

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 3, 2022

STATES

- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar - inaugurated the country's first greenfield grain-based ethanol plant in Purnea recently on April 30



- ✓ The project is a part of Bihar's ambitious plan for ethanol production using sugarcane, maize and rice to meet the country's fuel needs.
- ✓ The Purnea plant is among the 17 ethanol production units proposed to be set up in the state and is expected to produce 65,000 litres of ethanol per day
- ✓ These 17 plants will produce approximately 35.2 crore litres of fuel from sugarcane, maize, rice and molasses every day
- ✓ The plant was commissioned under the Government of India and the Bihar government's ethanol promotion policies announced in 2021
- ✓ The plant has been built by Eastern India Biofuels Private Limited on around 15 acres of land at a cost of Rs. 105 crore
- ✓ It is the first one developed since the Centre approved Bihar's ethanol production and promotion policy-2021.
- ✓ Bihar is the first state in the country to implement ethanol promotion policy

- ✓ The Purnea plant is built with latest technology using zero waste discharge principle
- ✓ The plant will buy 130 tons of rice husk and 145-150 tons of maize or rice from farmers every day to produce ethanol
- ✓ The ethanol will be exclusively sold to Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum in the state and in neighbouring West Bengal and Jharkhand
- ✓ In this regard, the state has signed a 10 year purchase agreement with the Oil manufacturing companies.

NATIONAL

- **Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Teli - launched the M15 petrol in the presence of Niti Aayog member VK Saraswat and IOC chairman SM Vaidya recently on April 30.**



- ✓ Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) rolled out M15 petrol – 15% blend of methanol with 85% petrol - on a pilot basis in Assam's Tinsukia district.
- ✓ Its use can help lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by about 5 to 10% and improve air quality in the country
- ✓ The pilot rollout was done in Tinsukia by IOC due to the ready availability of methanol, which is manufactured by Assam Petrochemical Ltd located near Digboi refinery in Assam
- ✓ The Centre is promoting several interest subvention schemes to increase production of ethanol and its supply under the Ethanol Blended with Petrol (EBP) Programme

ECONOMY

- **SoftBank-backed Fintech Start-Up 'Open' - becomes India's 100th unicorn with fresh funding**
- ✓ In a latest funding round, the Bengaluru-based fintech neobank 'Open' raised \$50 million from IIFL, Singaporean state holding firm Temasek, American investment company Tiger Global, and another Indian firm 3one4 Capital.
- ✓ This funding has helped five-year-old 'Open' to cross the \$1-billion valuation mark.



- ✓ The companies which have over \$1 billion in valuation are called unicorns
- ✓ This fresh funding comes six months after Google, Temasek, Visa, and Japan's SoftBank invested \$100 million in Open.



Note: These are Indian startups which have ever touched \$1 Bn in valuation. Some of these are currently valued less than \$1 Bn.

- ✓ Founded in 2017, 'Open' works towards automating business finances for small and medium firms and claims to power over 23 lakh SMEs with over \$30 billion in annualised transactions.
- ✓ Mobile advertising platform InMobi was the first unicorn of the country, announced in 2011.
- ✓ According to Economic Survey 2021-22, India is ranked at third place after the US and China, which added 487 and 301 unicorns respectively
- ✓ India has overtaken the UK to reach the third spot in terms of unicorns

APPOINTMENTS

- **On May 2, the Centre - appointed retired IAS officer and former petroleum secretary Tarun Kapoor as an advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the PMO.**



- ✓ He has been appointed to the post initially for a period of two years from the date of joining or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- ✓ The position of PM's adviser had fallen vacant in February, after retired IAS officer Bhaskar Khulbe's term ended.
- ✓ Kapoor, a 1987-batch IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, superannuated as the secretary of the ministry of petroleum and natural gas on November 30, 2021.
- ✓ Kapoor was known as 'Modi's man' during the pandemic, as he worked diligently to design and implement the free LPG cylinders-to-households scheme
- ✓ He also worked on another of the PM's pet projects involving development of city gas distribution networks under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act, 2006
- ✓ Kapoor has previously served as vice-chairman in the Union ministries of housing and urban affairs as well as rural development between 2018 and 2021.
- ✓ He was joint secretary in the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy between 2011 and 2016 looking after the national solar mission
- ✓ Kapoor has extensive experience at central and state levels including as vice-chairman of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and as additional chief secretary in the government of Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ He was also appointed in Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd, a CPSE in the area of hydropower.
- ✓ Further, the appointments committee of the cabinet (ACC) also cleared the appointments of senior bureaucrats Hari Ranjan Rao and Atish Chandra as additional secretaries in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

