



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 30, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **The state government - announced that children who lost their parents to Covid-19 will be provided an assistance of ₹5 lakh as fixed deposit.**
- ✓ The state has also announced to bear their education expenses, including tuition fee and hostel fee, till graduation.
- ✓ They would receive the amount with interest after they attain 18 years of age
- ✓ The orphaned children will also get priority in government homes and hostels.
- ✓ The decision was taken at a high-level meeting chaired by chief minister M K Stalin at the secretariat on May 29.
- ✓ For children who had lost one of their parents, the government will provide ₹3 lakh as a relief to the family.
- ✓ For those children who are under the care of relatives or guardian or in government homes or hostels, the government would give ₹3,000 per month towards maintenance till they complete 18 years
- ✓ The state government will monitor the disbursement of relief to these children and their education through a 'special committee' to be set up at district level.
- ✓ These students and single parents will get priority in welfare schemes.
- ✓ If the child was raised by a single parent, who passed away in the pandemic, then the state government will deposit ₹5 lakh in the name of the child.
- ✓ The government would form a committee consisting of the finance secretary, social welfare department secretary and NGOs to frame the guidelines for the scheme.
- ✓ The state government said it had already formed a task force headed by district collectors to identify children orphaned by Covid-19 and distribute the relief measures.

- **On May 29, Tamil Nadu governor Banwarilal Purohit - appointed retired IAS officer, V Palanikumar as state election commissioner.**
- ✓ The state election commission conducts local body polls across the state.

- ✓ Palanikumar will hold the office for a period of two years from the date on which he assumes charge.
- ✓ The order has been published in the government's extraordinary gazette, as per an official government release.
- **The labour department - has announced an online renewal drive for the registrations between 2017 and 2019 in the state employment exchanges**
- ✓ According to Labour minister C V Ganesan, 64,47,984 people have registered in employment exchanges in the state.
- ✓ Of them, 51,25,458 have not renewed their registrations between 2017 and 2019.
- ✓ The drive assumes significance as the DMK has promised to give priority to uneducated youth from Tamil Nadu in recruitment in private and public sector enterprises in the state.
- ✓ The decision is expected to provide opportunities to those who are waiting for jobs after registering their names in employment exchanges.
- ✓ The employment exchanges had become redundant after a Supreme Court order three years ago that employment drives should be conducted after issuing open notification for vacant posts.
- **On May 29, Tamil lyricist Vairamuthu - announced that he is returning the prestigious ONV Literary Award conferred upon him for this year.**
- ✓ He explained the reason for the decision, saying he does not want to put the jury in an uncomfortable delicate position and hence is choosing to return it.
- ✓ The lyricist requested the ₹3 lakh prize money be donated to the Kerala CM's disaster relief fund
- ✓ He also announced that he will further contribute another ₹2 lakh to the Kerala CM relief fund in his individual capacity.
- ✓ Vairamuthu was accused by multiple women of sexual harassment during the #MeToo movement
- ✓ ONV Literary Award was established in 2017 in memory of renowned Malayalam poet and lyricist ONV Kurup and is presented by the Kerala-based ONV Cultural Academy

STATES

- **The United Nations - has praised Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik for his “well-resourced disaster management authority” that saves lives during natural calamities.**
- ✓ Mami Mizutori, chief of UN office for disaster risk reduction (UNDRR), lauded the state's disaster management authority for its effective management of the recent cyclone, Yaas



- ✓ During the cyclone Yaas, which ravaged North coastal Odisha, parts of Jharkhand and West Bengal, around 7 lakh people were evacuated from vulnerable locations in Bhadrak, Balasore and a couple of other districts.
- ✓ The UN had earlier praised Odisha CM's command and strategy of disaster management during cyclone Phailin in 2013.

NATIONAL

- **The government – has announced ₹10 lakh fund, free education among other benefits to support the children orphaned by Covid-19 under 'PM CARES' for children scheme**
- ✓ All children who lost both parents or a surviving parent, legal guardian or adoptive parents due to Covid-19 will be credited with a corpus of ₹10 lakh in the form of a fixed deposit.

