

# Weekly Current Affairs

11 May - 17 May, 2020

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## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **1. India's fuel consumption fell almost 46 per cent in April as all petroleum products, except LPG**

- It massively erased demand following the nationwide lockdown that halted economic activity and travel. India's fuel consumption fell 45.8 per cent to 9.929 million tonnes in April, down from 18.32 million tonnes of fuel consumed in the same month a year back.
- Fuel consumption during March, when travel restrictions began to be imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus, stood at 16.08 million tonnes. Petrol sales were down 60.43 per cent to 9,73,000 tonnes in April.
- The demand for the fuel had fallen 64 per cent in the first half of the month, but there was some pick up in sales after reopening of some offices brought a few more vehicles back on road.

### **2. Odisha increases working hours to 12; staff to be paid for overtime**

- Considering representations from certain industries and industry associations, the Odisha government decided to provide relaxation for industries and commercial activities and approved a 12-hour work shift instead of 8 hours.
- Payments will be made for overtime for a period of three months during the lockdown. This relaxation will not be applicable to areas declared hotspots and containment zones in different cities of the state.
- Also it has directed the factories that no female workers shall be allowed or required to work in a factory between 7 pm to 6 am unless specifically permitted by the Government in this regard.

### **3. Registrar General of India released Birth rate, death rate, IMR data**

- Data released by the Registrar General of India stated that India's infant mortality rate (IMR) has improved very marginally from 33 per 1,000 live births in 2017 to 32 in 2018.
- The report stated that Madhya Pradesh has the worst IMR in the country at 48 and Nagaland had the best at 4. In 2017, Madhya Pradesh's IMR stood at 47.
- Among large states, Kerala has performed best with an IMR in single digits at 7. Also, only Kerala state has now achieved the United Nations' sustainable development goal in this regard. The report stated that the largest decline in IMR has been registered by Mizoram, with a decline from 15 to 5. Undivided Jammu and Kashmir has shown a decline and is at 22, well below the national average of 32.

### **4. Central Board of Direct Taxes amends 44G of Income-tax Rules 1962**

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) amended Rule 44G of Income-tax Rules, 1962 for making an application to invoke the mutual agreement procedure in Form no.34F which will be called Income-tax (8th Amendment) Rules, 2020.
- Regarding the issues contained in Form no.34F or in the reference of the competent authority of the nation or in a territory outside the country calls for the relevant records and additional documents from the Department of Income Tax to understand

the actions taken by the Income-tax authorities within or out of India that are not in accordance with the terms of the agreement between India and the other countries or specified territories.

- According to the Agreements between India and the other countries or specified territory within an average time period of 24 months the authority in India will endeavor to arrive at a mutually agreeable resolution of the tax disruption.
- It states that the acceptance or non-acceptance within 30 days. The acceptance of the resolution, the assessee shall withdraw any appeal filed in this regard and pay the tax determined by the assessing officer after giving effect to the resolution. The rule 44H has been omitted with this amendment.

### 5. Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray to enter Legislature to continue his CM term

- Mr. Uddhav Thackeray is the current Chief Minister of Maharashtra. However, he did not win in the Maharashtra state elections that were held in November 2019.
- Article 164 of the Constitution provides every provision for a Chief Minister of a state. According to the article, any person who has the support of the majority of the elected members of the legislative assembly shall be appointed as the CM by the governor of the state. In this case, if the person is not a member of the legislative assembly, or if he has lost the general election, he can still be appointed as the CM provided he has the support of majority of the members. However, he has to win an election within 6 months.
- The Election Commission on the request made by the Maharashtra Governor BS Koshiyari is conducting Maharashtra Legislative Council Election.



### 6. GoI extends lockdown with an economic package of Rs.20 lakh crores

- The government of India announced an Rs.20 lakh crore stimulus package, equivalent to about 10% of India's Gross domestic product (GDP). It aimed at making the country self-reliant and reviving the stalled economy. Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan or Details of the plan unveiled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The announcement comes after the Government of India extended the lockdown from 18 May (Lockdown 4.0). The reforms announced by PM Narendra Modi include supply chain reforms for agriculture, rational tax system, simple and clear laws, capable human resources, and a strong financial system.

