

## Current Affairs of the Day

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#### ➤ International Relations:

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2. India says Chinese troops tried to change status quo
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## 20 Indian soldiers killed in face-off at Galwan

### Key Points:

➤ Twenty Indian personnel, including a Colonel, were killed in violent clashes with Chinese troops on Monday along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, in what is possibly the worst incident between the two countries in decades.



➤ The clashes came amid a “de-escalation” process in the Galwan area that was started last week, after a month long stand-off between troops at several points along the LAC in Ladakh and Sikkim.

## India says Chinese troops tried to change status quo

### Key Points:

➤ Accusing the Chinese troops of “attempting to unilaterally change the status quo” in the Galwan valley, the Ministry of External Affairs said the casualties “could have been avoided” had agreements made by military commanders over the past week been followed by the Chinese side.

### Border on the boil | Here is a timeline of the latest stand-off on the LAC

**May 5/6:** Indian and Chinese troops scuffle at Pangong Tso in Ladakh resulting in injuries in large numbers on both sides. Over 70 Army personnel including a Commanding Officer injured

**May 9:** Clash between troops at Naku La in North Sikkim resulting in injuries on both sides

**May 18:** China accuses India of “trespass”, building “illegal” Infrastructure on LAC

**May 21:** MEA says Chinese troops “hindering normal patrols”

**May 27:** China says border situation “stable and controllable”

**June 2:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh says Chinese troops present at LAC “in large numbers”

**June 6:** Military commanders talk on Chinese side of LAC. Identify five areas of conflict, Pangong Tso, Patrolling Point 14, 15 and 17A and Chushut

Agree on limited “disengagement” from some of the areas

**June 10:** Major General level talks held. Chinese MFA says positive consensus reached at June 6 talks and two sides are following this “consensus to take actions to ease the situation along the border.”

**June 15/16:** Twenty killed after violent face-off with PLA troops in Galwan during the “de-escalation” process





## Five points:

- At least five points in Ladakh including the Galwan Valley patrolling points, Hostsprings area and Pangong Tso (lake) have been identified as flashpoints, and India's demands had included a return to status quo ante, and the retreat of Chinese troops occupying Indian patrol areas, along with tents, vehicles and equipment.

## India expects to sail through UN Security Council vote

- India expects to sail through as the 193-member **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** votes on Wednesday for contenders to five non-permanent seats at the UN Security Council for 2021-22.
- India is standing unopposed as the nominee for the Asia-Pacific seat and needs two-thirds of UNGA members, or 129 votes, to be confirmed. Mexico is also unopposed in its bid for the Latin American and Caribbean seat, while there is a straight contest between Kenya and late entrant Djibouti for the African seat.
- All eyes are, however on the contest between Canada, Ireland and Norway, who are vying for the two seats allotted to the Western European and Others Group (WEOG), with each making a pitch for India's vote.
- In its own campaign brochure, India had highlighted its commitment to multilateralism, demand for transparency in mandates for UN peacekeeping missions, push for the Indian-led Comprehensive Convention for International Terrorism (CCIT) and joint efforts for UN reform and the expansion of the UNSC.

## Value Added Information

### What is UNGA?

- Popularly known as **the parliament of the world**, where all the 193 UN member states are represented, the UNGA is **the deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN**.

### Roles and functions:

- Takes a decision on important matters such as peace and security, discusses various global issues and budgetary matters.



- Decides on matters such as the admission of new members.
- **Decisions are taken through a vote.** Admission of new members and budgetary matters require a two-thirds majority, while the decision on other issues are taken by a simple majority.
- Each sovereign state gets one vote and the votes are not binding on the membership, except in budgetary matters.
- The Assembly has **no binding votes or veto powers like the UN Security Council.**
- The UNGA can express world opinion, promote international cooperation in various fields and make recommendations to the UNSC and elect the Security Council's non-permanent members.

### Which countries are not a part of UNGA?

- Among the world's 196 countries, 193 are UN member states and three nations- Palestine, the Vatican City and Taiwan are not a part of the international organization as their country status is not recognized globally due to political and religious reasons.

### According to the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly may:

- Consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessments of Member States;
- Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of other United Nations councils and organs and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General;
- Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament;
- Discuss any question relating to international peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, make recommendations on it;





- Discuss, with the same exception, and make recommendations on any questions within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations;
- Initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health fields;
- Make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation that might impair friendly relations among countries;
- Consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs.

## N. Korea blows up liaison office with South

- North Korea blew up an inter-Korean liaison office on its side of the border on Tuesday, the South's Unification Ministry said, after days of increasingly virulent rhetoric from Pyongyang.
- Its destruction came after Kim Yo-jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, said at the weekend: "Before long, a tragic scene of the useless north-south joint liaison office completely collapsed would be seen."
- Analysts say Pyongyang may be seeking to manufacture a crisis to increase pressure on Seoul while nuclear negotiations with Washington are at a standstill.
- South Korea's Defence Ministry called for North Korea to abide by the 2018 agreement, under which both sides vowed to cease "all hostile acts" and dismantled a number of structures along the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone between the countries.



## 'Highest smartphone usage in India'

### Key Points:

- India remains the region with the highest monthly data usage per smartphone, according to the Ericsson Mobility Report.
- The total mobile data traffic is projected to triple to 21 EB (1 exabyte = 1,000 petabytes) per month in 2025.
- Average monthly mobile data usage per smartphone continued to show robust growth, boosted by the rapid adoption of 4G.
- Total mobile broadband subscriptions are set to top 1 billion by 2025.

## Govt. banks disburse ₹16,031 crore to MSMEs

### Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS):

- The Finance Ministry on Tuesday said public sector banks have disbursed ₹16,031.39 crore till June 12, under the ₹3-lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for the MSME sector, adversely affected following COVID-19.
- Public sector banks (PSBs) have sanctioned loans worth ₹32,049.86 crore under the 100% ECLGS for the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector beginning June 1.
- The scheme is the biggest fiscal component of the ₹20-lakh crore Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last month.

### 100% guarantee:

- Under the scheme, 100% guarantee coverage will be provided by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC) for an additional funding of up to ₹3 lakh crore to eligible MSMEs and interested Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA) borrowers in the form of a guaranteed emergency credit line (GECL) facility.



## Corpus created:

- For this purpose, a corpus of ₹41,600 crore was provided by the government, spread over the current and next three financial years.
- The scheme will be applicable to all loans sanctioned under GECL facility during the period from the date of announcement of the plan to October 31 or till an amount of ₹3 lakh crore is sanctioned under GECL, whichever is earlier.
- The main objective of the scheme is to provide an incentive to member lending institutions to increase access and enable availability of additional funding facility to MSME borrowers, in view of the economic distress caused by the COVID-19 crisis, by giving them 100% guarantee for any losses suffered by them due to non-repayment of the GECL funding by borrowers.