

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 2, 2019

TAMIL NADU

◆ **The Sugarcane Breeding Institute (SBI) in Coimbatore - has developed a new variety of sugarcane which is expected to give better returns in shorter duration**

- ✓ Called CO 11015, the new variety has been found to have about 2% more sucrose content than CO 86032, the variety widely used now
- ✓ The new variety also requires only nine months maturing unlike the existing variety that needs 12 months to fully develop.
- ✓ CO 11015 is one of the 20 crops clone tested in the nine sugar mills as part of 'Sweet Bloom' project
- ✓ The sweet bloom project was launched by SBI and SISMA in 2016 to improve sugar content from sugarcane

NATIONAL

◆ **India – to participate at the world's oldest Biennale Art event to be held in Venice, Italy**

- ✓ Entering after a gap of eight years, this is only the second time the country will be representing itself in the art event
- ✓ This year, 16 out of 400 Haripura session posters will be displayed on the walls of India pavilion at 58th Venice Biennale
- ✓ The Government had chosen the theme of '150 years of Mahatma Gandhi' for the Indian pavilion
- ✓ The 400 Haripura (in Gujarat) session posters of Indian National Congress was created by artist Nandalal Bose at the invitation of Mahatma Gandhi in 1938, covering different aspects of Indian life
- ✓ The 58th Venice Biennale will take place for 6 months period from 11 May 2019 till 24 November 2019
- ✓ The theme for 2019 is 'Our Time for a Future Caring'

- ✓ It is one of the biggest art events in the world, focusing on contemporary art, dance, architecture, cinema and theatre

INTERNATIONAL

◆ **The United Nation Security Council (UNSC) 1267 Committee - designated Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar as a “global terrorist”**

- ✓ The move, seen as a huge diplomatic victory to India, follows lifting of the ‘technical’ hold in favour of the proposal by China

A LONG HISTORY OF DEATH & DESTRUCTION

- Masood Azhar studied at the famous seminary in Karachi, Jamia Binoria – a major hub of support for Afghan jihad since early 1970s
- In Feb 1994, was arrested by Indian forces and jailed
- In Dec 1999, Indian Airlines flight 814 hijacked to Kandahar. Azhar one of three terrorists freed in hostage swap by Vajpayee govt
- After returning to Pakistan, Azhar formed Jaish-e-Muhammed. JeM's major strikes include April 2000 bombing at Indian Army 15 Corps HQ at Badami Bagh; Oct 2001 attack on J&K Assembly; Dec 2001 attack on Parliament; Jan 2002 kidnapping of Daniel Pearl; two failed assassination attempts on then Pak Prez Gen Musharraf in Dec 2005; Jan 2016

attack at Pathankot; Feb 2019 Pulwama bombing

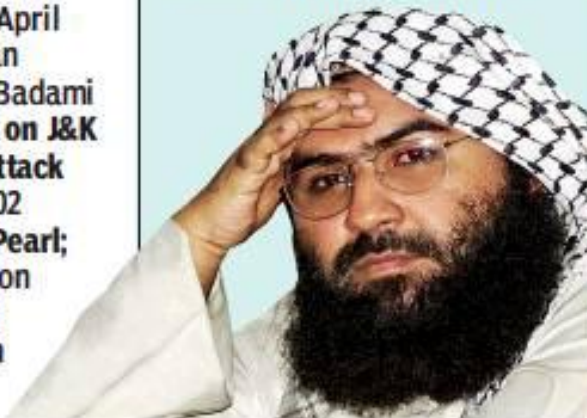
- JeM declared terror organisation by UN and US in 2001. But efforts to tag Azhar a “global terrorist” since 2009 failed to bear fruit. China consistently batted for Azhar on behalf of Pakistan

WHY DID CHINA RELENT?

