

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 19, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- **On May 18, chief minister M K Stalin – chaired the first state level review of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA)**
- ✓ The committee implements 41 developmental projects that are implemented through 15 departments with the centre's share



- ✓ During the meeting, the CM asked officials to take steps to obtain funds from the Union government for projects in the state.
- ✓ Various works being carried out by departments including District Rural Development Agency, municipal administration, agriculture, TWAD board, department of school education, labour welfare, Skill development department were reviewed at the meeting.
- ✓ During the meeting, the CM reviewed the implementation of six major schemes in the state.

- ✓ The first major scheme taken up for review was Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), followed by the formation of women self help groups
 - ✓ The third project taken up for review was providing drinking water connections for every single household under the Jal Jeevan scheme
 - ✓ The fourth scheme taken up for review was education for all and teachers education scheme followed by the National Agriculture Development Scheme (NADP) jointly implemented by centre and state.
 - ✓ The sixth and final scheme that was taken up for review was the Prime Minister Skill Development Scheme
 - ✓ Minister for rural development K R Periyakaruppan, MPs T R Baalu, S S Palanimanickam, P R Natarajan, Thol Thirumavalavan, chief secretary V Irai Anbu and principal secretary rural development and panchayat raj department P Amutha were among those who participated.
- **Chief minister M K Stalin - inaugurated a new international campus of Sai University in Payyanur on the outskirts of Chennai.**



- ✓ During the event, the CM inaugurated the first academic block of Sai University and laid the foundation for the second block on the university's main campus at Paiyanur on the Old Mahabalipuram Road (IT corridor).
- ✓ The masterplan of the 103 acre campus in Paiyanur, OMR, includes facilities for teaching, research, residential life, sports and cultural activities.
 - ✓ It includes the first academic building of 30,000 sq ft and second academic building of 2 lakh sq ft.
- ✓ Over the next ten years, Sai University will invest Rs. 600 crore aiming to achieve the highest international academic standards
- ✓ The campus will have student strength of 3,000 accommodated in 6 lakh sq ft.

- ✓ Inspired by the models of Stanford and Harvard universities, the university aims to integrate three fundamental pillars of education – learning, research and societal impact.
- ✓ Sai University is promoted by the Sai Education, Medical, Research, and Charitable Trust.

STATES

- **Delhi lieutenant governor Anil Bajjal - has resigned citing “personal reasons” and submitted the resignation to President Ram Nath Kovind**



- ✓ Bajjal, a 1969-batch IAS officer, was appointed as the 21st lieutenant governor of Delhi in December 2016 after the sudden resignation of Najeeb Jung.
- ✓ His five years and five months tenure was marked by frequent run-ins with the AAP dispensation over administrative jurisdiction and governance-related issues
- ✓ The biggest face-off happened in 2018 when CM Arvind Kejriwal and his cabinet of ministers sat on a dharna in Bajjal’s office
- ✓ He was also not in agreement with the government over the implementation of the doorstep delivery of services and ration schemes.
- ✓ In 2021, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991 was passed by the Parliament, which effectively made the L-G the overall head of the Delhi government, meaning all files would have to be passed through him.
- ✓ Bajjal was the Union home secretary in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government.
- ✓ He has also served as additional secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- ✓ Bajjal was also the Chairman and MD of Indian Airlines, CEO of Prasar Bharati and the vice-chairperson of the Delhi Development Authority
- ✓ He retired in 2006 as Union Urban Development Secretary.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On May 18, the Supreme Court - ordered the release of A G Perarivalan, one of the seven convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case**
- ✓ A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao, B R Gavai and A S Bopanna invoked the Supreme Court’s extraordinary power granted under Article 142 of the Constitution to grant relief to Perarivalan

- ✓ While ordering his release, the SC bench has taken into account his good conduct in prison, medical ailments, the fact that he had completed Class XII, undergraduation, post-graduation, a diploma and eight certificate courses along with the delay on the part of Tamil Nadu governor in deciding his remission plea.
- ✓ Article 142 essentially provides that the country's apex court can pass such orders or decrees as it deems fit in order to do complete justice in cases before it
- ✓ The court also said that the governor's decision to send the plea to the President was wrong and has no constitutional backing.



- ✓ Perarivalan was arrested on June 11, 1991, at the age of 19, weeks after former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was killed in a suicide bomb attack at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu on May 21.
- ✓ He was sentenced to death by a lower court in January 1998 after being convicted under IPC section 302 (murder) read with section 120B (criminal conspiracy)
- ✓ He was accused of having bought two 9-volt 'Golden Power' battery cells for Sivarasan, the LTTE man who masterminded the conspiracy to assassinate Rajiv Gandhi.
- ✓ The sentence was upheld by the Supreme Court in May 11, 1999.
- ✓ The death sentence for Perarivalan was commuted to a life term by the Supreme Court bench headed by then CJI P Sathasivam in 2014.
- ✓ While a pardon request moved by Perarivalan in 2015 remained pending before the Governor, the then AIADMK government recommended to the then Governor Banwarilal Purohit the premature release of all seven convicts in the case in 2018
- ✓ In February 2021, the Governor of Tamil Nadu had forwarded the plea for remission by Perarivalan filed under Article 161 to the President of India along with the recommendations of the state government's cabinet.
- ✓ The advice of the state cabinet is binding on the governor in matters relating to commutation/remission of sentences under Article 161.

