



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 25, 2021

NATIONAL

- **On March 24, the Lok Sabha - cleared the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill, 2021**
 - ✓ The bill was passed earlier by the Rajya Sabha on March 16
 - ✓ The Bill seeks to set up a regulatory structure for 50 categories of allied healthcare so as to shift the treatment of patients from being doctor-centric to team-centric.
 - ✓ The bill aims to establish a statutory body or commission that frames policies and standards, regulates professional conduct and qualifications for allied healthcare professionals
 - ✓ Besides, it also intends to provide uniformity of service standards across institutions.
 - ✓ The chairman and vice-chairman of the body will be selected for two years and they would be eligible for re-nomination for further two terms.
 - ✓ There will be 12 seat representations from all states and Union territories on this commission with each state can also set up state-level commissions.
 - ✓ The standards for regulation, training, eligibility and service have been coded by international yardsticks and according to International Labour Code (ILO) codes.
 - ✓ Overall, the Bill seeks to regulate the paramedics and allied health care workers, lab technicians, radiographers, and dieticians, among others.

- **On March 24, the NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Bill 2021 - was passed by Rajya Sabha by an 83-45 margin through a voice vote**
 - ✓ It seeks to establish the primacy of the Lieutenant Governor in the Capital which is a Union Territory with a legislature
 - ✓ The Bill amends the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991 which provides a framework for the functioning of the Legislative Assembly and the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

- ✓ As per the Bill, the term “government” in Delhi will now refer to the L-G in the context of all laws passed.
- ✓ The opinion of the L-G will be mandatory before any executive action is taken, as per the bill
- ✓ The bill further seeks to ensure that the Lieutenant Governor is necessarily granted an opportunity to exercise the power in select category of cases, in an emergency
- ✓ The Bill was already passed by Lok Sabha on March 22
- ✓ It is set to be law once the President approves the legislation and it is notified.

COMMITTEES

- **The government - has constituted a panel of external experts to review the functioning of NITI Aayog**
- ✓ The think tank was set up six years ago and replaced the Planning Commission.
- ✓ The newly established ‘NITI Evolutionary Committee’ is headed by Quality Council of India chairman, Adil Zainulbhai
- ✓ The members of the committee includes Bain Capital MD Amit Chandra, Avaana Capital founder Anjali Bansal, former telecom secretary Aruna Sundararajan, founder of Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship Ravi Venkatesan and environment secretary R P Gupta.
- ✓ The committee will see whether there is a need to change five major tasks that NITI was asked to work on and if there are activities that it should be barred from undertaking
- ✓ It will also suggest three or four steps to help the institution’s evolution.
- ✓ The panel will also examine whether NITI is delivering on engaging with states and if additional capabilities are required to be developed.
- ✓ However, the government has reiterated that the agency will not be given financial powers, something that the Planning Commission enjoyed.
- ✓ Besides, the panel will examine if NITI is engaging with external experts and has emerged as a repository of knowledge across sectors.
- ✓ Within months of taking over in 2014, the Narendra Modi government approved the establishment of NITI Aayog replacing the Planning Commission

PERSONALITIES

- **Indian-American physician Vivek Murthy - has been confirmed by the Senate as President Joe Biden's surgeon general on March 23**
- ✓ Dr Vivek Murthy helped to establish several health-related advocacy groups and later tackled the opioid epidemic and e-cigarettes as surgeon general during the Obama administration
- ✓ He was voted with a 57 to 43 margin to return as surgeon general, after he was fired by former President Donald Trump in 2017.



- ✓ As an undergraduate at Harvard, Murthy helped found two nonprofits, one focusing on HIV/AIDS education in the US and India, and the other to train women as community health workers in rural India.
- ✓ He also co-founded Doctors for America, which focuses on affordable healthcare.
- ✓ A son of Indian immigrants from Karnataka and the first person of Indian descent to hold the post, Murthy, 43, was born in England and grew up in Miami, US
- ✓ Dr Murthy is a distinguished physician and former Vice Admiral in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Researchers at Chennai-based National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) - have designed and tested an underwater tsunami buoy called 'Continuously Homing Submerged Autonomous Tsunami Underwater System (CHATUR)'**
- ✓ The new buoy will serve as an alternative to the existing surface buoys that are often damaged by man and nature.

