

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 28, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- **The Tamil Nadu government - has exempted differently-abled persons from appearing for the mandatory Tamil eligibility test for the vacancies in various departments in the government**
- ✓ The Tamil test is part of the main written exam conducted by the Tamil Nadu public service commission (TNPSC)
- ✓ As per the new order, the job aspirants appearing for TNPSC group I, II and II A are exempted from the Tamil eligibility test.
- ✓ Similarly, the candidates who pursued their board/university courses in English as medium of instruction would be exempted from Tamil eligibility-cum-scoring test while appearing for group III, IV, VII B, and VIII.
- ✓ However, they should appear for a general English test for ranking the candidates.
- ✓ Job aspirants with less than 40% of disability would also be exempt from the mandatory Tamil paper on the condition that they should produce a disability certificate
- ✓ The state government, on December 1 last year, had passed an order making Tamil language paper compulsory for the aspirants of government jobs in the state.

STATES

- **Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot - has approved new guidelines for the implementation of 'Indira Gandhi Shahari Rozgar Yojana'.**



- ✓ The scheme was announced by the Chief Minister in the 2022-23 budget to provide employment in urban areas on the lines of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).
- ✓ Under the new scheme, 100 days of employment per year will be provided to the families residing in urban areas.
- ✓ The state government will spend Rs 800 crore per year on this ambitious scheme
- ✓ The people in the age group of 18 to 60 years residing in the local body area will be registered into the scheme on the basis of Jan Aadhaar card.
- ✓ The work will be approved and executed through committees at the state and district levels under the scheme
- ✓ In 2005, the Congress party had brought MGNREGA, in which the issue of unemployment was drastically reduced in the villages by giving a minimum of 100 days of guaranteed work

NATIONAL

- **The government - has released a draft of the National Data Governance Framework Policy (NDGFP) and invited inputs on data consolidation for use by both public and private entities with a strong focus on privacy**
- ✓ The policy aims “transform and modernise” data collection and management processes and systems of government

FOR STRONGER GOVERNANCE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Government has come out with a draft of National Data Governance Framework Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> as a Digital Nagrik, says the draft
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The aim is to have stronger and effective governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ At present, government data is managed in inconsistent ways across different entities, it says
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Harmonised data can be used to improve citizens' engagement with government and governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It prevents an innovative ecosystem of data science, analytics, from emerging to full potential

- ✓ It defines guidelines, rules and standards for the collection, processing, storage, access, and use of the information
- ✓ The policy also aims at supporting Artificial Intelligence and data-led research and start-up ecosystem, by creating a large bank of India datasets.
- ✓ The draft policy proposes the launch of a non-personal data based India datasets program so that non-personal and anonymized data from both government and private entities are safely accessible by the research and innovation ecosystem
 - ✓ Non-personal data is any set of data which does not contain personally identifiable information.
- ✓ The proposed policy will be applicable to all government departments and entities and rules and standards prescribed will cover all data collected and being managed by any government entity.

- ✓ According to the draft policy, an 'India Data Management Office (IDMO)' shall be set up under the Digital India Corporation (DIC) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
 - ✓ The IDMO will also be responsible for developing rules, standards, and guidelines under this Policy that will be published periodically
 - ✓ The last date of submission for inputs/ feedback by stakeholders is June 11.
 - ✓ The development comes after a strong criticism of the previous 'Draft India Data Accessibility and Use Policy, 2022', which was opened for public consultation in February
 - ✓ It proposed to permit the licensing and sale of public data by the government to the private sector.
- **The iconic inverted rifle and the soldier's war helmet, the symbol of fallen soldiers of the 1971 and which were part of the Amar Jawan Jyoti at the India Gate - were shifted to the National War Memorial on May 27.**



- ✓ With this ceremony, the integration of the memorial of fallen soldiers of 1971 war with National War Memorial has been completed
- ✓ The ceremony was led by the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) Air Marshal B R Krishna and attended by adjutant general equivalents from the three services.
- ✓ The Amar Jawan Jyoti at the India Gate was merged with the eternal flame at the National War Memorial in January.
- ✓ The memorial is around 400 metres away from the India Gate.
- ✓ The Amar Jawan Jyoti was constructed as a memorial for Indian soldiers who were killed in action in the 1971 Indo-Pak war, which India won, leading to the creation of Bangladesh.
- ✓ It was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on January 26, 1972.

