

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 6, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **The central prisons in Tamil Nadu - would soon have de-addiction centres to rehabilitate inmates addicted to drugs/substances**
 - ✓ The recent violence witnessed in the Madurai Central Prison was the fallout of seizure of contraband (ganja) from the prisoners
 - ✓ According to officials, there are around 10,000 inmates, including remand and convicted prisoners, in 14 central prisons across the state.
 - ✓ Of these, five are special prisons for women
- ◆ **The Tamil Nadu government - has announced ₹ 10 crore as immediate contribution for relief work in the cyclone-hit Odisha**
 - ✓ The money was drawn from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund
 - ✓ Apart from the state, Chhattisgarh Government donated Rs 11 crore, while Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra Governments donated Rs 10 crore each followed by an assistance of ₹ 5 crore by Gujarat Government to the cyclone-battered Odisha

STATES

- ◆ **Shops and commercial establishments in Gujarat – can now be open 24x7**
 - ✓ The state has enacted 'Gujarat Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2019' coming into force from May 1
 - ✓ It replaces 'Gujarat Shops and Establishments Act of 1948' which prohibited shops and other businesses from remaining open between 12 am to 6 am
 - ✓ The new Act removes the registration process for shops employing less than ten persons and those employing more than 10 workers should have one-time registration without any annual renewal
 - ✓ It also stipulates the working hours for women employees to be between 6 am and 9 pm

NATIONAL

◆ The voting for fifth phase of the Lok Sabha Elections 2019 - began on May 6, 2019 in 51 constituencies across 7 states

PHASE 5 MAY 6, 2019		
51 SEATS 7 STATES		
State	Voting	Constituencies
Uttar Pradesh	14/80	Lucknow, Raebareilly, Amethi, Dhaurahra, Sitapur, Mohanlalganj, Banda, Fatehpur, Kaushambi, Barabanki, Faizabad, Bahraich, Kaiserganj, Gonda
Rajasthan	12/25	Ganganagar, Bikaner, Churu, Jhunjhunu, Sikar, Jaipur Rural, Jaipur, Alwar, Bharatpur, Karauli-Dholpur, Dausa, Nagaur
West Bengal	7/42	Bangaon, Barrackpore, Howrah, Uluberia, Srerampur, Hooghly, Arambag
Madhya Pradesh	7/29	Tikamgarh, Damoh, Khajuraho, Satna, Rewa, Hoshangabad, Betul
Bihar	5/40	Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Muzaffarpur, Saran, Hajipur
Jharkhand	4/14	Kodarma, Ranchi, Khunti, Hazaribagh
Jammu and Kashmir	2/6	Anantnag, Ladakh

- ✓ The polling is being held for 14 seats in Uttar Pradesh, 12 in Rajasthan, 7 each in Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal, 5 in Bihar, 4 in Jharkhand and 2 in Jammu and Kashmir
- ✓ With phase 5 voting, elections will be over in 424 Lok Sabha seats and polling in the remaining 118 seats will be held on May 12 and May 19

◆ Delhi High Court – has completed the pilot project named ‘Zero Pendency Courts Project’

- ✓ It was executed in certain subordinate courts of Delhi
- ✓ The project was designed to identify benchmarks for various types of cases, timelines, number of judges required, judicial time required to dispose a case and other relevant factors
- ✓ Findings of the Project
 - ✓ Delhi High Court needs 43 more judges above its current strength of 143 in order to clear all the pending cases within a period of one year
 - ✓ The report identifies the following reasons for the delays in case disposals - absence of witnesses, unnecessary adjournments sought by the advocates or the parties, lesser number of judges and delay in summons, especially to outstation parties
 - ✓ Persisting delays have made the system less credible, costing the country around 1.5% of the GDP annually

◆ Ministry of Electronics & IT, (Information Technology) and CSC (Common Services Centre) e-Governance Services India Limited -

partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur to upscale 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan'

