



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 8, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **DMK president M K Stalin - was sworn in as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu by Governor Banwarilal Purohit on May 7**
- ✓ The Chief Minister began his tenure by ordering ₹4,000 Covid-19 relief to 2.07 crore families in the state



- ✓ He had further reduced Aavin milk price by ₹3 per litre from May 16, and announced free bus ride for women passengers in the state
- ✓ These are various poll promises made by the DMK in the run-up to the assembly election.
- ✓ The relief amount, which entails an expenditure of ₹4,153.39 crore to the exchequer, will be paid in two installments
- ✓ The first tranche of ₹2,000 will be issued to PDS rice card holders in May
- ✓ All expenses for Covid-19 treatment in private hospitals will be borne by the state under chief minister health insurance scheme.
- ✓ All treatments, including Covid-19, are already covered under the state's free health insurance scheme.

- ✓ An annual subsidy of ₹1,200 crore will be paid to state transport corporations to compensate for the revenue loss for allowing women across the state to travel without tickets in ordinary service (white board) town buses.
 - ✓ The state transport corporations earn an annual revenue of ₹3,000 crore.
 - ✓ As per Census 2011, women's work participation rate stands at 31.8% in the state in comparison to men's work participation rate of 59.3%.
 - ✓ The decision to provide free travel is meant to improve the participation rate of women to ensure that they could extend contribution for economic growth
 - ✓ Keeping with his poll promise to redress public grievances in 100 days, the Chief Minister ordered constitution of a new department to implement "chief minister in your constituency" scheme.
 - ✓ A senior IAS officer, Shilpa Prabhakar will head the department.
 - ✓ Earlier, the chief minister was given a guard of honour at the Tamil Nadu secretariat.
- **On May 7, the DMK government - appointed senior bureaucrat V Irai Anbu as Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu**



- ✓ An order to this effect was passed by chief secretary Rajeev Ranjan hours after M K Stalin was sworn in as chief minister.
- ✓ Anbu, a 1985 batch IAS officer, was additional chief secretary/director of Anna Institute of Management and director general of Training.
- ✓ Ranjan, who was also in charge of vigilance commissioner and commissioner of administrative reforms, has been posted as chairman and managing director of Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited.
- ✓ The government also posted commissioner of archaeology T Udhayachandran as secretary I to chief minister, Tamil Nadu medical services corporation managing director P Umanath as secretary II and commissioner of museums M S Shanmugam as secretary III.
- ✓ Industries commissioner and director of industries and commerce Anu George has been posted as secretary IV to the chief minister.
- ✓ Health and family welfare joint secretary Shilpa Prabhakar has been transferred and posted as special officer to a department called "Chief Minister in your constituency," constituted by Stalin soon after assuming charge.
- ✓ This department will act in 100 days on the petitions received during the CM's poll campaign.

NATIONAL

- **The single-shot Russian Covid-19 vaccine, Sputnik Light, which was approved for use by Russia on May 6 - will be distributed by Dr Reddy's Labs in India after necessary approvals.**
- ✓ Dr Reddy's Labs already has a distribution tie-up with Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) for Sputnik V.
- ✓ The Hyderabad-based pharma giant is the marketing partner of RDIF and the custodian of the Sputnik vaccine brand in India.
- ✓ The company also undertook clinical trials for the vaccine in India.
- ✓ The single-shot Sputnik Light could prove to be a major booster for India's vaccination drive against the backdrop of vaccine shortages
- ✓ Sputnik Light has shown an 79.4% efficacy after 28 days of administration and will be priced below \$10 per dose
- ✓ In comparison, the two-dose Sputnik has shown an efficacy of 92%
- ✓ The single-dose shot comprises just the first adenoviral vector component of the two-dose vaccine – Ad26.
- ✓ In Sputnik V, the second vector Ad5 is administered 21 days after the first vector.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On May 7, the World Health Organization (WHO) - gave emergency use authorisation to a Covid-19 vaccine manufactured by China's Sinopharm**
- ✓ The emergency use authorization will pave the way for millions of the doses to reach needy countries through a UN-backed 'Covax' programme in coming weeks or months.
- ✓ This is the first time a WHO technical advisory group has authorized a Chinese vaccine, Sinopharm
- ✓ Aside from efficacy numbers, the Chinese manufacturer has released little public data about its two vaccines — one developed by its Beijing Institute of Biological Products and the other by Wuhan Institute of Biological Products.
- ✓ The Beijing shot is one the WHO has approved now for emergency use.

