

Week 3 Current Affairs Update

16th - 23th April 2021

EVENTS

NATIONAL

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

IAF COMMANDERS CONFERENCE



Date: 16th April 2021

The Union Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Indian Air Force's (IAF) Commander's Conference.

Key Points:

- The conference was held to address issues related to IAF's operational capabilities in the near future.
- The conference observed the participation of air officers commanding-in-chief of all commands of IAF, all principal staff officers and all director generals posted at the air headquarters.
- The dignitaries discussed the strategies and policies to improve the operational capabilities of the Indian Air Force
- They also discussed multiple welfare and human resource measures to improve the administrative efficiency of the IAF.

POLICIES & SCHEMES

Eatsmart Cities & Transport

4 All Challenge drive launched



Date: 17th April 2021

The Union Minister of State (IC) for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri launched two challenges namely (a) EatSmart Cities Challenge (b) Transport4 All Challenge.

Key Points:

- The aim behind these challenges is to develop healthy eating habits and to have digital solutions for safe public transport in smart cities.
- Both the challenges will prove remarkable work for Smart Cities Mission.
- EatSmart Cities Challenge will help smart cities of the country to frame a plan which will lead to having a healthy, safe and sustainable food environment. The challenge will also strengthen food safety and continuity. It will make people aware to make better food choices in order to maintain their health.
- Transport4 All Challenge will lead to developing digital solutions for having safety, affordability and reliability in the public transport domain. This challenge is launched by MoHUA in partnership with the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy. It will also help cities to recover from the mobility crisis which occurred due to the pandemic.
- The cities with a population of more than 5 lakhs are eligible for both challenges.

JAGANANNA VIDYA DEEVENA SCHEME—ANDHRA PRADESH



Date: 22nd April 2021

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh released the first instalment of Rs 671.45 crore of Jagananna Vidya Deevena for 2021-22.

Key Points:

- Under this, CM reimbursed the academic fees of around 10.88 lakh students into the bank accounts of their mothers.
- The scheme aims to grant scholarships to those students who are not able to pay their academic fees.
- The scheme also helps those students who want to pursue higher education.

SOCIAL

GENDER SAMVAAD EVENT

Gender Samvaad Event launched



Date: 19th April 2021

The Gender Samvaad Event was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development.

Key Points:

- The event was the joint initiative DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Rural Livelihood Mission) and IWWAGE (Initiative for What Works to Advance Women and Girls in the Economy).
- The event was organised to create a common platform to share experiences emerging from DAY-NRLM and IWWAGE.
- The event aimed to create awareness of gender-related interventions and to promote best practices to understand gender interventions globally.
- The event leads the opportunities to understand the best practices of other states to improve women agencies. For instance, facilitating women's access to land rights and their engagement in Farmer Producer Organisations, establishing strong institutions for public service delivery, best practices around food, nutrition, health and water and sanitation.

ART & CULTURE

ONLINE EXHIBITION ON RAMAYANA



Date: 19th April 2021

The Union Minister of State for Tourism and Culture (IC), Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated the first-ever Online Exhibition on Ramayana.

Key Points:

- The online exhibition showcases collections of 49 miniature paintings of the National Museum, New Delhi from different art schools of India, dating from the 17th through the 19th century.
- The link address of the online exhibition: https://nmvirtual.in/Virtual_Tour/Ramayan/.
- The minister also addressed a webinar titled ‘India’s Heritage: Powering Tourism’.
- While addressing, he mentioned that it is a collective responsibility of everyone to protect and preserve India’s unique heritage of dance, temples, shastras, music that cannot be found anywhere in the world.

REPORTS & INDICES

NATIONAL CLIMATE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT REPORT



Date: 19th April 2021

The Department of Science and Technology launched the National Climate Vulnerability Report.

Key Points:

- As per the report, 8 Eastern States of India namely, Mizoram, Bihar, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand and Assam are highly vulnerable to climate change.
- The report also mentioned that these states require prioritisation of adaptation interventions.
- The report cited reasons for each state being vulnerable to climate change.
- As per the report, Himachal Pradesh, Telangana, Sikkim and Punjab are termed as lower-middle vulnerable states.
- Whereas, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Nagaland, Goa and Maharashtra are termed as states with low vulnerability.

ECONOMY

UNION MINISTER PIYUSH GOYAL LAUNCHED SISFS



Date: 20th April 2021

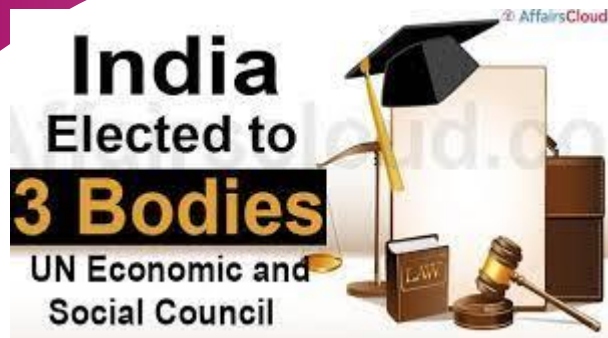
Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal launched the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS).

