

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 11, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- Chief Minister M K Stalin - launched Covid relief distribution for ration card holders in Tamil Nadu on May 10.



- ✓ The Chief Minister gave away ₹2,000 to seven people at the Secretariat in the presence of cooperatives minister I Periyasamy and food minister R Sakkrapani.
- ✓ The distribution of tokens for two crore ration card holders commenced at various public distribution system outlets across the state.
- ✓ The handing over of Covid relief of ₹4,000 was one of the key prepoll promises of Stalin.
- ✓ It was one among the first five orders he signed immediately after assuming charge as chief minister.
- ✓ The Chief Minister had allotted ₹4,153 crore for the purpose.
- ✓ According to the CM, ₹2,000 each would be given in the first phase and the remaining would be distributed in second phase.
- ✓ The token distribution for the first phase would be completed over three days and cash distribution is scheduled for May 15 at ration shops.
- ✓ Chennai region has 1,746 ration shops and 21 lakh ration cards.

STATES

- **The Assam State Disaster Management Agency and the UNICEF - has jointly developed an Online Flood Reporting System.**
- ✓ With this, Assam becomes the first state to adopt digital reporting system during floods.
- ✓ The new system will report flood levels in Assam on a daily basis.
- ✓ It is driven by web-cum-mobile application technology.
- ✓ The new system will facilitate tracking of damages to crops, loss of livestock and will also help to provide financial assistance during restoration.
- ✓ Also, the system will provide immediate alert-based verification at defined levels.
- ✓ In Assam, it is mandatory to report about daily flood levels between May 15 and October 15 every year.
- ✓ Floods are very common in Assam because of river Brahmaputra.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The World Health Organisation – had announced that Covid variant B.1.617, the double mutant coronavirus variant, is being classified as “Variant of Concern” at a global level**
- ✓ This is the fourth variant to be designated as “Variant of Global Concern”.
- ✓ The other three were the UK variant or the Kent variant (B.1.1.7), Brazil variant (P.1) and the South Africa variant (B.1.351)
- ✓ Recently, the UK scientists declared the Covid-19 strains found in India, especially B.1.617 as “Variant of Concern”, which have undergone changes in their spike protein
- ✓ Regarding the vaccination programmes, the WHO had also announced that the high and upper middle-income countries have received 83% of world vaccines.
- ✓ These countries represent 53% of world population.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **India – took part in the 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial meeting (ASM) during 8-9 May, 2021**
- ✓ Union Minister of Science and Technology, Health and Family Welfare, and Earth Sciences, Dr Harsh Vardhan represented India at the meeting.
- ✓ The theme for this year is ‘Knowledge for a Sustainable Arctic’.
- ✓ During the meeting, the minister shared India’s vision and long-term plans for research, work, and cooperation in the Arctic region with the stakeholders
- ✓ He said that the country would deploy open ocean mooring in the Arctic for long-term monitoring of upper ocean variables and marine meteorological parameters.
- ✓ The launch of NISER (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite mission, in collaboration with the USA, is underway.

- ✓ NISER aims to conduct global measurements of the cause and consequences of land surface changes using advanced radar imaging.



- ✓ India's contributions to the Sustained Arctic Observational Network (SAON) would also continue.
- ✓ The first two meetings—ASM1 and ASM2—were held in the USA in 2016 and Germany in 2018, respectively.
- ✓ ASM3, jointly organised by Iceland and Japan, is the first Ministerial meeting being held in Asia.
- ✓ Since 2013, India enjoys 'Observer' status in the Arctic Council with twelve other countries - Japan, China, France, Germany, UK, Italy, Switzerland, Poland, Spain, Netherlands, Singapore, and South Korea
- ✓ The Arctic Council is a high-level intergovernmental forum to promote cooperation, coordination, and interaction towards sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic
- ✓ Since July 2008, India has a permanent research station in the Arctic called Himadari at NyAlesund, Svalbard Area in Norway.
- ✓ It has also deployed a multi-sensor moored observatory called IndARC in the Kongsfjorden fjord since July 2014.
- ✓ The research in the Arctic region from India is coordinated, conducted, and promoted by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences

PERSONALITIES

- **The SpaceX Billionaire Elon Musk - recently announced that he has Asperger's Syndrome, in a TV show hosted by him**
- ✓ It is a kind of autism disorder where people have trouble in social relationships.
- ✓ The Asperger's Syndrome is named after the German doctor Hans Asperger who first described about the disorder in 1944.
- ✓ It severely inhibits the mental and social development of a person.
- ✓ It is inherited from parents and the affected person will have difficulty in making 'eye' contact with others.