- **Integral Coach Factory (ICF) - to make Vande Bharat-type freight train sets, called Gati Shakti trains, that will not require locomotives for speed parcel services.**



- ✓ The 16-coach rakes will have coaches that can be used to move refrigerated perishable items like fish and vegetables and also for carrying e-commerce parcels.
- ✓ Made on the Vande Bharat platform, the train sets will be capable of running at 160kmph with greater power to transport the load.
- ✓ The rakes will be designed to accommodate standard sized freight containers like the ones used in aircraft with three to six tonne capacity.
- ✓ The concept of the project is in the design stage and the first rake is expected to be ready by December this year
- ✓ According to India Brand Equity Foundation, the e-commerce market is expected to reach US \$111 billion by 2024 and US \$200 billion by 2026.
- ✓ ICF is also planning to make 75 Vande Bharat trains with improved design for passenger movement by August 2023.
- ✓ The factory, which manufactured 3,101 coaches of different variants, has been given a target of 4,275 coaches for 2022-23.

- **India's first indigenous flying trainer 'HANSA-NG' – has completed the in-flight engine relight test.**



- ✓ The test was successfully conducted at the aeronautical test range (ATR) facility of the Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) at Challakere, Chitradurga district (Karnataka) recently
 - ✓ The flight test was carried out at an altitude of 7,000-8,000 feet with a speed range of 60 to 70 knots
 - ✓ This in-flight engine relight test is crucial to getting certification by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
 - ✓ 'HANSA-NG', the new generation two-seater flying trainer aircraft was designed and developed by Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)
 - ✓ The new generation aircraft had completed the sea level trials in Puducherry from February 19 to March 5
 - ✓ HANSA-NG is an upgraded version of HANSA aircraft, which was also developed by NAL and certified in 2000.
 - ✓ The manufacturing of HANSA-NG was started in September 2020.
 - ✓ MESCO Aerospace Ltd is one of the production partners for the HANSA-NG.
 - ✓ 'HANSA-NG' is a suitable aircraft for commercial pilot licensing due to its low cost and less consumption of fuel.
- **The Centre - has launched 'Biological Research Regulatory Approval Portal' (BioRRAP), a single national portal for biotech researchers and start-ups in line with the Government's 'One Nation, One Portal' initiative**
- ✓ Union Minister of State (IC) for Ministry of Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh launched the portal recently on May 21



- ✓ The portal caters all those seeking regulatory approval for biological research & development activity
- ✓ It provides a unique BioRRAP ID through which the approvals accorded against a particular application can be tracked
- ✓ Bio-technology has fast emerged as potential entrepreneurship area for youngsters in the country and there are over 2,700 biotech start-ups and more than 2,500 biotech companies working at present in the country.

- ✓ India is poised to become a global bio-manufacturing hub and will figure among the top five countries of the world by 2025

COURT VERDICT

- **On May 27, a special CBI court in Delhi – sentenced former Haryana Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala to four years rigorous imprisonment after he was found guilty in a disproportionate assets case**



