

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 5, 2019

TAMIL NADU

◆ The country's first 'away from reactor' (AFR) facility to store spent nuclear fuel - is likely to come up at Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu

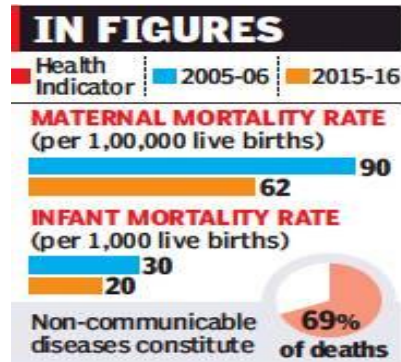
- ✓ It will store spent fuel generated at the two nuclear power plants at Kudankulam.
- ✓ The Russia-supported Kudankulam power plants are run by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL), a central government entity.
- ✓ The decision comes after the Supreme Court, in July last year, extended the deadline to build an AFR facility at Kudankulam from July 2018 to April 2022
- ✓ According to the TNPCB's draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) report, a pool building and a utility building will be the AFR's main components.
- ✓ Spent fuel will be transported from the reactor to the pool building in containers using overhead cranes.
- ✓ Spent fuel assemblies will be stored underwater in fuel racks in the fuel pool using specialised handling machines
- ✓ The pool will be lined with stainless steel plates and will have a provision for leak detection along with other systems for water cooling, purification and ventilation
- ✓ The utility building will have support systems to store spent fuel, including a control room and alarms.
- ✓ The fuel pool has the capacity to accommodate spent fuel generated up to seven years of reactor operations

◆ The Chennai city – to soon get a Metropolitan Transport Corporation bus with a foldable ramp to help disabled passengers board and get off the vehicle

- ✓ This is the first of its kind bus in the entire South India
- ✓ MTC carried out the modifications in the new red-coloured bus with the help of a private firm, that made 'bus stands' in Bengaluru accessible to people with disabilities (PwDs)

- ✓ A special doorway has been created right next to the front door, seats on that row have been removed and a hydraulic ramp has been fitted to the base
- ✓ Once the driver/conductor presses the open button, the ramp will slide out so that the person can enter the bus using wheelchairs
- ✓ After they settle, the operator can close the door using the same remote control and ramps return to the original position
- ✓ The project was carried out with an estimated cost of Rs 3 lakh.

◆ **The World Bank - to provide Rs 1,990 crore (\$287 million) to improve healthcare in Tamil Nadu**



- ✓ A loan agreement in connection with the project, Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Programme, was signed between the Centre, state and World Bank, the international financial institution on June 4
- ✓ The funds will be used to focus on improving quality of healthcare, reducing non-communicable diseases (NCD) and bridging the gaps in reproductive and child health services.
- ✓ Special focus will be on the nine priority districts in Tamil Nadu, which feature in the bottom of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) indicators in the state and have a relatively large proportion of tribal population.
- ✓ To tackle road injuries, the programme will improve 24x7 trauma care services and establish a trauma registry
- ✓ Tamil Nadu recorded the highest number of road accidents compared to other Indian states in 2016 and 2017.

◆ **Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - will soon make a formal announcement of the launch of electric buses in Chennai.**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu will buy 2,000 new electric buses with German assistance.
- ✓ In the first phase, 500 of them will ply in Chennai, Coimbatore and Madurai.
- ✓ The government had signed a 'Clean Bus Declaration' with C40 Cities, a climate leadership group. This agreement will pave way for promoting pollution-free electric buses and 12,000 BS-IV buses.

◆ **Two more one-stop centres for women in distress - will be set up in Chennai within next three months.**

- ✓ The centres will help provide support to women facing physical, sexual, emotional, psychological or economic abuse.

- ✓ One centre will be opened in north Chennai and the other in the central part of the city
- ✓ Currently, the city has one centre in Tambaram.
- ✓ Apart from the one in Chennai, there are nine centres functioning across the state as against the requirement of one in each of the 32 districts
- ✓ They are in Kancheepuram, Salem, Trichy, Madurai, Coimbatore, Karur, Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli and Tiruvannamalai.

