

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 5, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- **On May 4, Chief minister MK Stalin - informed the state assembly that governor R N Ravi had forwarded the anti-NEET bill to the Union home ministry for the President's assent.**



- ✓ On February 8 2022, the Tamil Nadu Assembly had adopted the anti-NEET bill for the second time after the Governor returned it last year
 - ✓ Governor Ravi returned the bill passed in September 2021 to the Speaker on February 1, but the government got it re-enacted within a week
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Act, 2021, seeks to ban NEET and revert to admitting students to UG courses in medicine, dentistry, Indian medicine and homeopathy in medical colleges based on their plus-two marks
 - ✓ A report submitted by Justice (retired) A K Rajan formed the basis for the legislation.
- **The state's Information Technology (IT) - will contribute over 10% to Chief Minister MK Stalin's vision for TN to become a \$1 trillion economy by 2030**

- ✓ This was announced by TN minister for IT T Mano Thangaraj in the Assembly on May 4



- ✓ According to the Minister, this would be achieved by promoting areas like global capability centres, data centre services, software-as-a-service, start-ups and creative services among others
- ✓ A new IT Park will be established in Kanyakumari district at a cost of Rs 50 crore, said the Minister while responding to the debate on the demands in the assembly
- ✓ Further, an “Integrated IT Signature Complex” will come up in over 2.6 lakh sq ft at a cost of Rs.150 crore at Kotturpuram in Chennai, the minister said.
- ✓ The Department of Information Technology has been renamed as Department of Information Technology and Digital Services, the IT minister informed the assembly.
- ✓ The State government would implement Digital Tamil Nadu Strategy (DiTN), a new scheme which would help all government departments reach their key performance indicators and outcomes, said the Minister
 - ✓ According to the Minister, DiTN will ensure SMART - Safe, Monitorable, Accessible, Responsive and Transparent – administration
 - ✓ The new initiative aims at digitising all departments to make the entire government e-enabled.
 - ✓ In each government department, a separate ‘Departmental Digital Unit’ (DDU) will be created under the new scheme
- ✓ The portal www.tamildigitallibrary.in, which has over 50,000 digital books on Tamil language, culture, history, manuscripts, etc., would be converted as a multimedia digital library at a cost of Rs 1 crore.
- ✓ A 'Plug and Play' facility to the extent of around 27,000 sq ft will be developed for start-ups at ELCOT SEZ, Hosur, announced the Minister
 - ✓ The cost will be borne by Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu (ELCOT)
- ✓ A similar facility measuring 30,000 sq ft will be established at cost of Rs 6 crore for startups at the Elcot SEZ at Gangaikondan in Tirunelveli district.
- ✓ With regard to digitizing service delivery to citizens, the state's IT dept has added 100 new services that will be provided by Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency through its e-sevai centres, said the Minister

