

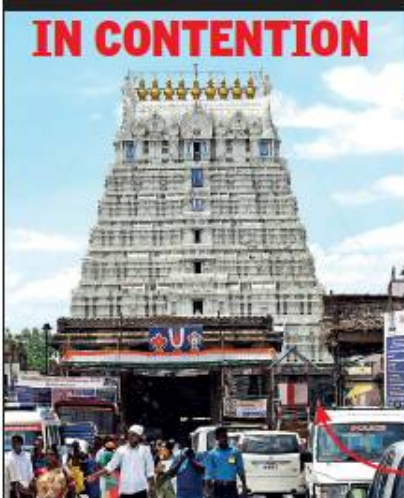


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 26, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **The National Green Tribunal (NGT) - has constituted a panel to submit a report on alleged violations of norms in construction of a reservoir at Mokedatu in Karnataka across Cauvery River.**
- ✓ The NGT bench consisting of Justice K Ramakrishnan took suo motu cognizance of this issue based on the reports appearing in the media
- ✓ Karnataka Government's proposal to construct the dam at Mokedatu was deferred by the Cauvery water management authority (CWMA) twice in the past
- ✓ This was due to a strong opposition from the Tamil Nadu government citing pendency of case before the Supreme Court.
- ✓ Besides this, no sanction or necessary clearances were obtained from Forest Department and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under Forest Conservation Act and EIA Notification, 2006.
- ✓ Of late, there were complaints that Karnataka started preliminary works at Mokedatu by laying roads and started dumping construction material near the site during April 2021.
- ✓ So, the NGT constituted a joint-committee to inspect the area in question on May 21 and submit a factual report on the same.
- ✓ The date, July 5 has been set as the deadline for the panel to submit the report.
- ✓ The panel or joint-committee has been directed to look into the question as to whether any construction activity has been started without necessary clearances and did it cause any environmental damage
- ✓ In case any construction activity has been started, the panel has been told to recommend compensation for the damage already caused, which will be paid by the concerned government authorities.
- ✓ This panel comprises senior officers from CWMA, Union environment ministry's integrated regional office in Bengaluru, Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Limited (a Karnataka government enterprise) and Karnataka forest department.

- ✓ The principal chief conservator of forest, Karnataka will be the nodal agency for this panel to coordinate activities and provide necessary logistics support.
 - ✓ The ₹9,000-crore dam project, approved in the year 2017, aims at meeting drinking water needs of Bengaluru and its nearby areas.
 - ✓ It also aims to generate 400 megawatts of power and is undertaken at deep gorge situated at the confluence of river Cauvery and its tributary Arkavathi.
 - ✓ But Tamil Nadu government is opposing it because the dam at upper riparian states will deprive delta farmers in the state of their rightful share of water.
- **Temple town of Kancheepuram – has 11 ancient temples from the district named on UNESCO’s tentative List of World Heritage Sites**
- ✓ The nomination will ensure better care of the historic structures as the final honour brings with it international recognition and more tourism opportunities.
 - ✓ Most of these temples were built by the Pallavas and Cholas between AD700 and AD1200
 - ✓ The 11 temples that were submitted by the Union culture ministry to Unesco on April 13 are - Kailasanathar, Piravatneswara, Iravathanesvara, Vaikunta Perumal, Muktesvara, Varadharaja Perumal, Ekambaresvara, Jvaraharesvara, Pandava Dootha Perumal, Yathothkari Perumal and Ulagalanda Perumal.

 <p>IN CONTENTION</p>	<p>The 11 temples that have been included in the Unesco's tentative list of World Heritage Sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Kailasanathar temple ➤ Piravatnesvara temple ➤ Iravathanesvara temple ➤ Vaikunta-perumal temple ➤ Muketswara temple ➤ Varadharaja Perumal temple 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ekambaresvara temple ➤ Jvaraharesvara temple ➤ Pandava Dootha Perumal temple ➤ Yathothkari Perumal temple ➤ Ulagalanda Perumal temple 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Kancheepuram was the capital of the Pallava dynasty from 6th to 9th century. A large extent of the Dravidian style of temple architecture also flourished under the Pallava patronage ➤ The region continued to be a secondary capital under the Cholas who took pride in possessing it and embellishing it with temples
	<p>Source: Unesco World Heritage Centre portal</p>		

