

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 29, 2019

TAMIL NADU

◆ **The Cauvery Water Management Authority – ordered Karnataka on May 28 to release 9.19tmcft (thousand million cubic feet) of Cauvery water from the Biligundlu reservoir to the Mettur Dam in Tamil Nadu for the month of June**

- ✓ This is in line with the decision of the Cauvery water disputes tribunal, as modified by the Supreme Court on February 16 last year
- ✓ This is the third meeting of the CWMA since June 2018, when it was constituted.
- ✓ As the current storage of Mettur reservoir stands at 16.07tmcft against a capacity of 93.47tmcft, the state finds it difficult to release water for irrigation on June 12, the customary date.
- ✓ If the storage does not reach 50tmcft, Mettur reservoir will not be opened on June 12 for the eighth year in a row
- ✓ The farmers are anxiously awaiting the release of water to raise short-term paddy crop, kuruvai
- ✓ Karnataka will start releasing water from first of June and the quantum will be broken into three ten-day intervals.
- ✓ As per the Central Water Commission's records, key reservoirs in southern India are at levels below their five-year average.
- ✓ The total live storage is 6.38 bcm (billion cubic metre), which is 12% of the total live storage capacity
- ✓ The storage during the corresponding period last year was also 12% and the average storage of the last 10 years during the corresponding period was 15% of the live storage capacity of these reservoirs
- ✓ The Supreme Court had earlier ruled on February 16, 2018 that Karnataka's share was 284 tmcft, Tamil Nadu's 404 tmcft, Kerala's 30 tmcft and Puducherry's 7 tmcft.

- ✓ Besides this, the court reserved 10 tmcft for environmental purposes and four tmcft for natural flow into the sea.

◆ **Governor Banwarilal Purohit - appointed Vaidehi Vijayakumar as the vice-chancellor of Mother Teresa University in Kodaikanal for a period of three years**



- ✓ Ms. Vaidehi had worked as a professor in computer science at Anna University's Madras Institute of Technology for 12 years and as director of the University's K.B. Chandrasekar Research Centre.
- ✓ She was Head of Department for six years and 10 months, and served as the Dean of the Vellore Institute of Technology University for five years.
- ✓ She was in the Academic Council and the Board of Studies of Anna University and VIT University
- ✓ She has also been a visiting professor in several foreign universities including Ryerson University, Canada, National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.
- ✓ She has guided 24 PhD research scholars and presented 266 papers at international level research and academic events.

◆ **The National Green Tribunal (NGT) - has directed the formation of another expert committee to look into the issue of fly ash dumping in the Ennore creek and ascertain the damage caused to the environment.**

- ✓ The committee comprises of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Indian Institute of Technology Madras and the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB)
- ✓ In 2017, the Tribunal had constituted a three-member committee of experts and an executive engineer from PWD
- ✓ It found all samples from the Kosasthalaiyar river, the backwaters and the secondary pond containing elevated levels of several toxic metals.
- ✓ The bench comprising Judicial Member K. Ramakrishnan and Expert Member Dr. Nagin Nanda said the situation has not improved, despite an earlier order by the Tribunal in 2017 directing the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Company (Tangedco) and the NCTPS to take steps to remediate the area
- ✓ They were also directed to replace the existing ash pipelines.

◆ **India's first tree ambulance - was inaugurated in Chennai by Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu on the eve of International Day for Biological Diversity**



- ✓ The initiative was proposed by Green man of India, Dr K Abdul Ghani and it is sponsored by the SASA Group
- ✓ The ambulance can be availed through the number 9941006786 and volunteers can register on www.treeambulance.org.
- ✓ The ambulance has helpers and a plant expert, who carry gardening tools, water, manure, and pesticide with them.
- ✓ The reallocation of trees will be done free of cost
- ✓ Services provided by Tree Ambulance includes uprooted tree planting, seed bank, seed ball distribution, plant distribution, aiding tree plantation, shifting trees, a survey of trees and removal of dead trees.