### 7. UP Postal department creates a record of reaching the maximum number of persons in a single day to provide cash at doorstep

- The postal department in Uttar Pradesh has made a record of reaching the maximum number of persons in a single day to provide cash at their doorstep. The UP circle of the Postal department made a transaction of 30 crore rupees to 2.74 persons in the state through Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS). This is the cash transaction for the highest number of persons in a day.

- A mega drive to provide money to the needy persons at their doorstep was launched by the UP Circle of the postal department. A total of 2.74 lakh persons in the state benefited from it which was the highest number of beneficiaries in a single day in the country.

### **8. Ministry of Tourism organises 18th webinar titled 'Odisha-India's Best kept secret' under "Dekho Apna Desh" series**

- The Ministry of Tourism's Dekho Apna Desh webinar series on 12th May 2020, titled, 'Odisha-India's Best kept secret' took the participants on a virtual journey into Odisha. The webinar was the 18th webinar under Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series.
- Shri Vishal Dev, Secretary (Tourism), Government of Odisha, set the tone for the presentation with his introductory remarks giving a brief introduction to the State of Odisha and highlighting on the key selling proposition of Odisha such as its ancient civilization, famous temples with Kalinga style of architecture, long coastline endowed with beautiful beaches, arts and handicrafts, culture, popular dance forms such as Odissi, Gotipua, forests. He also informed about the State initiative in promoting Eco-Tourism sites.
- The virtual journey covered places like Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, Udaipur Beach, Manglajodi – unique wetland, Satpada, Chilika lake known for sighting of unique Irrawaddy dolphins, Simlipal National Park, Debrigarh National Park – Ecotourism site at Hirakud reservoir, waterfall, Silent Valley – Gorge, Daringbadi nature Camp, Mahanadi Gorge, Bhetnoi, Beach Locations, Tribal heritage, arts and crafts, textiles, dance forms, festivals, cuisine.

### **9. India ranked 74th on the Global Energy Transition Index**

- As per the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual rankings, India has secured the 74th position on the global Energy Transition Index (ETI). In the previous year, India ranked 76th. India showed improvements in all key parameters of economic growth, energy security, and environmental sustainability.
- In WEF rankings, Sweden topped for a third consecutive year in the ETI. It is followed by Switzerland and Finland in the second and third positions respectively.
- The 2020 results showed that 75% of countries have improved their environmental sustainability.

### **10. Power distribution companies to get emergency liquidity infusion of Rs 90,000 crore**

- In a relief to Power Distribution companies, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a liquidity flow of 90 thousand crore rupees to the PFCs and RECs.
- Vivaad se Vishwas scheme has also been extended up to 31st December without obligation of any extra payment. India's power distribution sector is passing through a turbulent phase on the back of large accumulated dues to be paid to generators, liquidity issues due to restricted cash flow.
- Discom payables to power generation and transmission companies currently stand at Rs 94,000 crore. The commercial and industrial sector in India consumes around 52

per cent of electricity, followed by 24 per cent by domestic households and 18 per cent by agriculture sector.

### **11. Bengaluru's Kempegowda Airport honoured as best regional airport in India & Central Asia; Singapore Changi crowned as World's Best**

- The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru (Karnataka) has won the SKYTRAX Award 2020 for Best Regional Airport in India and Central Asia. It ranks 68th in World's Top 100 Airports 2020 list, which was topped by Singapore Changi Airport.
- This was 3rd time the KIA got this honor in last 4 years after it was adjudged the best airport in India in 2011 and the second-best airport in India in 2012. While, Changi Airport is voted the World's Best Airport for the eighth consecutive year.

