

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 15, 2022

TAMIL NADU

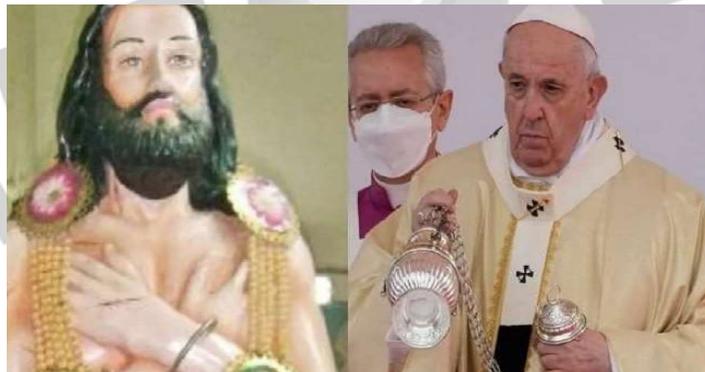
- **The Greater Chennai Corporation - will soon set up 200 urban health and wellness centres (UHC) on the lines of 'Aam Aadmi Mohalla' clinics in Delhi.**
- ✓ The clinics, set up mostly in congested and slum areas, will serve as a linkage between local community health and higher healthcare facilities.
- ✓ These UHCs will be set up in places where there is little healthcare access for people and where there is a dense population such as markets, bus terminus and habitation board tenements
- ✓ They will function in addition to the civic body's 140 urban primary health centres, where nearly 35,000 people go everyday
- ✓ The UHCs are being set up at a cost of Rs. 88 crore through funds from National Health Mission and tenders are floated in this regard.
- ✓ These centres offer treatment in paediatric, maternal care, general medicine, health outreach programmes, and will also help the civic body to maintain a health database.
- ✓ The UHCs will help treat fever and general medicine issues, and will function from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 pm to 8 pm.

STATES

- **On May 14, Tripura BJP President Manik Saha - replaced Biplab Kumar Deb as the state chief minister.**



- ✓ After meeting Union home minister Amit Shah, Deb tendered his resignation to governor S N Arya.
 - ✓ Hours later, Saha, 69, dentist — was elected leader of the BJP legislature party in Agartala and he will sworn in as the state chief minister on May 15.
 - ✓ After B S Yediyurappa (Karnataka), Trivendra Singh Rawat and Tirath Singh Rawat (both Uttarakhand) and Vijay Rupani (Gujarat), Deb is the fifth BJP CM to be replaced without completing the full five-year term.
 - ✓ Tripura's chief minister-designate, Manik Saha, once a Congressman, was a dental surgeon and professor at Tripura Medical College before entering into politics.
 - ✓ Known to be a close confidant of his predecessor, Biplab Kumar Deb, Saha left Congress and joined BJP in 2016.
 - ✓ Four years later, he became president of the party's state unit, replacing Deb.
 - ✓ Last March, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha.
 - ✓ An enthusiastic cricket fan, Saha is also president of the Tripura Cricket Association.
- **Devasahayam Pillai, who embraced Christianity in the 18th-century - will be declared a saint by Pope Francis in Vatican on May 15.**

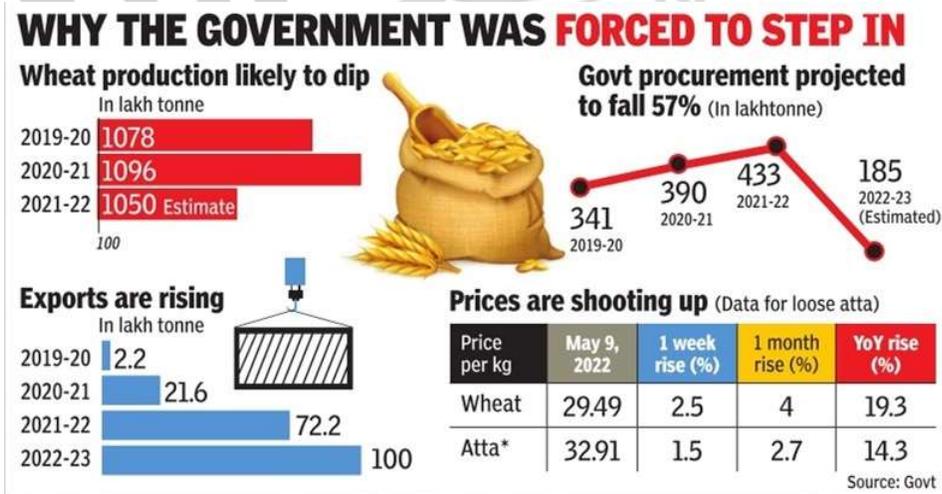


- ✓ Thiruvananthapuram Latin archdiocese will hold special prayers to mark his canonization.
 - ✓ A portrait of Devasahayam, also called Blessed Lazarus, will be unveiled in the cathedral as part of the prayers.
 - ✓ The national level celebration of his canonization will be held on June 5 at Kottar St Francis Xavier Church where his mortal remains have been buried in a tomb in front of the main altar of the church.
 - ✓ Devasahayam was born in the year 1712 in a hamlet called Nattalam of Vilavancode taluk in the present district of Kanyakumari.
 - ✓ His father was Vasudevan Namputhiri, a Brahmin, and his mother Devaki Amma of the Nair caste
- **Rajasthan - becomes the first state in the country to exceed 10 GW of cumulative large-scale solar power installations.**

