waterways besides other agenda items.
- Holistic development of coastal communities through a new initiative ‘**Sagartat Samridhhi Yojana**’ was also discussed in the meeting.
- The Ministry has identified a total of 567 projects under convergence mode with an estimated cost of Rs. 58,700 Crore.
- With addition of projects identified in Holistic Development of Coastal Districts and new project proposals received under Sagarmala, total number of projects stands at 1537 worth Rs. 6.5 lakh crore.
- There are 802 projects worth Rs. 5.5 lakh Crore under the Sagarmala program targeted to be executed by 2035.

About Sagarmala:

- Sagarmala is a National Programme aimed at accelerating economic development in the country by harnessing the potential of India’s 7,500 km long coastline and 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways announced by the Prime Minister in 2014 and approved by the Union Cabinet on 25th March 2015.

Source: PIB

‘JITO Connect 2022’



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the inaugural session of **Jain International Trade Organisation’s ‘JITO Connect 2022’**.

Key Points

- While appreciating the youth of Jain community and JITO, PM Modi appealed them to be vocal for local.
- He also explained the meaning of the word EARTH.
- He said E means environment where one should encourage those practices which are protecting the environment.
- They should invest in A, means agriculture and natural farming.

- R means recycling and focus on circular economy.
- One should think of T, means technology for all and H means health care.

About Jain International Trade Organisation (JITO):

- JITO is a global organisation connecting Jains worldwide.
- JITO Connect is an endeavour to help business and industry by providing an avenue for mutual networking and personal interactions.

Source: newsonair

Important News: World

India Refuses Sending Of Any Troops to Sri Lanka:

Why In News?

- Recently Indian High Commission in Colombo denied speculations of sending Indian Military in Sri Lanka to maintain law and order situation.

Key Points:

- Recently there were speculations made by media that India might send its Military to assist Lankan Government to stabilise the civil war like situation in the country.
- There were widespread social media speculations that Mahinda Rajapaksa and his family have been provided shelter in India and very soon India might intervene in Lankan crisis.
- Yesterday the spokesperson of Indian High Commission denied all such speculations.
- It is worth noting here that Sri Lanka is facing worst of its Economic Crisis since its independence.
- It is believed by the people of Sri Lanka that the Rajapaksa regime is actually responsible for the present crisis in the nation.

Source: Times of India

Oman To Speed Up Approval Of Indian Pharmaceutical Products

Why In News?

- Recently on 11th May a joint commission meeting of India-Oman was organised in national capital Delhi.
- It was co-chaired by Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal and his counterpart Mr. Qais bin Mohammed al Yousef.



Key Points:

- In this high level meeting both parties agreed to some key issues like:
- Oman agreed to speed up the approval process of Indian Pharma products which are already registered with registered With USFDA, UKMHRA and EMA.
- Both the countries will release joint Market Research Report which will highlight the future prospects and opportunities for Indian companies in the field of medicines in Oman.
- India appreciated Oman efforts to join India's initiative in terms of One Sun One World One Grid under International Solar Alliance (ISA) to promote green energy and use of solar based energy.
- Both the nations agreed to further boost bilateral-trade and also agreed to resolve all the tariff and non-tariff barrier issues.
- India and Oman also agreed to enhance co-operation in 3-Ts i.e., Trade, Technology and Tourism.

Importance of the Meeting:

- Indian Pharma industry is one of the best industries in the world and also plays significant role in Indian Revenue Generation. By this meeting it will get a necessary boost in coming future.
- The Bilateral Relation of India and Oman will reach new heights.
- The agreement of Oman to come along in ISA is a welcome move since it is a tropical country, it will be very helpful in solar power generation in coming future.

Source: PIB

Shoot At Sight Orders In Sri Lanka



Why In News?

- Recently Defence Ministry spokesperson informed Press that Armed Forces of Sri Lanka have been ordered to shoot at sight any person found damaging the public property.

Details Of The News:

- The conditions in Sri Lanka have turned to a civil war like.
- People of Lanka became hostile soon after a peaceful protest was attacked by Government Supporters in the National Capital.