Key Points:

- The SISFS aims to grant financial assistance to the startups for prototype development, proof of development, market-entry, commercialization, and product trials.
- The scheme will prove beneficial to domestic entrepreneurs and startups. The scheme will help to implement all those business ideas which the entrepreneurs are unable to implement because of a shortage of capital.
- The SISFS will grant seed funding, support the transformative ideas, inspire innovation and implement the ideas.
- The funds of Rs 945 crore has been allocated for the scheme and will benefit around 3,600 startups particularly in tier-2 and 3 cities.
- The Expert Advisory Committee is formed which will monitor the execution of the SISFS.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

INDIA ELECTED TO 3 BODIES OF UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



Date: 22nd April 2021

India is elected by acclamation to three bodies of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Key Points:

- The 3 bodies of UN ECOSOC: (a) Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) (b) Executive Board of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). (c) Executive Board of the World Food Programme.
- (a) Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ): Its HQ is in Vienna, Austria. India is elected for 3 years term commencing from 1st Jan 2022. The organisation works in the area of crime prevention and granting justice.
- (b) Executive Board of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women): Its HQ is in New York, USA. India is elected for 3 years term commencing from 1st Jan 2022. The organisation works for women empowerment objectives.
- (c) Executive Board of the World Food Programme: Its HQ is in Rome, Italy. India is elected for 3 years term commencing from 1st Jan 2022.

INTERNATIONAL

REPORTS & INDICES

STATE OF WORLD POPULATION REPORT 2021

Date: 16th April 2021



The United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) flagship 'State of World Population Report 2021' titled 'My Body is My Own' was launched.

Key Points:

- This is the first time a United Nations report has focused on bodily autonomy.
- Bodily autonomy is defined as the power and agency to make choices about your body without the fear of violence or having someone else decide for you.
- Nearly half the women from 57 developing countries do not have the right to make decisions regarding their bodies, including using contraception, seeking healthcare or even on their sexuality.
- In countries where data is available, only 55% of women are fully empowered to make choices over healthcare, contraception and the ability to say yes or no to sex.
- Only 75% of countries legally ensure full and equal access to contraception.
- Some examples of violation of bodily autonomy include, child marriage, female genital mutilation, a lack of contraceptive choices leading to unplanned pregnancy, unwanted sex exchanged for a home and food.

INCLUSIVE INTERNET INDEX 2021



DATE: 16th APRIL 2021

The Economist Intelligence Unit in partnership with Facebook has released the Inclusive Internet Index 2021.

Key Points:

- As per the index, India is ranked at 49th rank position.
- India has scored 77th position in internet availability, 20th position in affordability and 49th position in relevance and 29th position in readiness.
- The top 5 countries in the index ranks are: Sweden (1st), The US (2nd), Spain (3rd), Australia (4th) and Hong Kong (5th).
- Total 120 countries are ranked in the index representing 98% of global GDP and 96% of the global population.

HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX: Q2 2021 GLOBAL RANKING



Date: 18th April 2021

The Henley Passport Index released its list of the most powerful passports.

Key Points:

- It measures the world's most travel-friendly passports and ranks the countries on the basis of how strong their passport is.
- As per the index, India is ranked at 84th position in the list, as the Indian citizens can visit Visa-Free or Visa-on-Arrival in over 58 places.
- The index is topped by Japan with a visa-free score of 193.
- The second rank is marked by Singapore.

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX 2021



Date: 21st April 2021

The World Press Freedom Index 2021 was published by the international journalism not-for-profit body, Reporters Without Borders (RSF).

Key Points:

- The index ranking was calculated by evaluating 180 countries.
- India is ranked at 142nd position in the index.
- The index is topped by Norway.
- The second and third ranks are marked by Finland and Denmark respectively.
- The last rank position of 180th is marked by Eritrea.

WEF GLOBAL ENERGY TRANSITION INDEX 2021



Date: 23rd April 2021

The 2021 Energy Transition Index (ETI) was released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Key Points:

- The report was published in partnership with Accenture.
- As per the index, India is ranked at 87th position among 115 countries with a score of 53.
- The index is topped by Sweden.
- The second and third ranks are marked by Norway and Denmark respectively.
- The index was drafted by considering 3 dimensions namely: (a) Economic Development and Growth (b) Environmental Sustainability (c) Energy Security and Accessibility.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

INDIA SIGNED MOU WITH FRANCE



Date: 17th April 2021

The Indian space agency, ISRO and space agency of France named CNES have signed a MoU to cooperate in a human space mission, Gaganyaan.

Key Points:

- Under this agreement, the Indian flight physicians will be given training sessions at French facilities.

- Also the French space agency, CNES will provide equipment developed by it, tested and still operating aboard the International Space Station (ISS) to Indian crews.
- It will also supply fireproof carry bags to shield equipment from shocks and radiation.
- The agreement will allow implementing a scientific experiment plan on validation of missions, data sharing will take place on food packaging and the nutrition programme.

ITALY LAUNCHED ITS FIRST MEGA FOOD PROJECT IN INDIA



Date: 18th April 2021

In order to boost GOI's 'Make in India' initiative, Italy has launched its maiden mega food park in India.

Key Points:

- A Letter of Intent (LoI) between both nations was signed for the same. The LoI was signed between the ICE Office in Mumbai and Gujarat based Fan-idhar Mega Food Park.
- The project will be promoted by the Italian Embassy in New Delhi and the ICE Office.
- The main moto of the mega food park is to develop interaction between the agriculture sector and the industry sector which will link agricultural production and markets.
- Under this, Italy will explore the opportunities available in the Indian market.

INDIA AND GERMANY SIGNED AGREEMENT



Date: 20th April 2021

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), GOI and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH India on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety entered into an agreement to have technical cooperation.

Key Points:

- Both entities will cooperate technically for ‘Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment’.
- The partnership between both nations is in line with the objectives of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban which will focus on sustainable solid waste management.
- The partnership will also help to achieve PM Modi’s vision to phase out single-use plastic by 2022.
- Both India and Germany will cooperate to prevent plastic from entering into marine environment as plastic is harmful to the lives of the marine ecosystem.
- Also, plastic gives a harmful impact on human health as there is a high risk of plastic particles entering the food chain.
- The partnership will be executed for a period of 3 and half years and the project will be implemented in states like UP, Kerala and Andaman and Nicobar islands. It will be implemented in the cities of Kanpur, Kochi and Port Blair.

