

May - 16

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ K P Sharma Oli was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Nepal for the third time.
 - He was re-appointed as the Prime Minister as the opposition couldn't prove their majority.
- ❖ A bolt of lightning is believed to have killed a herd of at least 18 elephants in central Assam's Nagaon district.
 - The incident happened in the hilly Kandali Proposed Reserve Forest in the Forest Department's Kathiatoli Range.

NATIONAL

Sputnik V in India

- ❖ Dr Reddy's Laboratories announced that it had launched Sputnik V in India.
- ❖ The vaccine is imported from Russia.
- ❖ And is distributed by Dr Reddy's laboratory.
- ❖ Currently, Sputnik V is the second most expensive COVID1-19 vaccines in the country.
- ❖ The cost of one dose of Sputnik V is Rs 995.
- ❖ The price of COVISHIELD vaccines was Rs 400 per dose.
- ❖ It recently reduced it to Rs 300 per dose.
- ❖ It is manufactured locally by Serum Institute of India.
- ❖ COVAXIN costs Rs 600 per dose for the state governments and Rs 1,200 for private hospitals.

About Sputnik V

- ❖ Sputnik V was developed by Gamleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology in Moscow.
- ❖ It is a two-dose vaccine.
- ❖ However, recently a single dose vaccine of Sputnik V has been produced in Russia.
- ❖ It is called Sputnik Light Single Dose.
- ❖ India is administering only the double dose Sputnik V.
- ❖ Sputnik V is created using different Human Adenoviruses.

- ❖ The efficacy of the vaccine is 91%.
- ❖ The first dose of Sputnik V was administered in Hyderabad.



Tauktae Cyclone

- ❖ Tauktae Cyclone is the first cyclone in 2021 in India formed as deep depression over the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ The Kerala Government has issued “Red Alert”.
- ❖ The word Tauktae has been suggested by Myanmar.
- ❖ It means ‘gecko’, a distinctively vocal lizard, in the Burmese language.

INTERNATIONAL

US Google Pay to India and Singapore

- ❖ Alphabet Inc’s Google has launched international money transfer partnerships for users of its U.S. payments app.
- ❖ The partnerships were made with remittances firms Wise and Western Union Co.
- ❖ Google Pay users in the United States can now transfer money to app customers in India and Singapore.
- ❖ This plan would expand to the 80 countries available via Wise, and 200 via Western Union by the end of the year.

LiveWire - Harley-Davidson

- ❖ Harley-Davidson Inc. has launched an all-electric motorcycle brand “LiveWire”.

- ❖ This is the latest effort by the company to ramp up bets on the rapidly growing electric vehicle market.
- ❖ The separate electric vehicle-focused division aims to attract the next generation of younger and more environmentally conscious riders.

Martin Griffiths - new Chief at OCHA

- ❖ Veteran British diplomat Martin Griffiths has been appointed as the new Chief at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- ❖ He is appointed for a period of five years.
- ❖ Griffiths will replace Mark Lowcock as the new Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator of OCHA.
- ❖ The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs aims to strengthen the international response to complex emergencies and natural disasters.

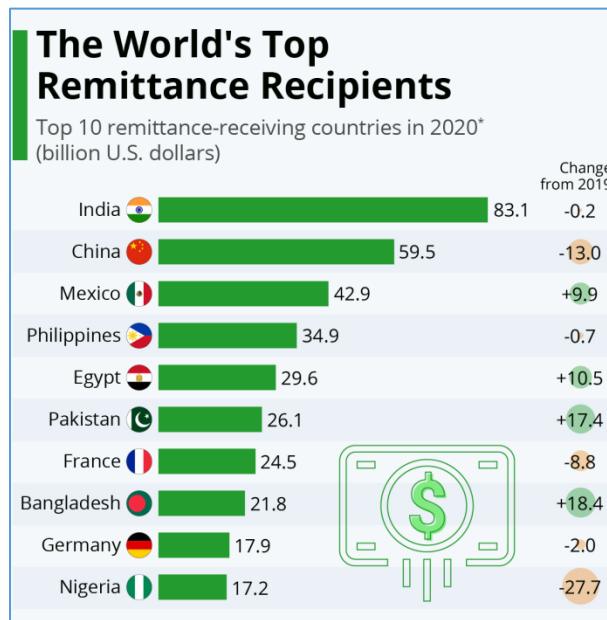


ECONOMY

India - the largest recipient of remittances in 2020

- ❖ India was the largest recipient of remittances in 2020, as per the report, “Migration and Development Brief “
- ❖ The report was released by the World Bank.
- ❖ India has been the largest recipient of remittances since 2008.
- ❖ The top five remittance recipient countries in 2020, in current US dollar terms, were

- India,
 - China,
 - Mexico,
 - the Philippines,
 - and Egypt.
- ❖ The largest remittance-sending country in 2020 was United States (USD68 billion).
 - ❖ From India, the Remittances outflow in 2020 was USD 7 billion.
 - ❖ It was against USD 7.5 billion in 2019.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Plasma Wave Emission - Voyager 1

- ❖ The Voyager 1 probe recently picked up humming sound.
- ❖ The scientists have named this as “Plasma Wave Emission”.
- ❖ This humming sound has been interpreted as interstellar gas activity.
- ❖ Moving forward, the Voyager 1 will help scientists to understand the interactions between solar winds and the interstellar medium.
- ❖ The hum was of narrow frequency bandwidth.

Voyager 1

- ❖ The Voyager 1 was the first spacecraft to enter the heliosphere of the sun in 2012.
- ❖ The Voyager 1 was launched in 1977.
- ❖ It was launched to study the outer solar system and planets such as Saturn and Jupiter on its way.

DeepShake

- ❖ DeepShake is an earthquake early warning system that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to predict how the ground will move during a temblor.
- ❖ This will give several seconds' advance notice that the earthquake is coming.
- ❖ It uses a deep neural network, a type of AI learning,
- ❖ It aims to identify patterns from past earthquakes in order to predict how the shaking from a new quake will travel.
- ❖ DeepShake was developed by Daniel J. Wu, Avoy Datta, Weiqiang Zhu and William Ellsworth at Stanford University.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Nuklu Phom - Whitley Award

- ❖ In 2021, the Whitley Award was won by Nuklu Phom of Nagaland.
- ❖ He is the only Indian to receive the award.
- ❖ Nuklu Phom is popularly known as the “Amur Falcon Man of Nagaland”.
- ❖ Whitley Awards are called “Green Oscar”.
- ❖ Whitley Awards are presented annually by the Whitley Fund for Nature.
- ❖ It is presented to recognise grass root level conservation leaders.



V. Chandrasekar passed away

- ❖ Three-time National table tennis champion and former International paddler V. Chandrasekar passed away recently.
- ❖ He was the current president of Tamizhaga Table Tennis Association.
- ❖ He is a 1982 Arjuna Award winner.
- ❖ Chandrashekhar with the help of Seetha Srikanth, wrote his autobiography 'My fightback from Death's Door'.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Families - May 15

- ❖ The International Day of Families is observed every year to reflect the importance that the international community attaches to families.
- ❖ This day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families.
- ❖ The theme of 2021 is "Families and New Technologies".
- ❖ In 1993, the UN General Assembly decided in a resolution that 15 May of every year should be observed as The International Day of Families.