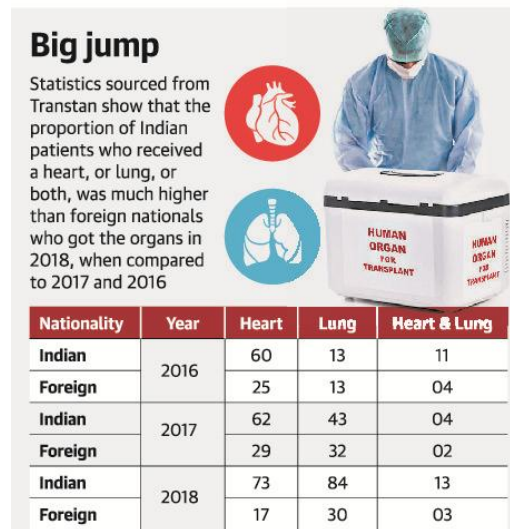
- ✓ 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan project' is led by Dr Reeta Singh, from IIT Kanpur.
- ✓ Unnat Bharat Abhiyan' is the programme of the HRD (Human Resource Development) Ministry for rural development through higher educational institutions
- ✓ Its second edition was launched in the year 2018
- ✓ Under the policy, IIT-Kanpur brought 15 leading higher education institutions from UP (Uttar Pradesh) to work together with CSC for the villages' development
- ✓ The educational institutions will provide training to the village level entrepreneurs (VLEs) who run CSCs.
- ✓ Through CSC, they will adopt gram panchayats and equip themselves with citizen-centric services.
- ✓ IIT Kanpur had also adopted 5 villages on the outskirts of Kanpur for its holistic development.

◆ Asian Development Bank (ADB) - launched \$5 billion Action Plan for 'Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies' for the Asia and Pacific region.



- ✓ The main aim of the initiative is to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), inclusive of the 'SDG 14: Life Below Water'
- ✓ Among 10 rivers, 8 are in Asia and Pacific region.
- ✓ Healthy Oceans Action Plan was launched at the 52nd Annual Meeting of ADB's Board of Governors held in Fiji.
- ✓ It will expand financing and technical assistance for ocean health and marine economy projects to \$5 billion from year 2019 to 2024.
- ✓ The 4 areas that the Action Plan will focus on are as follows –
 - ✓ To create inclusive livelihoods and business opportunities in tourism and fisheries
conserving marine ecosystems and major rivers
 - ✓ To decrease land-based sources of oceanic pollution, including plastics, wastewater, and agricultural runoff
 - ✓ To Improve sustainability in port and coastal infrastructure development.
 - ✓ To help in creating opportunities for the private sector to invest in projects for bettering marine health

- ◆ **The National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) - has mandated that an organ could be allocated to a foreign national only after it gives its approval**



- ✓ Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (Transtan) has started following this guideline.
- ✓ In the last one year, the number of Indian patients receiving organs from brain-dead donors has gone up by 56% in Tamil Nadu
- ✓ The Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (Transtan) introduced steps to bring about greater transparency in the allocation of organs harvested from brain-dead people.
- ✓ NOTTO is a National level organization set up under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and an only official organization.
- ✓ It is an apex body that coordinates with States on the procurement and distribution of organs in compliance with the Transplantation of Human Organs Act (THOA).

INTERNATIONAL

- ◆ **Pakistan PM Imran Khan - laid the foundation stone of a university in Sohawa, Punjab, dedicated to the study of Sufism**



- ✓ Sufism is a form of Islamic mysticism that emphasizes on introspection and spiritual closeness with God.

- ✓ The facility, known as Al-Qadir University, is named after Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani, an 11th century Sunni Muslim preacher, orator, mystic, theologian and founder of the Qadiriyya order of Sufism.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

◆ India - will host the second mini-ministerial meet of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on May 13-14, 2019 at New Delhi

- ✓ Overall, it could be a preparatory meeting to set a common agenda at the 12th Ministerial Conference, scheduled for June 2020 at Astana, Kazakhstan.
- ✓ The 11th Ministerial Conference (Buenos Aires, December 2017) collapsed despite efforts by 164 WTO members to evolve a consensus on several issues
- ✓ The 10th Ministerial Conference was held at Nairobi in December 2015

PERSONALITIES

◆ University of Houston - renamed its Engineering Research Building after Indian-American couple, Durga D Agrawal and Sushila Agrawal - in recognition of their contribution to aid research projects, faculty and students at the University



- ✓ The \$ 51-million building, which opened in 2017, had earlier named a floor after the couple
- ✓ Durga Agrawal earned two advanced degrees in Industrial Engineering from the University of Houston's (UH) Cullen College of Engineering
- ✓ He is a member of the UH System Board of Regents and serves as chair on the UH's endowment management committee
- ✓ He also served on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for four years
- ✓ Durga Agrawal was the first major donor and founding president of India House, a community centre that offers free services and community programs
- ✓ He is also the founder and first president of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston, which seeks to promote trade and exchange of educational and medical resources between Houston and India.

