

## Current Affairs=31-07-2020

### Prakash Javadekar represents India in 6th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting



On 31st July 2020, Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) participated in the **6th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting** under the presidency of **Russia** along with the Environment minister of **Brazil, Russia, China and South**

**Africa** over a virtual platform from New Delhi.

- The BRICS nations called the initiative to improve the environment and promote the circular economy in national plans for economic recovery after COVID-19.
- The needs for the BRICS nations to work as a group for the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework was highlighted in the meeting.
- The meeting was preceded by the BRICS working group meeting.

#### **Key People:**

The Ministers of Environment from BRICS countries, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa participated in the meeting.

#### **To Improve Environment:**

**i.** Prakash Javadekar, the need to implement the initiatives under BRICS and the implementations of BRICS MoU.

**ii.** He offered that India could provide a platform to showcase the best environmental management practices of BRICS Countries.

**iii.** He mentioned that sharing of the best practices among the BRICS nations will support in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

**iv.** He discussed the efforts of India in sustainable urban management, tackling marine litter, air pollution, cleaning of rivers and other areas.

**v.** He also stated that Equity, Common but differentiated responsibilities, finance and technology partnership are the key components to achieve the goals of climate change mitigation and adaptation and India is working towards achieving its Climate commitments and Paris Agreement on Climate change.

#### **India's Efforts towards Air pollution:**



i. India launched Air Quality Index monitoring 10 cities in 2015 which is currently extended to 122 cities.

ii. The National Clean Air Programme launched in 2019 with an aim to reduce the air pollution by 20-30% relative to 2017 level by 2024.

#### About BRICS:

Presidency– **Russia (India will assume the Presidency of BRICS in 2021)**

Members– **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa**

Establishment– **2009**

Theme for 2020– **“BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth”**

### **Ivory Coast’s Defence Minister Hamed Bakayoko Appointed as PM**



The Republic of Ivory Coast

President Alassane Ouattara has appointed Defence Minister Hamed Bakayoko (55 years old) as Prime Minister (PM) after acting as an interim PM since the sudden death of Amadou Gon Coulibaly on July 8, 2020.

Hamed Bakayoko will also hold his position as defence Minister.

#### Key Info

Hamed Bakayoko became acting PM on May 2, 2020 due to the absence of Amadou Gon Coulibaly.

#### **Bakayoko**

i. Hamed Bakayoko since 2017 was in defence portfolio after he served as a interior minister from 2011.

ii. He has also been mayor of Abobo since 2018. He was minister of new information and communication technology in the national unity government from 2003 to 2011.

iii. He was a former radio and newspaper executive and longtime ally of Alassane Ouattara.

iv. He was a founding member of the Rally of the Republicans (RDR) party in 1994 and was in charge of the party’s daily newspaper, Le Patriote. It is part of the RHDP coalition.

v. He had been considered a possible replacement for Amadou Gon Coulibaly as

the presidential candidate.

### About the Republic of Ivory Coast(Côte d'Ivoire):

Capital– Yamoussoukro

Currency– West African CFA franc

### **Great Eastern Shipping Company Ltd Appointed Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel as Additional & Independent Director**



i. Great Eastern Shipping Company Ltd announced that its board has appointed former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Urjit Patel as an additional and independent director for a term of 5 years, effective from August 01, 2020.

ii. He was appointed as the Chairman of the Governing Body of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) for a 4 year term on June 22, 2020.

iii. He has authored a book titled '**Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver**'. The book will be published by HarperCollins India.

### **Mars 2020 mission: NASA's Mars rover 'Perseverance' launched to seek signs of ancient life**

United States' (US) 5th Mars Mission "Mars 2020" initiated by NASA



(National Aeronautics and Space Administration) after launching the biggest Mars rover named "Perseverance", which was lifted off by United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V 541 rocket from Florida's Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, United States (US). The rover

will land on Jezero Crater of Mars on Feb. 18, 2021 with duration of at least **one Mars year** (about 687 Earth days). The outlay of Mars mission 2020 is around **\$2.7 billion**.

- The project aimed to seek signs of ancient life and collect first Martian rock and soil samples for possible return to Earth for analyzing and will be retrieved during future missions in **2031**.
- This US launch is the third Mars launch this month, following launches by the United Arab Emirates and China as scientists took advantage of a time when Earth and Mars come closest together during their orbits around the Sun, which happens once every 26 months.

### Very Important Points to be noted:

- –The U.S. is the only country to safely put a spacecraft on Mars’ surface. Two other NASA landers are also operating on Mars viz. 2018’s **InSight** and 2012’s **Curiosity rover**.
- –Mars has seen 12 landing attempts by the US, of which 8 have led to successful and now seeking its ninth successful landing on the planet.
- —So far, **four** space agencies- NASA, Russia’s Roscosmos, the European Space Agency (ESA), and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), have put spacecraft in Martian orbit. The recently launched Hope and Tianwen-1 missions by UAE and China respectively might join that club if they reach the red planet safely in February 2021.