INDO-PACIFIC OCEANS INITIATIVE: AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCED GRANT OF RS 8.12CR



Date: 21st April 2021

Australia has announced a grant of Rs 8.12 crore under the ‘Australia-India Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative Partnership (AIPOIP) which is an Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi has proposed IPOI in 2019 at the East-India Summit.
- Through this partnership between India and Australia, new proposals will be framed to attain shared maritime objectives.
- The grant will also enable stakeholders from both nations to share their expertise and proposals.

UNION CABINET APPROVED MOU BETWEEN INDIA-BANGLADESH



Date: 21st April 2021

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of MoU between India and Bangladesh to cooperate in the trade sector.

Key Points:

- The MoU was signed between India's Director General of Trade Remedies and the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission to increase cooperation in the area of trade remedies.
- As per the agreement, both the nations will be allowed to exchange data trade remedies and other activities in accordance with the provisions of the World Trade Organisation.
- The agreement focuses on countervailing, anti-dumping and safeguarding rules in bilateral trade between both nations.
- The MoU will lead to having rule-based trading activities and will eradicate unfair trade practices.

DEFENCE

INDIA AND KYRGYZSTAN BEGAN SPECIAL FORCES EXERCISE



Date: 17th April 2021

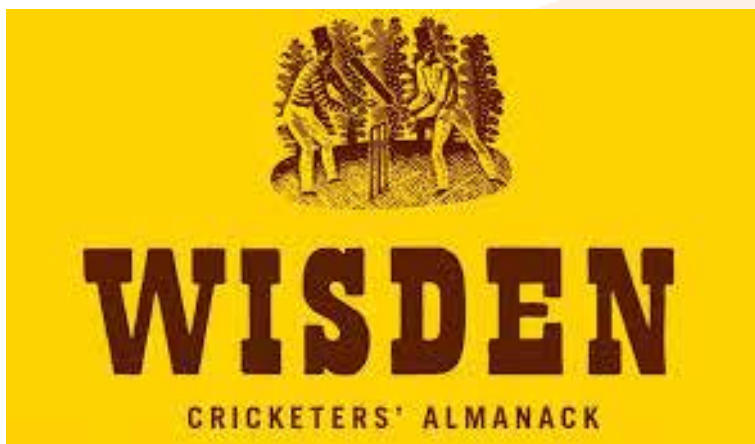
The 8th Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Special Forces Exercise named 'Khanjar' was inaugurated at the Special Forces Brigade of National Guards of the Kyrgyz Republic in Bishkek.

Key Points:

- It will be a two-week-long exercise that will focus on high-altitude warfare, mountain warfare and counter-extremism exercises.
- The exercise was initiated in 2011.
- At this 8th edition, Ambassador Alok A. Dimri welcomed the Indian contingent for the Exercise and acknowledged India's role in promoting shared mountain and nomadic heritage between both nations.

AWARDS & HONOURS

WISDEN AWARDS 2021



Date: 18th April 2021

To acknowledge and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 1st One-Day International, 5 ODI cricketers of the decade have been listed in Wisden Almanack's 2021 edition.

Key Points:

- One cricketer from every decade between 1971 and 2021 is selected as the winner for different categories.
- Below is the list of winners:
- Wisden Almanack's ODI player of 2010s: Virat Kohli
- ODI Cricketer of 1990s: Sachin Tendulkar
- ODI Cricketer of 1980s: Kapil Dev
- Leading Cricketer of the Year: Ben Stokes (England)
- Leading Women's Cricketer in the World: Beth Mooney (Australia)
- Leading T20 Cricketer in the World: Kieron Pollard (West Indies)

ICC DEVELOPMENT AWARDS 2020



Date: 22nd April 2021

The International Cricket Council (ICC) 2020 announced the global winners for ICC Development Awards 2020.

Key Points:

- The Winning countries are: Argentina, Brazil, Uganda and Vanuatu.
- They were selected as winners for their exceptional work and contribution to cricket through various programmes in 2020.
- Argentina: It was awarded under the category of ICC Development Initiative of the Year. The country attracted a local audience from South America to the cricket sport by launching courses related to coaching, umpiring and scoring in cricket in Spanish.
- Brazil: It was awarded under the category of 100% Cricket Female initiative of the Year. The nation developed women's cricket game in South America by granting professional central contracts to the national women's team.
- Vanuatu: It was awarded under ICC Digital Fan Engagement of the Year. The country provided live sessions of cricket to the fans during the pandemic situation when there was a Women's T20 Grand final event.
- Uganda: It was awarded under the category of Cricket 4 Good Social Impact Initiative of the Year. The nation supported players, their families and volunteers by launching the COVID-19 relief programme.

SPORTS

SENIOR ASIAN WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2021



Date: 19th April 2021

The Senior Asian Wrestling Championship 2021 was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Key Points:

- At the event, India won 14 medals and was ranked at third position in medal rankings.
- India has won 5 Gold, 3 Silver & 6 Bronze Medals.
- Following is the list of gold medal winners: (a) Ravi Kumar Dahiya (57 kg Men's freestyle) (b) Vinesh Phogat (53 kg Women's freestyle) (c) Anshu Malik (57 kg Women's freestyle) (d) Sarita Mar (59 kg Women's freestyle) (e) Divya Kakran (72 kg Women's freestyle).