- ✓ The Supreme Court had granted bail to Perarivalan on March 9 this year, saying it was taking into account the fact that he had already spent over three decades in jail.
- ✓ The others undergoing life term in the case are Murugan, Santhan, Jayakumar, Robert Payas, Jayachandran and Nalini.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On May 18, the European Commission - submitted a €300 billion (\$315 billion) plan to eliminate Russian energy imports by 2027**
- ✓ The 27-nation EU block has decided to abandon Russian energy amid the Kremlin's war in Ukraine and focus more on efficient use of fuels and faster rollout of renewable power
- ✓ The goal is to deprive Russia, the EU's main supplier of oil, natural gas and coal, of tens of billions in revenue and strengthen EU climate policies.
- ✓ Russia supplies 40% of the EU's gas and 27% of its imported oil
- ✓ Russia has already cut off EU member states Poland and Bulgaria after they refused to pay for natural gas in roubles
- ✓ European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced the package, dubbed REPowerEU.
- ✓ The plan has three major elements - energy savings, boosting renewables, and diversifying European supplies of oil and gas.
- ✓ It also proposes making solar panels mandatory for public and new residential buildings by 2025 and 2029, respectively.
- ✓ According to von der Leyen, the EU energy efficiency target for 2030 will be increased from 9% to 13%, and the 2030 target for EU renewable energy from 40% to 45%
- ✓ An EU ban on coal from Russia is due to start in August, and the bloc has pledged to try to reduce demand for Russian gas by two-thirds by year's end.
- ✓ The European Commission said the price tag for abandoning Russian fossil fuels completely by a 2027 target date is €210 billion.
- ✓ Its package includes €56 billion for energy efficiency and €86 billion for renewables.
- ✓ Von der Leyen cited a total funding pot of €72 billion euros in grants and €225 billion euros for loans.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **China - will host the BRICS foreign ministers meeting on May 19 via video conferencing**
- ✓ External affairs minister S Jaishankar will take part along with his counterparts from the five-member bloc

- ✓ Besides Jaishankar, South African minister of international relations and cooperation Naledi Pandor, Brazilian foreign minister Carlos Franca and Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov will attend the meeting
- ✓ The meeting would be chaired by China's state councillor and foreign minister Wang Yi
- ✓ During the meeting, the BRICS foreign ministers will have a "BRICS+" dialogue with their counterparts from emerging markets and developing countries.
- ✓ However, the names of the countries taking part in the BRICS Plus dialogue is yet to be released
- ✓ China holds the chair of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) this year.
- ✓ The theme of BRICS 2022 is 'Foster High-Quality BRICS Partnership Usher in a New Era for Global Development'

SPORTS

- **On May 18, the Supreme Court - has appointed a Committee of Administrators (CoA) to take charge of the All India Football Federation's administration as an interim measure.**
- ✓ The committee will be headed by Justice Anil R Dave (Retired Supreme Court Judge) and consists of Dr. SY Qureshi (former Chief Election Commissioner of India) and Bhaskar Ganguly (former captain of the Indian football team) as its members
- ✓ Quraishi and Ganguly were made administrators by the SC in 2017 to formulate the constitution of the AIFF in consonance with the National Sports Code.
- ✓ They had submitted a draft constitution to the SC in a sealed cover in January 2020.
- ✓ The CoA will be responsible for managing the day-to-day affairs of the federation as well as selection of players for various tournaments until a new body is elected in accordance with a new AIFF constitution.
- ✓ The focus of the court's order was to draw up a new constitution and hold pending elections to the body.
- ✓ As a consolation, the bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Surya Kant and PS Narasimha said CoA would be free to consult Praful Patel-led executive committee, whose four year tenure expired on December 20, 2020.
- ✓ Patel completed his three terms and 12 years as AIFF president in December 2020
- ✓ It is the maximum period permitted to a national sports federation (NSF) chief under the government's sports code.
- ✓ Five years ago, the Supreme Court had appointed administrators to carry out reforms in BCCI and had framed a new constitution for it on the suggestion of former CJI R M Lodha.

- ✓ Justice Narasimha as senior advocate had assisted the SC as amicus curiae in carrying out the reforms in BCCI.

