



## Rapid Fire Current Affairs

### 'Made-in-Surat' Eco-Friendly Diamond

During the Indian Prime Minister's visit to the White House, US, **an eco-friendly lab-grown diamond (LGD)** was presented as a gift to US First Lady Jill Biden. Produced in Surat, India, the diamond showcases the excellence of the country's diamond industry.

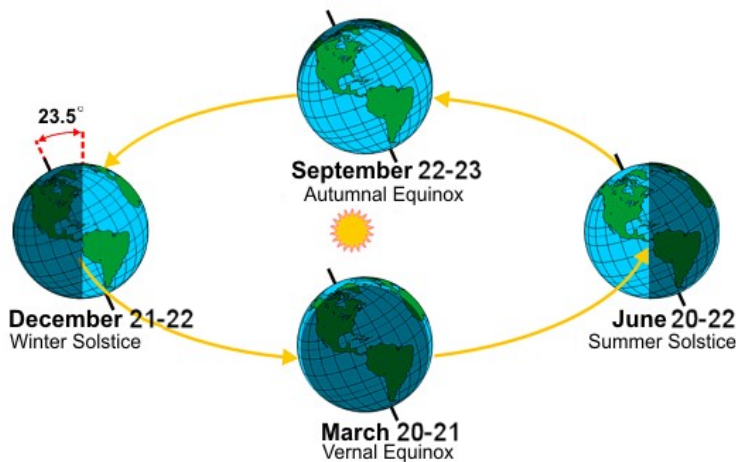
LGD are synthetic diamonds produced in laboratories, **possessing the same chemical composition and physical properties** as naturally occurring diamonds. They are manufactured through **High Pressure, High Temperature (HPHT) or Chemical Vapour Deposition (CVD)** methods using a seed diamond, a slice of another diamond. Lab-grown diamonds have applications in industrial tools and machinery due to their hardness, and pure synthetic diamonds are used as heat spreaders in electronics.

Read more: [Lab-Grown Diamonds](#)

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### Summer Solstice

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The **summer solstice, occurring on June 21** in the **Northern Hemisphere**, signifies the **longest day of the year**. This astronomical event is a result of the **Earth's tilt on its axis**. This tilt, always at **23.5 degrees with respect to the Sun**, creates the phenomenon known as the **solstice**. The solstice, derived from the **Latin phrase meaning "sun stands still"**,. The **Northern Hemisphere receives more direct sunlight** between March and September, leading to the **summer season** in this region. The amount of sunlight received during the **summer solstice varies based on latitude**, with areas further north experiencing more daylight. In fact, at the **Arctic Circle, the sun remains visible throughout the entire day during the solstice**.

In contrast, the Southern Hemisphere receives most sunlight on **December 21, 22 or 23** when the northern hemisphere has its longest nights- or the winter solstice.

Read more: [Summer Solstice: 21<sup>st</sup> June](#)

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## National Florence Nightingale Award

Recently, the [President of India](#) presented the **National Florence Nightingale Awards** for the years 2022 and 2023 to the [Nursing professionals](#) at a function held at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.

The **National Florence Nightingale Award** was instituted by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in the year 1973** as a mark of recognition for the meritorious services rendered by the nurses and nursing professionals to the society.

**Read more:** [International Nurses Day](#)

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## Legal Counsel Challenges ED's Authority in PMLA Arrest Case

A senior counsel representing a petitioner before the [Madras High Court](#) questioned the [Directorate of Enforcement \(ED\)](#) jurisdiction to insist on custodial interrogation in a case related to the [Prevention of Money Laundering Act \(PMLA\)](#).

The counsel argued that the **PMLA does not grant ED officials the powers of a Station House Officer (SHO)**, making their demand for custody of the arrested person legally questionable. Additionally, a Supreme Court ruling was cited that **restricts custodial interrogation beyond 15 days from the date of arrest, regardless of circumstances**.

The **ED is a multi-disciplinary organisation** mandated with investigation of **offences of money laundering and violations of [foreign exchange laws](#)**. It functions under the **Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance**.

**Read more:** [Directorate of Enforcement](#), [Prevention of Money Laundering Act](#).

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