CHATUR IN A NUTSHELL		HOW IT WORKS	ADVANTAGE
 <p>➤ Continuously Homing Submerged Autonomous Tsunami Underwater System or Chatur is submerged at 300m depth</p> <p>➤ It pops out onto the surface when the sensors on the seafloor detect abnormal water pressure</p>	<p>Subsystems of Chatur Bottom pressure recorder (BPR), extendable buoy system (EBS), motorised winch and brake system (WBS) and position mooring with acoustic release mechanism (ARM)</p>	<p>➤ When BPR detects a tsunami wave, it issues an acoustic message to EBS</p> <p>➤ EBS then requests the WBS to operate a winch drum through acoustic telemetry</p> <p>➤ WBS releases electromagnetic brake allowing the winch cable to unwind so that the EBS reaches the surface</p> <p>➤ EBS transceiver continuously receives BPR data which is transmitted to the mission control centre through satellite</p>	<p>➤ Reduces access to unlawful elements</p> <p>➤ Brings down mooring loads due to lower subsurface water currents than at the sea surface</p> <p>➤ Minimises maintenance requirements due to reduced biofouling</p> <p>➤ Increases life of electronic systems due to low ambient temperature under water</p>

- ✓ It lies silent at 300m depth in the water and comes to the surface only when its sensors detect abnormal water pressure on the seafloor.

- ✓ The buoy has been undergoing tests in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea since December 2019.
 - ✓ The new technology will be transferred to the industry by NIOT for commercial manufacture following the completion of the prototype testing
 - ✓ At present, India has tsunami buoys at strategic locations close to the Andaman-Sumatra subduction fault in the Bay of Bengal and Makran fault in the Arabian Sea.
 - ✓ They collect data and transmit on a daily basis to the Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre in INCOIS, Hyderabad, and mission control centre at NIOT through INMARSAT.
 - ✓ In all, 31 buoy vandalism events were reported in the Indian Ocean during 2006-2010.
- **Dr Reddy's Laboratories - has submitted the data from the Indian Phase II/III trials of Russian Covid-19 vaccine Sputnik V last week**
- ✓ The Indian trials data was sought by the expert committee that advises the Indian drug regulator, Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)
 - ✓ The company is now waiting to present it before the expert committee that is slated to meet this week
 - ✓ Dr Reddy's had initiated the process for seeking EUA (emergency use authorisation) approval for the Russian vaccine in the third week of February
 - ✓ The company had submitted safety and immunogenicity data from the Phase II Indian study along with the interim safety, efficacy and immunogenicity data from the overseas Phase III trials.
 - ✓ The subject expert committee (SEC) had, during its meeting on February 24, asked the company to submit the Phase II and III data from the Indian trials.
 - ✓ Dr Reddy's has conducted Phase II trials on 100 volunteers and a Phase III study on 1,500 volunteers in India.

DEFENCE

- **On March 24, the Indian Coast Guard - added another offshore patrol vessel (OPV), ICGS Vajra, to its fleet.**



- ✓ Chief of defence staff General Bipin Rawat commissioned the vessel at a function at Chennai port.
 - ✓ This is sixth in the series of seven OPVs designed and built by Larsen & Toubro Ltd at Kattupalli.
 - ✓ ICGS Vajra, a 98-meter offshore patrol vessel, is designed to carry a twin-engine helicopter and is fitted with state-of-the-art navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machinery.
 - ✓ It will most likely use ALH MK-III helicopter made by HAL.
 - ✓ The vessel is equipped with 30mm and 12.7mm guns with fire control system, four high speed boats including two rigid hull inflatable boats
 - ✓ It will be useful for swift boarding operations, search and rescue, law enforcement and maritime patrol.
 - ✓ Vajra is also capable of carrying out pollution control measures like tackling oil spill at sea.
 - ✓ Commanded by deputy inspector general Alex Thomas, Vajra will be based in Tuticorin.
 - ✓ It will be used for surveillance of exclusive economic zone.
 - ✓ The Coast Guard has 156 ships/boats and 62 aircraft in its fleet.
- **On March 24, the defence ministry - decided to allow short-service commission (SSC) Army officers to use military ranks after their release from the force**
- ✓ This has been a long-pending demand of the SSC officers since 1983.
 - ✓ The SSC officers, after completion of their mandated terms and conditions of service of 10-14 years, were not authorised to use military ranks till now.