### **12. 25% cut in TDS and TCS rates till 31st of March 2021; Income Tax return extended till Nov 30**

- In a major announcement by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) and Tax Collected at Source (TCS) have been reduced by 25 percent till 31st March of next year. This decision will increase cash flow of over 50 thousand crore rupees benefitting common people.
- The date for filing Income Tax return for the last financial year has also been extended till 30th November, while the last date for filing tax audits has been extended from 30th September to 31st October.
- The Finance Minister also announced reduction of statutory provident fund contribution by both employers and employees to 10 percent of basic wages from the existing 12 per cent for the next three months.
- The decision has been taken to facilitate more take-home salary for employees and give relief to employers in payment of PF dues, resulting in a liquidity ease of 6,750 crore rupees.

### **13. Dr Harsh Vardhan participates in 32nd Commonwealth Health Ministers' meeting through video conference**

- Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan participated in the 32nd Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting through Video conference.
- He highlighted the timely, graded and proactive measures taken by India towards COVID-19 management.
- India has been the first country to urge consolidated global action to fight the challenge of COVID-19.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan said, India has provided essential medicines such as Hydroxychloroquine to almost 100 needy countries, extending solidarity and support during this time of crisis.
- The Theme of this meeting was "Delivering a co-ordinated Commonwealth COVID-19 response"
- The Commonwealth of Nations, generally known simply as the Commonwealth, is a political association of 54 member states, nearly all former territories of the British Empire.

### **14. ICMR to participate in Global Solidarity Trial by WHO for COVID-19 treatment**

- Indian Council for Medical Research, ICMR has fast tracked the roll out of the Global Solidarity Trial launched by the World Health Organization, WHO to help in finding an effective treatment for COVID-19.
- The ICMR-National AIDS Research Institute, NARI is the national coordination site for the trial in India. Four potential antiviral agents, Remdesivir, Chloroquine-Hydroxychloroquine, Lopinavir-Ritonavir and Lopinavir-Ritonavir with interferon are to be evaluated in the trial.
- Global Solidarity Trial is an international clinical trial to compare four treatment options to assess their effectiveness against COVID-19.
- The trial aims to discover whether any of the drugs slow down the disease progression and improve survival rate.

### 15. Forest loss rate globally declined from 2015 to 2020: FRA 2020

- According to the Global Forest Resources Assessment(FRA) 2020 released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization(FAO), the forest loss rate in 2015-2020 has declined to an estimated 10 million hectares(mha), down from 12 mha in 2010-2015.
- Among the world's regions, Africa has the largest annual rate of net forest loss in 2010–2020, at 3.9 mha, followed by South America, at 2.6 mha, whereas Asia has the highest net gain of forest area in 2010–2020, followed by Oceania and Europe.
- Both Europe and Asia recorded substantially lower rates of net gain in 2010–2020 than in 2000–2010. Oceania has experienced net losses of forest area in the decades 1990–2000 and 2000–2010

### 16.Gujarat CM announces Aatmanirbhar Gujarat Sahay Yojana

- In Gujarat, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani announced Aatmanirbhar Gujarat Sahay Yojana. The scheme is for small shopkeepers and self-employed those who were hit by the lockdown. Under the scheme, one lakh rupees collateral free loan will be given at two percent for the beneficiaries for three years.
- The beneficiaries will have to make only one application to avail the loan from state and District Cooperative Banks and credit agencies.
- They won't have to pay any installment during the moratorium period for the first six months.
- The State Government will pay the remaining six percent interest to the banks.
- There won't be any processing fees for the loans. Over 10 lakh self-employed people, small traders, shopkeepers will be benefited from the scheme.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

### 1. Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah El-Sissi expands powers, citing coronavirus outbreak

- Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah El-Sissi has approved amendments to the country's state of emergency that grant him and security agencies additional powers. The government says the amendments are needed to combat the coronavirus outbreak.
- The new amendments allow the president to take measures to contain the virus, such as suspending classes at schools and universities and quarantining those returning

from abroad. But they also include expanded powers to ban public and private meetings, protests, celebrations and other forms of assembly.