- ✓ After inclusion on the tentative list, the final declaration as a world heritage site can take years
- ✓ The UNESCO’s World Heritage Committee studies the dossiers presented on the sites and makes detailed inspections before taking a decision.
- ✓ While six of the 11 temples on the list are maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), five are under the state’s Hindu religious and charitable endowments department.
- ✓ So far Tamil Nadu has four temple complexes that are UNESCO world heritage sites

- ✓ They are — the monuments at Mamallapuram, the Brihadeeshwara temple at Thanjavur, the Gangaikonda Cholapuram Brihadeeshwara temple at Jayankondam, and the Airavatheeswara temple at Darasuram.
- ✓ The Sri Ranganathaswamy temple at Srirangam, the Chettinad village clusters and the Padmanabhapuram palace in Kanyakumari are on the tentative list since 2014.

NATIONAL

- **Moderna - is expecting to launch a single-dose Covid-19 vaccine in India in the year 2022 and is in talks with Cipla, among other Indian firms**
- ✓ Another US giant Pfizer is ready to offer 5 crore shots in 2021 itself but it wants significant regulatory relaxations
- ✓ Moderna has conveyed to Indian authorities that it does not have surplus vaccines to share in 2021
- ✓ Currently, the country is using two 'made-in India' vaccines — Covishield and Covaxin — to inoculate its billion-plus population
- ✓ It has administered 20 crore doses since launching the world's largest vaccination drive in mid-January.
- ✓ A third vaccine, Russian-made Sputnik V, has been approved by the government and is being used on a smaller scale at present.
- ✓ Cipla has already expressed interest in procuring 5 crore doses from Moderna in the next year
- ✓ It has requested confirmation from the central government in respect of stability in regulatory requirements and policy regime

- **Large social-media companies such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, and WhatsApp - lose legal protection for the user content posted on their platforms from May 26, 2021**
- ✓ Going forward, these social media giants stand answerable to Indian civil and criminal laws just like any other ordinary citizen or local entity.
- ✓ Till May 25, they enjoyed immunity when it came to the content posted by any third-party user on their platforms.
- ✓ The only obligation on them was to take down any illegal content that they noticed on their own, or when it was highlighted to them by the state, or the courts, or any responsible/aggrieved party.
- ✓ Henceforth, it's a civil and criminal liability on them for any illegal post found on their platform.
- ✓ The new Information Technology (Digital media) Rules for large social-media intermediaries were announced on February 25 this year
- ✓ The Government has given three months time to prepare for the new regime and for the implementation of the norms

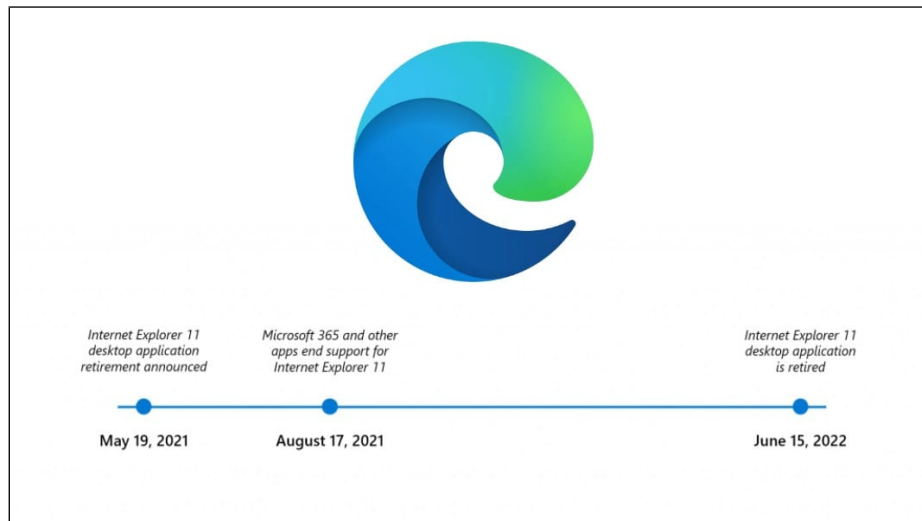
- ✓ According to new rules, a resident grievance officer will be appointed under larger grievance redressal mechanism
- ✓ There will be active monitoring of content on social media platforms and monthly compliance reports will be made for Indian users
- **On May 25, Mumbai-headquartered PharmEasy - acquired smaller rival Medlife, making it the largest consolidation in the e-pharmacy space.**