STATES

◆ **The Kerala government - confirmed the first case of Nipah (NiV) infection in the country in 2019 on June 4**



- ✓ The move follows the confirmation from the Pune-based National Institute of Virology about the '**positive**' results of the samples collected from a 23-year-old student for the zoonotic virus
- ✓ Apart from the 23-year-old student, five more people are suspected to have contracted the deadly virus.
- ✓ Of them, four, including three nurses, were in contact with the student who has been undergoing treatment at a Kochi-based private hospital
- ✓ Only two of the 20 people who contracted the virus had survived in 2018, following the outbreak in Kozhikode and Malappuram
- ✓ According to World Health Organization (WHO), Nipah virus can be transmitted from fruit bats to both animals and humans.
- ✓ It takes its name from Sungai Nipah, a village in Malaysia where it was first identified.

NATIONAL

◆ **The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry - to launch the Swachh Survekshan 2020 League, a quarterly assessment of cleanliness, on June 6**

- ✓ Union Minister of State for MoHUA, Hardeep Puri will launch the Swachh Survekshan 2020 League
- ✓ It is part of the annual Swachh Survekshan or sanitation survey of cities and towns
- ✓ The assessments would take place in April-June, July- September and October-December 2019 and be integrated into the Swachh Survekshan 2020

PERSONALITIES

- ◆ **Abu Dhabi-based Indian retail tycoon M A Yusuff Ali - has become the first expat to get the UAE's first gold card permanent residency**



- ✓ The LuLu Group chairman, who was ranked the richest expat in UAE by the Forbes magazine, becomes the first of 6,800 investors with total investment exceeding \$27 billion to receive the gold card under a scheme announced last month by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the ruler of Dubai
- ✓ With more than 170 hypermarkets and shopping malls, the LuLu Group employs more than 50,000 people comprising 42 nationalities
- ✓ The new initiative which aims at generating foreign investment and attracting top engineers, scientists and star students — has identified 6,800 qualified expats from over 70 countries in the first phase

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ **Apple - announces the end of groundbreaking iTunes on June 3**



- ✓ It plans to split iTunes into three separate Mac applications - Apple Music, Apple TV, and Apple Podcasts in its next operating system, macOS Catalina
- ✓ The revisions included a new feature that will let people log into apps and other services with an Apple ID instead of relying on similar sign-in options from Facebook and Google
- ✓ iTunes, which has transformed the way people buy and listen to music, was launched in 2001

ECONOMY

- ◆ **Bank of Baroda - declares Vijay Goverdhandas Kalantri, chairman and managing director of Dighi Port, and his son Vishal Kantri, a director of the port, as 'wilful defaulters'**



- ✓ They both owe approximately Rs 3,334 crore to a consortium of 16 Indian banks led by Bank of India, for loans given to develop the port.

- ✓ Dighi Port is being developed on the two banks of Rajpuri Creek as Maharashtra's first private sector port with direct berthing facilities and modern cargo handling equipment
- ✓ Kalantri also heads Balaji Infra Projects, which is developing the port, and he is the Honorary Consul of the Consulate of Uzbekistan in India.

APPOINTMENTS

◆ **Renowned scientist and India's 'Cyclone Man', Mrutyunjay Mohapatra - appointed as the chief of India meteorological department (IMD)**



- ✓ The 54-year-old Scientist 'G' and additional director general in the IMD has been appointed as director general of meteorology, IMD, for a period of five years
- ✓ He will assume charge of the post on or after 1 August 2019
- ✓ His appointment order was issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
- ✓ Known for his cyclone forecasts, Mohapatra leads the cyclone warning division of the IMD
- ✓ Mohapatra and his team at the cyclone warning division of the IMD have earned praise for their accurate forecasts on cyclones, its wind-speed and likely impact on life and property including during the recent cyclone 'Fani'
- ✓ Over the last six years, the CWD has given accurate forecasts on cyclones including when Phailin (2013), Hudhud (2014) and Titli (2018) hit the eastern coast

