

Week 4 Current Affairs Update

24th - 31st May 2021

EVENTS

NATIONAL

ENVIRONMENT

FIVE INITIATIVES TO CONSERVE THE BIODIVERSITY



Date: 24th May 2020

On the occasion of International day for Biological Diversity, Government of India launched the key initiatives to conserve biodiversity.

Key Points:

- Initiative No 1. Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme: In this initiative 20 Postgraduate students will be trained for natural resource management and biodiversity conservation and to support National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) projects for a period of one year.
- Initiative No 2. UNEP Campaign on Illegal Trafficking of Endangered Species: This initiative was launched with the theme 'Not all animals migrate by choice'.
- Initiative No 3. World Wildlife Fund Model Conference of Parties: This was launched to involve the young generation in conservation around the impact of humanity footprints in biodiversity.
- Initiative No 4. Awareness Campaign: An awareness campaign was launched to highlight the vital role of nature in providing ecological services to human beings.
- Initiative No 5. Webinar: A webinar Series on Biodiversity Conservation and Biological Diversity Act, 2002 was launched.

HEALTHCARE

‘KHUDOL’ INITIATIVE OF MANIPUR



Date: 25th May 2020

‘Khudol’ (Gift) initiative of Manipur has been marked as the top 10 global initiatives in combating COVID-19 by the United Nations.

Key Points:

- This was listed by Jayathma Wickramanayake of Srilanka, who is UN Secretary- General’s Envoy on Youth.
- Khudol initiative is co-founded with an NGO called Ya_All.
- The initiative aims to provide food supplies and health services for the people suffering from HIV, to the daily wage earners, LGBTQI+ community, children and adolescents.
- Until now, this initiative has reached to 2000 families and around 1000 health kits and 6500 sanitary napkins to the needy ones and has offered many more support.

DEFENCE

‘NAVRAKSHAK’— BY INDIAN NAVY



Date: 26th May 2020

Indian Navy has come forward to combat COVID-19 by developing a PPE kit named as ‘NavRakshak’.

Key Points:

- It is made from an innovative fabric material in order to provide comfort to the healthcare workers dealing and combating COVID-19 in the hot and humid condition for more than 12 hours.
- 'NavRakshak' PPE kit has two main features mainly optimal protective-ness and optimal breathability. These two features are due to the usage of advanced quality non-woven fabric of specific Grams per Square Meter (GSM) with stitching techniques.
- It is developed by Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Arnab Ghosh from Naval Medical Specialist of Innovation Cell, Institute of Naval Medicine in Mumbai.

LAW & JUSTICE

INDIAN DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER



Date: 26th May 2020

Former Supreme Court Justice A K Sikri inaugurated Indian Dispute Resolution Center (IDRC) in New Delhi.

Key Points:

- IDRC is first of its kind Institutional Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Center which will provide an offline and e-ADR facility through e-Arbitration, e-Mediation and e-Conciliation software portal.
- The software will provide e-filing of claim petitions, e-payments, and issuance of e-notice to the party, online payment of registration and administrative fees. The software will also carry out virtual hearing processes on certified VC platforms.
- The e-ADR also has a digital signature and document updating support and submission of important documents will take place on IDRC cloud server with 24x7 access to stakeholders and lawyers.
- The arbitration panel includes former Supreme Court judges, judges of HC and district courts and former bureaucrats etc.

RURAL & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

CHARDHAM PROJECT



Date: 27th May 2020

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed a 440-meter long tunnel under the Chamba town on Rishikesh- Dharasu road (NH-94) in Uttarakhand.

Key Points:

The construction of the tunnel is part of the Chardham Connectivity Project in Chamba.

The Chardham project is aimed to boost the connectivity of holy towns like Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath and Yamunotri.

The tunnel under this project was inaugurated by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways and MSMEs, Nitin Gadkari via a video conference.

The tunnel is being constructed under the Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojna using Austrian technology.

POLICIES & SCHEMES

PM VAYA VANDANA YOJANA PENSION SCHEME

The advertisement for the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana Pension Scheme features a yellow background with a photo of three elderly people. The text includes:

- Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana**
- Exclusively for Senior Citizens
- Plan No. 242
- UID: 1122211V81
- 4% per annum effective yield for monthly pension (equivalent to 8.20% per annum)

For the welfare of senior citizens of our country, the Govt. of India announces a sub-scheme and introduces Pension Scheme, PM-VVY as the exclusive administrator.