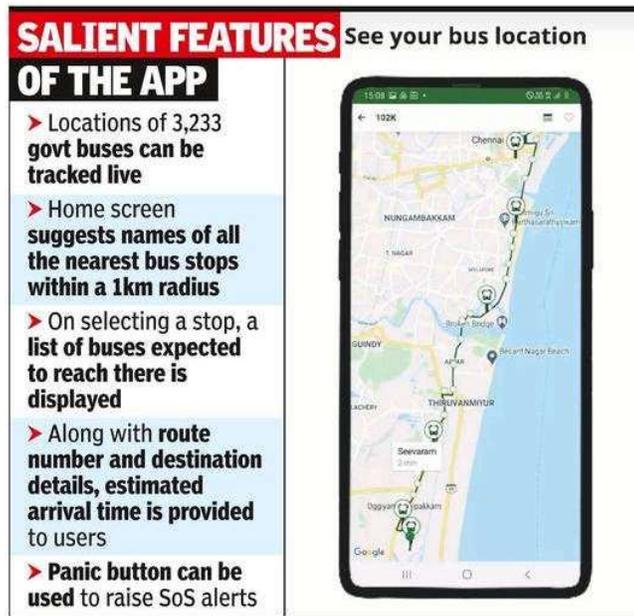
- ✓ This will be in addition to the 192 and 72 services currently provided through online and offline services.
- ✓ Besides, a separate mobile app is being developed for this purpose, said the Minister.
- ✓ The Minister also announced a Digital Cultural Atlas of Tamil Nadu which documents tangible and intangible art forms with the help of audio, video and photo
 - ✓ He mentioned this while emphasising the need to digitise and document the cultural assets of the State like historical monuments, temples, visual arts, performing arts, etc.
 - ✓ In the first phase of this project, Digital Cultural Atlas of Madurai Zone will be created by the Tamil Virtual Academy at a cost of Rs.1 crore.
- ✓ A postgraduate course would be established at Tamil Virtual Academy at a cost of Rs 29 lakh for graduates to pursue higher education in Tamil literature, grammar, culture, tradition, heritage and the arts
- ✓ Further, the state will explore the possibility of establishing a SaaS Accelerator Centre and Startup Fund to encourage establishing 10,000 Startups by 2030 and to help them achieve their targets.
 - ✓ The government would also consider creating a separate Accelerator Centre and an Innovation Fund for this purpose.
- ✓ The Minister further said Chief Minister MK Stalin has announced a scheme - Data for Public Good.
 - ✓ Under this scheme, within six months, the public can know the welfare schemes they would be eligible for.
 - ✓ For this purpose, a dedicated software called 'State Family Database' is being designed.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Decision Support System (DeTN – CM Dashboard) monitors implementation of schemes and projects and provides insights for policy making, said the Minister
 - ✓ It displays the Key Performance Indicators of various department schemes/programmes in near real time
 - ✓ It offers a comprehensive data analytics capability along with visual representation to aid decision making
- **On May 4, the HR & CE department - has announced that 60% share of 'archana' tickets would go to priests who perform pooja in Tamil.**
 - ✓ This was announced by HR & CE minister P K Sekar Babu in the assembly while replying to the demand for grants for the department in the state assembly
 - ✓ The announcement seeks to promote poojas in Tamil under 'Annai Tamizhil Vazhipadu' scheme in temples across the state
 - ✓ At present, the archakars receive 10% of the ticket share for performing the 'archana' in Tamil.

- ✓ The 'Annai Tamizhil Vazhipadu' scheme is in practice at 48 major temples now, said the Minister



- ✓ The minister made 165 announcements including extending Annadhanam schemes in three temples and construction of commercial complexes in 21 places.
 - ✓ The department would launch a free breakfast scheme for the students of schools and colleges run by Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy temple in Palani.
 - ✓ A day-long Annadanam scheme would be implemented at three major temples in Rameswaram, Tiruvannamalai, and Madurai.
 - ✓ The Tamil Nadu government would take up conservation, restoration and renovation works at 1,000 temples across the State at an estimated cost of Rs 500 crore
 - ✓ Further, a mega icon display-cum-cultural centre would be established by the Government at the Kapaleeswarar temple in Chennai
 - ✓ The centre would have a library of books and texts on spirituality, a mini-auditorium, a book stall and a publication centre at the temple
 - ✓ The Minister further said the "Thiruppani" works (conservation, restoration and renovation) would be carried out at a cost of Rs 100 crore in 80 temples that are more than 1,000 years old.
 - ✓ A new mega 'goshala' (cow shed) would be established on 25 acres of land belonging to the Sundararaja Perumal temple near Chennai, at a cost of Rs 20 crore, to shelter the cattle donated to the temples.
 - ✓ Commencing this year, about 200 devotees will be taken on a spiritual tour from Ramanathaswamy temple, Rameswaram, to Sri Viswanathaswamy temple, Kasi, every year and this will cost the government an expenditure of Rs 50 lakh, said the Minister
 - ✓ Further, the Minister also said that a detailed project report (DPR) would be prepared for a rope-car between Palani Hill and Idumban Hill and another at Subrahmanyaswamy temple in Coimbatore
- **On May 4, the Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) - has launched the 'Chennai Bus' mobile app.**

- ✓ Using this, passengers can find the live location of all MTC buses along a particular route, estimated arrival time, and nearest bus stops from any given location in the city
- ✓ The app has real-time data pertaining to all 3,233 MTC buses operated in Chennai and its neighbouring districts along 602 routes.
- ✓ Apart from searches based on bus stop locations and destinations, the app does support searches pertaining to a specific bus route.
- ✓ Once the route number is selected, the results are displayed along with a live map showing the live location of all buses along the route



- ✓ The accuracy will be within a deviation margin of one minute or 10% of predicted time and since it works on real-time data, any bus route diversions and timings can be updated as and when it is required.
- ✓ The app also has an SOS button that will send a message to the contact number added by the passengers in case of an emergency or safety issue
- ✓ The app, which can be downloaded for free from Google Play Store, works along the same lines as the ones used by cab aggregators like Ola and Uber etc.

