



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 24, 2022

### TAMIL NADU

- On May 23, Chief Minister M K Stalin - launched the DMK government's flagship programme 'Kalaignarin Anaithu Grama Orunginaintha Velan Valarchi Thittam' at the Secretariat



- The scheme is aimed at increasing cultivable area by bringing fallow lands under cultivation, augmenting water resources, increasing productivity to benefit the farmers.
- The programme will be implemented in all the 12,525 village panchayats in the state in the next five years.
- The programme is converged and implemented in rural development department's Anna Marumalarchi Thittam village panchayats to ensure good coordination at the villages.
- The scheme is implemented at a cost of Rs. 227 crore in 1,997 village panchayats in the first year, and 3,204 villages in the second year at a cost of Rs.300 crore.
- The welfare schemes of all government departments will be channelled into these villages.
- The programme will be implemented jointly by the agriculture department with the rural development and panchayat raj department

- ✓ As a token gesture, the chief minister gave away government orders to the members of the farmer groups from dry land cluster to dig bore wells, incentives to cultivate horticultural crops, distribution of coconut seedlings and fruit-bearing saplings



- ✓ The CM also issued orders to set up micro irrigation facilities by digging wells with 100% subsidy, besides creating farm ponds and setting up agri-clinics.
- ✓ On August 14, 2021, Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare M.R.K. Panneerselvam had announced on the floor of the Assembly that a new 'Kalaignar All Village Integrated Agriculture Development Programme' would be launched in the State aiming at fulfilling farmers' needs and increasing their income during the next five years

## STATES

- **On May 23, the Jammu & Kashmir administration - ordered changes to the words embossed in police medal for gallantry and meritorious service**
- ✓ As per the new order, the words "Sher-i-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah" embossed on one side of the police medal be replaced with the words "national emblem of the government of India".
- ✓ The UT home department order is based on a "modification to Para 4 of the Jammu & Kashmir Police Medal Scheme".
- ✓ The other side, presently bearing the J&K state emblem, "shall be inscribed as the 'Jammu and Kashmir Police Medal for Gallantry' and 'Jammu and Kashmir Police Medal for Meritorious Service'", as the case may be.
- ✓ In January 2020, the administration had changed the nomenclature of the medal by removing the phrase "Sher-i-Kashmir"
- ✓ The phrase was a reference to the first elected prime minister of J&K and National Conference founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, father of current NC chief and former J&K CM Farooq Abdullah.

## NATIONAL

- **The registration process for the first Common University Entrance Test Undergraduate (CUET-UG) 2022 – ended on May 22**

## 2ND BIGGEST ENTRANCE EXAM IN INDIA

► 87 univs & affiliated colleges offering courses for 2022-23

► Under CUET-UG, each candidate can appear in nine subjects and a common platform to apply in the participating institutions

► 31 universities received more than 50,000 applications

► More than 44% of aspirants women; 47% of candidates

from unreserved category

► OBC candidates comprise 31.6% of applicants, SC candidates 10.3%, EWS 4.6%

► Aspirants can choose from 13 languages; English tops with 6.9L, Hindi 2L & Bengali 7,817

► NEET-UG (16 lakh registrations) and JEE (M) (8.6 lakh) were biggest higher edu entrance exams in India



- ✓ With more than 9.13 lakh registrations, the CUET is now the second biggest entrance exam in India after NEET-UG, which is held for admission to medical courses
- ✓ NEET-UG with nearly 16 lakh average registrations and JEE (Main) with over 8.6 lakh used to be the biggest higher education entrance exams in India.
- ✓ JEE (Main) comprises two papers (one for BE/ BTech and two for BArch/ B Planning) and the cumulative (including candidates appearing in both the papers) registration for the exam averages around 9. 2 lakh.
- ✓ With 9,13,540 unique registrations for this year, CUET has surpassed JEE (Main).
- ✓ The cumulative university-wise application count is 47.69 lakh with candidates on an average opting for five universities.
- ✓ As per the trend of application received, Delhi University leads the pack with over 6 lakh applications, followed by Banaras Hindu University (3. 9 lakh) and University of Allahabad (2. 3 lakh).
- ✓ There are nine universities which received over one lakh applications including Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia (1. 22 lakh).
- ✓ Some other popular universities which have received high number of applications include Central University of Haryana (92,588), Mahatma Gandhi Central University (81,068), Central University of Karnataka (80,402) Visva Bharati University (79,179), North-Eastern Hill University (68,998), Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (65,464), and University of Hyderabad (56,231).

## INTERNATIONAL

- American lawmakers – have introduced a new bill in the US Senate that is aimed at breaking up tech giants like Google and Facebook's online ad business
- ✓ The bill, if passed, would ban companies processing more than \$20 billion in ad business annually from participating in more than one part of the digital ad process

- ✓ Google's parent Alphabet reported \$68 billion in revenue in January-March 2022, of which \$54.7 billion was generated by advertising.