₹10L IN FIXED DEPOSIT

- > Corpus of ₹10 lakh as FD, monthly stipend for 5 years when they turn 18. At 23, each will get a lump sum
- > Younger children to be admitted to KVs or private schools. Pvt school fees to be borne by PM Cares
- > Children will be assisted in obtaining education loan for professional courses and higher education in India. Interest to be paid by PM Cares

- ✓ This corpus will be used for providing a monthly stipend for five years when the children turn 18 years of age.
- ✓ This stipend is expected to take care of their personal requirements during the period of higher education.
- ✓ At 23 years, each child will get the corpus amount as one lump-sum for personal and professional use.

- ✓ Also, if there are no guardians, children would be legally placed in child care institutions.
 - ✓ The education expenses of younger children will be supported by the scheme by way of admission to Kendriya Vidyalayas and private schools up to higher secondary level.
 - ✓ Further, all orphaned children will be enrolled as beneficiaries under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme (PM-JAY) with a health insurance cover of ₹5 lakh.
 - ✓ The premium amount for these children till the age of 18 will be paid by PM Cares fund
 - ✓ These decisions, among others, were taken at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 29
 - ✓ For children under 10 years, it has been decided that the child will be given admission in the nearest Kendriya Vidyalaya or in a private school as a day scholar.
 - ✓ If the child is admitted in a private school, the fees as per RTE norms will be given from PM Cares.
 - ✓ Expenditure on uniform, textbooks and notebooks will also be borne under the scheme.
 - ✓ In case of children between 11 and 18 years, it has been decided that the child will be given admission in any central government residential school such as Sainik School and Navodaya Vidyalaya.
 - ✓ In case the child continues to be under the care of a guardian, grandparents, extended family, then the kid will be given admission in the nearest Kendriya Vidyalaya or in a private school as a day scholar.
- **On May 29, the government - announced a pension to the dependents of those having lost their lives due to Covid-19**
- ✓ Besides family pension, insurance benefits under the employees' deposit-linked insurance (EDLI) scheme have been enhanced and liberalised.
 - ✓ These measures were announced among other benefits for the families who lost their earning members to the pandemic
 - ✓ The government has also extended the benefit of the employee state insurance corporation (ESIC) pension scheme for employment-related death cases to those who have died due to Covid-19
 - ✓ Dependent family members of such persons will be entitled to the benefit of pension equivalent to 90% of the average daily wage drawn by the worker as per the existing norms.
 - ✓ This benefit will be available retrospectively with effect from March 24 last year and for all such cases till March 24, 2022.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Vietnam - has discovered a new coronavirus variant that's a "hybrid" of strains first found in India and the UK**

- ✓ This was announced by the Vietnamese health minister Nguyen Thanh Long on May 29.
 - ✓ Scientists have examined the genetic make-up of the virus that had infected some recent patients, and found the new version of the virus.
 - ✓ The Minister said lab tests suggested the new variant might spread more quickly and easily than other variants.
 - ✓ The WHO has listed four global “variants of concern” - the two first found in the UK and India, plus ones identified in South Africa and Brazil.
 - ✓ The Southeast Asian country had previously detected seven variants: B.1.222, B.1.619, D614G, B.1.1.7 — known as the variant from UK, B.1.351, A.23.1 and B.1.617.2 — the variant first found in India.
- **On May 28, US President Joe Biden’s administration - announced that it will not return to the Open Skies Treaty, a key arms control agreement with Russia**
- ✓ He made the announcement in the run-up to his summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin on June 16 in Geneva
 - ✓ The treaty was meant to develop the trust between the two countries by allowing the two powers and their allies to monitor one another’s airspace and to allow US and Russia to fly surveillance aircraft over their military facilities
 - ✓ Former President of US, Donald Trump, announced its withdrawal in November 2020 citing Russian violations
 - ✓ In January, Russia said it would leave the treaty, saying there was no progress in making it work after Trump’s withdrawal.
 - ✓ Now, “New START treaty” is the only major arms control pact between both the countries which was extended for five years recently by US
 - ✓ The Open Skies Treaty was signed by United States on March 24, 1992 and came into effect in 2002 with the support of 34 member countries