- ✓ The court also imposed a fine of Rs 50 lakh and seized four properties belonging to the 87-year-old Chautala — two in Delhi and one each in Gurgaon and Panchkula
- ✓ Of the Rs 50 lakh, the court ordered Rs 5 lakh be given to CBI for expenses incurred in prosecuting this case
- ✓ The court had last week convicted Chautala after he failed to satisfactorily account for the assets detected by the CBI between 1993 and 2006 that were disproportionate to his legitimate sources of income
- ✓ The disproportionate assets were calculated to be Rs 6.09 crore, 189.11% of his known sources of income.
- ✓ The CBI had filed the case in 2005, and a charge sheet was filed on March 26, 2010
- ✓ In 2019, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had attached his assets worth Rs 3.68 crore.
- ✓ This is Chautala's second conviction after he was pronounced guilty by the Supreme Court in 2013 in the JBT teachers' recruitment scam related to the illegal recruitment of 3,206 junior basic teachers in 2000
- ✓ He was sentenced to seven years' jail on corruption charges and 10 years on charges of criminal conspiracy
- ✓ Chautala was released from Tihar jail on July 2 last year after completing his sentence in the case.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Fiji – has become the first Pacific Island country to join US President Biden's Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)**

- ✓ This was announced by the White House on May 27
- ✓ The move is part of a US effort to push back on China's growing regional influence.
- ✓ The US welcomed Fiji as a founding member of IPEF, which it said now includes countries from Northeast and Southeast Asia, South Asia, Oceania and the Pacific Islands.
- ✓ Fiji is the 14th country to join IPEF talks.
- ✓ Biden officially launched IPEF earlier this week during his first trip as president to Asia.

INDIA AND OTHERS

- **India - has contributed \$800,000 to the United Nations as part of the initiative to expand public outreach of the organisation in Hindi.**



- ✓ Country's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, R Ravindra handed over a cheque for the UN project earlier this month
 - ✓ The Hindi@UN project was launched by India to provide information about the UN to the Hindi-speaking population across the world.
 - ✓ The project was launched in collaboration with the UN Department of Public Information in 2018
 - ✓ Since 2018, the UN News in Hindi is telecasted through the UN's website and social media handles and a UN Facebook Hindi page
 - ✓ A UN News-Hindi audio bulletin (UN Radio) is released every week.
 - ✓ Its weblink is available on the UN Hindi News website as well as at the Soundcloud – 'UN News-Hindi'
 - ✓ Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are the six official languages of the United Nations, while English and French are the two working languages used by it
 - ✓ In 2009, Bangladesh's Prime Minister proposed at the UN General Assembly session that Bengali should be made one of the official languages of the UN
- **India - has been unanimously elected as the new Chair of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) for 2022-2024.**



- ✓ The decision was taken at the meeting of the Executive Board and General Assembly in Manila, Philippines earlier this month.
- ✓ The Commission on Elections, Manila was the current chair of AAEA
- ✓ In India, India International Institute for Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) has been regularly conducting International Training Programmes which are attended by the officials from many AAEA member countries
- ✓ Russia, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Taiwan, and Philippines are the new members of the Executive Board of the AAEA
- ✓ The Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) was established in 1998, in pursuance of the resolution passed by participants of the Symposium on Asian Elections in the 21st Century held from January 26-29, 1997 in Manila, Philippines
- ✓ The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a founder member of the Election Management Body (EMB) of the AAEA.
- ✓ India also served on the Executive Board of the AAEA as the Vice-Chair during 2011-13 and Chaired during 2014-16.
- ✓ The Association of Asian Election Authorities provides a forum in the Asian region for sharing experiences and best practices among election authorities to discuss and promote open and transparent elections to support good governance and democracy.
- ✓ AAEA is also an Associate Member of the 118 member Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB).

COMMITTEES

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - constituted a six-member committee to examine and review customer services in banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and payment operators to protect the interests of customers.**
 - ✓ The committee will be headed by BP Kanungo, former deputy governor of RBI.
 - ✓ The six-member panel includes AK Goel (Chairman of IBA and MD & CEO, PNB), Dr AS Ramasastri (Former Director, IDRBT), Dr Amitha Sehgal (Secretary, All India Bank Depositors Association), Dr Rajeshri N. Varhadi (Professor,

Department of Law, University of Mumbai) and Anil Kumar Sharma (Executive Director, RBI).