- ✓ PharmEasy, valued at \$1.5 billion, became India's first e-pharmacy unicorn last month after raising around \$320 million from TPG Growth and Prosus Ventures.
- ✓ The deal will result in Medlife ceasing operations and its existing customers being able to access their details through the PharmEasy app.
- ✓ The acquisition will make the merged entity the largest healthcare delivery platform across the country.
- ✓ While the consolidated entity will serve two million customers every month, Bengaluru-headquartered Medlife's retail partners will be joining PharmEasy.
- **The Union Ministry of Power - has announced to set up a 'National Mission on use of Biomass' in coal based thermal power plants.**
- ✓ The Mission will ensure carbon-neutral thermal power generation and establish cleaner energy sources.
- ✓ It will also assist the government's ambitious National Clean Air Programme, launched to tackle air pollution problem in a comprehensive manner
- ✓ The programme seeks to achieve 20% to 30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024
- ✓ The Mission will be administered by a Steering Committee, which is headed by Power Secretary, and consisting of all stakeholders, representatives from Petroleum and New & Renewable Energy Ministries.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Microsoft - announced that Internet Explorer 11 desktop browser will be retired on June 15, 2022, for some versions of Windows 10.**
- ✓ However, Internet Explorer-based websites and applications will continue to work on new Microsoft Edge (Internet Explorer) mode till 2029.



- ✓ Microsoft is retiring Internet Explorer (IE) because it has been developing “Microsoft Edge with IE mode” to replace Internet Explorer 11 desktop application.
- ✓ Microsoft edge will help in providing more secure, faster and modern browsing experience, apart from eliminating compatibility issues related with Internet Explorer based websites and applications.
- ✓ According to Microsoft, MSHTML (Trident) engine, Windows 10 LTSC and Server Internet Explorer 11 desktop applications will not be affected by retirement of IE.
- ✓ Windows 7 Extended Security Updates, Windows 8.1, Windows 10 Server- both SAC & LTSC etc will continue having IE 11 desktop application.
- ✓ Internet Explorer was launched in 1995 by Microsoft as a web browser operating on Windows Operation System.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Subodh Kumar Jaiswal - has been appointed as the chief of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on May 25.**



- ✓ Jaiswal, a 1985 batch IPS officer of Maharashtra Cadre, is currently serving as the Director General of Central Industrial Security Forces (CISF)
- ✓ Other two officers shortlisted by the PM-led selection committee on May 24 were Special Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs V.S.K. Kaumudi and another IPS officer of Bihar cadre and SSB chief Kumar Rajesh Chandra.

- ✓ Jaiswal, who was the seniormost officer in the panel, will have a fixed tenure of two years from the date he assumes charge as CBI director, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- ✓ Jaiswal held the top post in the Mumbai police as its Commissioner and subsequently was the Director General of Maharashtra Police before being called for central deputation earlier this year.
- ✓ He had served earlier in the Intelligence Bureau and the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW).
- ✓ The shortlist of three officers was approved by the highpowered selection committee — comprising PM Modi, CJI N V Ramana and leader of Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury
- ✓ During the meeting, the Chief Justice insisted that any officer to be considered should have six months' tenure left in the service
- ✓ This criterion eliminated other trusted officials of the government, including BSF Chief Rakesh Asthana and NIA Chief Y C Modi, who were the frontrunners for the job
- ✓ This is for the first time that the rule of six months' tenure was applied in the appointment of the CBI chief.
- ✓ While Asthana is due to retire on July 31, Modi superannuates at the end of this month.

SPORTS

- **Indian boxer Shiva Thapa (64kg) - secured his fifth successive medal at the Asian boxing championships this year**



- ✓ He advanced to the semifinals in the men's 64 kg category after beating Kuwait's Nader Odah by 5-0 in the last-eight stage in Dubai on May 25.
- ✓ The Assam-based boxer will face defending champion and top seed Bakhodur Usmonov of Tajikistan in the semifinals
- ✓ Earlier, Thapa won a gold in the 2013 championships, bronze in 2015 and 2019 and silver in 2017.