

## Current Affairs: 12.05.2021

### KR GOURI AMMA

**Veteran Communist leader and the leader of Janadipathya Samrakshana Samiti (JSS), K.R. Gouri Amma passed away in Thiruvananthapuram due to age-related ailments. She was 102 years old.**

#### About:



R. Gouri Amma was an Indian politician and the first revenue minister of Kerala state. She was a Marxist revolutionary, advocate, author and diplomat.

She was also one of the founding leaders of the Communist movement in Kerala.

She headed the Janathipathiya Samrakshana Samithy (JSS), a political party based in

Kerala, a rebel outfit she had formed in 1994 after her ouster from CPI (M).

She was the first female law student coming from the Ezhava community. She was a minister in the communist-led ministries in Kerala in 1957, 1967, 1980 and 1987. She also became a minister in the Congress-led cabinet from 2001 to 2006.

She had been a minister in the first democratically elected Communist Government of 1957 in Kerala led by E M S Namboodiripad. As the revenue minister in the EMS cabinet, Gouri had drafted and piloted the historic Kerala Agrarian Relations Bill, which paved the way for land reforms. She has been the longest serving woman legislator in the Kerala Assembly, the oldest woman member in the Assembly, the oldest woman Minister etc. She published an autobiography titled Atmakatha, which won the 2011 Kerala Sahitya Academy Award.

### JAL JEEVAN MISSION

**Puducherry has become the 'Har Ghar Jal' Union Territory by ensuring that every rural home gets a household tap connection.**

#### About:



Puducherry has now become the fourth state or UT after Goa, Telangana and Andaman and Nicobar Islands to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home under Central Government's flagship programme, Jal Jeevan Mission, JJM. JJM is a flagship programme of the Union Government, which aims to provide tap water connection to every rural household of the country by

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2024. Under Jal Jeevan Mission, in 2021-22, in addition to Rs 50,011 Crore budgetary allocation for JJM, there is also Rs 26,940 Crore assured fund available under the 15th Finance Commission tied-grant to RLB/ PRIs for water & sanitation, matching State share and externally aided as well as State funded projects.

## NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY DAY

National Technology Day was observed in India on May 11, 2021.

### About:



The day is celebrated every year on the 11th of May to highlight the achievements of engineers and scientists in the field of technology and science. Former Prime Minister Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee coined this term to celebrate the contributions made by Indian scientists.

This day marks the anniversary of the 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests, which gave India a new strength and presence across the globe.

## OSIRIS-REx MISSION / ASTEROID BENNU

**WHY ASTEROID BENNU?**

- 1 PROXIMITY TO EARTH**  
Every six years, Bennu's orbit brings it near Earth – less than 450,000 km away. Its orbit allows a spacecraft to travel there and back safely.
- 2 SIZE**  
Asteroids less than 200 m wide spin very quickly, which makes it difficult for a spacecraft to safely interact with them. Bennu is nearly 500 m in size and revolves once every 4.3 hours, slowly enough to collect a sample.
- 3 COMPOSITION**  
Scientists will be able to analyze the asteroid's chemistry and mineralogy to learn more about its composition and how it compares to other asteroids.

On May 11, NASA's Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REx) spacecraft will depart asteroid Bennu, and start its two-year long journey

back to Earth.

### Bennu

Bennu is an asteroid located about 200 million miles away from the Earth. Bennu is named after an Egyptian deity. The asteroid was discovered by a team from the NASA-funded Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research team in 1999. Bennu is a B-type asteroid, implying that it contains significant amounts of carbon and various other minerals.

### Significance of bennu

Bennu is considered to be an ancient asteroid that has not gone through a lot of composition-altering change through billions of years, which means that below its surface lie chemicals and rocks from the birth of the solar system.

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Therefore, scientists and researchers are interested in studying this asteroid as it might give them clues about the origins of the solar system, the sun, the Earth and the other planets.

## OSIRIS-Rex

OSIRIS-REx is NASA's first mission to visit a near-Earth asteroid, survey its surface and collect a sample from it. The mission is essentially a seven-year-long voyage and will conclude when at least 60 grams of samples are delivered back to the Earth. The mission promises to bring the largest amount of extra-terrestrial material back to our planet since the Apollo era. The mission was launched in 2016, it reached its target in 2018 and since then, the spacecraft has been trying to match the velocity of the asteroid using small rocket thrusters. It also utilised this time to survey the surface and identify potential sites to take samples. The spacecraft contains five instruments meant to explore Bennu including cameras, a spectrometer and a laser altimeter.

## NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (NHRC)

**Justice Prafulla Chandra Pant, a former Supreme Court judge, has been appointed the Acting Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) with effect from April 25, the commission said.**

### About:



**Background:** NHRC was established in 1993. It is in conformity with the **Paris Principles**, adopted at the first international workshop on national institutions for the protection of human rights held in Paris in 1991.

**Status:** It is a statutory organization established under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993. It is headquartered in **New Delhi**.

### • **Functions:**

The purpose of the NHRC is, suo moto or through the petition of a person, to investigate the violation of human rights or the failures of the state or other to prevent a human rights violation.

The commissions may also take on research about human rights, create awareness campaigns through various mediums, and encourage the work of NGOs.

### • **Composition:**

The Commission consists of a Chairperson, four full-time Members and four deemed Members.

The statute lays down qualifications for the appointment of the Chairperson and Members of the Commission. A Chairperson, should be retired Chief Justice of India.



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## Important Info :

Justice Pant was appointed a member of the NHRC on April 22, 2019.

The post of Chairperson has been vacant since the former Chief Justice of India H.L. Dattu completed his tenure on December 2.