

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 29, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **On May 28, Tamil Nadu finance minister PTR Palanivel Thiagarajan, in his maiden speech at the 43rd GST Council meet - said the time is right for the Centre to bring tax reforms and practice ‘fiscal federalism’ by devolution of fiscal powers**



- ✓ The Minister asked the centre to arrange either a “bridge fund” or borrow on its own to help the states fill the gap between their “projected” and “actual” revenue for the financial year 2021-22
- ✓ He reiterated the demand of Tamil Nadu government for levying zero-rating GST for essential Covid-19 medicines at least for a temporary period
- ✓ The Minister gave a detailed account on the shortcomings in the GST Council and the financial policies of the Central government that have been affecting the Tamil Nadu government.
- ✓ The 43rd GST Council meet was held on May 28 under the chairmanship of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
- ✓ During the meeting, the council decided to exempt certain Covid-19 relief material such as medical oxygen and concentrators from IGST till August end.
- ✓ The council also decided that certain drugs used to fight black fungus will also be given exemption

- ✓ The Finance Minister announced that a Group of Ministers (GoM) will be formed to decide on the matter of taxation on Covid-19 related materials and it is mandated to submit a report by June 8.
 - ✓ Further, the FM said that there would be a special meeting to discuss the issue of extending the compensation cess beyond July 2022.
 - ✓ The meeting was attended by five new members - Finance ministers of Assam, Bihar, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry Chief Minister
- **On May 28, the Tamil Nadu government - announced the extension of the complete lockdown for another week till 6am on June 7.**
- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin said the sale of fruits and vegetables through mobile outlets would continue in all districts.
 - ✓ Permission has been granted to grocers to sell commodities on vehicles and pushcarts with the approval of local bodies between 7am and 6pm.
 - ✓ The supply of groceries bought online and ordered over phone can also be done during the same time.
 - ✓ Further, the government will also supply a kit of 13 grocery items to all rice card holders from the month of June in all PDS outlets
 - ✓ A two-week lockdown was implemented on May 10 in Tamil Nadu with some relaxations and subsequently, it was extended by one more week, till May 31 and the relaxations were withdrawn.
 - ✓ The additional curbs between May 24 and May 31 included closure of vegetable shops and grocery outlets, which were earlier allowed to function between 6am and 10am.
 - ✓ All restrictions would continue to be implemented till June 7.
- **Sterlite Copper - will start oxygen production from its second plant from May 30**
- ✓ The plant has been producing liquid medical oxygen and supplying to various hospitals in the state
 - ✓ Ever since it was permitted to run the oxygen plant following all the approvals earlier this month, the company was operating a single oxygen plant to ensure it steadied oxygen production.
 - ✓ The company has so far supplied 250MT of liquid medical oxygen to various hospitals in south and central Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ The second plant will contribute about 20-30MT per day initially, whereas the first plant was consistently producing 30MT of LMO every day
 - ✓ Sterlite has so far invested ₹25 crore in getting the oxygen plants on production mode and another ₹10 crore for setting up the bottling system for filling gaseous oxygen.
 - ✓ In addition, the company will incur ₹10 crore per month as operational costs for running the two plants.

NATIONAL

- **The Centre - has asked all state governments to conduct door-to-door surveys by June 30 to identify school dropouts and out of school children.**
- ✓ It also asked the states to form three-member nodal groups at village panchayat level to gather information about school dropouts.
- ✓ In this regard, the Ministry of Education said that the states may either develop their own app or customize the UNICEF app for the purpose
- ✓ The Ministry had urged the states to create a student data registry to track children through their enrollment, retention, dropout and mainstreaming data.

HIGH COURT VERDICT

- **On May 28, the Kerala high court - refused to stay the implementation of the draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation 2021 (LDAR) and the Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Act (PASA)**
- ✓ The draft regulations were introduced by the Lakshadweep administration under the Administrator, Praful Khoda Patel
- ✓ A division bench of Justice K Vinod Chandran also asked the administration to respond to the petition challenging the LDAR and the PASA within two weeks.
- ✓ The Court also declined to stay other administrative measures recently introduced which includes beef ban, restrictions on the number of children a Panchayat member may have, removal of non-vegetarian food items from the school menus and the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions on the island.
- ✓ The PASA or Goondas Act gives powers to the administration to detain a person without public disclosure for a period up to a year.
- ✓ The LDAR gives sweeping, arbitrary, unchecked powers to the government and all its bodies to directly interfere with an islander's right to possess and retain their property
- ✓ The draft regulation grants the administrator the power to "declare any area to be a planning area" on the islands for the purpose of development
- ✓ It will also allow the administrator to acquire any land required for a public purpose under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.
- ✓ According to the Government, the regulations are aimed at developing the Union Territory on the lines of island country Maldives, a renowned international tourist destination.
- ✓ The Administrator of Lakshadweep, Praful Patel was a former Gujarat BJP leader, who also served as the state's home minister
- ✓ Lakshadweep is an archipelago of 36 islands, of which 11 are inhabited.
- ✓ They have a total geographical area of 32 sq km and the population of approximately 70,000 has a low per capita income and high unemployment level of 13%

