

Current Affairs

20th May 2021



Today's Important News

China successfully launches new
ocean observation satellite Haiyang-2D

1. China successfully launched new ocean observation satellite Haiyang-2D

- China successfully sent a new ocean-monitoring satellite into orbit as part of its effort to build an all-weather and round-the-clock dynamic ocean environment monitoring system which would provide early warning on marine disasters.
- The satellite was launched by a Long March-4B rocket carrying the Haiyang-2D (HY-2D) satellite from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China, the state media reported.
- The HY-2D will form a constellation with the HY-2B and HY-2C satellites to build an all-weather and round-the-clock dynamic ocean environment monitoring system of high frequency and medium and large scale, Xinhua reported.



Foot Notes:

About China:

Currency: Renminbi

Capital: Beijing

President: Xi Jinping

2. World Bee Day 2021 : 20 May

- The World Bee Day is celebrated every year on May 20 to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem.
- The theme of World Bee Day 2021 is “Bee engaged: Build Back Better for Bees”.
- The day marks the birth anniversary of Anton Jansa in 1734, who in the 18th century pioneered modern beekeeping techniques in his native Slovenia.
- The day was proposed by Slovenia and proclaimed by UN Member States in December 2017.
- The first World Bee Day was observed in 2018.



We need bees.
FOOD SECURITY
BIODIVERSITY
ECOSYSTEM HEALTH
WorldBeeDay.org.au

3. Johnson & Johnson ties up with Biological-E to manufacture one-shot Covid-19 vaccine

- US pharmaceutical giant Johnson and Johnson has joined hands with Biological-E Limited (Telangana-based Pharma Company) for the manufacturing of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- The company's vaccine named Janssen COVID-19 vaccine is currently approved for use in the United States, the European Union, and other nations including Thailand and South Africa.



Foot Notes:

About Johnson & Johnson:

Headquarters: New Brunswick, New Jersey

CEO: Alex Gorsky

Founders: James Wood Johnson, Robert Wood Johnson I, Edward Mead Johnson

4. Telangana to implement Ayushman Bharat Scheme

- Telangana has issued orders to implement the Ayushman Bharat Scheme in the State.
- In the backdrop of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao deciding to join the Central government's Ayushman Bharath Scheme (PM Jana Arogya Yojana PM-JAY), the state Medical and Health Department had signed a MoU with the National Health Authority.
- Accordingly, the state Medical and Health Department had finalised the guidelines for the implementation of the Ayushman Bharath Scheme in the State.
- The CM has instructed the officials concerned to extend various medical services in tune with the guidelines. Principal Secretary (Medical and Health) SAM Rizvi



issued orders to Aarogyasri Health Care trust CEO to implement the Ayushman Bhaart Scheme, according to a statement.

Foot Notes:

About Telangana:

Capital: Hyderabad

Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan

Chief Minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao

5. Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh announced Rs 10 lakh special grant to villages achieving 100 pc vaccination target

- Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh announced a special development grant of Rs 10 lakh to every village that achieves 100 per cent vaccination target under the State Government's 'Corona-Mukt Pind Abhiyan'.
- He was interacting virtually with Village Panchayats represented by more than 2,000 heads and members across over 4,000 live locations in the rural parts of the state through LED screens.



About 'Corona-Mukt Pind Abhiyan':

- Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh, while announcing the scheme, said that there is a "need to avoid the kind of situation that was prevailing in the villages of Uttar Pradesh".

Foot Notes:

About Punjab:

Capital: Chandigarh

Governor: V. P. Singh Badnore

Chief Minister: Captain Amarinder Singh

6. Trinamool Congress govt approves setting up Legislative Council in West Bengal

- Trinamool Congress govt has approved the setting up of a Legislative Council in West Bengal
- West Bengal Legislative Council remained in existence till 1969 and was abolished 50 years ago by a coalition government of Left parties.



- Currently, six states namely Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka have a Legislative Council.
- Article 168 of the Constitution empowers Legislative Assembly to create or abolish Legislative Council.

Foot Notes:

About West Bengal:

Governor: Jagdeep Dhankhar

Chief Minister: Mamata Banerjee

Capital: Kolkata

7. Additional food grains at 5 kgs per person per month being provided free of cost to NFSA beneficiaries for May and June under PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

- In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to the poor, the Government of India has decided to allocate free-of-cost food grains @ 5 Kg per person per month to nearly 80 Crore beneficiaries covered under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) over and above NFSA foodgrains for next two months i.e. May and June 2021 on the same pattern as the earlier "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY)".
- Under this special scheme (PMGKAY), around 80 Crore NFSA beneficiaries covered under both categories of NFSA, namely Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Householders (PHH), will be provided with an additional quota of free-of-cost foodgrains (Rice/Wheat) at a scale of 5 Kg per person per month, over and above their regular monthly entitlements under NFSA.
- Government of India will bear full expenditure of over Rs 26,000 Crore on account of cost of food grains, intrastate transportation etc. as part of Central assistance to States/UTs.



8. Abu Dhabi Shakti Thayatt Awards announced

- Shakti Theaters Abu Dhabi has announced the Abu Dhabi Shakti Thayatt Awards as part of its efforts to find and promote creative Malayalam writers.
- TK Ramakrishnan, a former Minister of Culture who has been the Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Shakti Awards Committee since its formation in 1987.
- Shakti TK was established in memory of Ramakrishnan.
- Writer T Padmanabhan received the Ramakrishnan Award.



- The cultural award carries a cash prize of Rs 500,000, a sculpture and a citation.
- The following are the recipients of the Abu Dhabi Shakti Awards, which have been given since 1987 with the aim of honoring and encouraging the writers who have contributed to the growth and development of Malayalam literature.

9. Shankar Balasubramanian won 2020 Millennium Technology Prize

- Chemists Shankar Balasubramanian and David Klenerman from the Cambridge University were declared the winners of the 2020 Millennium Technology Prize on 18th May.
- It is a prestigious global science and technology prize award which they won for their development of revolutionary sequencing techniques which means DNA can now be read in super-fast times.
- Balasubramanian, an India-born British professor of medicinal chemistry, and Klenerman, a British biophysical chemist, co-invented the Solexa-Illumina Next Generation DNA Sequencing (NGS), technology enabling fast, accurate, low-cost and large-scale genome sequencing - the process of determining the complete DNA sequence of an organism's make-up, which is proving crucial in humanity's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The duo went on to co-found the company Solexa to make the technology more broadly available to the world.



10. Veteran Cardiologist, Dr. KK Aggarwal passed away

- Renowned cardiologist and former national president of Indian Medical Association, KK Aggarwal (62 years) passed away battling with Covid in Delhi
- He was an eminent physician and cardiologist, who also has served as the head of the Heart Care Foundation of India.
- He was honoured with the Dr BC Roy Award in 2005 and Padma Shri in 2010 for his contributions to the field of medicine.
- During Covid, he made constant efforts to educate the masses through numerous programmes



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