STATES

◆ **Telangana - released a draft blockchain policy to set up country's first 'Blockchain District' in Hyderabad**

- ✓ It is aimed to create an ecosystem for major blockchain companies, start-ups for promoting research, innovation and industry collaboration
- ✓ Telangana Government signed an agreement with Tech Mahindra to set up the Blockchain district in 2018.
- ✓ The main focus will be given to the sectors such as banking, financial services and insurance, pharmaceuticals and healthcare, government institutions and departments, logistics and supply chains
- ✓ The incentives like access to investments, subsidies, tax credits will be rolled out to attract enterprises, Small and Medium Enterprises and startups

◆ **Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma - launched a new project to boost medicinal and aromatic plants cultivation named "Aroma Mission"**



- ✓ "Aroma Mission" is a Rs. 18 crore project, launched to give importance for agriculture and allied sectors
- ✓ CM inaugurated a processing unit of essential oils and insisted institutions like CSIR-CIMAP to undertake more researches in this field.
- ✓ Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) is a plant research laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

NATIONAL

◆ **India - has been elected to the Executive Board of first United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) Assembly at the ongoing Plenary Session at the headquarters of UN-Habitat in Nairobi, Kenya**

- ✓ The first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly will be held from 27 May 2019 till 31 May 2019
- ✓ During the session, it will approve the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and will also review Progress in implementation of New Urban Agenda
- ✓ The special theme for the first UN-Habitat Assembly is- 'Innovation for Better Quality of Life in Cities and Communities'
- ✓ UN-Habitat is the United Nations agency for human settlements and sustainable urban development
- ✓ Established in 1978, it reports to UN General Assembly

◆ **Recording a temperature of 47.8° C, Chandrapur in India - was the hottest place in the world on May 28 as per El Dorado which monitors temperatures across the globe**

- ✓ Nagpur recorded 47.5° C, putting it at No. 3.
- ✓ Jacobabad in Pakistan was the second hottest at 47.5 degrees.
- ✓ Two other cities from Vidarbha — Bramhapuri and Wardha — also figure in the top 15 hottest cities in the world.
- ✓ While Brahmapuri was at no. 5 with 46.9 degrees Celsius, Wardha was at no. 9 with 46.5.
- ✓ Other Indian cities in the top 15 are Ramagundam (No.4) and Adilabad (No. 11), both in Telangana, and Banda (no.12) in Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ Nagpur's highest May temperature of the last few years was recorded on May 23, 2013, when the maximum temperature was 47.9° C.

◆ **Singapore – tops the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows into the country during the last financial year**

- ✓ In 2018-19, inflows from Singapore were estimated at \$16.2 billion, compared to \$8.1 billion from Mauritius

- ✓ This is only the third time that inflows from Singapore have topped those from Mauritius with investment advisers attributing the change to the revamped tax treaty
- ✓ After 33 years, India and Mauritius had agreed to amend the tax treaty, allowing authorities in the country to tax capital gains on transfer of Indian shares acquired from April 2017.
- ✓ A similar amendment was made in the tax treaty with Singapore, which also came into force from April 1, 2017

◆ **An all-women crew of the Indian Air Force - flew a Mi-17 V5 medium-lift helicopter for the first time in India**



- ✓ The crew comprises of Flight Lieutenant Parul Bhardwaj (Captain), Flying Officer Aman Nidhi (co-pilot) and Flight Lieutenant Hina Jaiswal (flight engineer)
- ✓ It flew the helicopter for a Battle Inoculation Training Mission, taking off and landing from restricted areas at a forward air base in the South Western Air Command.
- ✓ Flight Lieutenant Bhardwaj hails from Mukerian in Punjab and is incidentally also the first woman pilot to fly the Mi-17 V5.
- ✓ Flying Officer Nidhi hails from Ranchi and is also the first woman IAF pilot from Jharkhand while Flying Officer Jaiswal hails from Chandigarh and is the first woman Flight Engineer of the IAF
- ✓ The pilots had undergone basic flight training at the Helicopter Training School at Air Force Station, Hakimpet followed by advanced training at Air Force Station, Yelahanka

INTERNATIONAL

◆ **World Health Organisation (WHO) - declared excessive mobile, video gaming as a disorder as it results in several mental and physical illness**

- ✓ “Gaming disorder” alongside “gambling disorder” has officially placed in the 11th revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-11) list of “disorders due to addictive behaviours”.
- ✓ The International Classification of Diseases - ICD is a foundation for recognition of health issues and the international standard for reporting diseases and health problems

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

◆ Sri Lanka, Japan and India - signed an agreement to jointly develop the East Container Terminal at the Colombo Port on May 28