ECONOMY

ADB PARTNERED WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Date: 21st April 2021

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) partnered with Habitat for Humanity International to grant support to a microfinance institution (MFIs).

Key Points:

- The support to MFIs will enable them to grant housing loans to low-income families residing in rural and semi-urban areas of India, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Indonesia.
- The technical expertise will be provided to MFIs to deliver the housing loans.
- With this collaboration, ADB will be expanding its microfinance risk participation and guarantee program.
- In the first phase of the partnership, the commercial banks will grant \$30 million housing loans to MFIs.

5TH GLOBAL FORUM ON TB VACCINES



Date: 23rd April 2021

The 5th Global Forum on TB Vaccines was held from 20th to 22nd April 2021 in a virtual manner.

Key Points:

- The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan addressed the forum.
- The forum was organised by the Stop TB Partnership Working Group on New Vaccines in association with International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) and Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (TBVI).
- The forum was organised to enhance the process of Tuberculosis (TB) Vaccination in the pandemic situation of COVID-19.
- The forum was basically one of the largest meetings of stakeholders who are working to develop and deploy new vaccines to prevent TB.



Nurturing Ambitions

PEOPLE

NATIONAL

OBITUARY

SUMITRA BHAVE



Date: 20th April 2021

Renowned 7-time National Award winner Marathi film-maker and writer Sumitra Bhave passed away. She was 78.

Key Points:

- Sumitra Bhave was popular as a duo with filmmaker Sunil Sukthankar in Marathi cinema and Marathi theatre.
- The duo of Sumitra and Sunil together directed several popular films like Doghi, Dahavi Fa, Vastupurush, Devrai, Badha, Ek Cup Chya, Samhita, Astu, Kaasav, among others.
- She made her first short film “Bai ” in 1985 for Stress Vani.
- This film made her the first National Award for Best Non-Feature Film on Family Welfare (1986), followed by another short film “Paani” that got the National Award in 1988.

MAIDAVOLU NARASIMHAM



Date: 21st April 2021

Former Reserve Bank of India Governor M. V. Narasimham, Passed away. He was 94.

Key Points:

- He was famously known as the father of Indian banking reforms.
- Narasimham was the 13th governor of RBI.
- After his retirement as RBI governor, he served as India's executive director at the World Bank and later at the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- Narasimham also served as secretary in the Ministry of Finance.
- He also headed various committees including the one on the Financial System, 1991 and the Committee of Banking Sector Reforms, 1998.
- Narasimham was awarded Padma Vibhushan award in the year 2000.

SHANKHA GHOSH



Date: 21st April 2021

Eminent Bengali poet Shankha Ghosh passed away. He was 89.

Key Points:

Ghosh was born on February 6, 1932, at Chandpur in present-day Bangladesh.

In 2011, he was awarded Padma Bhushan and in 2016 he received the Jnanpith Award.

In 1977, he received the Sahitya Akademi Award for his book 'Babarar Prarthana'.

He was honoured with a second Sahitya Akademi Award in 1999.

INTERNATIONAL

AWARDS & HONOURS

RUMANA SINHA SEHGAL



Date: 20th April 2021

Why in news: Awarded the 'Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021'.

Key Points:

- Software-engineer turned social entrepreneur, Rumana Sinha Sehgal has been awarded the prestigious 'Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021' by the Diplomatic Mission Global Peace earlier this month.
- The proud Hyderabadi is also the recipient of the Nationwide Award -under 50- Business Leader 2021 for social entrepreneurship by Business Mint.
- At the Influencer Summit in January this year, she also received the 'International Influencer of the year 2021'.
- She has been awarded in recognition of her work in the fields of developing innovative and functional 'green' products by recycling varied materials and creative use of non-biodegradable materials, thus enhancing their useful life.

OBITUARY

CHARLES GESCHKE



Date: 21st April 2021

Adobe founder who helped develop Portable Document Format (PDF) document & publishing software company Adobe Inc Charles Geschke passed away. He was 81.

Key Points:

- He founded Adobe in 1982 with colleague John Warnock from Xerox.
- He also helped in developing the popular Portable Document Format (PDF).
- He was widely known as Chuck.
- In 2009, President Barack Obama awarded Geschke and Warnock the National Medal of Technology.



ISSUES

NATIONAL

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

FASTAG AND RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

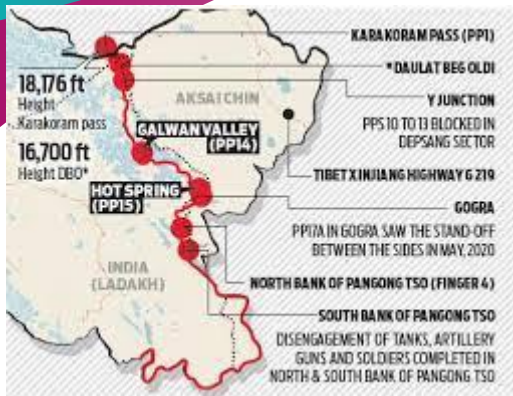


Date: 17th April 2021

Key Highlights:

- Recently, the Union government told the Bombay High Court that making FASTag mandatory for all vehicles does not breach a citizen's fundamental right to freedom of movement in any way.
- A Public Interest Litigation was filed in the Court challenging the government's decision to make FASTag, the electronic toll collection chip, mandatory for all vehicles at toll plazas on national highways.
- Government's Response is that the FASTag ensures seamless traffic movement, cuts travel time short, and that all decisions had been taken in accordance with the Central Motor Vehicles (CMV) Rules.
- Provisions had been made at all toll plazas along national highways to fit the chip in vehicles that did not have FASTag.
- In cases where it was not possible to fit vehicles with FASTag on the spot for any reason, the vehicle was permitted to still ply on highways, on extreme left of the FASTag lanes. However, such vehicles were required to pay twice the toll amount.

