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# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021

### Spyware 'Pegasus' Used to Snoop on High Profile People

- A probe by a consortium of news organizations, overseen by Forbidden Stories, a Paris-based journalism nonprofit, reported on Sunday that a private Israeli firm, NSO Group, licensed military-grade spyware to several foreign government groups known to engage in surveillance of their own citizens.
- The highly advanced 'Pegasus' is a spyware – a malicious software created by Israeli-based cyber intelligence firm NSO Group to hack computers and smartphones to gather data and serve it to a third party. The reason it is malicious is that it gathers data without the consent of the person.
- However, NSO Group had claimed that their motive was to 'develop best-in-class technology to help government agencies detect and prevent terrorism and crime'.



### THE PEGASUS PROJECT

➤ Paris-based media nonprofit Forbidden Stories and Amnesty International accessed a leaked database of thousands of phone numbers across the world targeted by a spyware called Pegasus

➤ They shared the data with global media organisations as part of a collaborative investigation called Pegasus Project

➤ An Israeli

company called NSO Group makes Pegasus, a spyware capable of extracting data from a phone

➤ According to the report, at least 2 Union Cabinet ministers, 3 opposition leaders, a Constitutional authority, government officials, scientists and over 40 journalists in India were targeted



## National Logistics Excellence Awards

- Government launches ‘**National Logistics Excellence Awards**’ to turn the spotlight on the logistics sector. The Awards will give due recognition to various players involved in the logistics supply chain.
- The awards are in **two categories**, the first group includes **logistics infrastructure** and **service providers** and second one is for various **user industries**.
- There was wide scale appreciation from user industries for giving the due recognition to various players involved in the **logistics supply chain**. The awards will highlight best practices including consolidation, process standardization, technological upgrade, digital transformations, and sustainable practices.

## WHAT IS LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT?



## Monsoon Session of Parliament Begins

- The session will have **19 sittings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha**.
- During the session, **six bills** will be brought to replace the ordinances.
- Tribunal Reforms (Rationalization and Conditions of Service) Bill, 2021,
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2021,
- The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Bill, 2021,
- The Essential Defense Service Bill, 2021,
- The Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2021
- The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

## Marine Aids to Navigation Bill, 2021

- The Rajya Sabha took up the Bill which seeks to provide a framework for the development, maintenance, and management of **aids to navigation** in India.
- **A navigational aid** is any sort of signal, markers or guidance equipment which aids the traveler in navigation, usually nautical or aviation travel.
- The Bill defines **aid to navigation** as a device, system, or service, external to the vessels designed and operated to enhance the safety and efficiency of navigation of vessels and vessel traffic.
- A vessel includes a **ship, boat, sailing vessel, fishing vessel, submersible, and mobile offshore drilling units**.
- It also proposes to **impart training and certification** to operator of aids to navigation, development of its historical, educational, and cultural value.
- Its objective is also to ensure compliance with the obligation under the maritime treaties and international instruments to which India is a party.



## About 60,000 people performing Haj in Saudi Arabia

- About **sixty thousand** people are performing Haj in Saudi Arabia today as part of downsized pilgrimage due to Corona virus pandemic.
- Only those people are allowed to take part in pilgrimage who have been vaccinated.



- Marking the beginning of **five-day pilgrimage** yesterday, where they will spend the days praying and asking for God's forgiveness.

## Devotees demand Preservation of Historical Places in Bangladesh

- Devotees and members of civil society in Bangladesh have demanded the preservation of the historical buildings and places associated with the spiritual guru Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra in Pabna.
- There is a demand that the structures should be taken under the Archaeological Department and renovated.
- Born in 1888 in Pabna district, he established his religious organization '**Satsang**' along with various institutions including Vidyalaya, Mechanical and Electrical Workshop, Press and Publication House, Factory Department, Bank etc.



## Nelson Mandela International Day celebrated

- The 18th of July is celebrated as the Nelson Mandela International Day every year.
- **Nelson Mandela International Day** is an annual international day in honor of Nelson Mandela, celebrated each year on 18 July, Mandela's birthday.
- The day was officially declared by the United Nations in November 2009, with the first **UN Mandela Day** held on 18 July 2010.

## Sher Bahadur Deuba wins vote of confidence

- **Nepal's new Prime Minister** Sher Bahadur Deuba has won a vote of confidence in the House of Representatives.
- Mr. Deuba, chief of the **Nepali Congress**, secured 165 votes in the 275-member house yesterday. A total of 136 votes were required for Deuba to win the vote of confidence.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** congratulated Mr. Deuba for winning the vote of confidence in Parliament.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **Pabna Peasant Uprising** took place in \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. 1873–76
- B. 1883–86
- C. 1893–96
- D. 1853–56

**ANSWER: A**

2. **Pabna Peasant Uprising** was led by \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. R.C Dutt
- B. Surendranath Banerjee
- C. Bankim Chandra Chatterjee
- D. Ishan Chandra Roy

**ANSWER: D**

3. \_\_\_\_\_ was **Viceroy of India** when **Pabna Revolt** took place.

- A. Lord Mayo
- B. Lord Northbrook
- C. Lord Lytton
- D. Lord Ripon

**ANSWER: B**

4. Vernacular Press Act & Arms Act was passed during Viceroyship of \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Lord Mayo
- B. Lord Northbrook
- C. Lord Lytton
- D. Lord Ripon

**ANSWER: C**

5. Ilbert Bill was introduced during Viceroyship of \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Lord Mayo
- B. Lord Northbrook
- C. Lord Lytton
- D. Lord Ripon

**ANSWER: D**

6. \_\_\_\_\_ gave birth to Siddhartha Gautama at around 563 BCE in Lumbini (Nepal).

- A. Mahamayadevi
- B. Trishala
- C. Gautami
- D. Satyavati

**ANSWER: A**

7. Nelson Mandela was given Bharath Ratna in \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. 1990
- B. 1991
- C. 1992
- D. 1993

**ANSWER: A**

8. Nelson Mandela was given Noble Peace Prize in \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. 1990
- B. 1991
- C. 1992
- D. 1993

**ANSWER: D**

9. As per \_\_\_\_\_, the Parliament can make laws on items in the State List if the Rajya Sabha passes a resolution

- A. Article 249
- B. Article 250
- C. Article 261
- D. Article 262

**ANSWER: A**

10. The chief objective of the \_\_\_\_\_ is to draw the attention of the Parliament to any recent issue of urgent public interest.

- A. Censure motion
- B. No Confidence motion
- C. Adjournment motion
- D. Substantive motion

**ANSWER: C**





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