- ✓ Both the appointments were announced for the balance tenure of Central deputation of the officers or until further orders, whichever is earlier
- ✓ Rao is a 1994-batch IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre and is currently an administrator at Universal Services Obligation Fund in the department of telecommunications
- ✓ Chandra, Rao's batchmate from the Bihar cadre, is currently chairman and managing director (CMD), Food Corporation of India, department of food and public distribution.

SPORTS

- **Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand - named as Chief mentor of Indian team for the upcoming 44th chess Olympiad to be held in Chennai from July 28 to August 10**



- ✓ The All-India Chess Federation (AICF) named a 20-member squad divided into two men's and women's teams with 5 members each for the event.
- ✓ Five-time former world champion Viswanathan Anand will not be featuring in the team as a player.
- ✓ The team has been picked on the basis of the players' average rating in the last three rating lists released by FIDE.
- ✓ The first men's team comprises of Vidit Gujrathi, P Harikrishna, Arjun Erigaisi, S L Narayanan and K Sasikiran.

44th CHESS OLYMPIAD

JULY 28 — AUGUST 10 | CHENNAI, INDIA

INDIAN SQUAD

VIDIT S GUJRATHI
(GM)

HARIKRISHNA P
(GM)

ERIGAI SI ARJUN
(GM)

NARAYANAN S.L
(GM)

SASIKIRAN K
(GM)

OPEN TEAM-A

- ✓ The second team will have Nihal Sarin, D Gukesh, B Adhiban, R Praggnanandhaa and Raunak Sadhwani.
- ✓ India, as the hosts of the tournament, can field two teams while the other 160 participating countries will field one team each.
- ✓ The women's section will be helmed by Koneru Humpy, Harika Dronavalli, R Vaishali, Tania Sachdev and Bhakti Kulkarni forming the first team.



- ✓ The second women's team will be represented by Vantika Agrawal, Soumya Swaminathan, Mary Ann Gomes, Padmini Rout and Divya Deshmukh.
 - ✓ Praggnanandhaa and Vaishali will be the second set of siblings to represent the country at the same Olympiad after N Saritha and N Sudhakar Babu, who played in 1988 edition held in Greece.
 - ✓ Grandmasters Srinath Narayanan will be captaining the first men's team while the second men's team will have GM RB Ramesh as its captain.
 - ✓ GM Abhijit Kunte will be the captain for the Women's first team and GM Swapnil Dhopade for the second team.
 - ✓ GM Pravin Thipsay will be the Head of the Delegation.
 - ✓ For the first time, India won a bronze medal at the Tromso Chess Olympiad in 2014.
 - ✓ Later, in the two virtual Olympiads, India won gold jointly with Russia in 2020 and the women's team won bronze in 2021.
 - ✓ The Chess Olympiad was moved out of Russia after it invaded Ukraine and was awarded to Chennai in March 2022
 - ✓ Alongside the Olympiad, the 94th FIDE Congress and elections will also be held in Chennai.
- **On May 2, Harshada Sharad Garud - created history to become the first Indian to win gold medal at the IWF Junior World Championships in Heraklion, Greece.**



- ✓ She lifted 153-kg in the 45-kg weight category, which includes 70kg in snatch and 83 kg in clean and jerk to finish on top of the podium.
- ✓ Medals are awarded separately for snatch, clean and jerk, and total lift in continental and World Championships.
- ✓ But, in the Olympics, only one medal was awarded for the total lift by the candidate.
- ✓ Before Harshada, there are only two Indians to win a medal in IWF Junior World Championships.
- ✓ Mirabai Chanu had won a bronze in 2013 and Achinta Sheuli won a silver medal last year.