CHINA NOT LEAVING HOT SPRINGS & GOGRA POST



Date: 19th April 2021

Key Highlights:

- Recently, during the 11th round of discussions between the senior military commanders of India and China to resolve the standoff in eastern Ladakh, China refused to vacate two of the four original friction points.
- At two friction points, Patrolling Point 15 (PP15) in Hot Springs, and PP17A near Gogra Post, China still has a platoon-level strength each, along with vehicles.
- Other two are the Galwan valley and the Depsang plains.
- Hot Springs and Gogra Post are close to the boundary between two of the most historically disturbed provinces (Xinjiang and Tibet) of China.
- The area lies close to Kongka Pass, one of the main passes, which, according to China marks the boundary between India and China.
- India's claim of the international boundary lies significantly east, as it includes the entire Aksai Chin area as well.

INTERNATIONAL

HEALTHCARE

MULTISYSTEM INFLAMMATORY SYNDROME IN CHILDREN



Date: 17th April 2021

Key Highlights:

- Recently, doctors in the United States have reported neurological symptoms in children with Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C).
- MIS-C is a rare but severe hyperinflammatory condition in children and adolescents that typically occurs 2-6 weeks after a Covid-19 infection.
- It is a potentially deadly condition where different body parts can become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs.
- Children with MIS-C may have a fever and various symptoms, including abdominal (gut) pain, vomiting, diarrhea, neck pain, rash, bloodshot eyes, or feeling extra tired.
- While some researchers believe that MIS-C is a delayed response to the coronavirus which in turn causes massive inflammation in the body and as a result damages organs. Some believe that it can also be a result of the children's immune response making antibodies against the virus.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

INDIA ON U.S.'S CURRENCY WATCHLIST



Date: 23rd April 2021

Key Points:

- The U.S. Treasury Department recently retained India on a watchlist for currency manipulators submitted to the U.S. Congress, citing higher dollar purchases (close to 5% of the GDP) by RBI.
- Another trigger for the inclusion on the currency watchlist is a trade surplus of \$20 billion or more.

- India's trade surplus with the U.S. grew by about \$5 billion to \$23 billion in 2020-21 as imports fell more sharply than exports in the COVID-affected year.
- According to India, the RBI had been taking necessary steps to maintain stability in the financial markets and not accumulating forex reserves.
- It is a mandate of the central bank to provide stability in the currency as a result of which central banks buy and sell foreign currency.
- India's overall reserves have been fairly steady at \$500 billion to \$600 billion.



disha
Nurturing Ambitions

The logo features the word "disha" in a large, lowercase, light blue sans-serif font. Above the letter 'i' is a stylized upward-pointing arrow shape, also in light blue. Below "disha" is the tagline "Nurturing Ambitions" in a smaller, light blue sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a background of colorful, abstract shapes in shades of yellow, orange, pink, and teal.

HEALTHCARE

‘POSHAN GYAN’—A NATIONAL DIGITAL REPOSITORY ON HEALTH & NUTRITION



Date: 16th April 2021

Key Features:

- NITI Aayog partnered with the Centre for Social and Behaviour Change, Ashoka University, and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to launch the Poshan Gyan portal.
- The Poshan Gyan is a national digital repository on health and nutrition.
- The Poshan Gyan is basically a collection of communication materials that are framed by government agencies and other organisations to address the challenges of knowledge awareness and behaviour change in the nutrition area
- The portal enables to search communication materials in 14 thematic areas of health and nutrition sector
- It includes data related to antenatal care, complementary feeding, diet diversity, anaemia prevention etc.
- The poshan gyan also has a crowdsourcing feature that allows anyone to submit the data on the website so that everyone gets the benefit of it

SUPPLEMENTAL OXYGEN DELIVERY SYSTEM – DRDO



Date: 20th April 2021

Key Features:

- The Supplemental Oxygen Delivery System is developed by Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The system will be used by soldiers who are posted at extreme high-altitude areas and by COVID-19 patients.
- It is an automatic system that delivers supplemental oxygen based on the SpO₂ (blood oxygen saturation) levels and prevents the person from sinking to a state of hypoxia, which is fatal in most cases if it sets in.
- The system is developed by DRDO's lab which is named Defence Bio-Engineering & Electro Medical Laboratory (DEBEL) in Bengaluru.
- The system reads the SpO₂ levels of the person through a wrist-worn pulse oximeter. Based on the SpO₂ levels, the solenoid valve is adjusted to supply oxygen to the person and thus the system delivers oxygen through nasal nares.

PRESSURE SWING ADSORPTION (PSA) OXYGEN PLANTS



Date: 21st April 2021

Key Features:

- The Health Ministry said that 162 Pressure Swing Adsorption, PSA oxygen plants have been sanctioned by Government of India for installation in public health facilities in all States and these will augment medical oxygen capacity by over 154 Metric Tonnes.

- Pressure swing adsorption (PSA) is a technology used to separate some gas species from a mixture of gases under pressure according to the species' molecular characteristics and affinity for an adsorbent material.
- It operates at near-ambient temperatures and differs significantly from cryogenic distillation techniques of gas separation.
- Specific adsorbent materials (e.g., zeolites, activated carbon, molecular sieves, etc.) are used as a trap, preferentially adsorbing the target gas species at high pressure.
- The process then swings to low pressure to desorb the adsorbed material.