- ✓ The state has a total of 32.5 GW of installed power capacity, with renewables contributing 55%, followed by thermal energy at 43%, and nuclear energy the remaining 2%.
- ✓ Solar is the predominant source which now accounts for around 36% of the power capacity mix and 64% amongst renewables.
- ✓ According to Mercom's India Solar Project Tracker, Rajasthan has over 16 GW of solar projects under development.
- ✓ State-owned THDC India recently signed a Letter of Intent to build 10 GW solar power projects through a 74:36 joint venture with Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited at an investment of Rs.100 billion
- ✓ Other significant projects are developed by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), and the projects developed under the Rajasthan State Solar Policy.
- ✓ In 2019, Rajasthan released its Solar Energy Policy 2019, which aims to achieve a target of 30 GW of solar power by the FY 2024-25

NATIONAL

- **On May 14, the Centre - announced several measures including strict controls on wheat exports to tackle the price rise**
- ✓ Among the measures, the Centre had decided to substitute wheat with rice in some states under the public distribution system and other welfare schemes.



- ✓ Since Russia's attack on Ukraine more than two months ago, international wheat prices have risen around 25%
- ✓ India is seeing a rapid rise in wheat price along with lower government procurement
- ✓ This is because private traders increased purchases anticipating a further rise in prices in the coming months.
- ✓ The average retail price of wheat flour rose 1.5% in a week to nearly Rs.33 a kg.
- ✓ Within hours of the measures being announced, the prices had started reducing by Rs.100-150 per quintal across several states

- ✓ Along with export curbs, the government introduced other steps like further reducing wheat allocation to states under the NFSA.
- **RailTel - has launched Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) - based access of its Public WiFi services across 100 major railway stations in the country**



- ✓ RailTel, a mini Ratna PSU, will provide internet services through 2,384 WiFi hotspots across railway stations in 22 states
- ✓ PM-WANI is an ambitious program of the Department of Telecom (DoT) to connect all silo Wi-Fi networks for ease of use among masses
- ✓ To access this WiFi network, android users need to download the mobile app 'Wi-DOT' available on Google Play Store.
- ✓ This app has been developed in close coordination with C-DOT.
- ✓ This method would be in addition to the existing method of accessing WiFi at these stations through the conventional method of selecting RailWire Service Set Identifier (SSID)
- ✓ The WiFi network of the RailTel is now spread at 6,102 railway stations across the country and has 17, 792 WiFi hotspots

INTERNATIONAL

- **The UAE's federal council - elected Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, commonly referred to as MbZ, as the country's president on May 14.**
- ✓ He has replaced Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who died at the age of 73 on May 13.
- ✓ Mohammed bin Zayed (MbZ), the former president's half-brother, has been the de facto ruler of the UAE for years now, particularly after Khalifa suffered a stroke in 2014.
- ✓ The 61-year-old leader is also the Ruler of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi – the largest of the seven emirates constituting the Federation – since November 2004
- ✓ In January 2005, he was appointed the Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.



- ✓ Sheikh Mohamed is the third son of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, founding father of the nation and the first President of the UAE
 - ✓ MbZ controls the world's fourth-richest wealth fund and about 6% of proven reserves of crude oil.
 - ✓ A career soldier, he's built up a formidable arsenal — the UAE has been the world's eighth-largest arms importer in the past five years.
 - ✓ The emirates has also joined the US-led coalition against Islamic State terror group.
- **Yoon Suk-yeol - was sworn in as the South Korean president in a ceremony at Seoul's National Assembly recently on May 10, 2022**



- ✓ The 61-year old Yoon of the main conservative People Power Party had won a tight election in March 2022 to helm the world's 10th largest economy
- ✓ Yoon takes over from the progressive Democratic Party's (DP) Moon Jae-in, after winning with the lowest-ever electoral margin in South Korean history
- ✓ Jae-in was the 12th president of the country and was in charge from 2017 to 2022.
- ✓ Yoon stepped down as prosecutor general in March 2021 and declared his candidacy for president in June of the year

