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TAMIL NADU



STATES



NATIONAL



INDIA & THE WORLD



INTERNATIONAL



SCHEMES



DEFENCE



SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY



EVS



ECONOMY



COURT VERDICTS



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SUMMITS



AWARDS



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TAMIL NADU

➤ **Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar Karunanidhi Salai**

- ✓ The portion of East Coast Road (ECR) between Chennai and Mamallapuram - will be renamed 'Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar Karunanidhi Salai' to honour the former CM's role in the development of the State Highways Department.
- ✓ This was announced by chief minister M K Stalin at the state highway department's platinum jubilee event in Chennai on May 1.
- ✓ CM Stalin also unveiled a memorial pillar and laid foundation stones for a number of projects, including a Rs 37 crore glass bridge to connect Thiruvalluvar Statue and Vivekananda Rock in Kanyakumari.

➤ **State's Information Technology (IT)**

- ✓ 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.

➤ **Chennai Bus' Mobile App'**

- ✓ 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.

➤ **Free Travel For Children Within 5 Years**

- ✓ On May 5, the Tamil Nadu government - announced free travel for children within 5 years of age in buses operated by all the government-run transport corporations
- ✓ This was announced by Transport Minister S S Sivasankar in the Assembly, while listing out new initiatives of his department for the year 2022-23.
- ✓ Presently, for children between 3 and 12 years of age, 'half-fare' (half of the fare collected from adult passengers) system is operational in the state.

➤ **Bed and Breakfast Scheme**

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government - has decided to revive the bed and breakfast scheme and hop-on-and-hop-off tours covering tourist spots in Chennai after a gap of almost ten years.
- ✓ The bed and breakfast scheme is aimed at ensuring economical accommodation for tourists in destinations where hotels are not available.

➤ **Free Breakfast Scheme**

- ✓ On May 7, Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin - announced a free breakfast scheme for government school students studying in Classes 1 to 5 in the state.
- ✓ The nutrition scheme has been designed based on a study, which revealed that most children have nutrition deficiencies, said the CM
- ✓ Tamil Nadu will be the first state in the country to offer breakfast in government schools, along with the mid-day meal
- ✓ Tamil Nadu was the pioneer of the midday meal scheme as the first initiative to provide meals to children had been taken by the erstwhile Madras Municipal Corporation around 1920.

In pipeline | Here are the five schemes announced by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in the T.N. Assembly

■ **Free breakfast** for Class I-V government school children in a phased manner

■ Initiatives to **eradicate nutrition deficiency**

■ Setting up of **Schools of Excellence**

■ Setting up of **primary healthcare-like centres** in urban areas

■ Expanding the 'CM in Your Constituency' **grievance redressal scheme** to all 234 constituencies in the State

➤ **Amudham Project**

- ✓ On May 9, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman - inaugurated the 'Amudham project' to offer free cow milk to lactating mothers and children below two years in Coimbatore south constituency.
- ✓ It is a new scheme launched by Coimbatore South MLA Vanathi Srinivasan in the lines of Prime Minister's 'Poshan Abhiyaan' scheme, aimed at providing holistic nutrition to mothers and infants.

- **Iron Age began in T.N. 4,200 years ago**
- ✓ Excavations carried out by the Tamil Nadu Department of Archaeology at Mayiladumparai in Krishnagiri district have placed the beginning of the Iron Age in Tamil Nadu 4,200 years Before Present (BP) or 2200 BCE (Before Common Era).

- **Ramanjeri Reservoir Project**
- ✓ Creation of a reservoir in Ramanjeri is one of the long-discussed proposals. Spread over an area of nearly 9.20 sq. km, it will be the sixth reservoir in Tiruvallur to meet the rapidly growing water needs of the metropolis.
- ✓ The new reservoir across the Nagari will store 1.2 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft) and its surplus will be diverted to the Poondi reservoir.

- **Greater Chennai Corporation - has added eight zones**
- ✓ The Greater Chennai Corporation - has added eight zones to the existing 15 for better civic administration.
- ✓ The number of wards will remain 200 and the boundaries will be the same.
- ✓ Till now, there were 15 zones in Chennai with 22 assembly constituencies, leading to administrative inconvenience.

- **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar**
- ✓ Twelve panchayats in Tamil Nadu - bagged the annual national panchayat awards 'Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar' of the Union ministry of panchayati raj for 'best performance'.
- ✓ The district panchayat of Tiruvannamalai, panchayat unions of Manachanallur (Trichy) and Mandapam (Ramanathapuram), panchayats of Akkaraipatti (Dindigul), Manmangalam (Karur), Chinnapatti (Madurai), Athikattuvilai (Kanyakumari), Gangaleri (Krishnagiri) and Kattathi (Pudukottai) bagged the national awards for improving delivery of services.