INTERNATIONAL

HEALTHCARE

GLOBAL YOUTH MOBILIZATION INITIATIVE



Date: 22nd April 2021

Key Features:

- Recently, an initiative called the 'Global Youth Mobilization' has been launched for youths in communities impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- A Global Youth Summit (GYS), to be held virtually on 23rd-25th April 2021, marks the starting point for young people to get involved in the mobilization.
- The GYS aims to offer young people aged 14-30 new insights, skills and contacts, as well as a platform to engage with their peers, leaders and policy makers.
- It is a movement of young people taking action to improve their lives now and in a post-Covid-19 world.
- It aims to address the negative impact of the pandemic on young people and support them to build back better.
- It is supported by the world's six largest youth organisations, World Health Organization (WHO), and United Nations (UN) Foundation.



Weekly Multiple Choice Questions

16th- 23st April 2020 (WEEK 3)

Level 1

- Charles Geschke, who helped develop Portable Document Format (PDF), has passed away recently. He was the co-founder of which company?**
 - Hewlett-Packard
 - LinkedIn
 - Adobe
 - Nvidia
- What was the profession of Sumitra Bhawe, who has died recently?**
 - Filmmaker
 - Economist
 - Writer
 - Sportswomen
- Often referred to as “Father of Indian Banking Reforms” name the former Governor of RBI, who has passed away recently.**
 - S. Venkitaramanan
 - Indraprasad Gordhanbhai Patel
 - Maidavolu Narasimham
 - C. Rangarajan
- What was the profession of Shankha Ghosh, who has passed away recently?**
 - Litterateur
 - Economist
 - Sportsman
 - Filmmaker
- Who among the following has won the ‘Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021’?**
 - Sudepta Dhar
 - Nalini Singh
 - Suparna Ghosh
 - Rumana Sinha Sehgal
- Who among the following inaugurated the Indian Air Force’s (IAF) Commander’s Conference in April 2021?**
 - Rajnath Singh
 - Air Chief Marshal RK Singh Bhadauria
 - General Bipin Rawat
 - Ajit Doval
- Which ministry launched the Gender Samvaad Event in April 2021?**
 - Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
 - Ministry of Women & Child Development
 - Ministry of Rural Development
 - Ministry of Communications
- Who among the following inaugurated the first-ever Online Exhibition on Ramayana?**
 - PM Narendra Modi
 - Prahlad Singh Patel
 - Smriti Irani
 - Ravi Shankar Prasad
- Which organisation released the National Climate Vulnerability Report 2021?**
 - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
 - Department of Science and Technology
 - Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
 - NITI Aayog
- Recently, India was elected for which of the following UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSO) (c) bodies?**
 - Executive Board of the World Food Programme
 - Executive Board of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
 - Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)
 - All of the above
- What is the rank of India in the Inclusive Internet Index 2021?**
 - 34th
 - 56th
 - 83rd
 - 49th
- In April 2021, with which country, India signed MoU to cooperate for the Gaganyaan mission?**
 - Russia
 - France
 - USA
 - Australia
- Recently, India participated in a Special Forces Exercise named ‘Khanjar’ with which other country?**
 - Turkmenistan
 - Tajikistan
 - Kazakhstan
 - Kyrgyzstan
- Which country launched its First Mega Food Project in India?**
 - Italy
 - France
 - Germany
 - Australia
- What is the rank of India in ‘Henley Passport Index: Q2 2021 Global Ranking’?**
 - 114rd
 - 84th
 - 70th
 - 65th
- Who among the following was awarded as Wisden Almanack’s ODI player of 2010s in Wisden Awards 2021?**
 - Rohit Sharma
 - Lasith Malinga
 - Chris Gayle
 - Virat Kohli
- The Senior Asian Wrestling Championship 2021 was held recently in which of the following countries?**
 - Singapore
 - UAE
 - Kazakhstan
 - Pakistan

18. With which country India signed an agreement titled 'Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment'?

- (a) Germany (b) Japan
(c) Mauritius (d) Sri Lanka

19. In April 2021, Australia announced a grant of Rs ___ under the 'Australia-India Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative Partnership (AIPOIP)' which is an Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).

- (a) Rs 7.12 crore (b) Rs 8.12 crore
(c) Rs 6.12 crore (d) Rs 9.12 crore

Level 2

1. Consider the following statements regarding the USA's Currency Manipulators Watch List:

1. A country included in the list is in suspicion of artificially increasing the value of its currency to gain an unfair advantage over others.
2. For the consecutive two years, India has stayed out of the watch list.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

2. Consider the following statements regarding Right to Freedom of Movement:

1. The Article 19 of the Indian Constitution provides the freedom to move inside as well as outside the country.
2. It is available to the citizens of India, foreigners and legal persons like companies.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

3. The Gogra post was recently in the news. It is situated in which of the following states/UTs?

- (a) Ladakh (b) Jammu & Kashmir
(c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Arunachal Pradesh

4. With reference to Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C), consider the following statements:

1. It is a severe hyperinflammatory condition in children that occurs weeks after a Covid-19 infection.
2. It is a potentially deadly condition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

5. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Global Youth Mobilization':

1. It has been launched for youths in communities impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. It is supported by the world's six largest youth organisations, World Health Organization (WHO), and United Nations (UN) Foundation.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

6. Recently, NITI Aayog has launched a national digital repository on health and nutrition in partnership with the Centre for Social and Behaviour Change, Ashoka University, and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. What is the name given to this repository?

- (a) Aushadhi Gyan (b) Poshan Gyan
(c) Fitness Gyan (d) Aarogya Gyan

7. Which organisation developed a Supplemental Oxygen Delivery System, which will be used by soldiers who are posted at extreme high-altitude areas and by COVID-19 patients?