STATE OF CLIMATE REPORT 2021

- **Four major climate indicators – set new records in 2021, according to the ‘State of Climate’ report released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on May 18, 2022**

SEA OF WORRIES

- **Concentrations of greenhouse gas** that leads to global warming at a new high, according to WMO report
- Highest ever global mean **sea level**, a big concern for millions of coastal dwellers
- **Ocean heat** touches record high, thereby adversely affecting all marine life
- **Ocean acidification** up to new record level, threatening organisms and ecosystem

- ✓ Greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations, sea-level rise, ocean heat and ocean acidification were the highest since record keeping for these indicators began in the latter half of the 19th century
- ✓ The last seven years, from 2015 to 2021, were globally the warmest years on record, stated the report
 - ✓ The average global temperature last year was about 1.1 degree Celsius above the pre-industrial level (1850-1900).
- ✓ CO₂ and methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, are at record levels, with CO₂ concentration 50% higher than before the Industrial Revolution, indicating mass burning of fossil fuels
- ✓ In 2021, the Ozone hole has also been reported as larger and deeper than 70% of Ozone holes since 1979, reaching a maximum area of 24.8 million km².
- ✓ The WMO also listed individual extreme weather events around the world, noting how these led to loss and damage of more than \$100bn in 2021.
- ✓ The report said that the global oceans will continue to warm in the future, a change that would be irreversible for hundreds or even thousands of years.
- ✓ Ocean acidification, which happens due to the direct absorption of CO₂ by the oceans, changes the chemical composition of oceanic water.
- ✓ Both, ocean heat and ocean acidification, have a major impact on marine biodiversity, disrupting their feeding, breeding and migrating behaviour.
- ✓ Global mean sea level also reached a new high in 2021, increasing at the rate of 4.5 mm per year in between 2013 and 2021

STATE OF CLIMATE REPORT 2021

TEMPERATURE	OCEAN	
<p>Global mean temperature in 2021: 1.11 ± 0.13 degree C above the 1850-1900 average</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 2021 was sixth warmest during the most recent seven years (2015-2021)  > 2021 was less warm than some recent years due to the influence of La Niña conditions at the start and end of the year > 2015-2021 were, however, the seven warmest years on record 	<p>Higher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Global mean sea level reached a new record high in 2021 > Increased at an average 4.5 mm per year over the period 2013 -2021 > This is more than double the rate between 1993 and 2002 due to the accelerated loss of ice mass from the ice sheets > This has major implications for hundreds of millions of coastal dwellers > It increases vulnerability to tropical cyclones <p>Hotter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Ocean heat was record high, affecting marine life > The upper 2000m depth of the ocean continued to warm in 2021 > It is expected that it will continue to warm in the future <p>More Acidic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Ocean acidification increases, reaching new record level > Higher acidification threatens organisms and ecosystem services, and hence food security, tourism and coastal protection 	<p>Hotter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > All data sets agree that ocean warming rates show a particularly strong increase in the past two decades > Much of the ocean experienced at least one 'strong' marine heatwave at some point in 2021
<p>GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > GHG concentrations reached a new global high in 2020, and continued to increase in 2021 and even in early 2022 > Increase in GHG levels in the atmosphere happens due to human activities > It leads to global warming 		<p>MELTING OF ICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > On an average, the world's reference glaciers have thinned by 33.5 meters (ice-equivalent) since 1950, with 76% of this thinning since 1980 > 2021 was a particularly punishing year for glaciers in Canada and the US northwest with record ice mass loss as a result of heatwaves and fires > Greenland experienced an exceptional mid-August melt event

- ✓ This is more than twice the rate of increase between 1993 and 2002.
- ✓ Sea levels along almost the entire Indian coast are rising faster than the global average
- ✓ The Indian Ocean region has previously been described as the fastest warming ocean in the world, with an increase in temperature of one degree Celsius as against the global average of 0.7°C between 1951 and 2015.
- ✓ The extreme weather events, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, have impacted food security in large regions of the world, especially in Asia and Africa
- ✓ The countries with the highest numbers of displacements recorded as of October 2021 were China (more than 1.4 million), the Philippines (more than 386,000) and Vietnam (more than 664,000)
- ✓ In the last three years, about 2,50,000 disaster-related deaths and missing persons were reported by an average of 74 countries
- ✓ On the economic cost of disasters, the report says during 2018-2020, total economic losses of about \$148.32 billion have been reported by an average of 53 countries each year.

- ✓ The WMO report also forms the basis for the UN climate change negotiations at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties 27 to be held in Egypt in November 2022
- ✓ The report has been released just ahead of the World Economic Forum 2022 Annual Meeting to be held from May 22 to 26 in Davos.
- ✓ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Karnataka Chief Minister M Basavaraj S Bommai, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan are expected to attend the WEF besides several eminent CEOs from the country.