- ✓ The panel has to submit its report within three months of its first meeting
- ✓ The committee will also identify best practices adopted globally and domestically in customer service and grievance redressal, especially to improve the services provided to retail and small customers, including pensioners and senior citizens.
- ✓ Chief General Manager, Consumer Education and Protection Department, Central Office, Reserve Bank of India will be the member secretary of the Committee

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **NSA Ajit Doval – addressed the fourth regional security dialogue on Afghanistan in Dushanbe on May 27**



- ✓ During his speech, Doval highlighted the fact that India has already supplied 17,000MT of the promised 50,000MT of wheat to Afghanistan through the land route with Pakistan
- ✓ Further, India has sent 500,000 doses of Covaxin, 13 tonnes of essential lifesaving medicines and winter clothing and 60 million doses of polio vaccine

- ✓ Doval called upon all other participating countries —Tajikistan, Russia, China, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Iran and Kyrgyzstan —to work together to counter terrorism
- ✓ Doval had bilateral meetings with Russian NSA and also his Iranian and Tajikistan counterparts.
- **The five-day annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland - concluded on May 26, 2022**
- ✓ The meeting was originally scheduled from January 17 to 21 but was postponed due to the outbreak of the Omicron variant.



- ✓ The annual meeting was conducted under the general theme 'Working Together, Restoring Trust'
- ✓ It was the first global in-person leadership event since the start of the pandemic
- ✓ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended the events alongwith Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, his Karnataka counterpart Basavaraj S Bommai as well as Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy.
- ✓ Aaditya Thackeray, Cabinet Minister of Tourism, Environment and Climate Change and Protocol of Maharashtra attended the Forum Initiative Briefing - Global Plastic Action Partnership event, and Embracing Climate Adaptation Action event
- ✓ On the final day, Andhra Pradesh signed MoUs for green energy related investments, new generation fuels, ammonia and hydrogen products
- ✓ Around 2,500 world leaders from business, politics, and civil society took part in the meeting

PERSONALITIES

- **TIME Magazine - has recently announced its list of 100 most influential people for the year 2022.**

- ✓ Three Indians - Gautam Adani, Karuna Nundy and Khurram Parvez – have been included in the list in different categories among the 100 most influential people of 2022



- ✓ The list has famous personalities across the world like US President Joe Biden, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, tennis icon Rafael Nadal, Apple CEO Tim Cook and media mogul Oprah Winfrey.
- ✓ The list has been divided into six categories – Icons, Pioneers, Titans, Artists, Leaders and Innovators.
- ✓ Business tycoon Adani's name has been included under the category 'Titans', Supreme Court lawyer Karuna Nundy under the category of 'Leaders' and prominent Kashmiri human rights activist Khurram Parvez included under the category of 'Leaders'
- ✓ Parvez, chairperson of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances, was arrested in November 2021 by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- ✓ He was charged with funding terrorist activities under the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).
- ✓ Khurram Parvez is a former programme coordinator for the Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS) and a recipient of the Reebok Human Rights Award
- ✓ In 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla were included in the TIME Magazine's list of 100 most influential people of 2021.

AWARDS

- **Geetanjali Shree's Hindi novel 'Tomb of Sand' – becomes the first book in any Indian language to win the prestigious 2022 International Booker Prize**
- ✓ She shared her award with Daisy Rockwell, who lives in Vermont, US, who translated her Hindi novel 'Ret Samadhi' into English and called it 'Tomb of Sand'.