## \$20BN AD BIZ CAP

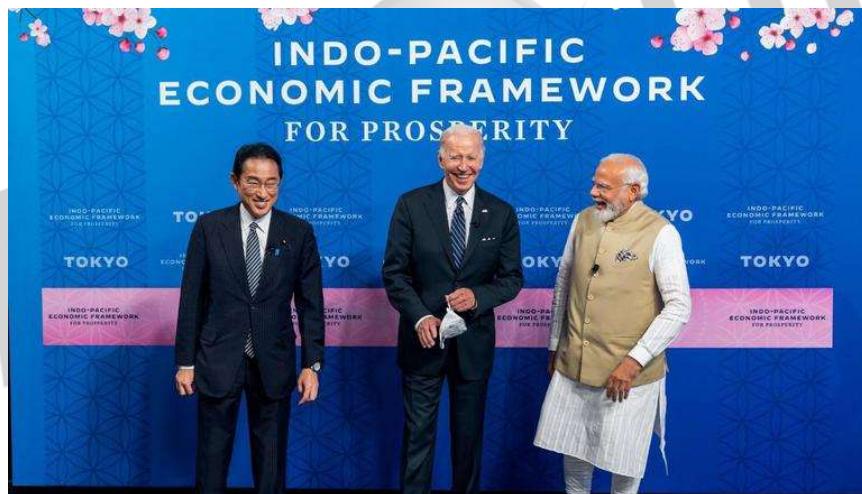
- The bill seeks to ban firms with over \$20bn ad business in a year from participating in more than one part of the digital ad process
- If passed, it would impact firms like Google, which are involved in multiple steps of the digital ad process
- Facebook could also be required to divest significant part of its ad business

- ✓ The Competition and Transparency in Digital Advertising Act is likely to directly impact big tech firms like Google, which profits from multiple steps of the digital ad process.
- ✓ After the legislation, Google would not be able to stay in all those businesses and it will have to choose in which part of business it wants to stay.
- ✓ Meta Platforms' Facebook may also be impacted by the bill and could be required to divest a significant part of its ad business.
- ✓ Google operates tools that help firms transact in online ads, as well as the auction houses or exchanges where they happen in few seconds
- ✓ The bill was introduced by a group of senators representing Democrats and Republicans on the judiciary subcommittee on antitrust
- ✓ The legislation would be the most significant change to antitrust law in a generation.
- ✓ It would also require smaller companies, processing over \$5 billion in digital ad transactions annually, to follow new rules.
  
- **The UN General Assembly - elected the Czech Republic to the Human Rights Council to fill the vacancy left by Russia, whose membership was suspended recently**
- ✓ On April 7, the General Assembly adopted a resolution to suspend Russia's membership in the Geneva-based Human Rights Council after Russia launched a "special military operation" in Ukraine.
- ✓ Russia immediately decided to terminate its membership in the 47-member council.
- ✓ In the by-election held recently, the Czech Republic was elected to replace Russia for the remainder of its three-year term that ends on December 31, 2023
- ✓ The Czech Republic was elected with 157 votes in favour, and 23 abstentions.

- ✓ The seats on the council are divided among regional groups and a replacement for Russia had to come from an East European country.
- ✓ The Czech Republic was the only candidate for the seat on the Human Rights Council
- ✓ The Human Rights Council, established by the UN General Assembly in 2006, is a UN body to promote and protect human rights.
- ✓ The members of the council are elected by the General Assembly for staggered three-year terms.
- ✓ Since its February 24 invasion of Ukraine, Russia has lost its spot on multiple UN bodies, including the executive boards of UN Women and the UN children's agency UNICEF, the Committee on Non-governmental Organizations, World Tourism Organization and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- US President Joe Biden - launched the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) with 12 initial partner countries



- ✓ These countries include India, Australia, Japan, Brunei, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, representing 40% of world GDP.
- ✓ Seven Asean nations joined the launch but countries considered close to China like Cambodia and Laos stayed away
- ✓ IPEF is aimed at strengthening ties in this critical Indo-Pacific region to define technological innovation and the global economy.
- ✓ The Framework will create a stronger, fairer, and more resilient economy for businesses in the United States and in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ✓ However, its underlying purpose would be to counter China's growing economic influence in the region.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the Framework's launch in Tokyo which was also attended by US President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister

- Fumio Kishida alongwith leaders of the initial IPEF partner countries, who attended virtually
- ✓ With 60% of the world's population, the Indo-Pacific is projected to be the largest contributor to global growth over the next 30 years.
  - ✓ India agreed to be part of the event after the US changed the text of the formal announcement to reflect that it was still at the stage of consultation, and it would remain open for other nations to join later.