- There were number of incidents in the country where people turned violent and started attacking Government Institutions and politicians.
- Meanwhile the erstwhile PM Mahinda Rajapakse has fled to a naval base along with his family.
- People have been violating the emergency and curfew imposition consistently while protesting against the authorities.
- IMF and World Bank have warned that soon Lanka will face bankruptcy.

India's Stand:

- India is concerned about the miseries and hardships which Lankans are going through.
- It wants establishment of normalcy in the island nation as soon as possible.
- Although India has avoided referring anything directly to the Rajapakse family as such.
- It is in India's best interest that the island nation stays peaceful.

Sri Lankan PM Mahinda Rajapaksa resigns



- Sri Lanka's Prime Minister **Mahinda Rajapaksa** has resigned amid mass protests at the government's handling of the economic crisis.
- The move came as the island was placed under curfew after violent clashes between Rajapaksa supporters and anti-government protesters in Colombo.
- Earlier, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had declared a **State of Emergency** in the country. It was the second time that emergency was declared in Sri Lanka in just over a month.
- Sri Lanka's foreign currency reserves have virtually run dry, and it can no longer afford essential items including food, medicines and fuel.

Source: BBC

Important News: Defense

Lift AFSPA From Assam

Why In News?

- Recently Home Minister Amit Shah announced that there is a possibility that AFSPA will be lifted from Assam completely.

Key Points:

* Home Minister said in a public briefing that looking upon the law and order situation in the state in last six years it is possible to revoke the Armed Forces Special Powers Act completely from the state.

- He said that most of the terror outfits in the state have surrendered and by and large the law and order situation of the state is well under control.



About AFSPA:

- Armed Forces Special Powers Act was enacted by the Indian Parliament in the year 1958.
- Its aim was to give powers in the hands of Indian Armed Forces to maintain law and order in “disturbed areas”.
- For the first time it was implemented in parts of Naga Hills, later on was implemented in seven North Eastern States including Assam.

Criticism of The Act:

- This Act gives the extra ordinary powers in the hands of the Armed Forces.
- The officer of Armed Forces can fire upon any person in the disturbed area which may even lead to his death.
- Arrest any person without warrant even on grounds of suspicion.
- Enter into any premise and search it if he finds it necessary etc.
- These powers many a times lead to situation of violation of civil liberties and misuse of authorities.

Source: Times of India

Science and Technology

ISRO plans mission to Venus



- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** Chairman S. Somnath said the **Venus mission** has been conceived and a project report made.

Key Points

- After sending missions to the Moon and Mars, the ISRO is now readying a spacecraft to orbit Venus to study what lies below the surface of the solar system's hottest planet, and also unravel the mysteries under the Sulfuric Acid clouds enveloping it.
- The space agency is eyeing the December 2024 window for its launch with orbital maneuvers planned for the following year when earth and Venus would be so aligned that the spacecraft could be put in the neighbouring planet's orbit using a minimum amount of propellant.
- The next similar window would be available in 2031.

About Venus:

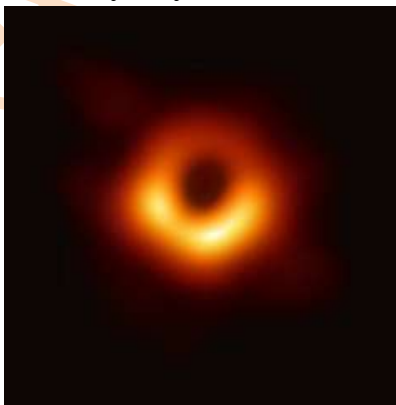
- Venus is the second planet from the Sun and is named after the Roman goddess of love and beauty.
- As the brightest natural object in Earth's night sky after the Moon, Venus can cast shadows and can be visible to the naked eye in broad daylight.
- Venus orbits the Sun every 224.7 Earth days.
- Even though Mercury is closer to the Sun, Venus is the hottest planet in our solar system.
- Its thick atmosphere is full of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide, and it has clouds of sulfuric acid.

Source: The Hindu

First Picture of Milky Way Black Hole

Why in News?

- Recently an international team known as Event Horizon Telescope(EHT) released an image of black hole of our milky way.



Key Points:

- This is a massive black hole whose size is estimated to be four million times that of our Sun.
- This Black Hole has been named as “Sagittarius A”.
- This black hole is situated about 26000 light years away from our solar system.
- A light year is a unit of distance.

