

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 15, 2019

NATIONAL

- ◆ **India - was chosen as the Co-chair of the Consultative Group (CG) of Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) for the fiscal year 2020**



- ✓ The decision was taken unanimously during the meeting on the sidelines of the 6th Session of GFDRR in Geneva, Switzerland
- ✓ The move came after India expressed its interest to Co-chair the Group during its last meeting in October 2018
- ✓ India's claim was supported by its consistent progress in disaster risk reduction in the country and its initiative to form a coalition on disaster resilient infrastructure
- ✓ This will be the first time that India will co-chair the CG meeting of GFDRR.
- ✓ India became a Member of the Consultative Group (CG) of GFDRR in 2015.
- ✓ GFDRR works to implement the "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction" by helping countries to integrate disaster risk management and climate change adaptation towards development strategies
- ✓ The funding of GFDRR's initiatives is managed by the World Bank
- ◆ **The Union home ministry - has extended the ban on Sri Lankan outfit Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for five more years - for violent and disruptive activities which are prejudicial to the integrity and sovereignty of India.**
- ✓ LTTE will remain banned as an unlawful association until May 2024 under Section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967
- ✓ India had banned the LTTE after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

PERSONALITIES

- ◆ **Mumbai-based Aarohe Pandit - becomes the first Indian woman and perhaps the only woman in the world – to cross the Atlantic Ocean, solo – in a light sport aircraft**



- ✓ She clocked 120 hours of flying across 18 countries and 37,000 km over the past ten months to set the record
- ✓ The Sinus 912 she flies is an eco-friendly, ultralight plane which happens to be the first light sports aircraft registered in India
- ✓ Built in Slovenia in 2016, it weighs less than a family of four and is meant to be exceptionally fuel efficient.
- ✓ Formally registered as VT-NBF, the plane was named Mahi ('great planet Earth' in Sanskrit)
- ✓ Aarohe who is part of the world's first all-woman team circumnavigating the planet in a Light Sport Aircraft was selected from among eight contenders

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ **Nasa's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) - sent 3D images of moon surface that revealed its surface is shrinking**



- ✓ NASA study said that moon is shrinking as its interior cools, getting reduced by more than about 150 feet over the last several hundred million years.
- ✓ As the Moon continues to gradually cool, it was producing moonquakes with some of them fairly strong, around five on the Richter scale
- ✓ During the Apollo 11, 12, 14, 15, and 16 missions astronauts placed various tools and devices like Seismometer on the lunar surface, which are being used currently to record the shallow moonquakes
- ✓ NASA study also explained that Mercury shrank much more than the Moon
- ✓ Usually, when planets heat up they expand their size and when they cool size of planet gets shrink

- ✓ Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) entered lunar orbit on June 23, 2009
- ✓ Its exploration mission began on September 15, 2009.

◆ **A team from Centre for Innovation, Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) - has developed a Artificial Intelligence-powered 3D printed drone 'Hexacopter'– to be used for rescue operations**

- ✓ It can fly, automatically detect human being and recognize individuals in need of immediate medical care in a disaster affected site before it sends the location details to the ground station in real time for rescue operations through GPS

DRONES IN ACTION

Device equipped with artificial intelligence, deep learning and computer vision skills

Help Required Immediately !!!!!!!

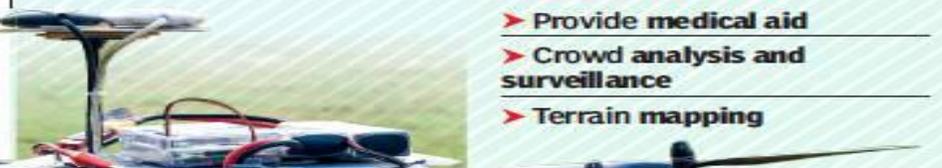


PARTS | CAMERA | GPS MODULE | ONBOARD COMPUTER

<p>WHAT IT DOES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Conducts surveillance from an altitude of 30m to 1km > Maps the extent of disaster > AI-enabled camera detects people on real time > With activity recognition, it identifies people in need of immediate medical attention > The onboard computer will then send images of the people along with location coordinates to the ground station > It is programmed to execute missions without a human operator > A GSM-based network can be fitted to provide phone connectivity 	<p>SPECIFICATIONS</p> <p>Maximum altitude it can reach</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: blue;">1km</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">MAXIMUM DISTANCE</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: blue;">800m</p> <p>(on remote control operation)</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: blue;">5km (on autonomous operation)</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">BATTERY LIFE</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: blue;">15-20 mins</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

APPLICATIONS

- > Provide medical aid
- > Crowd analysis and surveillance
- > Terrain mapping



- ✓ For this, the team has equipped the drone, its components including cameras and the ground station servers with artificial intelligence (AI), deep learning and computer vision skills
- ✓ The camera is programmed with face and activity recognition software to quickly identify people injured, stranded or covered in debris, and waiting to be rescued.

◆ **WhatsApp - confirms a targeted spyware attack on its platform**



- ✓ A security flaw in WhatsApp acted as a vulnerability, which allowed hackers to insert malicious software on user's phones by calling the target using App
- ✓ It was discovered by company in early May and to fix it, WhatsApp quickly rolled out an update within 10 days
- ✓ The hacking tool was supposedly developed by 'NSO Group', a shadowy Israel-based firm

ECONOMY

◆ **Adani Group - had received approvals to develop a container terminal in Myanmar**



- ✓ This will be Adani's second international port after Australia
- ✓ The land where the port is proposed to be built has been leased from the Myanmar Economic Corporation.
- ✓ As per the group, the investment does not breach Australian, U.S., UN or other global sanctions against Myanmar

APPOINTMENTS

◆ **Justice A K Sikri, former judge of the Supreme Court of India - appointed as chairperson of the News Broadcasting Standards Authority**



- ✓ He will be replacing retired Justice R V Raveendran, who completes his term on May 25
- ✓ Sikri will take charge as chairman of the independent body for self-regulation of round-the-clock news channels on May 26

SPORTS

◆ **Former Indian cricketer, GS Lakshmi - was appointed by the International Cricket Council as the first-ever woman match referee**

- ✓ Following the appointment, Lakshmi will be eligible to officiate in international games with immediate effect.
- ✓ Lakshmi represented Bihar, East Zone, South Central Railway, Andhra and South Zone women's teams in an illustrious career from 1986-2004.
- ✓ Lakshmi was first appointed as a match referee in domestic women's cricket in 2008-09
- ✓ She was also the coach of Hyderabad women's U-19 team and also a selector for short time



- ✓ Australia's Claire Polosak was appointed as the first woman umpire in men's one-day internationals last month
 - ✓ In another major appointment, Australia's Eloise Sheridan was appointed to the ICC Development Panel of Umpires
- ### ◆ **India - will host the 'Army scouts masters competition' in August for the first time**
- ✓ It is being held as a segment under the 5th edition of International Army games
 - ✓ Teams from eight countries, including Russia and China, have arrived in Jaisalmer for the coordination conference