- **Urban Health and Wellness Centres (UHWC)**
- ✓ The Greater Chennai Corporation - will soon set up 200 urban health and wellness centres (UHWC) on the lines of 'Aam Aadmi Mohalla' clinics in Delhi.
- ✓ The clinics, set up mostly in congested and slum areas, will serve as a linkage between local community health and higher healthcare facilities.

STATE

➤ **Greenfield Grain-Based Ethanol Plant**

- ✓ 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.

➤ **India's First Tribal Health Observatory**

- ✓ Odisha is planning to create India's only observatory, which will house data on the state's indigenous population's health.
The Tribal Health Observatory (TriHOb) is the "first in the nation," according to the Information Department, and is aimed to be an effective, evidence-based, and policy-oriented centre.

➤ **Jivhala**

- ✓ The Maharashtra Department of Prisons - has launched a first-of-its-kind loan scheme titled 'Jivhala' for inmates serving sentences in jails across the state.
- ✓ The credit scheme is being offered by the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank.
- ✓ The pilot of the initiative was introduced for prisoners at Yerawada Central Jail in Pune, and will gradually be extended to nearly 60 prisons across the state.
- ✓ The scheme has been launched primarily for convicted inmates who are undergoing a prison sentence of more than three years.

➤ **Flow Chemistry Technology Hub**

- ✓ India's first 'Flow Chemistry Technology Hub' was opened in Hyderabad.
- ✓ "Flow chemistry", is also known as "continuous flow chemistry".
- ✓ It is the process of performing chemical reactions in a tube or pipe.

➤ **Tomato Flu**

- A new viral infection called **tomato flu** - infected 82 children, all below five years, in Kollam district of Kerala.
- ✓ This is a case of children experiencing undiagnosed and unidentified fever.
- ✓ The symptoms of this flu, also called Tomato fever, include rashes, skin irritation and dehydration.

➤ **Solar Power Installation**

- ✓ Rajasthan - becomes the first state in the country to exceed 10 GW of cumulative large-scale solar power installations.
- ✓ The state has a total of 32.5 GW of installed power capacity, with renewables contributing 55%, followed by thermal energy at 43%, and nuclear energy the remaining 2%.



NATIONAL

- **M15 Petrol**
 - ✓ 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.

- **Trunked Mobile Radio (TMR)**
 - ✓ 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.

- **National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM)**
 - ✓ Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur - announced a grant of Rs 363 crore for the world's largest film restoration project under the National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM).
 - ✓ The restoration project is set to come up at the National Film Archive of India (NFAI) in Pune.

- **Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI)**
 - ✓ RailTel - has launched Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) - based access of its Public WiFi services across 100 major railway stations in the country.
 - ✓ RailTel, a mini Ratna PSU, will provide internet services through 2,384 WiFi hotspots across railway stations in 22 states.

SCHEMES

➤ Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

- ✓ The scheme was originally launched on May 1, 2016, in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a target of releasing eight crore connections by March 2020.
- ✓ So far, over nine crore connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana has been released. The PMUY 2.0 was launched in 2021-22, making a provision for release of additional one crore connections.

➤ Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

- ✓ Three social security schemes Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) - have completed seven years of their launch.
- ✓ The schemes were launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 9, 2015 from Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ✓ PMJJBY and PMSBY are low-cost insurance schemes, while APY is a scheme to cover the old age requirements by providing regular pension.

COURT VERDICT

➤ 152-year-old Colonial-Era Sedition Law

- ✓ Supreme Court puts 152-year-old colonial-era sedition law on hold.
- ✓ The Supreme Court has ordered that the 152-year-old sedition law under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code should be effectively kept in abeyance till the Union Government reconsiders the provision.

INTERNATIONAL

➤ **Bach Long (White Dragon)**

- ✓ Vietnam - opened the 'world's longest' glass-bottomed bridge named Bach Long (White Dragon) in northwest Son La province.
- ✓ The bridge's entire length is 632 metres (2,073 feet), and the floor is constructed of tempered glass created in France that can carry up to 450 people at a time.
- ✓ The bridge's glass bottom is made of three layers of each 40 mm thick super-tempered glass panels manufactured by French specialists Saint-Gobain.

➤ **UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2025**

On May 4, the United Nations - announced the launch of 'UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2025' to support the transition to clean, affordable energy for all and net-zero emissions

- ✓ The aim is to achieve the pledge made by the organizations in various areas at the time of the High-level Dialogue on Energy last September.
- ✓ During the occasion, an 'Energy Compact Action Network' was also launched.

➤ **Ferdinand Marcos Jr**

- ✓ On May 10, Ferdinand Marcos Jr, son of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos - claimed victory in the Philippine presidential elections.
- ✓ He has secured over 31 million votes in an unofficial vote count, more than double the tally of his nearest rival, liberal candidate Leni Robredo.
- ✓ Marcos Junior will begin a six-year term as president at the end of June.