- India leveraged US, UK and France who threatened to take Azhar issue to open discussion in UNSC, which

would isolate China publicly

- China found the cost of protecting instrument of Pak-sponsored terror rising
- India piled pressure at bilateral meets, arguing that Azhar is a global terror threat
- Global lack of criticism of Balakot air strikes showed international tolerance of terrorism is low
- In March 2016, China placed a technical hold, extended it in Oct 2016. Put request on hold in 1267 sanctions committee in Jan 2017, extended again in Aug 2017. Blocked proposal again in Nov 2017. In March 2019, after US, UK, France moved fresh proposal, China placed a hold again
- After the three countries moved an informal proposal in the full UNSC, China finally relented on May 1



- ✓ Azhar was listed for being associated with Al-Qaeda for participating in terrorism related activities in support of his organization, JeM
- ✓ India first moved a proposal by itself to designate Azhar in 2009 but it was not supported by others
- ✓ Later in 2016, 2017 and in 2019 after the Pulwama terror attack, the P-3 (3 permanent UNSC members) nations, US, UK and France, moved a similar

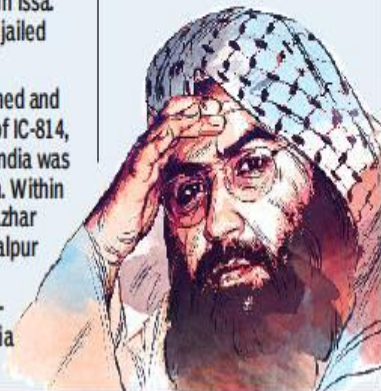
proposal, but on all occasions China, a veto-wielding permanent member of UN Security Council, blocked the proposal

- ✓ Masood Azhar is the mastermind behind attack on air base in Pathankot in January, 2016
- ✓ He also claimed responsibility for 2019 Pulwama terror attack killing 40 Indian CRPF personnel
- ✓ However the UN listing does not mention Pulwama and Jammu and Kashmir, while detailing his role in terror activities.

A GLOBAL THREAT

Details as per dossier given to 1267 Committee

- Born in 1968, Masood Azhar created the Jaish-e-Muhammed with the support of al-Qaida and Mullah Omar
- Studied at the Jamia Binoria, one of the main nerve centres of support for the Afghan jihad since early 1970s
- He joined Harkat-ul-Mujahideen and was soon made editor of its magazine 'Sada-e-Mujahid'
- Was sent to Somalia, Saudi Arabia, Zambia, UAE, Bangladesh and UK between 1990-93 for delivering speeches, raising funds for jihad in Kashmir & Afghanistan
- In 1994, as general secretary of Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, he was sent to India through Bangladesh on a fake Portuguese passport in the name of Wali Adam Issa. He was arrested and jailed until 1999
- His brothers planned and executed the hijack of IC-814, as a result of which India was forced to release him. Within days of his release, Azhar resurfaced in Bahawalpur and floated a new terrorist group, Jaish-e-Muhammed in Jamia Binoria in 2000
- JeM was designated as a terrorist organisation by the UN in Oct 2001
- In 2002, Pakistan outlawed JeM, which later split into Jamat-ul-Furqan and Khuddam-ul-Islam. Both were banned in 2003
- Enrolments in religious programmes and jihadi training courses organised by JeM at their centres in Pakistan have increased
- JeM has been organising various fund collection campaigns under 'Al Rahmat Trust' to fund jihad in J&K and Afghanistan
- Azhar was put under house arrest after India's Balakot strikes and has recently been shifted to a safe house in Islamabad



THE JAISH TERROR TRAIL

1979-89 After being injured in Soviet-Afghan war, Masood Azhar chosen as head of Harkat-ul-Ansar's (HuA) department of motivation

Early 1990s Azhar named general secretary of HuA. Visits international locations – Zambia, Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia, Mongolia, UK & Albania – to recruit and raise funds

1993 Meets al-Qaida affiliate of Somalia in Kenya. Visits UK on a motivational, fundraising and recruitment tour with message of jihad. Makes contact there with people who provide training and logistical support to terror plots including 7/7, 21/7 attacks. Travels to Bangladesh with militant Sajjad Afghani to facilitate latter's intrusion into India

1994 Arrested in J&K for spreading hate

1994 and 1995 Omar Shaikh, released in 1999 along with Azhar as part of Kandahar swap and who later killed Daniel Pearl and funded 9/11, kidnaps four Europeans from Delhi to secure release of Azhar. Shaikh arrested. Later in 1995, HuA kidnaps 5 Europeans in Kashmir to secure release of Azhar and Shaikh. Europeans were later killed



1999-2000 Jaish formed in 1999 soon after release of Azhar as part of Kandahar swap

April 2000 Jaish carries out car-borne IED attack at Badami Bagh cantonment, killing 30 soldiers

June 2000 Jaish guns down 3 J&K armed police personnel at bus stand in Batmaloo and Wazirbagh