NATIONAL

- **Airports Authority of India (AAI) - has introduced an exclusive radio communication system called 'Trunked Mobile Radio (TMR)'**
- ✓ The new system has been launched to ensure better coordination between their staff, airlines crew, Central Industrial Security Force and ground handling firms, posted in Chennai Airport
- ✓ This is the first time the new system, which will be free from interruptions and transmission disturbances, has been introduced at an AAI airport.
- ✓ The facility will also allow the authorities to record the communications for enhanced security.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - participated in the Second India-Nordic Summit at Copenhagen in Denmark on May 4**



- ✓ The Prime Ministers of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and Norway took part in the Summit.
- ✓ The Summit provided an opportunity to review the progress of the India-Nordic relations since the first India-Nordic Summit, which was held in 2018 in Stockholm.
- ✓ During the Summit, the Prime Ministers pledged to continue to deepen cooperation and focused their discussions on key issues related to international peace and security.
- ✓ Discussions were also held on multilateral cooperation in post-pandemic economic recovery, climate change, sustainable development, innovation, digitalization and green and clean growth.
- ✓ Before attending the India-Nordic Summit, PM Modi held separate bilateral talks with the prime ministers of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.
- ✓ The Prime Minister invited the sovereign wealth funds of the Nordic countries to invest in the country.
- ✓ Further, he also invited Nordic companies for investing in the blue economy sector, especially in Sagarmala Project.
- ✓ PM Modi arrived in Denmark on May 4 after concluding his visit to Germany where he held extensive talks with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and attended the sixth India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations.
- ✓ In Copenhagen, PM Modi held talks with his Danish counterpart Mette Frederiksen on May 3.

- ✓ Following the summit, the Prime Minister is scheduled to make a brief stopover in Paris for a meeting with Emmanuel Macron, the newly re-elected President of France.
- ✓ On the sidelines of the 2nd India-Nordic Summit in Denmark's capital city Copenhagen, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted decoration objects, depicting India's rich and diverse traditions.
- ✓ He gifted a silver Meenakari bird figure from Varanasi to Crown Princess of Denmark, Mary.
 - ✓ The most distinguishing element of Banaras meenakari is the use of pink colour in various shades on various products.
 - ✓ The art of silver enamelling practised in Benaras (Varanasi) is almost 500 years old.
 - ✓ The art has its roots in the Persian art of Meenakari.
- ✓ PM Modi gifted a Rogan painting from Gujarat to Denmark's Queen Margrethe.
- ✓ He gifted a brass Tree of Life from Rajasthan to his Finland counterpart, Sanna Marin.
- ✓ PM Modi presented a Dokra boat from Chhattisgarh to the Crown Prince of Denmark.
 - ✓ Dhokra is non-ferrous metal casting using the lost-wax casting technique

ECONOMY

- **On May 4, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - raised its key lending rate or repo rate by 40 basis points to 4.40% with immediate effect.**
- ✓ This was also the first instance of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) making an unscheduled increase in the repo rate.
- ✓ The central bank also hiked the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points.
- ✓ CRR is the percentage of depositors' money that commercial banks have to mandatorily park with the Reserve Bank
- ✓ The standing deposit facility (SDF) rate stands adjusted to 4.15%, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate are set at 4.65%.
- ✓ The decision was taken by the MPC in an off-cycle meeting with the central board held May 2-4.

5TH HIGHEST HIKE SINCE 2005

Date	RBI governor	Repo rate (%)	Hike (% pt)
June 25, 2008	D Subbarao	8.5	0.5
July 30, 2008	D Subbarao	9	0.5
May 3, 2011	D Subbarao	7.25	0.5
July 26, 2011	D Subbarao	8	0.5
May 4, 2022	Shaktikanta Das	4.4	0.4
Oct 26, 2005	Y V Reddy	6.25	0.25

- ✓ This was the first hike in policy rate since August 2018 and the sharpest in nearly 11 years, which would increase the cost of borrowing for corporates as well as individuals
- ✓ The RBI last hiked the Repo rate by 25 bps to 6.50% in August 2018.
- ✓ Home loans and other retail loans as well as those availed of by businesses will get more expensive as around 40% bank credit is linked to the repo rate
- ✓ The repo rate denotes the rate at which banks borrow from the RBI.
- ✓ The repo rate is considered as one of the key tools of the RBI to keep inflation under control.