➤ **Monkeypox**

- ✓ The United Kingdom - has confirmed first case of Monkeypox, the virus that passed from infected animals such as rats to humans.
- ✓ Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by infection with Monkeypox virus, belonging to the Orthopoxvirus genus in the family Poxviridae, that does not spread easily between people.

INDIAN & OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India-Germany InterGovernmental Consultations (IGC)**
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi reached Berlin, Germany on the first leg of his official visit to three European nations, on 1 May 2022.
- ✓ Modi and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will co-chair the 6th India-Germany InterGovernmental Consultations (IGC).

- **Second India-Nordic Summit**
- ✓ 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.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **India, UK adopt 'Roadmap 2030'**
- ✓ PM Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson adopted an ambitious 'Roadmap 2030' to elevate bilateral ties to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' in a virtual summit held on 4 May 2021.

- **Second Global Covid-19 Summit**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be participating in the second global Covid Summit on 12 May 2022 at the invitation of US President Joe Biden.
- ✓ PM Modi will deliver his remarks on the theme - Preventing Pandemic Fatigue and Prioritizing Preparedness.

- **Incredible India International Cruise Conference 2022**
- ✓ Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal - inaugurated the first 'Incredible India International Cruise Conference 2022' in Mumbai on May 14, 2022.
- ✓ The conference was organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), and the Mumbai Port Authority.

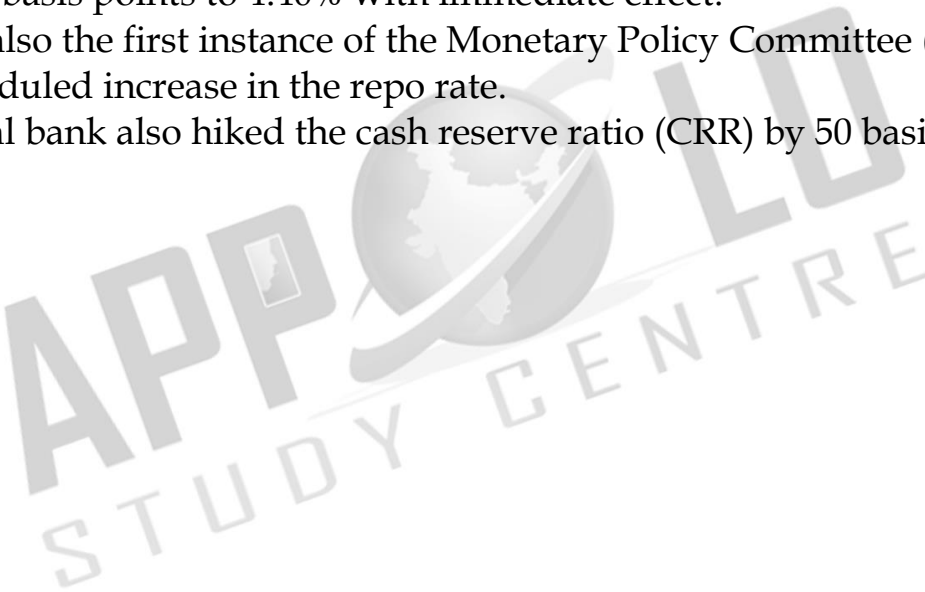
ECONOMY

➤ GST- APRIL

- ✓ The monthly collection under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) - has peaked to an all-time high of Rs 1.67 lakh crore in April 2022.
- ✓ The gross GST collection has crossed the Rs 1.5 lakh crore-mark for the first time in April 2022 and Rs 1 lakh crore-mark for the tenth month in a row.
- ✓ The growth in revenue collections in April, based on transactions in March, is the fastest pace of expansion since November 2021.

➤ Repo Rate

- ✓ 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.



APPOINTMENT

➤ **John Lee**

- ✓ 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.

➤ **Ranil Wickremesinghe**

- ✓ Opposition leader and former premier Ranil Wickremesinghe - was sworn-in as Sri Lanka's 26th prime minister on May 12.
- ✓ The 73-year-old United National Party (UNP) leader Wickremesinghe was sworn-in as prime minister by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

➤ **Rajiv Kumar**

- ✓ Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar would take charge as the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) on May 15 after the incumbent Sushil Chandra retires on Saturday, the Union Law and Justice Ministry announced on Thursday.

➤ **Katalin Novak**

- ✓ Katalin Novak – assumed office as Hungary's first female president for a five-year term on May 10.
- ✓ Novak, a former member of the government as minister without portfolio for family affairs, is also the country's youngest President at 44 years of age.