- One light year is equal to the distance travelled by light in one year.
- Prior to this discovery EHT also successfully pictured another black hole named as M87 in 2019.

Note:

- A black hole is a remnant of giant star after it collapses.
- It has very intense gravity and very high mass density.
- Anything which comes in its contact is grasped by it never to escape.

Source: BBC

Environment

NGT Directed UP Government Not To Continue Sand Mining:

Why In News?

- Recently the National Green Tribunal has directed UP not to continue sand mining in the rivers until Sand Replenishment Report comes.

Key Points:

- NGT asked Government to carry on scientific investigations on the status of recycling of sand in the riverbed before allowing its mining.
- NGT further said that this investigation must be done by a Credible Institution.
- This investigation should be done in accordance with Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020
- It also asked the Government to properly empower and equipment the regulatory authorities to cut down the sand mining menace in the state.
- Note: There were instances of illegal sand mining reported in the areas of Banda District of Uttar Pradesh.

Source: Down to Earth

Cyclone 'Asani'



- The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** indicated that **Cyclone 'Asani'**, brewing in the southern Andaman Sea, is on course to become a short-lived cyclone by May 8, 2022 and will make landfall between Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Bhubaneswar in Odisha by May 10.

Key Points

- Senior IMD officials have confirmed that the cyclone, as of now, is unlikely to cause major damages to West Bengal.
- There is, however, a possibility of strong winds and heavy rainfall measuring 7-11 centimetres affecting Gangetic West Bengal May 10-13.
- However, “there are many variabilities involved, including a possibility of recurve of the cyclone path towards Bangladesh, which is also set to impact the West Bengal coast more directly”.
- **Asani**: If the low-pressure area develops into a cyclone, it will be called Asani, which is a name given by Sri Lankan weather authorities. In Sinhalese, Asani means 'wrath', or 'anger'.

Source: DTE

Early Arrival of South-west Monsoon



Why in News?

- Recently the Indian Meteorological Department briefed that the South West Monsoon may arrive earlier than expected this year.

Key Points:

- IMD said that the Bay of Bengal branch of Indian Monsoon will strike Andaman and Nicobar by 15th May.
- It is also expected that the Monsoon winds might strike Kerala by May 26.
- Normally the Indian Monsoon arrives at Kerala around 1st of June every year.
- It is 4 days earlier this year.

Other Facts:

- The Indian Monsoon is popularly referred to as the “Real Finance Minister of India” because of its widespread impact on Indian Economy.
- Indian Monsoon is the only rain system of the world which experiences “complete reversal” of wind system.

- In India maximum precipitation is concentrated in 4 months of the year.

Source: Times of India

Schemes

Mission Amrit Sarovar



Why In News?

- Recently a High Level Meeting was held to review the progress of the Mission Amrit Sarovar.
- This meeting was presided over by the Secretary, Rural Development.

Key Points:

- Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched by PM Narendra Modi on 24th of April.
- The chief aim of the Mission is to conserve water for future generations.
- It aims to develop and rejuvenate 75 water bodies in each district of India. These water bodies will be known as “Amrit Sarovars”.
- This will lead to the creation of about 50000 water bodies throughout India.
- This is going to be an all-government approach, i.e., it will have six ministries working under collaboration for this mission.
- For this Mission Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Application and Geo Informatics has been appointed as the Technical Partner.
- This initiative can also involve utilisation of NGOs and citizen participation.
- Note: The deadline to complete this Mission is 15th of August 2023.

Source: PIB

PMSBY, PMJJBY, APY complete 7 years of providing social security net

- **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** complete 7 years of providing social security net.
- PMJJBY, PMSBY and APY were launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9th May, 2015 from Kolkata, West Bengal.

- These three social security schemes are dedicated to the welfare of the citizens, recognising the need for securing human life from unforeseen risks/losses and financial uncertainties.



Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY):

- **Scheme:** PMJJBY is a one-year life insurance scheme renewable from year to year offering coverage for death due to any reason.
- **Benefits:** Life cover of Rs. 2 Lakh in case of death due to any reason against a premium of Rs. 330/- per annum.
- **Achievements:** As on 27.04.2022, the cumulative enrolments under the scheme have been more than 12.76 crore and an amount of Rs. 11,522 crore has been paid for 5,76,121 claims.

Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY):

- **Scheme:** PMSBY is a one-year accidental insurance scheme renewable from year to year offering coverage for death or disability due to accident.
- **Benefits:** Accidental death cum disability covers of Rs.2 lakh (Rs.1 lakh in case of partial disability) for death or disability due to an accident.
- **Achievements:** As on 27.04.2022, the cumulative enrolments under the scheme have been more than 28.37 crore and an amount of Rs. 1,930 crore has been paid for 97,227 claims.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY):

- **Background:** APY was launched to create a universal social security system for all Indians, especially the poor, the under-privileged and the workers in the unorganised sector. APY is administered by **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** under the overall administrative and institutional architecture of the **National Pension System (NPS)**.
- **Benefits:** Subscribers would receive the guaranteed minimum monthly pension of Rs. 1000 or Rs. 2000 or Rs. 3000 or Rs. 4000 or Rs. 5000 at the age of 60 years, based on the contributions made by the subscriber after joining the scheme.
- **Achievements:** As on 27.04.2022 more than 4 crore individuals have subscribed to the scheme.

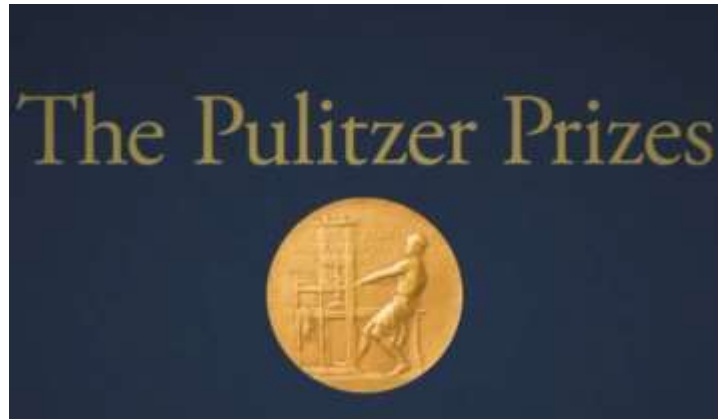
Source: PIB

Awards and Honours

Pulitzer Award 2022

Why In News?

- Recently four Indians were honoured with Pulitzer Award 2022 in the Feature Photography category.



Key Points:

- Danish Siddiqui, Adnan Abidi, Sanna Irshad and Amit Dave from Reuters News Agency have been awarded with the Prestigious Pulitzer Award for their outstanding contribution in the field of journalism.
- Danish was given this award posthumously as he died in Afghanistan while covering the news during Taliban invasion of Afghanistan.
- He has been globally acclaimed for his coverage of the war torn nation.
- He is also known for his aerial shoot of mass cremation in Delhi during peak of Covid wave in India.
- Note : Danish died in July 2021 in Afghanistan.

Source: Times of India

Nepal's Kami Rita Sherpa climbs Mount Everest for 26th time to set new world record



- Nepal's legendary climber **Kami Rita Sherpa** has climbed the **Mount Everest**, the tallest peak in the world for the 26th time to set a new world record.

Key Points

- Leading an 11-member rope fixing team, Kami Rita and his team reached the summit, breaking his own previous world record.
- He first climbed the Everest in May 1994.

About Mount Everest:

- Mount Everest is Earth's highest mountain above sea level, located in the Mahalangur Himal sub-range of the Himalayas.
- The China–Nepal border runs across its summit point. Its elevation (snow height) of 8,848.86 m was most recently established in 2020 by the Chinese and Nepali authorities.

Source: HT

2022 World Food Prize



- **Cynthia Rosenzweig**, a senior research scientist and head of the Climate Impacts Group at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, New York City, received the **2022 World Food Prize** from the World Food Prize Foundation.
- **World Food Prize** is an international award conceived as the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture" with a mission to elevate innovations and inspire action to sustainably increase the quality, quantity and availability of food for all.
- Rosenzweig was selected for the award for her research to understand the relationship between climate and food systems and forecast how both will change in the future.