- ✓ The joint initiative is estimated to cost between \$500 million and \$700 million
- ✓ As per the agreement signed, the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) retains 100% ownership of the East Container Terminal (ECT), while the Terminal Operations Company is jointly owned
- ✓ Sri Lanka will hold a 51% stake in the project and the joint venture partners will retain 49%

COMMITTEES

◆ The Centre - constitutes a tribunal for adjudicating ban on Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)

- ✓ LTTE has been banned in India since 1991, after the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi
- ✓ The Government has extended the ban for LTTE by five more years
- ✓ under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967 in May 2019



- ✓ The tribunal, comprising of a sitting Judge of Delhi High Court (HC) Justice Sangita Dhingra Sehgal, will examine whether there is sufficient cause for declaring Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as an unlawful association

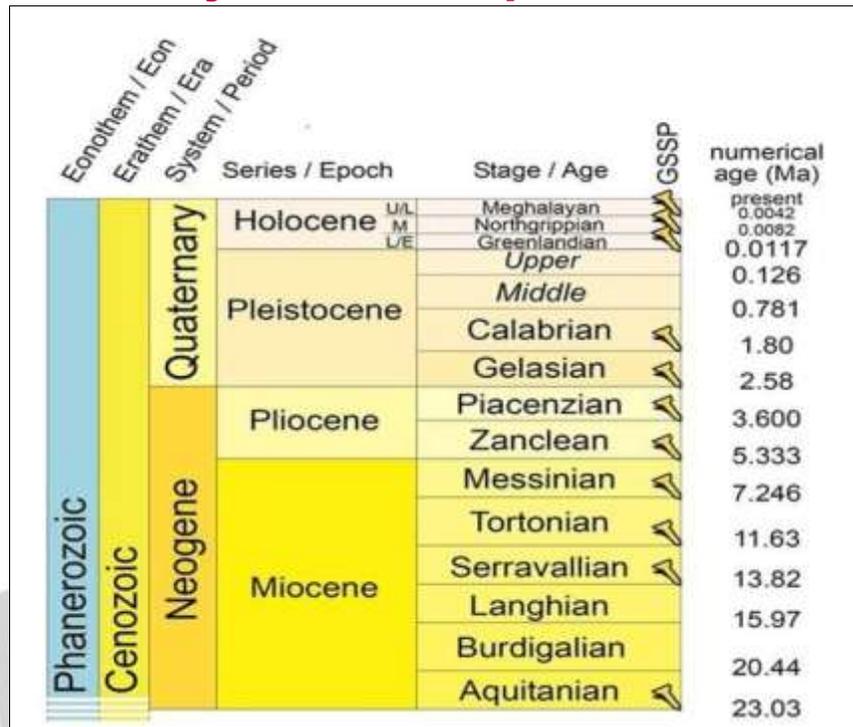
CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

◆ Sweden - will host an International Conference against Anti-Semitism in memory of the Holocaust in October 2020.

- ✓ It will be held in Malmo, Southern Sweden, on October 27 and 28, 20 years after the Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust and 75 years after the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp
- ✓ Anti-Semitism is a form of racism that exhibits hostility, prejudice, or discrimination against Jews

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ On May 21, a 34-member panel of the Anthropocene Working Group (AWG) - voted in favor of classifying the age we are living in as a new geological epoch—the “Anthropocene”, which means “age of man” due to humanity’s colossal impact on Earth



- ✓ The vote signals the end of the Holocene Epoch, which began 11,700 years ago.
- ✓ The panel plans to submit a formal proposal for the new epoch by 2021 to the International Commission on Stratigraphy, which oversees the official geologic time chart.
- ✓ The term ‘Anthropocene’ was coined in 2000 by Nobel Laureate Paul Crutzen and Eugene Stoermer to denote the present geological time interval in which human activity has profoundly altered many conditions and processes on Earth.
- ✓ The focus is now on identifying a definitive geologic marker or golden spike (technically called Global boundary Stratotype Section and Point) to signal the beginning of the Anthropocene Epoch
- ✓ The golden spike must be present globally and should be a part of deposits for geological record.
- ✓ Many in the AWG believe that artificial radionuclides spread across the world by atomic bomb tests from the early 1950s would serve as the golden spike
- ✓ The radionuclides are present almost everywhere — from marine sediments to ice layers and even stalagmites and stalactites.
- ✓ The final ratification will be made by the executive committee of the International Union of Geological Sciences.