- ✓ In 2007, the then Planning Commission prepared a 'Lakshadweep Development report' for the development of tourism in the islands

INTERNATIONAL

- **On May 28, the European Medicines Agency - recommended that the use of the Covid-19 vaccine made by Pfizer and Bio-NTech be expanded to children ages 12 to15 for the first time during the pandemic**
- ✓ The EMA's recommendation was based on a study in more than 2,000 adolescents in the US that showed the vaccine was safe and effective.
- ✓ However, the decision needs to be approved by the European Commission and individual national regulators before implementation.
- ✓ The recommendation follows similar decisions by regulators in Canada and the US last month.
- ✓ Immunising children might also give authorities more confidence to reopen schools.
- ✓ According to the EMA, two doses were required in the 12-15 age group and should be administered with an interval of at least three weeks.
- **The World Health Organization – to set up a new panel of experts to establish good practices in preventing and preparing for outbreaks of zoonotic diseases like Covid-19**
- ✓ The expert panel will prepare a global plan on preventing the spread of diseases from animals to humans
- ✓ It will advise WHO, World Organization for Animal Health, Food & Agriculture Organization and United Nations Environment Programme
- ✓ This initiative was launched by France and Germany in 2020 and held its first meeting in May 2021.
- ✓ The panel will look after the potential transmission risks in food production & distribution, urbanisation & construction of infrastructure, international travel & trade and activities leading to biodiversity loss & climate change.
- ✓ It was widely believed that coronavirus or SARS-CoV-2 virus was originated from bats in wildlife trading networks in China and southeast Asia.
- ✓ Zoonotic diseases are infectious and transmitted from animals to humans or from humans to animals.

PERSONALITIES

- **Bollywood actor Randeep Hooda - has been removed as brand ambassador of the Convention for Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), an environment treaty of the United Nations based at Bonn, Germany**
- ✓ The decision has been taken following the sharing of an old video in which he is seen making 'remarks' on BSP and former UP CM Mayawati.
- ✓ His remarks were termed "casteist" and "sexist" by the users in the social media.



CREDITS -RANDEEP HOODA/FACEBOOK/CMS/WEBSITE

- ✓ The video clip from an event, organised by a media house in 2012, went viral after it was shared on micro-blogging site Twitter earlier this week.
- ✓ Hooda was appointed as a CMS ambassador for migratory species in February 2020 due to his support for the conservation of wildlife

OBITUARY

- **Freedom fighter and veteran Congressman T M Kaliannan - passed away at the age of 101 in his native in Namakkal district on May 28.**



- ✓ Kaliannan was the last surviving member of the Constituent Assembly.
- ✓ A devout Gandhian, Kaliannan has served as an MLA, MLC as well as a member of the Constituent Assembly
- ✓ He was only 27 years old when elected to the Constituent Assembly.
- ✓ His remains were cremated with state honours.
- ✓ Though he was known as Kasthuripatti zamindar, he was a reformist who supported the abolition of zamindari system, according to the Chief Minister M K Stalin, who paid rich tributes to the departed freedom fighter.
- ✓ T M Kaliannan was born on January 10, 1921, at Akkaraipatti in Namakkal district and completed schooling in Tiruchengode.
- ✓ He was barely 21 and was studying English literature at Loyola College in Chennai when he joined the revolution against the British.

- ✓ It was during this period that he visited Sabarmati Ashram and met Gandhi who asked him to stay there for 10 days.
- ✓ Influenced by the ideals of Gandhi, he participated in the Quit India movement in 1942 and subsequently joined Congress.

SPORTS

- **Defending champion Amit Panghal (52kg) and Shiva Thapa (64kg) - entered into the Asian Boxing Championship finals with brilliant victories in Dubai on May 28**



- ✓ However, injured Vikas Krishan (69kg) finished the championships with a bronze medal
- ✓ Panghal defeated Saken Bibossinov of Kazakhstan 5-0 to make the finals.
- ✓ Thapa, the first Indian male boxer in the tournament history to secure five medals, defeated top-seeded defending champion Bakhodur Usmonov of Tajikistan to enter the finals with a 4-0 verdict.
- ✓ However, Vikas aggravated his eye injury sustained in the previous bout, forcing the semi final against top seed and defending champion Baturov Bobo-Usmon of Uzbekistan to be stopped
- ✓ Also ending with a bronze was tournament debutant and national champion Varinder Singh (60kg) after a tough clash against Iran's Daniyal Shahbakhsh, in which he lost by 2-3.
- ✓ Meanwhile, two-time world youth champion Sakshi Choudhary (54kg) has lost to top-seeded Kazakh Dina Zholaman in the semi final game