Books and Authors

book 'INDO-PAK WAR 1971- Reminiscences of Air Warriors'

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released a book titled '**INDO-PAK WAR 1971- Reminiscences of Air Warriors**' at the 37th Air Chief Marshal PC Lal Memorial Lecture in New Delhi.
- The book comprises 50 articles penned by the veterans who have shared their experiences in detail.
- The book has been edited by Air Marshal Jagjeet Singh and Group Captain Shailendra Mohan.



Source: The Hindu

Important Days

May 08, World Thalassaemia Day



- World Thalassaemia Day is observed on May 8 every year.
- The event was first organised by the Thalassaemia International Federation (TIF) in 1994, in memory of George Englezos, the son of TIF founder Panos Englezos. He had lost his life to the disease. Since then, the event is observed every year.

Thalassaemia:

- Thalassaemia is a blood disorder inherited by children from their parents.
- In this disease, the ability of an individual's body to produce haemoglobin and the red blood cells is affected severely.

Source: Business Standard

Reports and Indexes

National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) report



- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya released the National Report of the fifth round of **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)**.
- He has also released the **Rural Health Statistics publication** for the year 2020-21 (as on 31st March, 2021).

Key results from NFHS-5 National Report-

- India has made significant progress in population control measures in recent times.
- The Total Fertility Rates (TFR), an average number of children per women, has further declined from 2.2 to 2.0 at the national level between NFHS-4 & 5.
- Overall Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) has increased substantially from 54% to 67% in the country.
- Institutional Births have increased substantially from 79 percent to 89 percent in India. Even in rural areas around 87 percent births are delivered in Institutions and same is 94 percent in urban areas.
- In NFHS-5, more than three-fourths (77%) children age 12-23 months were fully immunized, compared with 62 percent in NFHS-4.
- The level of stunting among children under 5 years has marginally declined from 38 to 36 percent for India since the last four years.
- Stunting is higher among children in rural areas (37%) than urban areas (30%) in 2019-21.
- Between NFHS-4 and NFHS-5, the use of clean cooking fuel (44% to 59%) and improved sanitation facilities (49% to 70%), including a hand-washing facility with soap and water (60% to 78%) have improved considerably.

Source: newsonair

New Appointments

Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia, Jamshed Burjor Pardiwala take oath as Supreme Court judges

- Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Jamshed Burjor Pardiwala took oath as Supreme Court judges.



Key Points

- **Chief Justice of India (CJI) N V Ramana** administered the oath of office to them.
- Justice Dhulia was sworn in first followed by Justice Pardiwala. They would be judges 33 and 34, completing the sanctioned judicial strength of the court.
- The Supreme Court has a sanctioned strength of 34 judges.
- The Supreme Court Collegium headed by CJI Ramana and also comprising Justices U U Lalit, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud, and L Nageswara Rao had recommended the names of Justice Dhulia, who was Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court, and Justice Pardiwala, who was a judge in the Gujarat High Court, for appointment.
- With Justices Dhulia and Pardiwala, the Ramana Collegium has successfully seen to the appointment of a total 11 judges to the Supreme Court since August 2021.
- Of the 11 judges, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, is in line to be the first woman Chief Justice of India, albeit for 36 days, in 2027.

Source: The Hindu

Ranil Wickremesinghe Takes Charge as Sri Lanka's PM



Why in News?

- Recently Ranil Wickremesinghe took over the charge as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.

Key Points:

- Wickremesinghe has been appointed as PM so as to sort out the ongoing crisis in Sri Lanka.
- He has, earlier as well, served as the PM of the country for five times.

- This is also seen as an attempt to restore international credibility as the country is negotiating with IMF for some monetary assistance.
- Earlier Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned from his post following to which the entire cabinet was dissolved.

Source: The Hindu

Rajiv Kumar Appointed as new Chief Election Commissioner



Why in News?

- Recently Election Commissioner Shri Rajiv Kumar has been appointed as the Chief Election Commissioner of India.

Key Points:

- He will take over the office from 15th May.
- The 2024 general elections will be conducted under his supervision.
- Along with this he will also supervise the upcoming President and Vice President elections.
- He will replace Sushil Chandra as CEC.

About Election Commission of India:

- ECI is a Constitutional body having its provisions in Part –XV of Indian Constitution.
- It is a multi-member body which is appointed by the President of India.
- Its main function is to conduct free and fair elections in the country including that of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Vidhan Sabha, Vidhan Parishad, President and Vice President of India.