◆ Bandana, an 18-year old girl from Nepal - set a Guinness World Records on 'Longest Dancing Marathon by an Individual'



- ✓ She danced exclusively to Nepalese music continuously for 126 hours (over five days)
- ✓ She broke record set by India's Kalamandalam Hemlatha, who performed the classical dance 'Mohiniyattam' continuously for 123 hours and 15 minutes in 2011

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ SpaceX - successfully launched a Dragon spacecraft on a cargo mission for NASA to International Space Station (ISS)

- ✓ It was launched on a 'Falcon 9' rocket, from Cape Canaveral in Florida
- ✓ This is SpaceX's fifth launch of the year, which is scheduled to reach ISS on May 6
- ✓ It carries 2,500 kilograms of research, supplies and hardware for astronauts living and working on ISS as part of the CRS-17 mission (17th resupply mission)
- ✓ It will remain at ISS for about four weeks before coming back to Earth with more than 1,900 kg of research and return cargo
- ✓ A similar cargo mission was flown before for CRS-12 mission in August 2017
- ✓ ISS is a space station, or a habitable artificial satellite in low Earth orbit (LEO), where its crew members conduct experiments
- ✓ It was launched in 1998 with various partners including USA's NASA, Russia's Roscosmos State Corporation for Space Activities (Roscosmos), EU's European Space Agency (ESA), Canadian Space Agency and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

◆ MOMO 3, the first ever Privately developed rocket from Japan - launched into space



- ✓ It was developed a private firm, Interstellar Technology Inc, founded by former Livedoor Co. President Takafumi Horie in 2013
- ✓ The unmanned rocket launched from its test site in Taiki on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido
- ✓ The rocket is 10 meters in length, 50 centimeters in diameter and weighs about 1 ton
- ✓ 'Momo-3' rocket also has the capability of putting payloads into the orbit.

◆ **Bajirao, the last captive white tiger in the country - died recently at Sanjay Gandhi National Park, in Borivali, a Mumbai suburb**



- ✓ He was 18 years and died due to age related issues
- ✓ White tigers or Bleached tigers are a pigmentation variety of the Bengal Tiger
- ✓ Their skin lacks the pheomelanin pigment, which provides red or yellow colours to the skin and possess unique recessive genes
- ✓ They were found in Madhya Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Bihar and in Sunderbans region
- ✓ The last white tiger reported in wild was captured in Rewa forest in Madhya Pradesh

DEFENCE

◆ **INS Vela, a Scorpene class submarine - was launched for trials by the Indian Navy on May 6, 2019 at the Mazagon Dockyards Limited (MDL)**



- ✓ The INS Vela is the fourth of the six submarines of Scorpene class that has completed its out fittings at Mazagon Dockyards
- ✓ The submarine will now undergo various trials and tests in both harbour and sea phases before induction into the Indian Navy
- ✓ The submarine has been named 'Vela' after an earlier lead submarine of the erstwhile Vela class, acquired from former USSR
- ✓ The first Scorpene class submarine, INS Kalvari was commissioned into service in December 2017

- ✓ Other two submarines, INS Khanderi and INS Karanj, are in the advanced stages to join the Navy fleet.
- ✓ Vagir and Vagsheer, the remaining two submarines in the country's Scorpene Submarine programme, are in the advanced stages of manufacturing at MDL
- ✓ The contract to manufacture six submarines in India at Mazagaon Dock Limited, Mumbai, was signed in 2005 between the French firm Naval Group, formerly known as DCNS, under Indian Navy's \$3 billion 'Project-75'
- ✓ The Scorpene class submarines are the most advanced of its kind with several advanced stealth features, capable of undertaking sophisticated missions
- ✓ The Navy got its last Indian made submarine in early 1990s when two HDW class submarines INS Shalki and INS Shankul, joined the fleet.

◆ **The United Kingdom – to build a new state-of-the-art aircraft carrier along the lines of Britain's HMS Queen Elizabeth as part of the ongoing Make in India negotiations**



- ✓ The talks are underway for the Indian Navy to buy detailed plans for the 65,000-ton British warship to build a so-called copycat supercarrier to be named INS Vishal in 2022.
- ✓ If a deal can be agreed, the new warship would be built in India but UK companies could supply many of the parts.
- ✓ INS Vishal, meaning 'giant' in Sanskrit, also known as Indigenous Aircraft Carrier 2 (IAC-2) is a planned aircraft carrier to be built by Cochin Shipyard Limited for the Indian Navy.
- ✓ It is intended to be the second aircraft carrier to be built in India after INS Vikrant (IAC-1).
- ✓ It will be the first supercarrier to be built in India.
- ✓ In the proposed design of INS Vishal, an Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) CATOBAR system is under consideration.
- ✓ The design stage of IAC-2 began in 2012, and was undertaken by the navy's Naval Design Bureau.
- ✓ On 13 May 2015, Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) allotted Rs.30 crore for initial construction planning process of INS Vishal.
- ✓ Initially, the carrier was expected to enter service by the 2020s, but the expected date of completion was later postponed to the 2030s.

