

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 14, 2019

### NATIONAL

- ◆ **Department of Biotechnology (DBT) - has recently launched human tissue mapping project called MANAV: Human Atlas Initiative**



- ✓ The objective of this initiative is to map every single tissue of human body to find out deepest information and roles of tissues and cells linked to a variety of ailments.
- ✓ It has been launched basically to improve understanding on human physiology
- ✓ Department of Biotechnology has issued funds of Rs 13 crore to two institutions in Pune, Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research (IISER) and National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS) for the project
- ✓ Persistent Systems, which is developing the platform, has co-funded the project and has contributed Rs 7 crore

### INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- ◆ **India - extended \$1 billion Line of Credit to Mongolia to set up its first-ever petrochemical refinery at Sainshand in Dornogobi Province**
- ✓ It is the largest project undertaken by India under its Lines of Credit programme
- ✓ The line of credit will be implemented with Exim Bank funding
- ✓ The funding was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Ulan Bator in 2015.
- ✓ The work on petrochemical refinery officially began in June 2018 during the visit of Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh to Mongolia

- ✓ Diesel and gasoline will be the primary products of the refinery, while the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), fuel oil and jet fuel will be produced as secondary products
- ✓ It is expected to be completed by 2022

## PERSONALITIES

### ◆ India - extended its support to Nigerian Ambassador to the United Nations, Tijjani Muhammad-Bande for his appointment to the post of President of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)



- ✓ Maria Fernanda Espinosa is the incumbent President of the General Assembly
- ✓ The information was shared by Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin, India's Permanent Representative to the UN
- ✓ The post of the President of UNGA rotates among the geographic regions. For the next session of the Assembly, it is the turn of Africa
- ✓ The UN General Assembly is made up of 193 Member States and is one of the six main organs of the United Nations
- ✓ Tijjani Muhammad-Bande is an academician, administrator and career diplomat
- ✓ He was the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations
- ✓ He served as the Vice-President of the UN General Assembly during its 71st session in 2016.
- ✓ He has been bestowed with the 'Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic' (OFR), one of Nigeria's highest national honours.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

### ◆ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - successfully conducted the flight test of 'Abhyas' at the Interim Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha on May 13



- ✓ 'Abhyas' is designed for autonomous flying with the help of an autopilot
- ✓ It is a high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT), which offers a realistic threat scenario for practice of weapon systems
- ✓ The first experimental launch of Abhyas was completed at the Chitradurga Aeronautical Test Range in 2012
- ✓ The pre-project details of Abhyas were completed on January 2012
- ✓ The ABHYAS is a drone built by the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) of the DRDO

◆ **Noshir Contractor, IIT-Madras alumnus and professor of behavioural sciences in Northwestern University – has developed Computer models that can predict the physical, mental and emotional well-being of astronauts on the voyage**



- ✓ In a mock space mission, his team found that the intellectual skills like creative tasks, negotiation or ethical dilemmas of astronauts tend to decline when they live in an isolated and confined environment for a long duration.
- ✓ The experiment was done in a mock spacecraft called Human Experimentation Research Analog (HERA) set up at NASA Johnson Space Center
- ✓ The method would be employed to monitor the mental health of the Mars crew in future
- ✓ While NASA is working towards sending humans to Mars in the early 2030s, Elon Musk's SpaceX is looking to achieve that as early as 2024.

◆ **Around 180 member countries, except the United States - amended the 1989 Basel Convention to include plastic waste**

- ✓ The move aims to protect environment and human health from the damaging effects of harmful chemicals and waste.
- ✓ The decision was taken during the 14th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam & Stockholm Conventions under the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ✓ The meeting was held under the theme of “Clean Planet, Healthy People: Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste”
- ✓ The “Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal” is generally known as the Basel Convention
- ✓ It was adopted on March 22, 1989 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Basel, Switzerland and came into force in 1992.
- ✓ It is an international treaty that aims to reduce the movement of hazardous waste between the countries

◆ **A group of researchers - have unearthed a new ‘rain loving’ snake species from Mizoram in North-east India.**



