

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 10, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **Senior IAS officer and principal secretary of the agriculture department Gagandeep Singh Bedi - was appointed as the commissioner of Greater Chennai Corporation**



- ✓ Bedi will be replacing G Prakash, who had been in the post since February 2019.
- ✓ Since no elected council is in place, Bedi also becomes the de-facto special officer who will be able to take all crucial decisions taken by the council.
- ✓ Bedi is a well-known bureaucrat who has won awards including that of 'Indian of the Year' given out by a private news TV organisation for his work during the 2004 Tsunami, when he was collector of Cuddalore.
- ✓ His image as a disaster management expert was enhanced by his work during the floods in 2005 and more recently, during the Gaja cyclone in 2018.
- ✓ Bedi was also the officer who investigated the illegal beach sand mining in Tuticorin, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts and presented a report to the state government.
- ✓ He has also been at the helm of the fisheries department.
- ✓ During his tenure, former commissioner, Prakash was known for aggressive field visits and encouraging fresh ideas from officials.

- ✓ GCC's social media accounts were revamped and ideas such as corona monitoring app and home quarantine monitoring system were developed by the GCC under the former commissioner.
- ✓ The development of 'green cover' in Chennai received a fillip under his tenure with waste lands converted into Miyawaki forests.

STATES

- **On May 9, five-time MLA Himanta Biswa Sarma was named Assam's 15th chief minister**



- ✓ The 52-year-old former Supreme Court advocate Sarma will replace the incumbent Sarbananda Sonowal
 - ✓ Sarma quit Congress in 2015 to join BJP after a succession rift with his mentor and then CM Tarun Gogoi
 - ✓ His elevation is seen as an acknowledgement of his contribution towards BJP's growth in Assam and the northeast
 - ✓ Sarma will be the state's first chief minister from the Brahmin community
 - ✓ He is the only one from lower Assam to get the top post since the late Bhumidhar Barman of Congress was CM for a brief period in 1996 following Hiteswar Saikia's death.
 - ✓ The selection of Sarma as the new leader of the BJP legislature group was announced by Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar.
 - ✓ Sarma is likely to take oath on May 10 along with his small team
- **The Telangana Government - recently imposed a total ban on a controversial herbicide, Glyphosate.**
 - ✓ The Glyphosate, which is carcinogenic, is usually used to kill weeds in cotton farms.
 - ✓ Also, it is being banned to control the illegal cultivation of HTBt cotton.
 - ✓ The normal cotton cannot withstand Glyphosate, while HTBt cotton can withstand it.
 - ✓ Glyphosate is absorbed through plant leaves and minimally absorbed by roots.
 - ✓ Around eight to ten lakh acres of land in Telangana are under herbicide tolerant HTBt cotton.

- ✓ The Genetic Appraisal Engineering Committee (GEAC) has not yet approved HTBt cotton.
- ✓ The Glyphosate enters into food and water and causes chronic kidney diseases in humans.
- ✓ It is also used as crop desiccant just before harvest.
- ✓ The crop desiccants kill out leaves allowing the plants to dry quickly and evenly from environmental conditions.
- ✓ In 2018 and 2019, the Telangana Government had put restrictions on the sale of Glyphosate to curb the illegal use of herbicide-tolerant BT cotton.
- ✓ In spite of the restrictions, the usage did not stop.
- ✓ A significant number of farmers in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat have cultivated HTBt cotton in 2020-21.
- ✓ At present, more than 50% of the total area of cotton under cultivation in India is HTBt.
- ✓ Among other states, Kerala has also imposed ban on Glyphosate.
- ✓ However, the Glyphosate is still allowed to be used in tea plantations and in non-crop areas.
- ✓ In 2015, World Health Organisation classified Glyphosate under Category 2A, that is, a “Probably Carcinogenic in Humans”.

NATIONAL

- **NLC India Limited - has proposed to set up pressure swing medical oxygen plants at nine locations in the country within a month and has floated tenders for it.**
- ✓ The locations include its project sites at Neyveli and Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu
- ✓ The company proposed the projects following a direction from Union coal minister Prahald Joshi to set up oxygen plants to meet the rising demand for medical oxygen in hospitals across the country to treat Covid-19 patients.
- ✓ The company will install two plants at a cost of ₹25 lakh to ₹30 lakh at NLCIL hospital at Neyveli and another three plants at a cost of almost Rs 70 lakh at government general hospitals identified by the government in Chennai.
- ✓ The company will also install three plants each in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Remnants of China’s biggest rocket, Long March 5B - landed in the Indian Ocean on May 9**
- ✓ Most of its components were burnt up and destroyed upon re-entry into the atmosphere
- ✓ As per the coordinates cited by the China Manned Space Engineering Office, the point of impact in the Indian Ocean is at the west of the Maldives archipelago.
- ✓ Debris from the Long March 5B has been in the sky since it blasted off from China’s Hainan island on April 29

- ✓ The track of the falling rocket couldn't be predicted for days.
- ✓ The rocket carried the Tianhe core module of China space station
- ✓ The Tianhe core module weighed 22.5 tonnes, one of the heaviest space modules
- ✓ The US Space Command confirmed the re-entry of the rocket over the Arabian Peninsula.
- ✓ The Long March was the second deployment of the 5B variant since its maiden flight in May 2020.
- ✓ Last year, pieces from the first Long March 5B fell on Ivory Coast, damaging several buildings.

AWARDS

- **The Japanese Government - recently awarded the “Order of Rising Sun” to a Bengaluru based Japanese teacher, Shyamala Ganesh.**



Order of Rising Sun to Shyamala Ganesh

- ✓ Shyamala is a Japanese teacher at the Septuagenarian institution and also at the Ohara School of Ikebana in RT Nagar, Bengaluru.
- ✓ Ikebana is Japanese art of flower arrangement.
- ✓ Shyamala along with her husband Ganesh started a Japanese language school in 1983 in Bengaluru.
- ✓ The Order of Rising Sun award is presented by the Emperor of Japan.
- ✓ The award is presented to those who have made distinguished achievements in promotion of Japanese culture, achievements in international relations, advancements in their field and conservation of environment.
- ✓ It was also awarded for exemplary military service before World War II.
- ✓ It is the third highest award presented by the Japanese Government.
- ✓ Since 1981, the award is also presented to non-Japanese personalities and women were first awarded in 2003

OBITUARY

- **Renowned sculptor, Rajya Sabha member and Padma Vibhushan awardee Raghunath Mohapatra (78 years) died of Covid-19 at Odisha on May 9.**



- ✓ He breathed his last at AIIMS Bhubaneswar where he had been undergoing treatment.
- ✓ In 2018, President Ram Nath Kovind nominated Mohapatra — first person from Odisha — to the Rajya Sabha for his contribution in the field of Arts, Culture, and Heritage.
- ✓ As a doyen of stone sculpture, he was chosen for India's second highest civilian award — Padma Vibhushan — in 2013.
- ✓ The talented artist had just turned 22 in 1964 when he got national award for sculpture
- ✓ In 1975, Padma Shri was bestowed upon him by the then President of India Fakiruddin Ali Ahmed.
- ✓ In 2001, he was felicitated with the Padma Bhushan.
- ✓ Over five decades, he has trained over 2,000 sculptors.