DEFENCE

- ◆ **The United States, Japan, South Korea, and Australia - have kicked off first-of-its-kind naval drills near Guam on May 23.**



- ✓ The 'Pacific Vanguard' exercise brings together more than 3,000 sailors from the four countries to sharpen skills and strengthen practical cooperation at sea
- ✓ The drills will focus on live-fire exercises, defensive counter-air operations, anti-submarine warfare, and replenishment at sea
- ✓ The Royal Australian Navy contributed two frigates to the exercise, HMAS Melbourne and HMAS Parramatta.
- ✓ The Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force sent destroyers JS Ariake and JS Asahi, and South Korea the Republic of Korea Navy destroyer ROKS Wang Geon.

AWARDS

- ◆ **Bengaluru based doctor Hema Divakar - received the 'Global Asian of the Year 2018-19' Award for women services and contribution towards Women's Healthcare Ecosystem.**



- ✓ Dr. Hema was conferred the award at the Asian Business & Social Forum 2019 under the 'In Service of the Society and the Nation' category from UAE's Trade Promotion Director Mohammed Naser Hamdan A1 Zaabi.

- ◆ **Dr. Ankur Patwardhan, a scientist from Pune - won second place in 'German Chemistry Prize' in an international competition named 'Elsevier Foundation-ISC3 Green and Sustainable Chemistry Challenge'**



- ✓ Dr. Ankur Patwardhan received the second prize with €25,000 for his project 'Butterfly attractant for pollination and ecosystem health'
- ✓ The award was conferred to Ankur during in the 4th Green and Sustainable Chemistry Conference held in Dresden ,Germany
- ✓ At present, Dr. Ankur is working as head of the 'Annasaheb Kulkarni Biodiversity Department' at Abasa Garware College, Pune
- ✓ The first prize was won by Dr. Ramia Al Bakain with €50,000 for his project "New green technique to remove toxic metal from wastewater"

SPORTS

◆ India - bags a total of 57 medals including 12 Gold, 18 Silver and 27 Bronze at India Open International Boxing tournament in Guwahati.

- ✓ MC Mary Kom, Shiva Thapa, L Sarita Devi, and Naman Tanwar won gold in their respective finals.
- ✓ This was Mary's second gold in the tournament, having won in 48 kg last year in the capital.

◆ Aravindh Chithambaram - became the first Indian player to hold national titles in all three formats of the Chess game simultaneously



- ✓ The Madurai boy who lives in Chennai achieved this feat after winning the rapid and blitz crowns at the Nationals which concluded in Jalandhar on May 28
- ✓ Aravindh became the National Open senior champion (in classical format) last December in Jammu
- ✓ Aravindh — who became a GM in 2014 — won bronze in the 2017 World junior chess championship (U-20) in Tarviso, Italy

◆ FIFA has dropped the plan to include a total of 48 teams at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar

- ✓ The 2022 edition will remain as originally planned with 32 teams
- ✓ The expansion proposal was proposed and pressed by FIFA's president, Gianni Infantino.
- ✓ In January 2017, FIFA voted unanimously in favour of increasing the World Cup to 48 teams for the 2026 event - which will be held in the United States, Canada and Mexico.
- ✓ The 2022 World cup will be the first World Cup ever to be held in the Arab world and the first in a Muslim-majority country

OBITUARY

- ◆ **Kalpna Dash, Odisha's first woman mountaineer - passed away at the age of 50 while descending, after scaling Mt. Everest for the second time**



- ✓ She accompanied Kanchimaya Tamang of Nepal and Liamu Mank of China to scale Mount Everest as part of a team led by veteran mountaineer Pemba Dheeraj Sherpa.
- ✓ Earlier, she scripted history by climbing Mount Everest from Nepal side in the year 2008
- ✓ She was climbing the mountain for the past 15 years during which she claimed mountains in Europe, America, Australia, and India
- ✓ Lack of oxygen and extreme exhaustion while waiting in the queue on Mt. Everest could have led to the death of mountaineers this season
- ✓ The Everest death toll has risen to 10, including three Indian climbers.