ECONOMY

- ◆ **Ratan Tata, the Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons - invested in Ola Electric Mobility (OEM), the electric vehicle business of cab aggregator Ola**



- ✓ Tata is also an early investor in ANI Technologies, Ola's parent company in July 2015
- ✓ Ola Electric Mobility was initially established in May 2017 to enable Ola's electric mobility pilot programme in Nagpur
- ✓ After the success of the pilot programme, Ola announced 'Mission: Electric' in 2018 to bring one million electric vehicles on Indian roads by 2021
- ✓ Ola Cabs, one of the world's largest ride-sharing companies, was founded in 2011 by Bhavish Aggarwal and Ankit Bhati.
- ✓ At present, the company has over 9,00,000 vehicles serving millions of customers every day.

AWARDS

- ◆ **Padma Bhushan Dr Devi Prasad Shetty, country's most reputed cardiac surgeon and humanitarian - awarded 27th P.C.Chandra Puraskaar 2019**



- ✓ Dr Devi Prasad Shetty is also known as 'The Man with Divine Hands'
- ✓ He has an experience of more than 35 years in the medical field and received several awards in his distinguished career, including Padma Shri in 2003 and Padma Bhushan in 2013 for Medicine
- ✓ Government of Karnataka conferred him the 'Rajyotsava Award' in 2002 for initiating the concept of 'micro health insurance scheme'
- ✓ P.C. Chandra Puraskaar was introduced in 1993 as a tribute to their founding father, late Purna Chandra Chandra, by the PC Chandra Group
- ✓ The award has recognized distinguished personalities achieving great success in their respective fields of art, culture, entertainment, sports etc.,
- ✓ Eminent playback singer Asha Bhonsle was conferred with the award last year

SPORTS

◆ **Saurav Ghosal and Joshana Chinappa – crowned as Asian Champions at the Asian Individual Squash Championship in Kuala Lumpur**

- ✓ This is the first time two Indians have finished on top in the same tournament.
- ✓ Second-seeded Joshana Chinappa successfully defended her title beating the top seed Annie Au of Hong Kong



- ✓ This was her first win against the Hong Kong player since September 2017.
- ✓ Ghosal, who was the runners-up last year, defeated the fourth seed Leo Au Chun Ming, of Hong Kong

◆ **Gaurav Solanki and Manish Kaushik - bagged gold medals at the XXXVI Feliks Stamm International Boxing tournament in Warsaw**



- ✓ Besides two gold, the Indians boxers clinched a silver and three bronze to finish the event with six medals
- ✓ The 22-year-old Solanki (52kg) defeated England's William Cawley, while 23-year old Kaushik (60kg) defeated Morocco's Mohamed Hamout to win the Gold
- ✓ Solanki was the Gold medal winner at the Commonwealth Games and the Chemistry Cup last year.
- ✓ Kaushik won the India Open gold and the Commonwealth Games silver last year

◆ **Odisha's Swayams Mishra – became the 62nd Grandmaster of the country after getting his third and final GM norm at the Polonia Wroclaw Master Cup in Poland**



- ✓ The 26-year-old from Bhubaneswar had bagged his maiden GM norm in the KIIT Open in his hometown back in 2014
- ✓ The second norm arrived a year later at the Isle of Man

- ✓ Swayams — over the years — has chosen to coach other players and became a FIDE trainer
- ✓ He has been associated with International Master (IM) Sai Agni Jeevitesh, Shrishti Pandey, Sankalp Gupta and Clarence Psaila among others

◆ **Archery Association of India (AAI) - named Sunil Sharma, its senior vice president, as its acting president to start the election process in accordance with Article 24 of AAI Constitution**



- ✓ Sunil Sharma was preceded by BVP Rao.
- ✓ Earlier, the Supreme Court had declared the elections conducted in December 2018 by the AAI as 'null and void'
- ✓ The December elections were monitored by S Y Quraishi, administrator appointed by the high-court.