AWARDS

◆ **Veteran actor Sheela - has bagged the J C Daniel Award 2018 for overall contribution to Malayalam film industry**



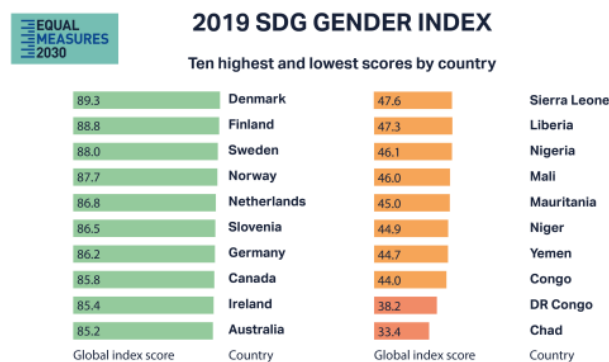
- ✓ The top film award instituted by the Kerala government, which comprises cash prize of Rs 5 lakh, citation and statuette, will be presented to her at the state film award distribution ceremony at Nishagandhi Auditorium in Thiruvananthapuram on July 27
- ✓ She is only the second woman to get it, after Aranmula Ponnamma in 2005
- ✓ Sheela was chosen by a committee chaired by filmmaker K S Sethumadhavan and actor Nedumudi Venu, scriptwriter John Paul, Chalachitra Academy chairman Kamal and cultural affairs secretary Rani George as its members

- ✓ 'Bhagyajathakam' (1962), directed by P Bhaskaran was Sheela's first film in Malayalam.
- ✓ She won her first state award for the film 'Kallichellamma' in 1969.

RANKINGS

◆ India - ranked 95th out of a total 129 countries in the first-ever SDG Gender Index

- ✓ The index measures improvements made in achieving gender commitments against internationally set targets
- ✓ The index has been developed by Equal Measures 2030
- ✓ The index finds that no country has fully achieved the promise of gender equality and that the global average score of 65.7 out of 100 is "poor".



- ✓ A score of 100 indicates the achievement of gender equality in relation to the underlying indicators.
- ✓ A score of 50 would indicate that a country is about halfway to meeting its goal.
- ✓ India's score of 56.2 means that it is among 43 countries in the 'very poor' category
- ✓ India scores the highest in health (79.9), followed by hunger (76.2) and energy (71.8). Among the SDGs, on which the country performs poorly are partnerships (18.3), industry, infrastructure and innovation (38.1) and climate (43.4).

INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ World Environment Day – June 5



- ✓ As per United Nations, the day provides an opportunity to broaden the "basis for an enlightened opinion and responsible conduct by individuals, enterprises and communities in preserving and enhancing the environment"
- ✓ **Theme 2019 – 'Air Pollution'**
- ✓ **Host Nation 2019 - China**

- ✓ Hangzhou, situated in the province of Zhejiang, will host the main event.
- ✓ First held in 1974, it has been a flagship campaign for raising awareness on emerging environmental issues from marine pollution, human overpopulation, and global warming, to sustainable consumption and wildlife crime
- ✓ World Environment Day [WED] was established by the UN General Assembly in 1972 on the first day of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment
- ✓ Two years later, in 1974 the first WED was held with the theme "Only One Earth".
- ✓ Last year, India hosted the main event with the theme 'Beat Plastic Pollution'
- ✓ Indian government pledged to eliminate all single use of plastic in India by 2022

◆ **World Bicycle Day – June 3**



World Bicycle Day Logo

The Bicycle belongs to everyone
and serves all of humanity.

- ✓ In 2018, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 3 June as World Bicycle Day to observe the day as a celebration of “uniqueness, longevity and versatility’ of the bicycle
- ✓ Also days ahead of World Bicycle Day celebration in 2018, Bengaluru appointed its first ever ‘Bicycle Mayor’ the first of its kind in India, Satya Shankaran
- ✓ Amsterdam leads the number with 40% of all its commuters use a bicycle to go to work