- Eligibility: 60 years of age and above
- Large lifetime premium: Minimum - Rs. 30000/- per month; maximum premium - Rs. 10000/- per month
- Minimum pension: Rs. 2000/- per month; Maximum pension: Rs. 10000/- per month
- Interest rates: 4% p.a. (variable interest) dependent to 1.50% p.a.
- Mode of payment: Monthly, Quarterly, Half yearly or Yearly
- 100% of the Pension during the waiting period of 10 years, thereafter reduces to 75% from 11th year
- The purchase of the Pensional plan can be up to 10 years. Purchase done using bank transfer instrument will be easy.

Contact your Agent/Development Officer/LIC branch or visit our website www LIC India or SMS YOUR CITY NAME to 54781414

Ministry of Finance, Government of India

LIC

Date: 27th May 2020

Life Insurance Corporation of India has launched PM Vaya Vandana Yojana Pension Scheme (PMVVY) (Modified-2020).

Key Points:

- It is a social security scheme for senior citizens above 60 years of age.
- The plan starts from May 26 for the period of three financial years i.e. up to 31st March 2023.
- LIC is solely authorized to operate this scheme that offers a total payout not exceeding Rs 15 Lakhs.
- The scheme works as Non-Linked, Non-Participating pension scheme subsidized by the centre
- The tenure period for the policy is 10 years.
- A senior citizen can withdraw a minimum pension of Rs 1000 per month depending on the amount invested in the scheme.

ROZGAR SETU YOJANA: MADHYA PRADESH



रोजगार सेतु

Date: 30th May 2020

Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has launched the Rozgar Setu Yojana.

Key Points:

- It has been launched to support and provide employment and employment based skills to migrant workers who have returned to the state in the COVID-19 situation.
- The yojana also aims to fulfill the industries need of manpower in this pandemic situation
- The state government has also launched 'MP Rojgar Setu Portal' for unemployed workers in order to carry out the registration process.

MUKHYAMANTRI SWAROZGAR YOJANA –UTTARAKHAND



Date: 31st May 2020

Government of Uttarakhand has launched Mukhyamantri Swarozgar Yojana for the migrants returning to the state during the lockdown situation caused due to novel coronavirus.

Key Points:

- This scheme aims to provide employment opportunities to the youth especially entrepreneurs returning to the state, to the skilled and non-skilled artisans, handicrafts and unemployed youths.
- The credit facility under this scheme will be offered through nationalized banks, scheduled commercial banks and co-operative banks.
- Under this scheme, money margin will be provided as a grant by the MSME department.

‘K-FON’ – KERALA’S FREE INTERNET PROJECT



Date: 31st May 2020

The state government of Kerala has announced a free internet project called K-FON (Kerala Fibre Optic Network).

Key Points:

- The project aims to provide free internet access to the economically weak section of the state.
- This project will be commissioned in December 2020.
- The cost of the project is Rs 1,500 crore and Kerala is the first state to offer the internet as a fundamental right to its citizens.
- Various companies like BEL, Railtel, SRIT and LS cables are going to work for this project.
- Piyush Goyal stated that there is a huge opportunity to increase production in the auto component sector, furniture and IT related services.
- He also assured grant support to increase export from India.

HYDROELECTRIC AND MULTIPURPOSE PROJECTS IN MADHYA PRADESH



Date: 28th May 2020

Power Finance Corporation has signed an agreement with Narmada Basin Projects Company Limited (NBPCL) to fund to develop Hydroelectric Projects and Multipurpose Hydroelectric and Multipurpose Projects in Madhya Pradesh

Key Points:

- The MoU of Rs 22,000 crore has been signed between two organisations.
- 225 MW Hydroelectric Projects and Multipurpose projects are to be built in Madhya Pradesh.
- 12 major multipurpose projects will be built with the help of this fund which includes Basaniya multipurpose project Dindori, Chinki Boras multipurpose project Narsinghpur Raisen Hoshangabad, Sakkar Pench Link Narsinghpur Chhindwara, Dundhi project Chhindwara Hoshangabad.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

ARMY COMMANDERS CONFERENCE 2020



Date: 28th May 2020

Army Commanders Conference 2020 has commenced in New Delhi. The first phase was scheduled from 27th to 29th May 2020 and the second phase will be conducted in the last week of June 2020.

Key Points:

- In this apex Biannual event, the leadership of Indian Army will be deliberated in terms of various aspects like operational, administrative issues pertaining to logistics and human resources.
- Current security and administrative challenges will be discussed in the conference and the reformative ways will be find out for the future of India
- The issue of border with China in Ladakh is also likely to be discussed in the conference.
- The conference is headed by Army Chief Manoj Mukund Naravane.