- (a) CSIR (b) HAL
(c) DRDO (d) BHEL

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA):

1. Pressure swing adsorption (PS) (a) is a technology used to separate some gas species from a mixture of gases under pressure according to the species' molecular characteristics and affinity for an adsorbent material.
2. It operates at near-ambient temperatures and differs significantly from cryogenic distillation techniques of gas separation.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

9. Consider the following statements regarding EatSmart Cities Challenge and Transport4 All Challenge recently launched by the Union Minister of State (I) (c) for Housing and Urban Affairs:

1. The aim behind these challenges is to develop healthy eating habits and to have digital solutions for safe public transport in smart cities.
2. The cities with a population of more than 1 lakhs are eligible for both challenges.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

10. Consider the following statements regarding the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS):

1. It aims to grant financial assistance to the startups for prototype development, proof of development, market-entry, commercialization, and product trials.
2. The funds of Rs 500 crore has been allocated for the scheme and will benefit around 3,600 startups particularly in tier-2 and 3 cities.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

11. For which purpose was Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme launched by Andhra Pradesh?

- (a) To grant nutritious food to the needy people
(b) To support tourism
(c) To financially help small businesses
(d) To financially help students to pay their academic fees

Answers and Explanation

16th- 23th April 2020 (WEEK 3)

Level 1

- (c)** American computer scientist Charles Geschke, best known as the co-founder of graphics and publishing software company Adobe Inc, has passed away. He was 81.
- (a)** Renowned 7-time National Award winner Marathi filmmaker Sumitra Bhave has passed away recently. She was 78. Sumitra Bhave was popular as a duo with filmmaker Sunil Sukthankar in Marathi cinema and Marathi theatre.
- (c)** The former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Maidavolu Narasimham, has passed away. He was 94. He is famously known as the “Father of Indian Banking Reforms”. Narasimham was the 13th Governor of RBI.
- (a)** Noted Bengali poet Shankha Ghosh has passed away following COVID-19 complications. He was 89. Ghosh was known by his pen name Kuntak.
- (d)** Software-engineer turned social entrepreneur, Rumana Sinha Sehgal has been awarded the prestigious ‘Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021’ by the Diplomatic Mission Global Peace earlier this month. The proud Hyderabad is also the recipient of the Nationwide Award -under 50- Business Leader 2021 for social entrepreneurship by Business Mint.
- (a)** The Union Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Indian Air Force’s (IAF) Commander’s Conference. The conference was held to address issues related to IAF’s operational capabilities in the near future.
- (c)** The Gender Samvaad Event was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development. The event was the joint initiative DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Rural Livelihood Mission) and IWWAGE (Initiative for What Works to Advance Women and Girls in the Economy). The event was organised to create a common platform to share experiences emerging from DAY-NRLM and IWWAGE.
- (b)** The Union Minister of State for Tourism and Culture (IC), Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated the first-ever Online Exhibition on Ramayana. The online exhibition showcases collections of 49 miniature paintings of the National Museum, New Delhi from different art schools of India, dating from the 17th through the 19th century.
- (b)** The Department of Science and Technology launched the National Climate Vulnerability Report. As per the report, 8 Eastern States of India namely, Mizoram, Bihar, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand and Assam are highly vulnerable to climate change.
- (d)** India is elected by acclamation to three bodies of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The 3 bodies of UN ECOSOC: (a) Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) (b) Executive Board of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). (c) Executive Board of the World Food Programme.
- (d)** The Economist Intelligence Unit in partnership with Facebook has released the Inclusive Internet Index 2021. As per the index, India is ranked at 49th rank position. India has

scored 77th position in internet availability, 20th position in affordability and 49th position in relevance and 29th position in readiness.

- (b)** The Indian space agency, ISRO and space agency of France named CNES have signed a MoU to cooperate in a human space mission, Gaganyaan. Under this agreement, the Indian flight physicians will be given training sessions at French facilities.
- (d)** The 8th Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Special Forces Exercise named ‘Khanjar’ was inaugurated at the Special Forces Brigade of National Guards of the Kyrgyz Republic in Bishkek. It will be a two-week-long exercise that will focus on high-altitude warfare, mountain warfare and counter-extremism exercises.
- (a)** In order to boost GOI’s ‘Make in India’ initiative, Italy has launched its maiden mega food park in India. A Letter of Intent (LoI) between both nations was signed for the same. The LoI was signed between the ICE Office in Mumbai and Gujarat based Fanidhar Mega Food Park.
- (b)** The Henley Passport Index released its list of the most powerful passports. As per the index, India is ranked at 84th position in the list, as the Indian citizens can visit Visa-Free or Visa-on-Arrival in over 58 places. The index is topped by Japan with a visa-free score of 193.
- (d)** To acknowledge and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 1st One-Day International, 5 ODI cricketers of the decade have been listed in Wisden Almanack’s 2021 edition. One cricketer from every decade between 1971 and 2021 is selected as the winner for different categories. Wisden Almanack’s ODI player of 2010s: Virat Kohli.
- (c)** The Senior Asian Wrestling Championship 2021 was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan. At the event, India won 14 medals and was ranked at third position in medal rankings. India has won 5 Gold, 3 Silver & 6 Bronze Medals.
- (a)** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), GOI and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH India on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety entered into an agreement to have technical cooperation. Both entities will cooperate technically for ‘Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment’.
- (b)** Australia has announced a grant of Rs 8.12 crore under the ‘Australia-India Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative Partnership (AIPOIP) which is an Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI). Through this partnership between India and Australia, new proposals will be framed to attain shared maritime objectives. The grant will also enable stakeholders from both nations to share their expertise and proposals.