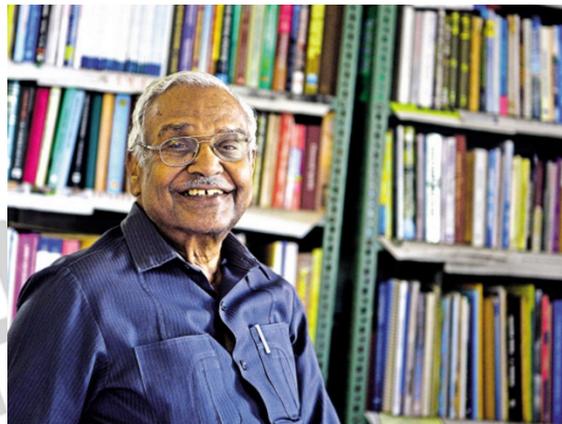
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad - has developed nano fibre-based, controlled-release oral tablets of amphotericin B (AmB) to treat post-Covid fungal infections.**
- ✓ The researchers have kept the technology free of intellectual property (IP) rights and are looking for pharmaceutical partners who can take up mass-scale bulk production.
 - ✓ Currently, AmB used for the fungal infections is an injectible drug.
 - ✓ In 2019, the researchers had released a study that oral nanofibrous AmB can be effective to treat kala azar, a parasitic ailment that can cause fever, weight loss and swelling of the liver or the spleen.
 - ✓ This was a first-ever attempt to fabricate nano fibrous oral tablets of amphotericin B for the potential cure of kala azar or leishmaniasis.

- ✓ At present, kala azar treatment is being used to treat black and other fungi
- **China – has launched a cargo rocket carrying supplies for its new space station from an island in the South China Sea on May 29**
- ✓ A Long March 7 rocket carrying the automated Tianzhou-2 spacecraft took off from the Wenchang launch centre on Hainan Island
- ✓ According to the Chinese space agency, the craft entered orbit 10 minutes later and the launch was deemed a “perfect success”.
- ✓ The Tianzhou-2 carried fuel and supplies for the China’s space station
- ✓ The station’s core module was launched into orbit April 29

OBITUARY

- **Eminent academician and former vice-chancellor of Anna University M Anandakrishnan – passed away in Chennai on May 29 due to Covid-19**



- ✓ The 92 year old educationist pioneered single window engineering admissions in the state
- ✓ Anandakrishnan headed the Tamil Nadu Curriculum Framework Committee that revamped state board syllabus from Class I to XII in the year 2017
- ✓ He served as chairman of the board of Governors of IIT-Kanpur.
- ✓ At the United Nations in New York, he served at several levels including deputy director of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.
- ✓ Anandakrishnan played a major role in scrapping entrance exams in Tamil Nadu, introduced Tamil as a medium of education for Technical courses, conducted an online Tamil conference and standardised the use of Tamil keyboard.
- ✓ He also played a role in setting up the state’s first IT park — Tidel Park at Taramani.
- ✓ It was based on the recommendations of a committee headed by Anandakrishnan that the Tamil Nadu government scrapped entrance tests to professional courses in 2006.
- ✓ He was proposed as a senate nominee to the panel entrusted with finding a Vice-Chancellor for University of Madras last year.

- ✓ Anandkrishnan was also an Advisor to the Government of Tamil Nadu on Information Technology and e-Governance.
- ✓ He was conferred with the country's fourth highest civilian award, Padma Shri in 2002 and the National Order of Scientific Merit by the Government of Brazil
- ✓ Governor Banwarilal Purohit and Chief Minister M K Stalin condoled the death.

SPORTS

- **The remaining 31 matches of 14th edition of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2021 - is likely to be played in the UAE between September 17 and October 10, 2021**
- ✓ The board will put in place the same protocols and standard operating procedures that were drafted for the 2020 edition.
- ✓ The board will also work with franchises on making the players available.
- ✓ In cases players are not available, the board will hear "requests" from franchises to allot suitable replacements.
- ✓ The Caribbean Premier League (CPL), scheduled to conclude by the second week of September, will also be "tweaked" in a manner that it does not spill over into the IPL window.
- ✓ The Emirates Cricket Board (ECB), that was paid a lump sum amount in the bracket of Rs 100 crore last year to host the entire IPL, will once again be paid pro-rata.