22ND MEETING OF FINANCIAL STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (FSDC)



Date: 30th May 2020

22nd Meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was conducted and was chaired by Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nir-mala Sitharaman.

Key Points:

- The meeting was conducted to review the global and domestic macroeconomic situation, financial stability and vulnerabilities issues, issues being faced by banks and financial institutions, NBFCs, HFCs, and MFIs.
- The meeting also discussed the capital flow issues, resource mobilization and market volatility.
- The heads of various financial organisations like IRDAI, PFRDA, and SEBI were present in the meeting. The meeting was also attended by the RBI Governor secretary of various ministries.
- They also discussed the economic reforms made in the country to combat the lockdown situation arisen due to pandemic COVID-19.

ECONOMY

INDIA'S GDP TO BE 4.2% IN 2019-20



Date: 30th May 2020

National Statistical Office has released the data describing that economic growth for India has slowed to an 11 year low of 4.2% for FY 2019-2020.

Key Points:

- The GDP was 6.1% in 2018-2019, whereas for 2019-2020 it is marked to be 4.2% and has been marked as the slowest GDP in the 11 years
- The GDP for the fourth quarter is estimated to be 3.1%
- The reduction has also lead to per capita income which is unable to cross Rs 1 lakh mark
- The bank's deposits has also reduced to minus 53%

INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

HIL INDIA TO PROVIDE LOCUST CONTROL PESTICIDE TO IRAN



Date: 26th May 2020

Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has made an announcement that Hindustan Insecticides Limited India or HIL India is going to produce and supply 25 tons of pesticide to Iran to control locust.

Key Points:

- HIL will be supplying 25 MT Malathion Technical for supply to locust control programme to Iran under the government to government arrangement.
- Also recently HIL has signed an agreement with the ministry of agriculture and farmer welfare to supply Malathion Technical to Rajasthan and Gujrat for the locust control programme.

RURAL & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

ADB AND GOI SIGNS LOAN AGREEMENT TO IMPROVE ROADS IN MAHARASHTRA



Date: 29th May 2020

Government of India has signed a loan agreement with Asian Development Bank to improve 11 state highways and 2 district roads in Maharashtra.

Key Points:

- A loan agreement of USD 177 million has been signed.
- The project will improve connectivity to national highways, agricultural areas will connect rural and urban areas.
- The loan amount will be also used to provide training to staff of Maharashtra Public Works Department so that they can construct roads and infrastructure in the state by following climate change standards in order to retain the environment and will adapt to disaster relief features.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

BRICS HEADS OF TAX AUTHORITIES MEETING



Date: 30th May 2020

Meeting of the Heads of Tax Authorities of BRICS Nations was held on 29th May 2020.

Key Points:

- The Tax heads of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa participated.
- India was represented by Dr Ajay Bhushan Pandey, Finance Secretary, GOI.
- Currently Russia holds the BRICS Presidency and hence the meet was hosted by the Federal Tax Service of Russia.
- The members in the meeting discussed the response of BRICS Tax authorities to the pandemic COVID-19 and also explored combating ways for the same.



disha
Nurturing Ambitions

The logo for 'disha' features the word 'disha' in a large, lowercase, light blue font. Above the letter 'i' is a stylized orange arrow pointing upwards and to the right. Below the word 'disha' is the tagline 'Nurturing Ambitions' in a smaller, light blue font.

PEOPLE

NATIONAL

APPOINTMENTS

R SREELEKHA



Date: 28th May 2020

Why in news: Become the first woman Director General of Police in Kerala.

Key Points:

- Kerala Police will get its first woman Director General when R.Sreelekha assumes office as the new head of the Kerala Fire and Rescue Services on June 1.
- Presently an Additional Director General of Police, she currently heads the Jail Department.
- An 1988 batch IPS officer, she became the first woman Superintendent of Police in 1991 and since then, has had a glittering career.

INTERNATIONAL

APPOINTMENTS

CARMEN REINHART



Date: 24th May 2020

Why in news: Appointed as new Vice President and Chief Economist for the World Bank.

Key Points:

- World Bank Group has appointed Carmen Reinhart as its new Vice President and Chief Economist.
- She was a Senior Policy Advisor and Deputy Director at the IMF and Vice President and Chief Economist of the investment bank Bear Stearns.
- Carmen Reinhart has been ranked among the top Economists worldwide based on publications and scholarly citations.
- She has been listed among Bloomberg Markets Most Influential 50 in Finance, Foreign Policy's Top 100 Global Thinkers, and Thomson Reuters' The World's Most Influential Scientific Minds.