ECONOMY

- **TVS Motor Company - has announced the appointment of former Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) boss Sir Ralf Speth to its board of directors**

VETERAN OF AUTO INDUSTRY

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Ralf Speth worked as a biz consultant for several years before joining BMW in 1980 > Moved to Ford's Premier Automotive Group when BMW sold Land Rover to Ford in 2000 > Became head of global ops at German gases & engg co Linde Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Returned to Jaguar Land Rover when Tata acquired the co, became its CEO > JLR turned around since he took charge on Feb 18, 2010 > Joined Tata Sons board as additional director on Oct 25, 2016
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- ✓ He succeeds Venu Srinivasan as chairman of TVS effective January 2023.
- ✓ Srinivasan, in turn, will become Chairman Emeritus of TVS group

- ✓ Speth is widely acclaimed for transforming JLR into the global brand and he continues to serve on its board as vice chairman as also on the board of Tata Sons.
- ✓ Speth retired from JLR late last year and was succeeded by Thierry Bollore, former CEO of Renault, as CEO of JLR.
- ✓ TVS Motor further announced the appointment of Kuok Meng Xiong as an independent director.
- ✓ The Board also accepted the resignation of Rajesh Narasimhan who has joined the Board of Sundaram Clayton
- ✓ Rajesh Narasimhan continues his executive role at TVS Digital, where he leads investments in start-ups related to the group's business.

APPOINTMENTS

- **On March 24, Chief Justice of India S A Bobde - recommended seniormost Supreme Court judge Justice N V Ramana to the Centre as the next CJI**



- ✓ In this regard, he had written a letter to law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad
- ✓ CJI Bobde said, in the letter, that Justice Ramana was eminently suitable and fit to be appointed as the next CJI after his retirement next month
- ✓ Justice Ramana will take oath as the 48th CJI on April 24

SET TO BE FIRST CJI FROM ANDHRA		
▶ N V Ramana, the seniormost SC judge, will be the first CJI from Andhra Pradesh & the second Telugu after K Subba Rao	▶ Born in an agricultural family, he became a permanent judge of Andhra HC in 2000, Delhi HC chief justice in 2013 & an SC judge next year	▶ In letter to law minister, CJI Bobde said Ramana was 'eminently suitable & fit' to be appointed the next CJI

- ✓ Upon appointment, Justice Ramana will be first from Andhra Pradesh and the second Telugu to head the judiciary after K Subba Rao, who became CJI on June 30, 1966
- ✓ Nine months into his tenure as CJI, Justice Rao resigned to contest the presidential election as a united opposition candidate, the first CJI to do so.
- ✓ He was defeated by Congress's Zakir Hussain, but praised widely for getting 44% of the vote.

- ✓ Justice Ramana was born in an agricultural family on August 27, 1957, in Ponnavaaram village in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ He enrolled as an advocate on February 10, 1983, and practised in Andhra Pradesh HC and the SC
- ✓ He represented in civil, criminal, constitutional, labour, service and election matters and specialised in constitutional, criminal and service laws and laws relating to inter-state river water disputes.
- ✓ Justice Ramana was appointed as a permanent judge of Andhra Pradesh HC on June 27, 2000.
- ✓ He was appointed chief justice of Delhi HC on September 2, 2013 and became a judge of the SC on February 17, 2014.

SPORTS

- **The 23-year-old Madhya Pradesh shooter, Chinki Yadav - won gold in the 25m sports pistol final at the shooting ISSF World Cup in New Delhi on March 24**



- ✓ With the win, Chinki also confirmed her place in the Tokyo Olympic-bound shooting contingent.
- ✓ Chinki had secured India's 11th quota place in shooting at the Doha Asian Championships in November 2019.
- ✓ India's Rahi Sarnobat took the silver medal, while Manu Bhaker had to settle for bronze.
- ✓ Both Rahi and Manu had already booked their place for the Olympics
- ✓ Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar sealed his spot for the Tokyo Olympics by winning Gold in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions.