- The amendments also allow military prosecutors to investigate incidents when army officers are tasked with law enforcement or when the president orders it. The amended law would also allow the president to postpone taxes and utility payments as well as provide economic support for affected sectors.

## **2. WHO warns countries for reopening of their economies without setting up strong contact tracing**

- WHO has warned that countries are essentially driving blind in reopening their economies without setting up strong contact tracing to beat back flare-ups of the coronavirus. The warning came as France and Belgium emerged from lockdowns, the Netherlands sent children back to school, and several US states continued to lift their business restrictions.
- Robust contact tracing measures adopted by Germany and South Korea provide hope that those countries can detect and stop virus clusters before they get out of control.

## **3. China launches two satellites to test space-based communication technology**

- China launches two satellites Xingyun-2 01 and 02 into the orbit by Kuaizhou-1A(KZ-1A) carrier rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China at 9.16 am (Beijing Time), to test the space-based Internet of Things(IoT) communication technology.
- The Satellite was developed by Xingyun Satellite Co. to conduct tests on technologies including space-based IoT communications, inter-satellite laser communications, and a low-cost commercial satellite platform.
- Kuaizhou(KZ-1A) is a low-cost, solid-fuel carrier rocket featuring high orbit precision and a short preparation period. The Rocket is developed by an affiliated company of Sanjiang Group under the China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation (CASIC) used to launch low-orbit small satellites.
- The satellites will also carry out initial pilot IoT applications. This was the ninth mission of the KZ-1A carrier rocket.

## **4. Italy develops “iFeel-You” bracelet for social distancing**

- The Genoa-based Italian Institute of Technology (IIT) has come up with "iFeel-You", an intelligent bracelet that will help users respect social distancing rules.
- The bracelet has been developed as the measures for safeguarding against the coronavirus lockdown is being gradually lifted.
- It uses a radio signal only when another bracelet is approaching, it does not use GPS and therefore does not keep track of user locations. It just reminds us when needed that we are not observing social distancing rules.

## **New Appointments and Person in News**

**1. Edu-tech firm ELSA Corp appoints Indian cricketer Ajinkya as its brand ambassador for India, Middle East, ANZ & SAARC**

- ELSA Corp (English Language Speech Assistant Corporation) India, the education technology company based out of the US (United States), has appointed Indian Test team vice-captain Ajinkya Madhukar Rahane (31) as its brand ambassador for India, Middle East, ANZ (Australia & New Zealand) and SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation).
- Now Rahane will work with the company's mobile app 'ELSA Speak' to popularize it among Indian people who want to better their English pronunciation.

## 2. IAS Officer “Manoj Ahuja” appointed as the new CBSE chairman

- Odisha cadre IAS Manoj Ahuja has been appointed the new chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).
- Ahuja is currently working as Special Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Department of Personnel and Training.
- Ahuja will replace Anita Karwal as the chairman of the CBSE.

## 3. Akhil Kumar re-inducted into NADA disciplinary panel


- Former Commonwealth Games gold-winning Indian boxer Akhil Kumar, 39 years old, was re-inducted into the National Anti-Doping Agency's (NADA) Disciplinary Panel. He was formerly in the panel from 2017 to 2019.
- Akhil Kumar currently serves as the ACP (Assistant Commissioner of Police) Gurugram, Haryana. He practices an “open guarded” boxing style.

## 4. V. Vidyavathi becomes new DG of Archaeological Survey of India

- IAS officer V. Vidyavathi is appointed as the new Director-General of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) effective from 12th May 2020. She is a 1991 batch Karnataka cadre officer.
- Vidyavathi will be serving in the rank of Additional Secretary to the Government of India.
- Her appointment is confirmed by the order of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

## 5. WTO Chief Roberto Azevedo decides to resign a year before his term expires

- In an unprecedented move, the Head of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Roberto Azevedo has decided to resign, a year before his term expires.
- Mr Azevedo, a former diplomat from Brazil, said he will step down on August 31st, cutting short a seven-year tenure marked in recent years by intense pressure from US President Donald Trump.
- Trump had accused the Geneva-based trade body of an anti-US bias and other complaints



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## **BANKING**

### 1. NDB approves USD 1 bn Emergency Assistance Program Loan to India to fight COVID-19

- Emergency Assistance Program Loan of USD 1 billion has been approved by the New Development Bank (NDB) to India. The Emergency Assistance Program Loan aims to support the Government of



India in its attempt to curb the spread of COVID-19 as well as to minimize the human, social and economic losses caused by the COVID-19 outbreak.