- ✓ The researchers have named the species “Smithophis Atemporalis”
- ✓ The discovery has not only revealed a new reptile species but also a whole new genus after a gap of 150 years
- ✓ The species is reported to be a non-venomous kind and strictly aquatic.
- ✓ Locally, the species is referred to as “Ruahlawmrul,” a rain-loving snake, as the activity of the snake increases during the rainy season.
- ✓ The species is reported to feed on frogs, lizards and it also lays eggs
- ✓ With this, the Smithophis species have now been classified into two species
- ✓ One being Smithophis bicolor, which is found in Khasi and Garo Hills of Meghalaya
- ✓ The other, Smithophis Atemporalis is only known to be found in Meghalaya as of now
- ✓ The name Smithophis comes from an eminent British herpetologist, Malcom Aurthur Smith, who is known for his contribution in the taxonomy of Indian reptiles in his authoritative ‘Fauna of British India’ series

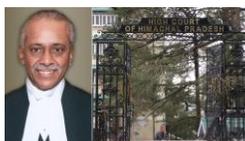
## ECONOMY

### ◆ **India’s National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) - has recently announced for Rs. 700 crore project funds for equity investments in agriculture and rural start-ups**

- ✓ NABARD was used to contribute to other funds but it is for the first time when NABARD launched its own funds.
- ✓ This project was launched by Nabventures, an auxiliary unit of NABARD.
- ✓ With this initiative NABARD will assist those start-ups who are engaged in agriculture and rural areas’ development.
- ✓ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is an apex development financial institution for rural development in India
- ✓ It was established on the recommendations of B.Sivaraman Committee, (by Act 61, 1981 of Parliament) on 12 July 1982 to implement the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act 1981
- ✓ It has its headquarters at Mumbai while regional offices are present across India

## APPOINTMENTS

### ◆ **Justice V Ramasubramanian - to be appointed as the chief justice of Himachal Pradesh high court**



- ✓ He is the senior-most judge from Madras high court, now serving in the high court of Telangana on transfer

- ✓ A Supreme Court Collegium, headed by CJI Ranjan Gogoi, adopted a resolution to this effect on May 10.
- ✓ He replaces Justice Surya Kant, who is transferred to the Supreme Court as per the recommendation made by the Collegium on May 8, 2019
- ✓ He became the first judge to hold hearing over Skype, when he responded to an urgent call to hear the case concerning 89 inmates of an orphanage
- ✓ Justice Ramasubramanian's bench batted for freedom of expression and said defamation proceedings should be decriminalized
- ✓ Justice Ramasubramanian became judge of Madras high court on July 31, 2006

◆ **Justice Madan Bhimrao Lokur, who retired as the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court in December 2018 - has been appointed to the Supreme Court of Fiji's non-resident panel for the duration of three years.**

- ✓ Justice Lokur was invited by the Chief Justice of Fiji to be part of the Fiji Supreme Court



- ✓ The Fiji Supreme court has three sessions in one year and Justice Lokur would be attending the August session from August 15- 30, 2019
- ✓ Fiji has previously invited judges from other nations including Australia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Singapore, South Africa and Malaysia to be a part of its non-resident panel.
- ✓ Justice MB Lokur was elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court in June 2012
- ✓ He retired as the senior-most Supreme Court judge on December 30, 2018

## SPORTS

◆ **The Badminton World Federation (BWF) and HSBC - have jointly launched the new outdoor game, AirBadminton and new outdoor shuttle named as Air-Shuttle in Guangzhou, China**



- ✓ BWF is now working with leading sports manufacturers to mass produce and roll out the AirShuttle.
- ✓ The new shuttle can be played even if the wind speed is up to 12 kmph

- ✓ AirBadminton is designed to create opportunities for people of all ages and the ability to play the sport on hard, grass and sand surfaces in parks, gardens, streets, playgrounds and beaches across the world.
- ✓ After a research of five years, a new outdoor shuttle with increased durability, stability and wind resistance has been developed to allow people have a more positive experience of the badminton courts.

◆ **For the first time in 51years, India - will host the 2019 Special Olympics International Football Championship in Chennai**

- ✓ Both men's and women's teams will compete for the Championship Cup at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai between August 3 and 6
- ✓ India will host more than 20 football teams from around the world for the event