Source: PIB

Campbell Wilson to take charge as CEO of Air India:

Why in News?

- Recently Campbell Wilson has been appointed as the new CEO of the Indian Aviation giant Air India.



Key Points:

- Campbell Wilson has been serving as the Chief of Singapore based Scoot Airlines.
- This is an airlines known for its low cost world class service.
- Earlier Ilker Ayci was approached by the authorities to take over the charge.
- But after his refusal, Wilson's name has been finalized.

Other Facts:

- Air India is a Tata Group Company.
- Earlier it was owned by Government of India.

Source: Times of India

Obituaries

Pt. Shivkumar Sharma :



Why In News?

- Pt. Sharma passed away last night in Mumbai.

Details Of The News:

- Shri Sharma was a renowned Santoor player.
- He suffered a cardiac arrest.

- He is survived by his wife Manorama and sons Rohit and Rahul Sharma.
- Santoor is a traditional musical instrument of Jammu and Kashmir.
- It was Sharma who popularized the trapezoidal instrument to its present level.

About Sharma:

- Sharma was born in Jammu of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State in the year 1938.
- He was a Kashmiri Pundit.
- He was recipient of many awards like Sangeet Natak Akademy Award 1986, Padma Shri in 1991 and Padma Bhushan in 2001.
- He collaborated with famous Tabla player Zakir Hussain and flutist Hariprasad Chaurasia number of times.
- He also contributed in many Bollywood films like Silsila, Chandni etc.

Eminent Odia litterateur Rajat Kumar Kar passes away



- Eminent Odia litterateur and a Padma Shri awardee, **Dr. Rajat Kumar Kar** passed away.
- Rajat Kumar Kar was conferred with Padma Shri Award in 2021 for his significant contribution in literature and education.
- He was also instrumental in the revival of Odisha's dying Pala art.

Source: The Hindu

Dr. Ramakant Shukla Passes Away

Why in News?

- Yesterday PM Modi shown his grief over the sadful demise of Dr. Ramakant Shukla.

Key Points

- Dr. Shukla was a renowned Sanskrit and Hindi scholar of India.
- Dr. Shukla was the resident of Uttar Pradesh.
- He was known for his literary contributions in the field of Sanskrit and Hindi.



- He was 81 years of age.
- He is known for his Sanskrit Television Series “Bhati Me Bharatam”.
- Dr. Shukla was awarded Padma Shri in 2013.

Source: PIB

Miscellaneous

Mohali Update



Why In News?

- In recent investigations Pakistan based gangster is suspected to carry out freelance attack on Punjab Police’s Intelligence HQ in Mohali.

Details of The News:

- Notably day before yesterday an attack was carried on in Mohali of Punjab.
- In it an RPG was aimed at the wall of the HQ.
- It was for the first time that an RPG was used in the attack
- It was suspected that the attack was in one way or the other is linked to Pakistani soil.
- Though there were no casualties reported.
- In the preliminary enquiry it has been revealed that the attack was carried on by Harvinder Singh(Rinda).
- Rinda is a Pakistan based gangster.

Monkeypox



- Health authorities in the United Kingdom (UK) have confirmed a case of **monkeypox**, a rare viral infection similar to smallpox, in an individual who recently travelled to that country from Nigeria.

About Monkeypox virus:

- The monkeypox virus is an orthopoxvirus, which is a genus of viruses that also includes the variola virus, which causes smallpox, and vaccinia virus, which was used in the smallpox vaccine.
- Monkeypox causes symptoms similar to smallpox, although they are less severe.
- While vaccination eradicated smallpox worldwide in 1980, monkeypox continues to occur in a swathe of countries in Central and West Africa.
- Monkeypox is a zoonosis, that is, a disease that is transmitted from infected animals to humans.
- Monkeypox virus infection has been detected in squirrels, Gambian poached rats, dormice, and some species of monkeys.

Symptoms:

- According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), monkeypox begins with a fever, headache, muscle aches, back ache, and exhaustion.
- The first human case was recorded in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) during a period of intensified effort to eliminate smallpox.

Source: Indian Express