COMMITTEES

- **Capital markets regulator, the SEBI - has formed an advisory committee for advising on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) related matters pertaining to the securities markets.**

- ✓ The committee will be chaired by Navneet Munot, the chief executive officer of HDFC Asset Management Company



- ✓ Besides, the committee comprises industry experts like R. Mukundan , MD & CEO of Tata Chemicals, C Siva Kumar, executive director of NTPC, Amit Talgeri, chief risk officer, Axis Bank, Sharad Kalghtagi, ESG head Cipla, Amit Tandon, Institutional Investor Advisory Services, J N Gupta, founder & MD of Stakeholders Empowerment Services and Rama Patel, Director Crisil Ratings
- ✓ In all, the committee has 19 members and further, four Sebi officials will act as secretariat to the committee as well as co-ordinator.
- ✓ The terms of reference of the committee will include enhancements in business responsibility and sustainability report, ESG ratings and ESG investing

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal – inaugurated the first ‘Incredible India International Cruise Conference 2022’ in Mumbai on May 14, 2022**



- ✓ The conference was organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), and the Mumbai Port Authority.
- ✓ During the inaugural ceremony of the two-day conference, the Minister said that the Government has set up a Task Force headed by the Secretary, Tourism and Secretary, Shipping for development of cruise tourism

- ✓ The Minister announced the setting up of a high level Advisory Committee, comprising national and international experts, to help the Task Force in creating an ecosystem for development of cruise tourism in the country.
 - ✓ India aims to increase cruise passenger traffic from 0.4 million at present to four million and its related economic potential up from \$110 million to \$5.5 billion
 - ✓ In order to boost the cruise tourism industry in the country, the Government of India has taken several initiatives including infrastructure upgradation, rationalisation of port fees, removing ousting charges, granting priority berthing to cruise ships, providing e-visa facilities etc.
 - ✓ Further, the government has carried out upgradation and modernisation at seven major ports in the country including the flagship New International Cruise terminal coming up in Mumbai with a total cost about Rs 495 crore
 - ✓ The iconic sea cruise terminal coming up at BPX-Indira Dock, is expected to be commissioned by July 2024.
 - ✓ The terminal will have a capacity of handling 200 ships and 1 million passengers per annum
 - ✓ Similar infrastructure upgradations are also taking place in Goa, New Mangalore, Kochi, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, and Kolkata.
- **Union Minister of State for Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Bhagwant Khuba – represented the country at the Intersolar Europe 2022 held at Munich, Germany**



- ✓ The event was organized by the Indo-German Energy Forum (IGEF) from May 11 to 13, 2022
- ✓ The Minister delivered key note address at the investment promotion event “India’s Solar Energy Market” on May 12
- ✓ The event was attended by more than 20,000 people including ministers and secretaries from various nations.
- ✓ Major multinational companies of the Renewable Energy sector like ABB, Siemens, Ercon, 3S Swiss Solar Solutions, Meyer Burger Technologies AG, BayWa r.e. GmbH, Engie, Enel, and Wacker represented through their CEOs at the event

- ✓ Intersolar Europe 2022 is the world's leading exhibition series for the solar industry and its partners.
- ✓ The previous Intersolar exhibitions and conferences are held in Munich, São Paulo, Long Beach, Gandhinagar, Dubai and Mexico City.
- ✓ With more than 30 years of experience, Intersolar brings together members of the solar industry from across the world's most influential markets.

DEFENCE

- **Assam Rifles – has honoured the surviving soldiers of Operation Dudhi and their families on the 31st anniversary of Operation Dudhi in Shillong recently on May 9, 2022**

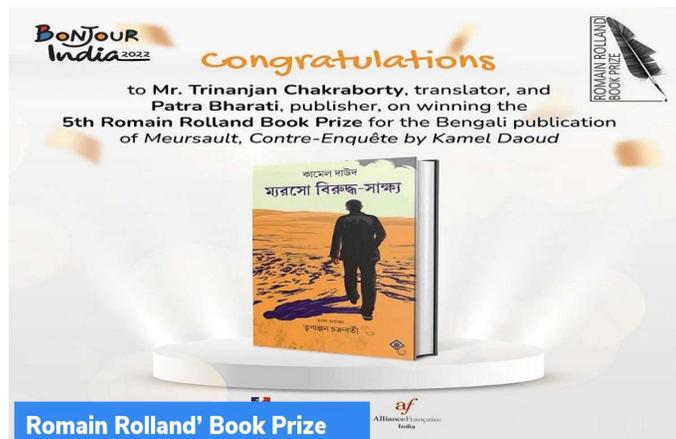


Team Dudhi after Operation Dudhi

- ✓ In 1991, the Assam Rifles had killed 72 militants in a single counter-insurgency operation in Jammu & Kashmir
- ✓ The operation, undertaken by the soldiers of the 7th battalion during its tenure in Jammu & Kashmir from 1990 to 1992, remains the most successful counter-insurgency operation conducted by any security force to date.
- ✓ The battalion had eliminated 72 militants, arrested 13 others and seized cache of arms and ammunition
- ✓ Conducted on May 3, 1991, Operation Dudhi was undertaken by a column comprising a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) and 14 other ranks under the command of Naib Subedar Padam Bahadur Chhetri.
- ✓ Equipped with only 7.62 mm self-loading rifles and a light machine gun, the soldiers used surrounded the militants, who were armed with sophisticated weapons and launched a retaliatory attack.

