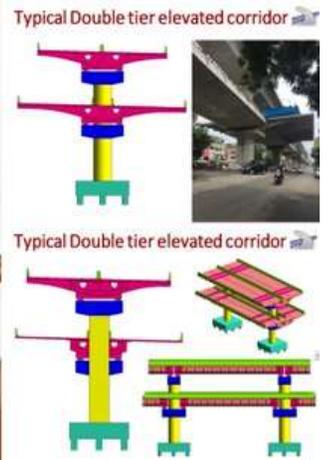


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 17, 2022

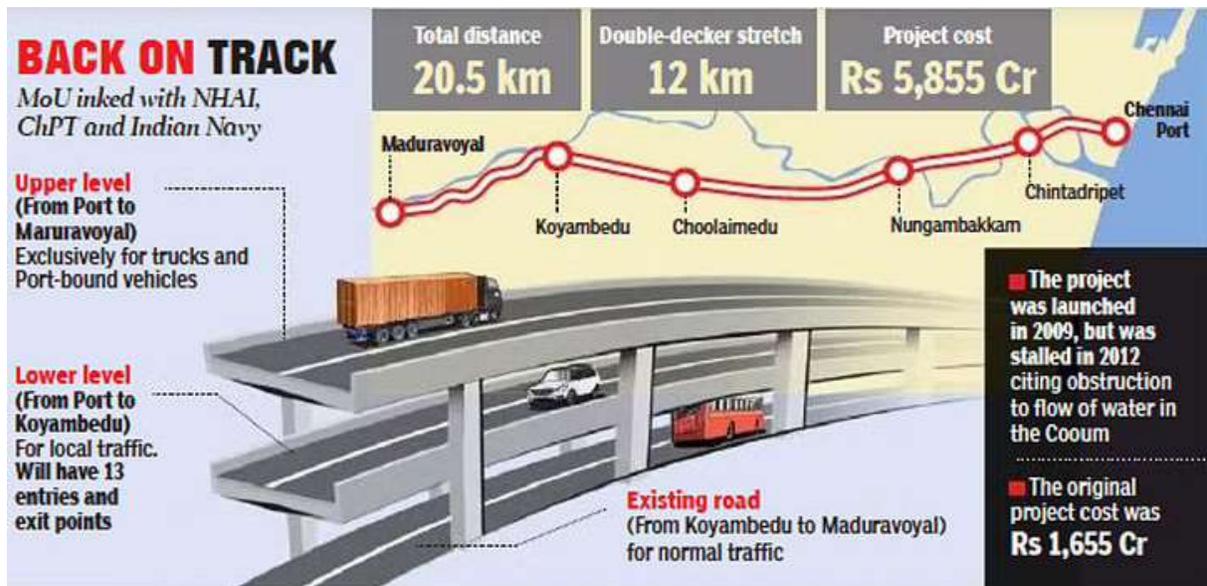
TAMIL NADU

- On May 16, the Tamil Nadu government, the National Highways Authority of India, Chennai Port Trust and the Indian Navy - signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the execution of Rs. 5,855 crore Chennai Port-Maduravoyal elevated expressway.



- ✓ The MOU signing took place in the presence of chief minister M K Stalin and Union minister of state for road transport and highways general (retd) V K Singh.
- ✓ In the 20.6km double decker elevated road, the 12km stretch between Port and Koyambedu will have 13 entries and exits from the first level for the benefit of local traffic with toll-free access
- ✓ On the second level, only the port bound heavy vehicles would be allowed to travel to and from the Port to Maduravoyal
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate, commission and inaugurate projects of four ministries, including the elevated expressway, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai on May 26.
- ✓ Tenders will be floated soon and the project is scheduled to be completed in 30 months from the date of award of contract.

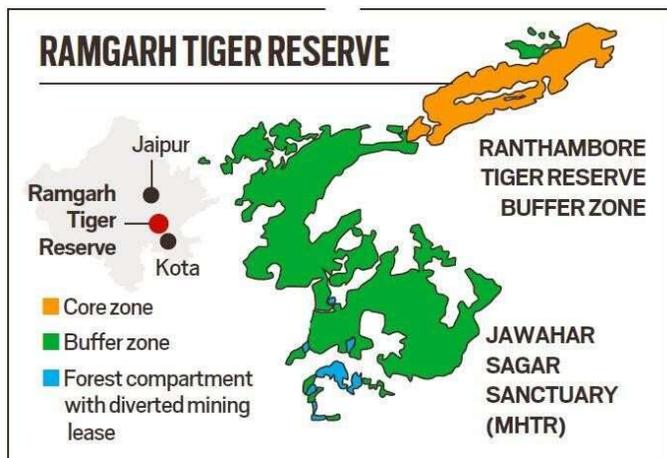
- ✓ The signing of MoU comes a decade after the AIADMK government suspended the project launched by the Congress-led UPA regime.
- ✓ Former prime minister Manmohan Singh laid the foundation stone for the 19.5km project in January 2009 at a budget of Rs 1,655 crore