December 2000 Mine attack on BSF vehicle on Srinagar-Baramulla highway, 1 killed

October 2001 Bombs J&K assembly, 31 people killed

December 2001 Attacks Parliament in New Delhi, weeks after Osama cornered in Tora Bora caves in Afghanistan

January 2002 Jaish abducts and kills Wall Street

Journalist Daniel Pearl in Karachi

June 2002 Bombs US consulate in Karachi

January 2003 Kills BSF personnel at Batmaloo bus stand

November 2005 Detonates car bomb in Nowgam just before swearing in of Ghulam Nabi Azad as J&K CM and at old residence of outgoing CM Mufti Mohd Sayeed, 10 killed

March 2006 23 civilians and 2 CRPF men injured in grenade attack in Pulwama

May 2006 Grenade attack on Human Rights Commission escort vehicle in Srinagar

July 2008 Two Jaish terrorists kill an SPO in J&K on Sopore-Bandipora road

March 2014 Jaish attacks army vehicles in Baramulla

January 2016 Orchestrates Pathankot airbase attack, 7 security personnel and 6 terrorists killed

August 2016 Army convoy ambushed in Baramulla, 2 personnel killed

September 2018 Attack on army base in Uri leaves 18 army personnel dead

February 2019 CRPF convoy attacked in Pulwama, 40 jawans killed

- ✓ Being in the Al-Qaida sanctions list, Masood will have his assets frozen along with a travel ban and an arms embargo
- ✓ UNSC 1267 Committee, also known as AlQaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee, was initially established to oversee implementation of sanctions imposed on Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, for its support of Osama bin Laden

- ✓ It was later modified to cover all the entities and people associated with both Al Qaeda and Taliban
- ✓ The committee was established following the adoption of UNSC resolution 1267 on October 15, 1999
- ✓ Since Masood Azhar has been linked to Osama bin Laden he can be sanctioned under it
- ✓ The committee comprises of all 15 members of UNSC and makes its decision secretly by consensus i.e. even if single member opposes (like China's case here) there is no consensus

◆ **Russian President Vladimir Putin - signed into law a “sovereign internet” bill, which allows Russian authorities to isolate the country’s internet from the rest of the world**

- ✓ It includes measures such as to create technology to monitor internet routing, to steer Russian internet traffic away from foreign servers, allegedly to prevent the interference of any foreign country
- ✓ The move will allow greater surveillance by Russian intelligence agencies and government monitoring in restricting information and communication
- ✓ The government cited the legislation as a defensive move in case the United States would cut Russia off from the global Internet
- ✓ The new law is expected to come into effect from November 2019

◆ **Wikileaks co-founder Julian Assange – to undergo 50 weeks jail sentence in a British prison - for breaching his bail by entering the Ecuadorian embassy in London to ‘evade or delay’ justice**



- ✓ Assange, an Australian national, was arrested when Ecuador terminated his asylum on 11th April 2019
- ✓ Ecuador granted him refuge in their London embassy in 2012 to avoid his extradition to Sweden on rape accusations
- ✓ He currently faces US federal conspiracy charges, along with former US intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning, for downloading classified databases in one of the largest leaks of government secrets in US
- ✓ Julian Assange founded Wikileaks, a whistle-blowing website, in 2006

PERSONALITIES

◆ Israel - honors 1971 war (Bangladesh's Liberation War) hero Lt. Gen. (retd) Jack Farj Rafael (JFR) Jacob with a plaque on Wall of Honour at the Ammunition hill, Israel

- ✓ Lt. Gen. JFR Jacob served as a Lieutenant General in Indian Army and as the chief of staff of Indian Army's Eastern Command
- ✓ Belonging to the small Jewish Community in the country, he was part of the World War II and the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965



- ✓ He had negotiated the historic surrender of Pakistani troops in Dhaka after the 1971 war
- ✓ Later, the Government of India had appointed him as the Governor of two states, Goa and Punjab
- ✓ The Wall of Honour has plaques honouring more than 340 people
- ✓ It pays tributes to the gallantry and courage of Jewish soldiers who fought in defence of the countries they lived in
- ✓ It also has one more plaque honoring Lt. Gen. Joseph 'Jerry' Jhirad, an Indian Jewish soldier, who died in 1965 war against Pakistan
- ✓ Ammunition hill is a Jordanian military post that has become a national memorial site

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) - is looking to launch Chandrayaan-2, India's second lunar mission in the launch window between July 9 and 16 with an expected moon landing on September 06, 2019