Level 2

- (a)** Recently, the United States (US) placed 11 countries, including India in the Currency Practices Monitoring List (Currency Manipulators Watch List). India was on the list in the December 2020 report as well. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Currency Manipulator is a label given by the US government to countries it feels are engaging in “unfair currency practices” by deliberately devaluing their currency against the dollar. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

2. (d) Right to Freedom of movement guaranteed under Article 19 of the Indian Constitution is available for only internal (right to move inside the country) not external movement (right to move out of the country and right to come back to the country). This right is protected against only state action and not private individuals. Moreover, it is available only to the citizens and to shareholders of a company but not to foreigners or legal persons like companies or corporations, etc.

3. (a) Recently, during the 11th round of discussions between the senior military commanders of India and China to resolve the standoff in eastern Ladakh, China refused to vacate two of the four original friction points. At two friction points, Patrolling Point 15 (PP15) in Hot Springs, and PP17A near Gogra Post, China still has a platoon-level strength each, along with vehicles.

4. (c) Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS- (c) is a rare but severe hyperinflammatory condition in children and adolescents that typically occurs 2-6 weeks after a Covid-19 infection. It is a potentially deadly condition where different body parts can become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs.

5. (c) Recently, an initiative called the ‘Global Youth Mobilization’ has been launched for youths in communities impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. It aims to address the negative impact of the pandemic on young people and support them to build back better. It is supported by the world’s six largest youth organisations, World Health Organization (WHO), and United Nations (UN) Foundation.

6. (b) NITI Aayog partnered with the Centre for Social and Behaviour Change, Ashoka University, and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to launch the Poshan Gyan portal. The Poshan Gyan is a national digital repository on health and nutrition.

7. (c) The Supplemental Oxygen Delivery System is developed by Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO). The system will be used by soldiers who are posted at extreme high-altitude areas and by COVID-19 patients.

8. (c) The Health Ministry said that 162 Pressure Swing Adsorption, PSA oxygen plants have been sanctioned by Government of India for installation in public health facilities in all States and these will augment medical oxygen capacity by over 154 Metric Tonnes. Pressure swing adsorption (PS) (a) is a technology used to separate some gas species from a mixture of gases under pressure according to the species’ molecular characteristics and affinity for an adsorbent material. It operates at near-ambient temperatures and differs significantly from cryogenic distillation techniques of gas separation.

9. (c) The Union Minister of State (I) (c) for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri launched two challenges namely (a) EatSmart Cities Challenge (b) Transport 4 All Challenge. The aim behind these challenges is to develop healthy eating habits and to have digital solutions for safe public transport in smart cities. The cities with a population of more than 5 lakhs are eligible for both challenges.

10. (a) Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal launched the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS). The SISFS aims to grant financial assistance to the startups for prototype development, proof of development, market-entry, commercialization, and product trials. The funds of Rs 945 crore

has been allocated for the scheme and will benefit around 3,600 startups particularly in tier-2 and 3 cities.

11. (d) The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh released the first instalment of Rs 671.45 crore of Jagananna Vidya Deevena for 2021-22. The scheme aims to grant scholarships to those students who are not able to pay their academic fees. The scheme also helps those students who want to pursue higher education.

12. (a) Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal launched the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS). The SISFS aims to grant financial assistance to the startups for prototype development, proof of development, market-entry, commercialization, and product trials. The funds of Rs 945 crore has been allocated for the scheme and will benefit around 3,600 startups particularly in tier-2 and 3 cities.

13. (d) The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh released the first instalment of Rs 671.45 crore of Jagananna Vidya Deevena for 2021-22. The scheme aims to grant scholarships to those students who are not able to pay their academic fees. The scheme also helps those students who want to pursue higher education.

14. (b) The World Press Freedom Index 2021 was published by the international journalism not-for-profit body, Reporters Without Borders (RSF). The index ranking was calculated by evaluating 180 countries. India is ranked at 142nd position in the index.

15. (c) The World Press Freedom Index 2021 was published by the international journalism not-for-profit body, Reporters Without Borders (RSF). The index ranking was calculated by evaluating 180 countries. The index is topped by Norway. The second and third ranks are marked by Finland and Denmark respectively.

16. (d) The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of MoU between India and Bangladesh to cooperate in the trade sector. The MoU was signed between India’s Director General of Trade Remedies and the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission to increase cooperation in the area of trade remedies.

17. (d) The Asian Development Bank (AD) (b) partnered with Habitat for Humanity International to grant support to a microfinance institution (MFIs). The support to MFIs will enable them to grant housing loans to low-income families residing in rural and semi-urban areas of India, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Indonesia.

18. (c) The International Cricket Council (ICC) (c) 2020 announced the global winners for ICC Development Awards 2020. The Winning countries are: Argentina, Brazil, Uganda and Vanuatu. Argentina was awarded under the category of ICC Development Initiative of the Year. The country attracted a local audience from South America to the cricket sport by launching courses related to coaching, umpiring and scoring in cricket in Spanish.

19. (d) The 5th Global Forum on TB Vaccines was held from 20th to 22nd April 2021 in a virtual manner. The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan addressed the forum. The forum was organised by the Stop TB Partnership Working Group on New Vaccines in association with International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) and Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (TBVI).

20. (c) The 2021 Energy Transition Index (ETI) was released by the World Economic Forum (WEF). The report was published in partnership with Accenture. As per the index, India is ranked at 87th position among 115 countries with a score of 53.