

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 9, 2022

### NATIONAL

- **On May 8, the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) - unearthed historical evidence of Harappan culture in the Rakhigarhi village of Haryana.**
- ✓ The Rakhigarhi excavation site has at least seven mounds, and significant discovery was made in all of them



- ✓ The excavation and study at Rakhigarhi has so far revealed that this place once housed an engineered city built with better town planning, including streets, pucca walls, multi-storeyed houses, drains and even garbage collectors at street corners
- ✓ Rakhigarhi has been classified as major metropolitan centre of the Harappan culture.
- ✓ Remains of around 5,000 year-old factory which used to manufacture jewellery has also been traced, which signifies that trading was also done from the city
- ✓ The digging has also revealed pieces of copper and gold jewellery, terracotta toys, besides thousands of earthen pots and seals.
- ✓ During excavation, the skeletons of two women were found along with jewellery.
- ✓ The discoveries took place in the third phase of the ongoing excavation in the village located in the Hisar district of Haryana.

- ✓ Rakhigarhi is said to be one of the oldest archeological sites of the Indus Valley Civilization
  - ✓ The Indus Valley Civilization is the largest of all the civilisations with a population of millions discovered in 1998 when seven mounds were excavated.
  - ✓ Following the second phase of excavations in 2013, this unknown village in Hisar was labelled as the largest surviving Harappan site.
  - ✓ In 2021, ASI archeologists excavated four more mounds spread over 350 hectares.
  - ✓ Mohenjodaro, which covers 300 hectares, was formerly thought to be the largest Harappan city discovered in the country.
  - ✓ Rakhigarhi is a village located about 150 km from Delhi
  - ✓ For the first time, this site was excavated in 1998-2001 by the ASI
  - ✓ The current round of excavations in this 7,000-year-old Harappan city started on February 24, 2022 and expected to complete by the end of May, after which the new round of excavations will commence by September 2022
  - ✓ It is one of the five iconic archeological sites mentioned by Central Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her 2020 Budget speech for development
  - ✓ Sivasagar in Assam, Dholavira in Gujarat, Adichanallur in Tamil Nadu, and Hastinapur in Uttar Pradesh are the other sites.
  - ✓ Besides, an agreement will be signed between the ASI and the Haryana government, under which antiquities from Rakhigarhi will be displayed at the adjacent under-construction museum being built by the state at a cost of Rs 23 crore.
- **The first train set of India's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) - was handed over to National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) at Alstom India's Savli plant in Gujarat on May 7**



- ✓ The RRTS train sets are being manufactured under Make in India initiative and are capable of running at a top speed of 180 kilometre per hour.

- ✓ The fully air-conditioned semi high speed train consists of several modern commuter-centric features including cushioned seating, laptop-mobile charging, luggage racks and dynamic route-map.
- ✓ NCRTC is the implementing agency of India's first RRTS corridor between Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut
- ✓ It is a joint venture company of the Government of India and the States of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ The full corridor will be fully operational by 2025.
- ✓ The Delhi-Meerut RRTS will be the first in India to adopt the European Train Control System (ETCS) hybrid Level 2 signalling system
- ✓ Alstom is a French multinational firm which acquired Bombardier Transportation early last year

## PERSONALITIES

- **Nepal's legendary climber Kami Rita Sherpa - has climbed the Mt Everest, the tallest peak in the world for a record 26th time, breaking his own previous record set last year**



- ✓ Kami Rita Sherpa, 52, scaled the 8,849-metre mountain along the traditional south-east ridge route leading 10 other Sherpa climbers on May 7
- ✓ The climbing route used by Kami Rita was pioneered by New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary and Nepali sherpa Tenzing Norgay in 1953 and remains the most popular
- ✓ Rita first scaled Everest back in 1994 and since then, has been making trips to the summit almost every year.
- ✓ In addition to Mt. Everest, Rita has scaled several other peaks, including K-2, Cho-Oyu, Manaslu and Lhotse
- ✓ This year Nepal has issued 316 permits to climb Everest in the peak season, which runs through May, compared with 408 last year, the highest ever.
- ✓ Everest has been climbed 10,657 times since it was first scaled in 1953 from Nepali and Tibetan sides

## APPOINTMENTS

- **On May 8, Hong Kong - formally confirmed John Lee as its next leader after an uncontested election**



- ✓ John Lee is a Chinese-backed hardline security chief who oversaw a crackdown on Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement
- ✓ Lee was the only candidate and won 1,416 votes from 1,461 electors, bagging more than 99% of the votes
- ✓ He will start his five-year term as Chief Executive on July 1
- ✓ John Lee succeeds Carrie Lam, who last month announced her decision not to run.
- ✓ Lee's role as Hong Kong's next leader has sparked concern that Beijing could further tighten its grip.
- ✓ He spent most of his civil service career in police and security bureau, and is a staunch supporter of a national security law imposed on Hong Kong in 2020 to suppress dissent.

## SPORTS

- **Indian shooters Dhanush Srikanth and Priyasha Deshmukh - won the country's fourth gold medal at the ongoing Deaflympics in Caxias do Sul, Brazil on May 7**



- ✓ The duo had defeated Germany's Sabrina Eckert and Sebastian Herrmany to win the gold medal in the final of the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event
  - ✓ This was Dhanush's second gold of the Games after having won the individual men's 10m air rifle with a world record score
  - ✓ Earlier, Priyasha had won bronze at the 1st World Deaf Shooting meet in Kazan.
  - ✓ It was India's sixth medal in Deaflympics 2022.
  - ✓ Surprisingly, India has bagged five medals from shooting so far, including three gold medals, while the other gold medal has come from Badminton.
- **On May 8, Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh - emerged champion in the 1st Chessable Sunway Formentera Open chess tournament in Spain.**



- ✓ It was a hattrick of titles for him after he had previously won the La Roda tournament and the Menorca Open in recent weeks.
  - ✓ Gukesh, 15, (Elo 2637) settled for a draw with Armenian GM Haik M Martirosyan in the final round to win the title with eight points.
- **Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur - launched the mascot 'Dhakad' along with official logo and official jersey of the fourth Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) at Panchkula, Haryana on May 7**



- ✓ Thakur was accompanied by Haryana Chief Minister ML Khattar, Haryana deputy CM Dushyant Chautala and Haryana sports minister Sandeep Singh during the event.
- ✓ For the first time, the government has envisaged a KIYG torch relay which will be carried to every corner of Haryana to promote the Games and encourage every kid to take up sports.
- ✓ The fourth edition of the sporting event will be held from June 4 to 13 in Haryana, and will witness the participation of 8,500 athletes from across the country
- ✓ The Khelo India University Games concluded last week, in which two national records were created
- ✓ While KIUG had two traditional games, Khelo India Youth Games includes five traditional games such as gatka, thang-ta, kalarippayattu, mallakhamb, and yogasana.
- ✓ The games will take place in 25 sports disciplines, including five indigenous sports, at Shahbad, Ambala, Chandigarh, Panchkula, and Delhi.
- ✓ The 'Khelo India Youth Games-2021', is being jointly organized by the Haryana Government and Sports Authority of India (SAI), Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- ✓ The games were earlier scheduled to happen in October-November last year before they were postponed to February this year owing to the Covid-19 pandemic
- ✓ The first edition of the games were held in 2018 at Delhi, followed by 2019 at Pune and in 2020 at Guwahati, Assam