LUNAR JOURNEY

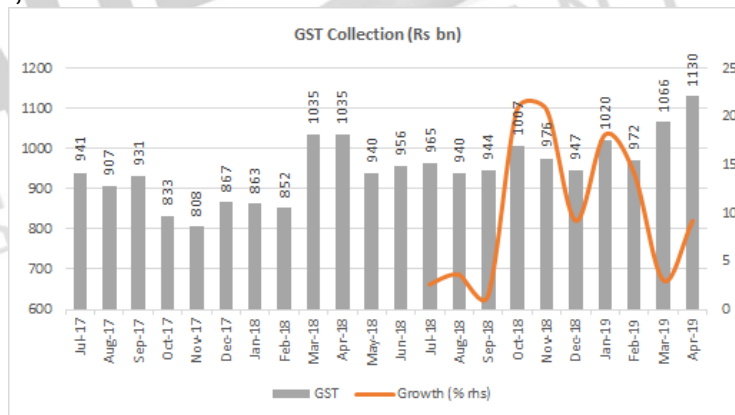
- An orbiter and lander (Vikram) housing rover (Pragyan) will be stacked as an integrated module inside advanced GSLV MK-III rocket
- After GSLV MK-III launch from Sriharikota between July 9 & 16, spacecraft will take 45-50 days to reach moon
- According to Isro's plan, Vikram will soft-land on Sept 6. Pragyan will emerge and roll out for 300-400m on moon to perform tests & take images

- ✓ Chandrayaan-2 has three modules: the orbiter, lander (Vikram) & rover (Pragyan)
- ✓ Once Vikram lands on the lunar surface on September 6, rover Pragyan will come out of it and roll out on the lunar surface for 300-400 metres
- ✓ It will spend 14 earth days on the moon for carrying out different scientific experiments. Altogether, there will be 13 payloads in the spacecraft - 3 payloads in rover Pragyan and the other 10 payloads in lander Vikram and orbiter
- ✓ The rover will analyse the content of the lunar surface and send data and images back to the Earth through the orbiter within 15 minutes
- ✓ The launch of India's second lunar mission was initially planned in April last year
- ✓ With Israel's Beresheet failing to land on the moon on April 12 this year, Chandrayaan-2's moonlanding on September 6, if successful, will make India the fourth country in the world to land on the moon after Russia, US and China

ECONOMY

◆ Gross GST revenue - collected in April is the highest since rollout of the scheme in July 2017

- ✓ In April, GST receipt was at ₹1,13,865 crore, a growth of 10% over the same month last year
- ✓ The collection in April 2019 is 16% higher than the monthly average of GST revenue of ₹98,114 crore in 2018-19.



- ✓ April 2019 is the second consecutive month when Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection exceeded Rs 1 lakh crore, following March when the collection was Rs 1.06 lakh crore

SPORTS

◆ Former Sri Lanka captain, Kumar Sangakkara - was appointed as the President of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), England



- ✓ He is the first non-British to take over the coveted post from October 1, 2019 for a period of 12 months
- ✓ Sangakkara was bestowed with the Honorary Life Membership of the club in 2012 itself and is already an active member of MCC's World Cricket Committee
- ✓ MCC, owner of Lord's Ground, is the world's most active cricket club established in 1787
- ✓ It acts as the guardian of the laws of the Cricket.
- ✓ In the year 1993, almost all of its global functions were transferred to the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- ✓ Sangakkara made his international debut in 2000
- ✓ In 2011, he was named as the ODI Cricketer of the Year at the ICC awards ceremony and in 2012, he was honoured as one of the Wisden Cricketers of the Year
- ✓ In 2015, he retired from the International Cricket and Test Cricket

◆ **Pistol ace Heena Sidhu and trap shooter Ankur Mittal – recommended for the 2019 Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award by the National Shooting Federation**



- ✓ Heena Sidhu is the first Indian pistol shooter to reach number one in the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) world rankings
- ✓ She also held the world record in the 10-metre air pistol event apart from winning multiple gold medals at the World Cup, Commonwealth Games, and Asian Championships
- ✓ Ankur Mittal won silver and gold medals at the World Cups in 2017 apart from bagging gold medals at the Asian Championships 2017 and Commonwealth Championships in 2018
- ✓ He won silver at the ISSF World Shotgun Championship and became the world No 1 in double trap.