ECONOMY

- **The Reserve Bank of India - recently constituted a Committee under the Managing Director S Janaki Raman to assist the second Regulatory Review Authority.(RRA)**
- ✓ The committee will assist the authority to identify various areas, guidelines, regulations and returns.
- ✓ It will submit reports periodically to RRA and provide suggestions/ recommendations to streamline its functioning

- ✓ In 1999, RBI set up the Regulatory Review Authority to review circulars, regulations and reporting systems based on feedback from banks, public and financial institutions.
- ✓ The RRA 2.0 was established to further streamline regulations and reduce compliance burden of regulated entities.
- ✓ RRA 2.0 was established in April 2021 to function for a period of one year.
- ✓ It will examine and suggest changes required in the dissemination process of RBI instructions and circulars.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

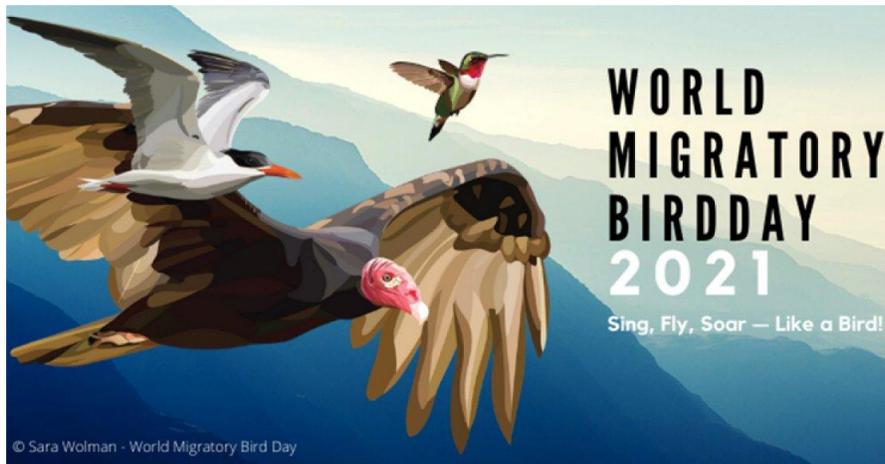
➤ World Thalassemia Day - May 8



- ✓ The day is celebrated every year to create awareness about the patients suffering from Thalassemia.
- ✓ Theme 2021 - Addressing Health Inequalities Across the Global Thalassemia Community
- ✓ Thalassemia is an inherited, genetically-linked blood disorder under which the body loses the ability to produce haemoglobin, thereby reducing the count of red blood cells
- ✓ Red Blood Cells are the carriers of oxygen.
- ✓ The disease is most common in South Asian, African and Mediterranean countries.
- ✓ Every year around 10,000 children are born with Thalassemia in the country.
- ✓ The Thalassemia gene varies from 3% to 15% in northern India and from 1% to 3% in southern India.
- ✓ The second phase of Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in October 2020.
- ✓ It aims to provide one-time cure opportunity for those affected with Sickle cell disease and Thalassemia.

➤ World Migratory Bird Day – May 8

- ✓ The World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated annually on second Saturday of May and October.
- ✓ The previous World Migratory Bird Day was celebrated on October 10th 2020.



- ✓ The World Migratory Bird Day is observed to raise awareness of migratory birds and their importance to ensure international cooperation in conserving them.
- ✓ The Day also aims to create awareness for conserving the habitats of the migratory birds, especially the wetlands.
- ✓ Theme 2021 for May 8 World Migratory Bird Day – “Sing, fly, Soar – Like a Bird”
- ✓ The World Migratory Bird Day is organised by the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Environment for the Americas, a Colorado-based Non-Profit Organisation and the African – Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)
- ✓ The CMS and the AEWA are the two international wildlife treaties administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- ✓ The United Nations established the World Migratory Bird Day in 2006.
- ✓ The event was founded under the United Nations Agreement on Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds.
- ✓ In India, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the National Action Plan for Conservation of Migratory Birds on October 10, 2020.