- This is NDB's second emergency assistance program in order to help its member countries to fight COVID-19
- The 'Emergency Assistance Program Loan' to India was approved by the NDB Board of Directors on April 30, and it is aimed at supporting the Indian government to contain the spread of COVID-19 and reduce human, social and economic losses caused by the coronavirus outbreak.

## **2.Federal bank, MoneyGram tie-up for direct-to-bank deposits in India**

- MoneyGram Payment System, a subsidiary of MoneyGram International, global leader in P2P payments tied up with Federal Bank Limited, a private bank in India to provide the customers a cost-effective way to receive deposits directly in their bank accounts in India.
- The Federal Bank has 15% share of the country's remittance market and they expect a tie up with MoneyGram to boost up their business. This tie-up will provide the non-resident Indians with access to modern, low cost, fast, easy and reliable ways for transferring money to India. This partnership will help the people to send and receive money to their families in the COVID-19 pandemic situation.
- The World Bank has mentioned that India is one of the world's top recipients of remittance who has received around 82 billion USD in 2019.

## **Books and Awards**

### **1.Madhya Pradesh policemen to be honoured with Karmaveer Medal for fighting against Corona**

- In Madhya Pradesh, all those policemen who rendered their services for thirty days in the fight against Corona will be honoured with the Karmaveer Medal.
- At the same time, the problems of families of martyrs and other deceased police personnel in Madhya Pradesh will now be resolved through the help-desk.
- The help desk has been set up at the police headquarters in Bhopal.
- Four police personnel have sacrificed their lives in the fight against Corona while 91 employees of the police department are infected with Corona and are undergoing treatment.

### **2.AIFF nominates Sandesh Jhingan, Bala Devi for Arjuna Award**

- The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has nominated Sandesh Jhingan and N Bala Devi for this year's Arjuna Award. Arjuna Award is an honour bestowed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to recognize the achievement of athletes.
- In January this year, Bala became the Indian woman professional footballer to play in Europe. She was signed by Scottish club Rangers for an 18-month deal.
- Also, Bala is the top scorer for the Indian women's team, netting 52 goals in 58 appearances since 2010. Jhingan, who made his international debut in football in 2015 and is a regular in the national team.

### **3.Lieutenant Commander Akshay Kumar awarded Vice Admiral G.M. Hiranandani Memorial Rolling Trophy 2020**

- Lieutenant Commander Akshay Kumar of the Anti-Submarine Warfare School of the Southern Naval Command (SNC) in Kochi was awarded the Vice Admiral G.M. Hiranandani Memorial Rolling Trophy for the year 2020 by Vice Admiral A.K. Chawla, Flag Officer Commanding-in-chief (FOC-in-C) of the SNC. The award ceremony was held at the Maritime Warfare Centre, Kochi, Kerala.
- Lieutenant Commander Mohit Kumar was also commended for performing exceedingly well in the oral board akin to a Viva. On the Occasion, A.K. Chawla also emphasised the role of specialist officers at sea & the need for officers to be excellent professionals.

## SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

### 1. Govt launched operation “Mission Sagar” for assistance to Indian Ocean nations amid COVID-19 crisis

- The government of India launched "Mission Sagar" on 10 May. The aim is to provide assistance to Indian Ocean Region Nations amid the coronavirus crisis.
- The operation is being progressed in coordination with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The mission is in line with the Prime Minister's vision of SAGAR.
- Under the mission, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari has departed for Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Comoros, to provide Food Items, COVID related Medicines including HCQ Tablets and Special Ayurvedic Medicines with Medical Assistance Teams.