◆ **The Shooting Federation had nominated Anjum Moudgil (rifle), Shahzar Rizvi (pistol) and Om Prakash Mitharwal (pistol) for the 2019 Arjuna Awards**



- ✓ Moudgil was the first Indian to secure a quota place in shooting for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics
- ✓ She won silver medal in women's air rifle in the World Championship in September 2018.

- ✓ Rizvi is the winner of gold and silver medals in World Cups in 2018.
- ✓ Mitharwal won the gold medal in men's 50m in the 2018 World Championship in Changwon, Korea
- ✓ The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna is the highest sporting honour of India

◆ **India's Apurvi Chandela - became world number 1 in women's 10m air rifle event, as per the latest ISSF rankings released**



- ✓ The Jaipur-born Chandela was one among the five Indian shooters to have secured 2020 Olympics quotas for the country recently in Beijing
- ✓ In February 2019, Chandela shot a world record score of 252.9 to clinch gold at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup in New Delhi
- ✓ She won bronze medal in the 2018 Jakarta Asian games and the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games
- ✓ Anjali Bhagwat is the only Indian woman to have topped this list in the past
- ✓ Chandela is also the 10th Indian to become world number one in any shooting events.
- ✓ She joins the likes of Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Gagan Narang, Jitu Rai, Heena Sidhu among others.

◆ **Indian shooting star, Anjum Moudgil - rose to the number two position in the 10m air rifle event**

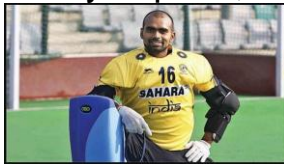
- ✓ She rose to the position after her recent mixed team gold at the ISSF World Cup in Beijing.
- ✓ Manu Bhaker is the next highest ranked Indian shooter, with her 10th rank in 25m pistol women category
- ✓ Among men, Divyansh Singh Panwar rose to the position of world number four in the 10m air rifle category, following his two gold medal finish at the ISSF World Cup in Beijing



- ✓ India's Abhishek Verma also rose to the world number three position in the 10m air pistol category, after winning a gold medal at Beijing
- ✓ The next highest ranked shooter is Indian teen sensation Saurabh Chaudhary, who is ranked 6th in the event.

◆ **Hockey India - nominated ace Indian goalkeeper PR Sreejesh for the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award**

- ✓ It had also recommended midfielder Chinglensana Singh Kangujam and forward Akashdeep Singh and women's team defender Deepika for the Arjuna Awards
- ✓ PR Sreejesh, former Indian hockey captain, made his national debut in 2006



- ✓ He was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 2015 and Padma Shri in 2017

◆ **The Court of Arbitration for Sports – ruled that women with elevated testosterone levels should regulate their testosterone levels before competing as ‘females’ in 400m and 800m races at major international events like the Olympics**

- ✓ Other events, like 100m and 200m, were exempted due to lack of evidence that testosterone had a significant effect there



- ✓ The ruling follows the appeal of two-time Olympic gold medal-winning 800m South African runner Caster Semenya against the rules set by the International Association of Athletics Federations to take suppressive treatment for testosterone levels

OBITUARY

◆ **Justice Bollampalli Subhashan Reddy, Former chief justice of the Madras high court**



- ✓ Justice Subhashan Reddy passed away in Hyderabad on May 1
- ✓ He is always remembered in Tamil Nadu as the architect of the Madurai bench.
- ✓ Close to his retirement in 2004, Justice Reddy was transferred to the Kerala high court as chief justice.
- ✓ After his superannuation in November 2004, he was chairman of the Andhra Pradesh State Human Rights Commission and later Lokayukta of Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ Justice Reddy has handled several bar cases with aplomb, biggest among them being the prolonged protests by a large section of lawyers against formation of the Madurai bench

- ✓ Now, the bench serves the people of 13 districts
- ✓ Much before the Bar Council of India came out with a code of conduct for lawyers, Justice Reddy had brought a 25-point code, which, however, triggered opposition from the Madras Bar
- ✓ He even had to lock the gates of the entire court premises for a day to insulate it from disturbances from outside.
- ✓ Justice Reddy had visited Madurai at least seven times and collected opinions from all stakeholders before taking up the cause of the Madurai bench
- ✓ He even chose the location for the Madurai bench and was actively involved in the design and construction of the building

REPORT

US IS BOTH NO. 1 & NO. 4 IN MILITARY SPENDING

In 2018, the world spent \$1.8 trillion on its military. Just the five biggest spenders accounted for 60% of all spending. A look at where India's military expenditure stands