- ✓ But, the affected person will have normal or above normal intelligence.
- ✓ Asperger's syndrome, or AS, is one of a group of neurological disorders known as autism spectrum disorders
- ✓ The Asperger's syndrome remains in the International Classification of Diseases as of 2019.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **American Pharma major, Eli Lilly - has signed voluntary licences to domestic manufacturers Cipla, Lupin and Sun Pharma to accelerate and expand the availability of its Covid drug, Baricitinib in India.**
- ✓ Lilly is also in discussions with other manufacturers for potential grant of additional voluntary licences.
- ✓ The domestic companies will manufacture and distribute the drug in India without paying any royalty to Eli Lilly.
- ✓ Recently, Eli Lilly received restricted emergency use for Baricitinib to be used in combination with Remdesivir for the treatment of Covid in hospitalised adults requiring supplemental oxygen and invasive mechanical ventilation.
- ✓ Recently, Natco Pharma filed a compulsory licence to manufacture Baricitinib on grounds of an unmet medical need due to lack of supply as well as affordability.
- ✓ According to its application, Eli Lilly's Olumiant is not manufactured in India, and that less than 9,000 tablets were imported in 2019 and 2020.
- ✓ The average price per tablet is very high, at around Rs 3,230.
- ✓ Baricitinib was discovered by Incyte and licensed to Eli Lilly.
- ✓ It is approved in India and other countries including the US as a treatment for moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis.

- **SpaceX - is to launch DOGE-1, a satellite that is completely funded with crypto currency, to the moon in 2022 in Falcon 9 rocket**
- ✓ This was announced by its owner Elon Musk in a TV show he was hosting
- ✓ DOGE-1 mission will be the first ever commercial payload to be paid with the crypto currency, Dogecoin.

- ✓ The satellite weighing 40 kilograms is a payload of Geometric Energy Corporation.
 - ✓ The company is to obtain lunar spatial intelligence from cameras and sensors with integrated computational and communication systems.
 - ✓ Dogecoin is the fourth largest digital currency in the world.
 - ✓ It was released in 2013 by IBM engineers.
- **The NASA Spacecraft “Osiris-Rex” - has started a two year long journey from asteroid Bennu back to the earth.**
 - ✓ The spacecraft reached asteroid Bennu in 2018 and started collecting rubbles, which are rough fragments of brick and stones.
 - ✓ The mission was launched to study asteroid Bennu.
 - ✓ In 2020, the scientists directed Osiris Rex to drop down and collect sixty kilo grams of regolith (top soil) from the asteroid
 - ✓ They also found that the asteroid has lots of accessible water.
 - ✓ Bennu is the most hazardous asteroids currently known to the earth.
 - ✓ It has one in 2,700 chances of hitting the earth in the late 22nd century.
 - ✓ The asteroid makes its closest approach to the earth once in six years.

NATIONAL DAY

- **National Technology Day - May 11**



- ✓ The celebration of the day aims at highlighting the achievements of engineers and scientists in the field of technology and science.
- ✓ Theme 2021 - Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future
- ✓ On May 11, 1998, India conducted three successful nuclear tests at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan under Operation Shakti
- ✓ This was the second nuclear test conducted by India.
- ✓ The first one was called Smiling Buddha and was conducted in 1974.
- ✓ Two days later, the country conducted two more nuclear tests as a part of the same operation

- ✓ Out of the five tests, first test was of a fusion bomb, while the rest were of fission bombs
- ✓ The tests were led by aerospace scientist and late President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.
- ✓ The mission was carried out by the Indian Army in collaboration with scientists from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMDER).
- ✓ The tests resulted in several sanctions against India from all over the world including Japan and USA.
- ✓ The tests made India the sixth country in the world to join Nuclear Club of nations.
- ✓ The National Technology Day was observed for the first time on May 11, 1999 during the tenure of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- ✓ Also on National Technology Day, India's first-ever indigenous aircraft, Hansa-1, took flight from Bengaluru and the DRDO also tested the surface-to-air Trishul missile on May 11, 1998
- ✓ In 2020, the theme was 'Rebooting the Economy through Science, Technology and Research Translations' titled 'RESTART'.
- ✓ The Ministry of Science and Technology organises several events across the country to celebrate the day.