The International Booker Prize is awarded every year for a single book that is translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland. A record 135 books were submitted this year

THE AUTHOR: Shree was born Geetanjali Pandey (right, in pic) in Mainpuri but changed her surname to her mother's forename. This is the third novel by New Delhi-based Shree, and her first to be published in the UK. Born in 1957, her works have been translated into English, French, German, Serbian and Korean



Painted cover images for both Hindi and English editions of 'Tomb of Sand' in India

THE BOOK: 'Ret Samadhi (Tomb of Sand)' is a family saga set in northern India about an octogenarian widow who dares to cast off convention and confront ghosts of her experiences during the Partition

THE TRANSLATOR: Daisy Rockwell, granddaughter of celebrated painter Norman Rockwell, has translated several works from Hindi and Urdu. Rockwell also

WHAT JURY SAID: Despite confronting traumatic events, 'it is an extraordinarily exuberant and incredibly playful book'

- ✓ Shree is also the first writer from India to win the prize, which is awarded every year for a book that is translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland.
- ✓ It's distinct from the Booker prize, which has been won by Indian writers such as Arundhati Roy and Aravind Adiga in the past.
- ✓ The original Hindi novel was published by Rajkamal Prakashan
- ✓ Set in north India, the novel follows an 80-year-old woman who slips into a depression after her husband's death but then gains a new lease on life
- ✓ Shree and Rockwell will split the £50,000 prize money, giving the author and translator equal recognition.
- ✓ Tomb of Sand was chosen from a shortlist of six books, with a record number of 135 books being submitted.
- ✓ It has also won the English PEN translation award.

THE INDIAN JOURNEY OF BOOKER PRIZE

Booker International Prize: THE INDIAN CONNECTION

From 2005 to 2015, the Booker International Prize was given once in two years to an eminent author for his or her body of work. Several writers from India and those of Indian origin living abroad were nominated. None received the prize.

2009 | Nominated | **Mahasweta Devi**, VS Naipaul

2011 | Nominated | **Rohinton Mistry**

2013 | Nominated | **UR Ananthamurthy**

2015 | Nominated | **Amitav Ghosh**



In 2016, the nature of the award changed. It was, thereafter, given to a work of fiction translated into English. The prize money is shared equally between writer and translator. Geetanjali Shree and Daisy Rockwell won this £50,000 prize on Thursday

Booker Prize | The Indian connection

VS Naipaul
winner | 1971
PIO: **In a Free State**

Ruth Praver Jhabwala*
winner | 1975
Heat and Dust

Salman Rushdie
winner | 1981
Mumbai-born
PIO: **Midnight's Children**

Arundhati Roy
winner | 2006
The God of Small Things

Kiran Desai
winner | 2006
The Inheritance of Loss

Aravind Adiga
winner | 2008
The White Tiger

NB: **JG Farrell** won the Booker in 1973 for **The Siege of Krishnapur**. The novel was inspired by the real-life siege of Kanpur and Lucknow during the 1857 revolt

*Married Indian architect Cvrvs Jhabwala. Lived in India, mostly Delhi, from 1951-75

- ✓ Geetanjali Shree is a Hindi novelist and short story writer, who has written several short stories and a total of five novels thus far.
- ✓ Her novel 'Mai' (2000) was shortlisted for Crossword Book Award in 2001, and it was translated into English by Nita Kumar and published by Niyogi Books in 2017
- ✓ Ret Samadhi (2018) is her fifth and latest novel.
- ✓ Originally published in Hindi in 2018, 'Tomb of Sand' is the first of her books to be published in the UK in English by Tilted Axis Press in August 2021.
- ✓ She has also been the recipient of the Indu Sharma Katha Samman award
- ✓ Rockwell, who holds a PhD in South Asian Literature from the University of Chicago, has been reading Hindi and Urdu literature since the early 1990s.
- ✓ The author books in the shortlist this year were 'Cursed Bunny' by Bora Chung, 'A New Name: Septology VI-VII' by Jon Fosse, 'Heaven' by Mieko Kawakami, 'Elena Knows' by Claudia Pineiro and 'The Books of Jacob' by Olga Tokarczuk.
- ✓ This year the judges considered 135 books and for the first time in 2022, all shortlisted authors and translators will each receive £ 2,500, increased from £1,000 in previous years