AWARDS

- **The Bengali translation of French novel “Meursault, contre-enquête” (The Meursault Investigation) - has won the fifth Romain Rolland Book Prize at the Bonjour India Festival.**
- ✓ The award, announced during the French LitFest 2022, was given to translator Trinanjan Chakraborty and publisher Patra Bharati



- ✓ 'Meursault, contre-enquête' is the debut novel of Algerian writer and journalist Kamel Daoud
- ✓ The book is a retelling of Albert Camus' 1942 novel, "The Stranger".
- ✓ It won the prize beating the other shortlisted book — the Hindi translation of Marjane Satrapi's cult comic "Persepolis"
- ✓ Romain Rolland Book Prize, started in 2017, awards the best translation of a French title into any Indian language, including English.
- ✓ As part of the prize, the winning publisher and the translator will be awarded a curated trip to the Paris Book Fair, 2023
- ✓ The jury is composed of professors from different universities in France and India, and literary translators from both countries to assess the quality of the translations
- ✓ It is chaired by the French Institute in India / Embassy of France in India.
- ✓ Last year, the prize was won by the Tamil translation of the French novel "Le mariage de plaisir"
- ✓ The winners of the last year's prize are translator Dr S A Vengada Soupraya Nayagar and publisher Amutharasan Paulraj of Thadagam Publishers for the Tamil translation of the book, authored by Tahar Ben Jelloun
- ✓ 'Bonjour India' is an art and culture summer festival which celebrates the relationship between India and France
- ✓ The festival, funded by the government of France and supported by the France Embassy, is travelling to 19 cities with over 200 events

SPORTS

- **The Indian men's and women's trap teams - picked up two more silver medals at the ongoing ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany late on May 13**
- ✓ The women — Preeti Rajak, Sabeera Haris and Bhavya Tripathi — lost to the Italian team in the gold medal contest.
- ✓ Then, Shardul Vihaan, Arya Vansh Tyagi and Vivaan Kapoor were defeated in their gold medal match against the USA
- ✓ These were India's first two medals in the Shotgun discipline at the Junior World Cup.



- ✓ Presently India is at the top of the medals tally with eight gold and eight silver medals, while Australia and USA lie in joint second place with one gold, one silver and one bronze each.
- **On May 14, the state government - signed an agreement with the Tamil Nadu Tennis Association to hold a WTA 250 tournament in Chennai in September and October this year**



- ✓ This was announced by minister for youth welfare and sports Siva V Meyyanathan.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Tennis Association president Vijay Amritraj signed an agreement in this regard with the government.
- ✓ The government would take efforts to give a facelift to the tennis stadium in Nungambakkam to host the tournament.
- ✓ The government has allocated Rs 5 crore as the first instalment to prepare for the facilities, said the Minister
- **Kozhikode-based Gokulam Kerala - defeated the Kolkata-based Mohammedan Sporting to become the first team to defend the 2021-2022 I-League at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on May 14**
- ✓ Even though a draw was enough for Gokulam to win the title, they won the game and finished their campaign with 43 points from 18 games, which included a 21-match unbeaten run

- ✓ Mohammedan Sporting finished second in the league with 37 points.



- ✓ Gokulam Kerala's Marcus Joseph bagged the highest goal scorer award (the Golden Boot) and the Hero of the League award
- ✓ Gokulam Kerala now turn their focus to their 2022 AFC Cup campaign where they are set to take on ATK Mohun Bagan in their group opener on May 18.
- ✓ No club in the I-League era has defended its title till now
- ✓ Kolkata based East Bengal had achieved the feat in the time of the National Football League, the predecessor of I-League, by winning title in 2002-03 and 2003-04 seasons.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ International Families Day – May 15



- ✓ The Day is observed every year to highlight the significance and value of a family
- ✓ This day helps in promoting the significance of families and their welfare, such as education, gender, equality, health, rights for children and social inclusion among others.
- ✓ On December 9, 1989, the United Nations General Assembly declared the International Year of Families in a resolution.
- ✓ In 1993, The United Nations General Assembly has decided in a resolution that 15 May each year will be observed as the International Day of Families.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - Families and urbanization