- ✓ The state PWD issued a stop-work notice in February 2012 to the NHAI to stop work citing obstruction to the flow of surplus water during the Cooum
- ✓ The NHAI had contended that the alignment was finalised considering all aspects of geometry, optimum utilisation of river boundary and minimum acquisition of private land.
- ✓ Incidentally, the previous AIADMK government led by Edappadi K Palaniswami supported Union minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari's interest in reviving the project.
- ✓ The Chennai Port has two container terminals with a capacity of 2.6 million TEUs and the expressway will help realise the potential.
- ✓ In the 2022-23 Budget address, Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan had said that the State government is committed to revive and implement the Maduravoyal-Chennai Port elevated corridor project, which is vital to the commercial development of Chennai.

STATES

- **The Ramgarh Vishdhari sanctuary in Bundi in Rajasthan - was notified as the country's 52nd tiger reserve on May 16**
- ✓ The sanctuary includes the tiger habitat between Ranthambore in the northeast and Mukundra Hills on the southern side
- ✓ Wild animals like Indian wolf, leopard, striped hyena, sloth bear, golden jackal, chinkara, nilgai and fox can be seen in the Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve
- ✓ The Ramgarh Vishdhari is the fourth tiger reserve of the state after Ranthambore, Sariska and Mukundra.



- ✓ The national tiger conservation authority (NTCA) had given in-principle approval to make this sanctuary and adjoining areas as tiger reserves on July 5 last year.
- ✓ According to the "Status of Tigers in India" report released in 2019, there are 2,967 tigers in 20 states across the country.

NATIONAL

- **The government – has decided to put ‘on hold’ the privatisation of loss making Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd (PHHL) for now**
- ✓ The move follows after the financial arm of the winning consortium, Almas Global Opportunity Fund SPC, got an adverse order from the NCLT recently
- ✓ The kolkata-bench of NCLT had ordered action against Cayman Islands-based Almas for not providing payment under the bankruptcy law to a Kolkata firm called EMC Limited, which it has bought as per an insolvency resolution plan

RUNNING INTO ROUGH WEATHER

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The government had approved Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd (PHHL) privatisation for the highest bid of ₹211 crore from a consortium – Star9 Mobility Private Ltd – last month ➤ The consortium includes Big Charter Private Limited, Maharaja Aviation Private Limited and Almas Global Opportunity Fund SPC ➤ An NCLT bench had ordered 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> action against Almas Global Opportunity Fund SPC for not providing funds under the bankruptcy law to a Kolkata firm ➤ A company facing conviction has to be disqualified as per rules ➤ Without Almas, the other two members of the consortium do not meet the ₹300 crore minimum net worth criteria for PHHL winning bidder as they are both loss-making
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- ✓ A company facing conviction has to be disqualified as per rules.
- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) empowered Alternative Mechanism (AM) had approved the sale of 51% stake of government to the Star9 Mobility Private Ltd consortium for Rs 210 crore.

- ✓ Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), that held the rest of the 49%, had also offered its entire shareholding to the winning bidder PHHL at the same price per share, as per the terms agreed by the government.
 - ✓ The employees' union had moved court alleging under valuation and the issue is being examined by the government.
 - ✓ Last month, the government had approved PHHL privatisation for the highest bid of Rs 211 crore from a consortium, Star9 Mobility Private Ltd
 - ✓ Star9 Mobility Private Ltd is a consortium of Big Charter Private Limited (26% stake), Maharaja Aviation Private Limited (25% stake) and Almas Global Opportunity Fund SPC (49% stake).
 - ✓ Without Almas, the other two members of the consortium do not meet the Rs. 300 crore minimum net worth criteria for the winning bidder PHHL as they are both loss-making.
 - ✓ This is the second privatisation transaction which has been engulfed in a controversy.
 - ✓ Earlier, the government had put on hold the sale of Central Electronics Ltd (CEL) to Nandal Finance and Leasing.
 - ✓ The target for disinvestment in the current fiscal year has been set at Rs 65,000 crore and so far the government has been able to raise Rs 3,059 crore.
 - ✓ The government has already put 'on hold' the sale of petroleum major BPCL and there are doubts over the transactions linked to Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), Concor, BEML and IDBI bank.
- **Five India Start-ups – have been chosen by the World Economic Forum (WEF) for its Technology Pioneers Community.**

INDIAN STARTUPS AMONG WEF'S TECH PIONEERS

Five Indian names were among the 100 new startups to join the World Economic Forum's Technology Pioneers Community.