## COMMITTES

- **The Centre - has reconstituted the inter-state council, which works to promote and support cooperative federalism**
- ✓ While the Prime Minister is the chairman, Chief Ministers of all states and Union Territories, having legislative assemblies and the administrators of UTs not having a legislative assembly have been made members
- ✓ Ten Union ministers will be the permanent invitees to the council, according to an official notification.
- ✓ The Union ministers who have been made members of the council include Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, Narendra Singh Tomar, Virendra Kumar, Hardeep Singh Puri, Nitin Gadkari, S Jaishankar, Arjun Munda, Piyush Goyal, Dhamendra Pradhan, Pralhad Joshi, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Kiren Rijiju and Bhupender Yadav.
- ✓ The council's standing committee, headed by Union home minister Amit Shah, has also been revamped.
- ✓ Its other members are Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Narendra Singh Tomar, Virendra Kumar and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat as well as CMs of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab and UP.
- ✓ The standing committee will hold continuous consultation and process matters for consideration of the council
- ✓ The inter-state council is a recommendatory body that has been empowered to investigate and discuss subjects of common interest between the Union and state(s), or among states
- ✓ It make recommendations for better coordination of policy and action on these subjects, and deliberate on matters of general interest to the states

## APPOINTMENTS

- **On May 23, President Ram Nath Kovind - appointed Vinai Kumar Saxena as the new Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.**
- ✓ Saxena, 64, will succeed Anil Baijal who resigned from the post last week citing "personal reasons".
- ✓ Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal welcomed Saxena's appointment and assured him of his cabinet's full cooperation.



- ✓ Saxena is serving as the chairperson of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) since October 2015
- ✓ Over the last seven years, he has worked on schemes and products such as 'Honey Mission', 'Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana', 'Leather Artisans' Empowerment', Khadi Prakritik Paint, Project RE-HAB, Khadi Fabric Footwear and Plastic-mixed handmade paper
- ✓ He will be the first L-G of Delhi from a non-bureaucratic or non-defence background.
- ✓ Saxena worked in the private sector for three decades before heading the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) of the central government for six years.
- ✓ He worked with JK Group as an assistant manager for 11 years and was promoted as the General Manager to look after the proposed Port Project in Gujarat.
- ✓ Saxena, who will report to the Union home ministry, will directly oversee issues related to land, services, police and law and order, which come under the purview of the L-G
- ✓ The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021, implemented last year, gives supremacy to the L-G over the elected government in the city.
- ✓ Saxena was also member of several committees, including the National Committee headed by Prime Minister to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence, member of CSIR, the Padma awards selection committee, and a Member of University court of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).
- ✓ From 2016 to 2020, Vinay Saxena is being nominated every year by the Hon'ble Prime Minister as one of the Members of the 'Empowered Committee' for evaluation of "Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration".

## AWARDS

- **The World Health Organisation (WHO) - has conferred the “Global Health Leaders” award for 2022 on India’s 10 lakh ASHA workers for their services during Covid-19**
- ✓ The ASHA workers share the WHO’s Director General’s award with five other recipients at the global level.



- ✓ An ASHA worker is an Accredited Social Health Activist, a community health worker instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as a part of India's National Rural Health Mission
- ✓ ASHA volunteers are government's affiliated health-care workers who are the first point of contact in rural India.
- ✓ ASHA volunteers have also worked to provide maternal care and immunisation for children against vaccine-preventable diseases; treatment for hypertension and tuberculosis; community health care; and core areas of health promotion for nutrition, sanitation and healthy living.
- ✓ According to WHO, the award was bestowed on the ASHA workers for their crucial role in linking the community with the health system to ensure that those living in rural poverty can access primary health care services
- ✓ The WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced six awards on May 22 to recognise outstanding contributions to advancing global health, demonstrated leadership and commitment to regional health issues
- ✓ The ceremony for the awards, which were established in 2019, was part of the high-level opening session of the 75th World Health Assembly.
- ✓ Among the other notable award winners were the team of polio vaccination workers from Afghanistan, who were killed by armed gunmen in the country's Takhar and Kunduz provinces in February this year.
- ✓ Afghanistan is one of the two polio-endemic countries in the world along with its neighbour Pakistan.
- ✓ Other award winners include Chair of the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School and co-founder of international non-governmental organisation Partners in Health, Dr Paul Farmer, who passed away in February this year in Rwanda.

## SPORTS

- Women's 100m hurdler Jyothi Yarraj - set her personal best on May 22, after smashing the national record just 11 days ago



- ✓ The 22-year-old from Andhra Pradesh athlete won the gold in the UK event under a headwind speed of +0.3m/s
- ✓ Jyothi clocked a time of 13.11 seconds — a significant improvement from her previous 13.23, which she clocked while winning an event in Cyprus on May 11
- ✓ Earlier, Jyothi had clocked 13.09 seconds during the Federation Cup in Kozhikode last month but it was not counted as a national record as the wind speed was +2.1 m/s, more than the permissible +2.0 m/s
- ✓ In 2020, Jyothi had run the 100m hurdle in a record time as she clocked 13.03 seconds at the All India Inter-University Athletics Championships in Moodbidri, Karnataka
- ✓ Jyothi is a trainee under Joseph Hillier at Reliance Foundation Odisha Athletics High-Performance Center in Bhubaneswar.
- ✓ Another Reliance Foundation athlete Graceson Amaldas, a former national swimmer turned hurdler from Thanjavur won the junior men's 110m hurdles guest race of the Loughborough International meet in 13.91 seconds