### Former Taiwan president, Lee Teng-hui dubbed as “Mr. Democracy” passed away at the age of 97 in Taipei City, Taiwan

Former Taiwanese President, Mr. Lee Teng-hui died at the age of **97** at Beitou



District, Taipei City, Taiwan due to infection, and heart ailments. He was born on **15th January 1923**, Sanzhi, Taiwan. He was popularly known as “Mr. Democracy” for eradicating the dictatorial rule in favour of unbiased pluralism in Taiwan.

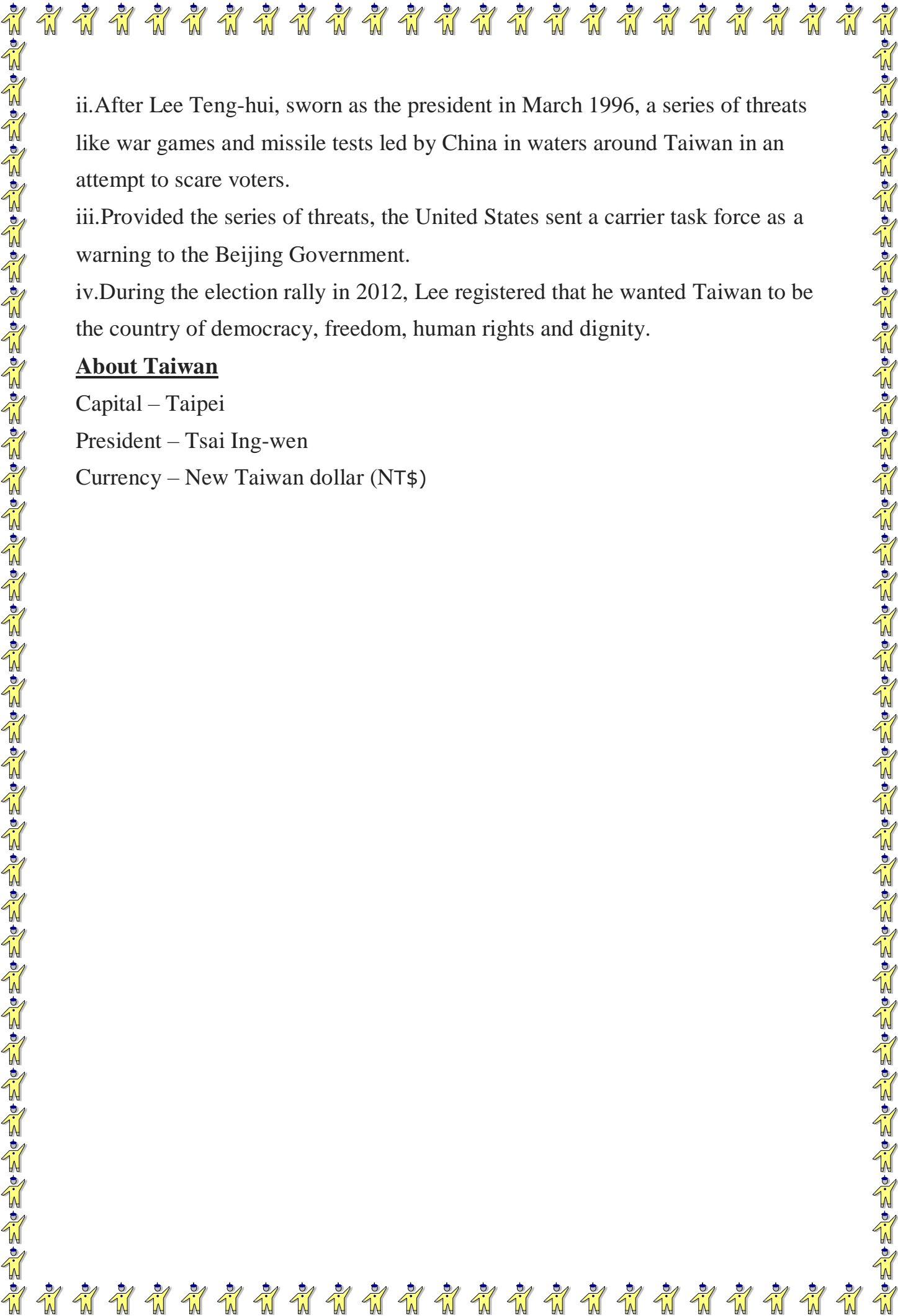
#### About Lee Teng-hui

#### Education

- He was educated under Japanese colonial rule in **1945** in Japan’s culture. He was a fluent Japanese speaker.
- He served in the Japanese army and the surrender of the army after World War II put him in Kyoto University in Japan.
- He joined the elite **National Taiwan University** and later the **Universities of Iowa State** and **University of Cornell**, where he earned a doctorate in agricultural economics.

### Facts about Republic of China(Taiwan)

**i.**The Taiwan government was established in 1949 by Chiang Kai-shek.



ii. After Lee Teng-hui, sworn as the president in March 1996, a series of threats like war games and missile tests led by China in waters around Taiwan in an attempt to scare voters.

iii. Provided the series of threats, the United States sent a carrier task force as a warning to the Beijing Government.

iv. During the election rally in 2012, Lee registered that he wanted Taiwan to be the country of democracy, freedom, human rights and dignity.

### **About Taiwan**

Capital – Taipei

President – Tsai Ing-wen

Currency – New Taiwan dollar (NT\$)