 Vahan , full stack labour marketplace for blue collar workers	 Pandocorp , world's first open-market freight management platform	 Proeon , plant-based protein ingredient innovator
 SmartCoin Financials , tech-driven financial inclusion platform for the underserved	 Recykal , Asia's first circular economy marketplace	

Source: World Economic Forum

- ✓ The WEF has chosen 100 innovative start-ups from various countries for the initiative

- ✓ These global start-ups are from various sectors including healthcare, financial services, metaverse, food production etc.
- ✓ The five Indian start-ups selected under the initiative are SmartCoin Financials, Vahan, Proeon, Recykal and Pandocorp
- ✓ Vahan is building a full-stack labour marketplace for blue-collar workers; SmartCoin Financials is a tech-driven financial inclusion platform empowering the underserved; and Recykal is Asia's first circular economy marketplace.
- ✓ Besides, Proeon is creating next-generation plant proteins with superior taste, texture and nutrition, while Pandocorp is making supply chain execution intelligent with a fast logistics cloud
- ✓ The 2022 Tech Pioneers are chosen from 30 countries - with Vietnam, Rwanda and the Czech Republic represented for the first time.
- ✓ Over one-third of the selected companies this year are led by women, well above the industry average.
- ✓ The start-ups are invited to participate in WEF workshops and events and high-level discussions during their two years in the community
- ✓ The list has been announced days before the WEF's annual meeting in Swiss ski resort town Davos from May 22-26

INTERNATIONAL

- **Elisabeth Borne - was appointed France's new prime minister on May 16**



- ✓ Borne is the second woman to hold the position after Edith Cresson, who was PM in 1991-1992 under Socialist President Francois Mitterrand.
- ✓ Borne, 61, succeeds Jean Castex, whose resignation was expected after President Emmanuel Macron's re-election last month.
- ✓ She has served as labour minister in Macron's previous government since 2020.
- ✓ Before that, she was transport minister and then minister of ecological transition, also under Macron.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **On May 16, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - held bilateral diplomatic talks with his Nepalese counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba.**

- ✓ A total of six MoUs/Agreements were signed and exchanged during PM Narendra Modi's visit to Lumbini.



- ✓ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the development of the 490 MW Arun-4 hydro electric project in Nepal is among the six agreements signed
 - ✓ The construction of 900 MW Arun-3 project is in progress and the 669 MW Lower Arun project is at the survey and investigation stage.
- ✓ PM Modi was in Lumbini on the occasion of 2566th Buddha Purnima celebrations at the invitation of his counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba, becoming the first PM to do so
- ✓ PM Modi offered prayers at Mahamayadevi Temple with the Nepalese PM
 - ✓ The Maya Devi temple is the main site of worship in Lumbini, which is traditionally considered the birthplace of Gautama Buddha
- ✓ Prime Minister also delivered an address at a Buddha Jayanti event organized by the Lumbini Development Trust under the aegis of the Government of Nepal.
- ✓ PM Modi together with Deuba participated in the 'shilanyas' (foundation stone laying) ceremony for the construction of the India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage in the Lumbini Monastic Zone in Nepal
 - ✓ The Rs. 1 billion Centre will be constructed by the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), New Delhi with financial support from the Ministry of Culture
 - ✓ It will be constructed on a plot allocated to IBC by the Lumbini Development Trust (LDT), under an agreement between IBC and LDT signed in March 2022
 - ✓ The Buddhist Centre will be the first "Net Zero Emission" building in Nepal.
- ✓ PM Modi addressed a gathering in Lumbini consisting of around 2,500 people that included monks, Buddhist scholars and international participants.
- ✓ During his speech, the PM said the construction of the Lumbini Museum in Nepal is also an example of joint cooperation between the two countries.
- ✓ He said that it has been decided to establish the 'Dr Ambedkar Chair for Buddhist Studies' in Lumbini Buddhist University and another at Kathmandu University.
- ✓ Further, PM Modi inaugurated Nepal's second international airport built by China
- ✓ The \$76 million Gautam Buddha International Airport will help connect Lumbini to Buddhist circuits in South Asia as well as to the rest of the world.

- ✓ Lumbini, located in the Terai plains of southern Nepal, is one of the holiest places of Buddhism, where Lord Buddha was born.
- ✓ This was Narendra Modi's fifth visit to Nepal since 2014 when he was elected as Prime Minister of India.

PERSONALITIES

- **On May 15, Kenton Cool, a 48-year-old British national - scaled the world's highest peak Mount Everest for the 16th time**



- ✓ With the achievement, Cool becomes the first non-Nepalese and the first British citizen to do so.
- ✓ Cool, who hails from Gloucestershire, a county in South West England, was also the first British guide to lead a client to the summit of K2, the world's second-highest mountain.
- ✓ The current record holder is Kami Rita, a Sherpa who last week climbed the mountain for the 26th time at the age of 52.
- ✓ May is the most popular time to climb the world's highest peak, and the Nepali government has issued 316 permits to climb Everest during the current peak season.