### 2. Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) canteens to sell only indigenous products

- Home minister Amit Shah appealed to people to use products made in India and ordered all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) canteens to sell only indigenous products.
- He asked people to make the country self-reliant and use local products (products made in India) which pave the way for India to lead the world in the times to come. The Ministry of Home Affairs has decided that all CAPF canteens will now sell only indigenous products across the country from next month.
- The CAPFs -- CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP, SSB, NSG and Assam Rifles, canteens together sell products worth about ₹2,800 crore annually..



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## SPORTS

### 1. French cyclist Di Gregorio given a four-year ban after the conclusion of 2018 doping case

- French cyclist Rémy Di Gregorio has been banned for four years after the conclusion of a doping case which began in 2018. Di Gregorio was provisionally suspended after testing positive for darbepoetin, a form of the blood-booster erythropoietin (EPO).
- The substance is often known under the brand name Aranesp.
- Di Gregorio, now 34, was arrested by French police at the 2012 Tour de France, leading to his then team Cofidis suspending and withdrawing him from the race.

### 2. FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in India to begin in 2021 February

- The FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup has been rescheduled between 17 February and 7 March 2021. The recommendations were made by the FIFA-Confederations COVID-19 Working Group, the Bureau of the FIFA Council.
- FIFA announced that the tournament will keep original eligibility criteria which are the players born on or after 1 January 2003 and on or before 31 December 2005 are eligible to participate in the Tournament.

## **OBITUARIES**

### **1. Actor Shafique Ansari Passes Away at 52 in Mumbai**

- Actor Shafique Ansari, who starred in Sony TV's show Crime Patrol, has died.
- He was suffering from stomach cancer for a few years and he lost the battle to the deadly disease.
- Ansari also worked as an assistant director and writer.
- He was among the screenwriters for 2003's Baghban, starring Amitabh Bachchan and Hema Malini.

### **2. Former National Table Tennis champion Manmeet Singh Walia passed away at 58**

- Former National Table Tennis (TT) champion Manmeet Singh Walia, passed away at the age of 58 in Montreal, Canada.
- He became the national champion in 1989 when he beat S Sriram in the men's singles final in Hyderabad. He was also one of the finest and consistent performers in the 1980's.

### **3. Actor Sai Gundewar, 42, passes away after prolonged battle with brain cancer**

- Bollywood actor Sai Gundewar, who has worked in a couple of movies including Aamir Khan-starrer PK, Saif Ali Khan's Bazaar and Rock On, passed away.
- The actor breathed his last in the US after a prolonged battle with brain cancer.
- Sai was seen in many TV shows before the popular film PK.
- In 2010, he participated in MTV Splitsvilla. Then he was seen in the Indian version of American reality show, Survivor in 2011.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **1. National Technology Day is observed every year on 11 May**

- National Technology Day is observed on 11 May. The day highlights the importance of science in daily life. It also encourages youngsters to get into the field for their career options.
- Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Science and Technology (DBT) is conducting a session on YouTube. Digital Conference will focus on RE-START 'Reboot the Economy through Science, Technology And Research Translations.' It will focus on rebooting the economy through Science and Technology.
- The conference aims to bring together Scientists, Technocrats, Diplomats, World Health Organization (WHO) officials and dignitaries from national and international Industries, Research Institutions, and Academic Institutions.

### **2. President Kovind pays homage to former President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed on his birth anniversary (13 May)**

- President Ram Nath Kovind paid homage to former President of India, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed on his birth anniversary at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed was the fifth President of India from 1974 to 1977 and also the 2nd President of India to die in office.
- Ahmed was chosen for the presidency by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1974, and on 20 August 1974, he became the second Muslim to be elected President of India.

### **3. International Family Day observed globally on 15th May every year**

- The day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1993 with the aim to highlight the importance attached to families by the international community.
- This day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic, and demographic processes affecting families.

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