MARCOS TROYJO & ANIL KISHORA



Date: 28th May 2020

Why in news: Elected as next President and vice-president of New Development Bank respectively.

Key Points:

- Marcos Troyjo has been elected as the new president of the New Development Bank (NDB).
- He is a former deputy economy minister of Brazil and will replace India's KV Kamath.
- The elections for the post were held in a special meeting of the bank's board of governors on May 27.
- The Union Finance Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman also attended NDB's board of governors meeting through the video conference.
- India's Anil Kishora will be the bank's new vice-president and Chief Risk Officer.



LAW & JUSTICE

MIGRANT CRISIS DUE TO LOCKDOWN



Date: 26th May 2020

Key Highlights:

- The Supreme court has ordered the Centre and the States to immediately provide transport, food and shelter free of cost to the stranded migrant workers.
- The Court took suo motu cognisance of media reports and representations from senior lawyers to step in to protect the fundamental rights of the migrant workers.
- The Court said there have been “inadequacies and certain lapses” on the part of the Central and State governments in dealing with the migrant workers’ crisis during the COVID-19 lockdown.
- Soon after the lockdown was imposed, migrants by the thousands, who had lost their jobs, started walking back home because no public transport was available. Many were stopped at state borders and sent to shelters. Others continued to walk along train tracks or on highways.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

INDIA-CHINA BORDER FLARE-UP



Date: 25th May 2020

Key Highlights:

- The India-China border has been witnessing tensions over the past month, with incidents reported in at least four different locations along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- These include: the Pangong lake in Ladakh, the Galway valley and Demchok.
- The face-offs mainly occur in areas along the LAC because LAC has never been demarcated.
- Differing perceptions are particularly acute in around two dozen spots across the Western (Ladakh), Middle (Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand), Sikkim, and Eastern (Arunachal Pradesh) sectors of the India-China border.
- Face-off occurred when patrols encountered each other in the contested zones between overlapping claim lines.

KALAPANI DISPUTE



Date: 25th May 2020

Key Highlights:

- On May 8, India inaugurated the Darchula-Lipulekh pass link road, cutting across the disputed Kalapani area which is used by Indian pilgrims to Kailash Mansarovar.
- Nepal hit back by summoning the Indian Ambassador to Nepal, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, to convey a formal protest.
- Kalapani is located in the easternmost corner of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district. Shares a border on the north with the Tibet Autonomous Region of

China and Nepal in the east and south. It is wedged in between Limpiadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani.

- The area is the largest territorial dispute between Nepal and India consisting of at least 37,000 hectares of land in the High Himalayas.
- The area is in India's control but Nepal claims the region because of historical and cartographic reasons.

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disha
Nurturing Ambitions

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ELECTROCHEMICAL SENSING PLATFORM



Date: 24th May 2020

Key Features:

- Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology, Guwahati has developed an Electrochemical Sensing Platform.
- The platform will detect the carcinogenic or mutagenic compound NDMA (N –nitrisomethylamine) and NDEA (N-nitrosodietthanolamine) which is found in food items like cured meat, few cheeses and low fat milk.
- The invention resulted by developing a modified electrode by immobilizing carbon nanoparticles which are termed as carbon dots in DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid).

‘LUMOS’ A DECONTAMINATION DEVICE

Date: 30th May 2020

Key Features:

- Kochi based startup named Devaditek Innovations Private Limited has developed a multi-purpose decontamination device called ‘Lumos’.

- ‘Lumos’ is used to sanitize items from masks to vegetables. It is based on Ultraviolet Germicidal Irradiation (UVGI) technology.
- It has been designed with high power lamps, consumes less power, ozone functionality and zero consumable which provides 100% disinfection rate in a short period of time.
- Devaditek Innovations Private Limited will also be collaborating with Collegiate Congress under the United Nation’s Master plan Initiative to distribute ‘Lumos’ to overseas customers.

INTERNATIONAL

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

VAMS SAFEGUARD



Date: 27th May 2020

Key Features:

- VAMS (Visitor Authentication and Management System) Global , which is a startup in Mumbai has developed the world’s first contactless Visitor Management Software called VAMS Safeguard which checks body temperature, scans faces with mask compliance and monitors social distancing in the premises.
- It is based on Artificial Intelligence and with the help of AI, the software takes the entry of visitors by following the testing standards for COVID-19.
- It is incorporated with embedded face and palm recognition sensors and thus provides hands-free user authentication for all its features like attendance time recording, visitor management, contractor module along with orders.