SPORTS

- **Indian wrestlers Pooja Gehlot (50 kg), Vinesh Phogat (53 kg), Anshu Malik (57 kg), Sakshi Malik (62 kg), Divya Kakran (68 kg) and Pooja Dhanda (76 kg) - have been selected to represent the country in the Commonwealth Games 2022 to be held in Birmingham, England.**
- ✓ The selection for the senior women's wrestling team for the 2022 Commonwealth Games was held on May 16 at Lucknow.
- ✓ The 62kg category was expected to be one of the most tightly-contested and it was Rio 2016 bronze medallist Sakshi Malik who emerged as the winner overcoming Tokyo Olympian Sonam Malik and Manisha
- ✓ In 57kg, there were some prominent names involved but it was Tokyo Olympian Anshu Malik who defeated Sarita Mor in the final to earn the call-up.

The Indian Women's Wrestling Team for Commonwealth Games 2022



POOJA GEHLOT
(50KG)



VINESH PHOGAT
(53KG)



ANSHU MALIK
(57KG)



SAKSHI MALIK
(62KG)



DIVYA KAKRAN
(68KG)



POOJA DHANDA
(76KG)

- ✓ Vinesh Phogat had won the gold in 50kg at the 2018 Games and in 48kg at the 2014 edition
- ✓ At the last edition in Gold Coast, Vinesh Phogat was the only woman to win gold
- ✓ The Commonwealth Games 2022 will be held in Birmingham, UK from July 28 to August 8.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

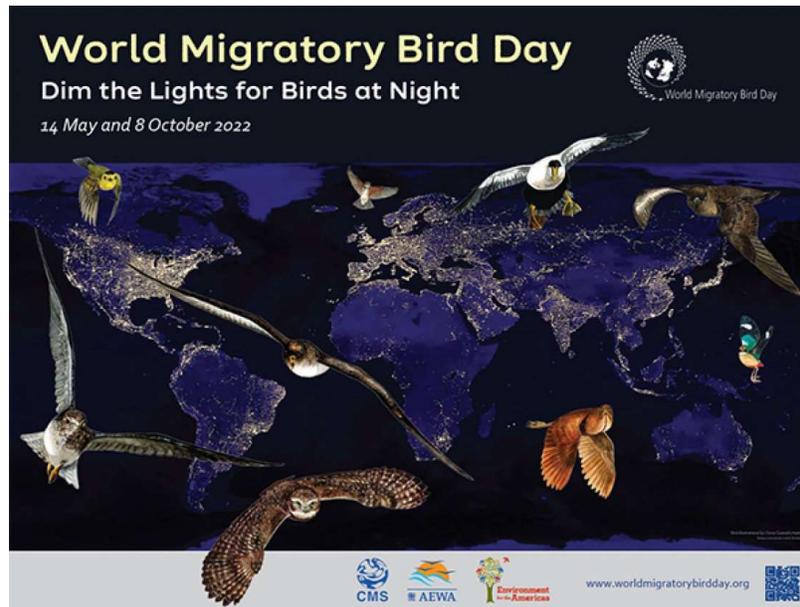
- **International Day of Living Together in Peace – May 16**



- ✓ The Day is celebrated every year to encourage people to live together in harmony and peace inspite of various diversity and differences
- ✓ The General Assembly adopted the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace in 1999, which serves as a universal mandate for the international community
- ✓ On December 8, 2017, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution declaring 16 May as the International Day of Living Together in Peace.
- ✓ In 2018, the inaugural International Day of Living Together in Peace was commemorated

- ✓ The year 2000 was designated as "The International Year for a Culture of Peace," and the United Nations named it the "International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for Children of the World" from 2001 to 2010
- ✓ This day does not have any specific theme for any of the years

➤ **World Migratory Bird Day – May 14, 2022**



- ✓ The Day is observed every year twice, once on the second Saturday in May and next on the second Saturday in October
- ✓ It highlights the importance of migratory bird conservation and habitat preservation
- ✓ This year, World Migratory Bird Day is on May 14, with October 8 being the second time.
- ✓ The day raises awareness about the problems that migratory birds face, their ecological value, and the need for worldwide collaboration to protect them.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - "Dim the Lights for Birds at Night"
- ✓ The idea of World Migratory Bird Day was conceived in the United States in 1993 when several agencies and organisations started celebrating the day.
- ✓ The day began in 2006 when the United Nations (UN) decided to raise awareness of migratory birds' connections between regions worldwide
- ✓ The United Nations Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds inspired the creation of World Migratory Bird Day
- ✓ Around 4,000 different bird species migrate, which roughly accounts for 40% of the avian population.
- ✓ These birds go to warmer climates in the winter twice a year and then return to breed.