SPORTS

- **Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa - lost to World No. 2 Ding Liren in the tie-breakers in the final of Meltwater Champions Chessable Masters, an online chess tournament on May 27**



- ✓ After losing on Day 1 of the final by 1.5-2.5, Praggi managed to win the second leg 2. 5-1. 5 and take the clash into the tie-breakers.
- ✓ The 16-year-old from Chennai fought back to win the second set after having lost the opener, but then lost the two-game blitz tie-breaker by 0.5-1.5 after losing the second game
- ✓ The Indian GM had defeated the highly-rated Dutchman Anish Giri in the semifinal to become the first Indian player to reach the final of a Meltwater Champions Chess Tour event.

- ✓ He had beaten world No.1 Magnus Carlsen for a second time during the preliminary phase in which he finished fourth and got past Wei Yi of China in the quarterfinals

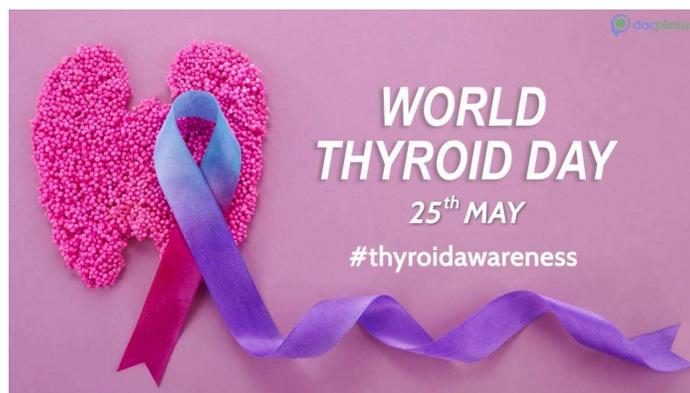
INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Menstrual Hygiene Day - May 28



- ✓ The Day is observed every year to raise awareness about menstruation, provide girls with safe and hygienic practices
- ✓ The day May 28 was chosen since a reproductive cycle lasts 28 days and an average period is five days long, thereby taking the fifth month May
- ✓ Theme 2022 - "making menstruation a normal part of life by 2030."
- ✓ The observance of the Day was initiated by the German-based non-profit WASH United in 2013.
- ✓ The first ever World Menstrual Hygiene Day was celebrated in 2014
- ✓ WASH United is the overall global coordinator of the Day and acts as its international secretariat.

➤ World Thyroid Awareness Day – May 25



- ✓ The day is observed every year to raise awareness about the Thyroid disease, its treatment techniques and the research associated with its condition
- ✓ Thyroid disease refers to a group of conditions affecting the thyroid gland, whose main function is to control the body's metabolic rate.
- ✓ The decision to commemorate World Thyroid Day on May 25 was made in Leipzig, Germany, in 2007.

- ✓ The European Thyroid Association (ETA) was established on this day in partnership with the American Thyroid Association (ATA) and the Latin American Thyroid Society
- ✓ The first ever World thyroid awareness day was observed in 2008
- ✓ Every year, the Thyroid Awareness Week observed between May 22 and 28
- ✓ The thyroid gland is a little butterfly-shaped gland in the neck
- ✓ There are three types of thyroids namely Hypothyroidism (abnormally decreased thyroid activity), Hyperthyroidism (abnormally increased thyroid activity) and Thyroiditis (inflammation of the thyroid gland)

➤ **International Tea Day – May 21**



- ✓ The day is observed annually to promote the production and consumption of tea and create awareness about its significance in fighting poverty and hunger.
- ✓ In 2005, the first International Tea Day was conducted in New Delhi, India
- ✓ The United Nations designated May 21 as International Tea Day since the tea harvesting season begins in May in most tea-producing countries.
- ✓ According to a survey conducted by the Tea Board of India in 2007, the domestic population consumes almost 80% of the total tea produced in India
- ✓ Tea is the world's most-consumed drink, after water.
- ✓ China is currently the world's largest tea exporter, followed by India