➤ **Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

- The UAE's federal council - elected Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, commonly referred to as MbZ, as the country's president on May 14.
- ✓ He has replaced Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who died at the age of 73 on May 13.

➤ **Yoon Suk-yeol**

- Yoon Suk-yeol - was sworn in as the South Korean president in a ceremony at Seoul's National Assembly recently on May 10, 2022.
- ✓ The 61-year old Yoon of the main conservative People Power Party had won a tight election in March 2022 to helm the world's 10th largest economy.

AWARDS

➤ **Whitley Gold Award**

- ✓ Noted snow leopard expert and wildlife conservationist Charudutt Mishra has won the prestigious Whitley Gold Award.
- ✓ He has been awarded for his contribution to involving indigenous communities in the conservation and recovery of big cat species in Asia's high mountain ecosystems.
- ✓ This is his second Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN) Award. He got the first in 2005.

➤ **World Food Prize**

- ✓ Cynthia Rosenzweig, an agronomist and climatologist, wins the World Food Prize.
- ✓ She is a senior research scientist at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies.
- ✓ World Food Prize Foundation award recognized Rosenzweig as the founder of the Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Improvement Project.

➤ **Pulitzer Prize**

- ✓ Photojournalist Danish Siddiqui is among four Indians honoured with the prestigious Pulitzer Prize 2022 in the feature photography category.
- ✓ Siddiqui and his colleagues Adnan Abidi, Sanna Irshad Mattoo and Amit Dave from the Reuters news agency have won the award.
- ✓ This is for the second time that Siddiqui has won the Pulitzer Prize.
- ✓ He was killed in 2021.

➤ **Royal Gold Medal 2022**

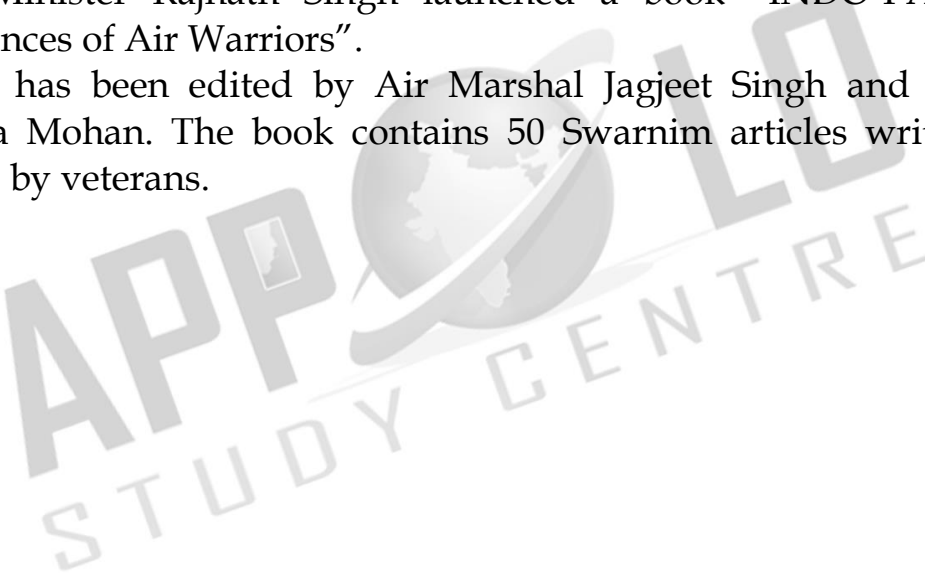
- ✓ Ahmedabad-based acclaimed architect Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi - was conferred the Royal Gold Medal 2022, one of the world's highest honours for architecture.
- ✓ BV Doshi is among the rare people to have been awarded both the Royal Gold Medal and the Pritzker Architecture Prize, often referred to as the Nobel Prize of architecture, in their lifetime.

PERSONALITIES

- **Kami Rita Sherpa**
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Rita first scaled Everest back in 1994 and since then, has been making trips to the summit almost every year.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- **"INDO-PAK WAR 1971- Reminiscences of Air Warriors"**
- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched a book "INDO-PAK WAR 1971- Reminiscences of Air Warriors".
- ✓ The book has been edited by Air Marshal Jagjeet Singh and Group Captain Shailendra Mohan. The book contains 50 Swarnim articles written in detailed narrations by veterans.



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ **ISRO 2024 Venus Mission**

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation will send a spacecraft to orbit Venus to study what lies below its surface, the space body's Chairperson S Somnath announced.
- ✓ ISRO is expecting to launch the mission by December 2024 with an orbital manoeuvre planned for a year after that.

➤ **Slender Loris**

- ✓ Slender Loris, an endangered animal protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, is set to get enhanced protection and habitat conservation once Tamil Nadu issues a government order declaring the forest areas bordering Karur, Dindigul and Tiruchi districts a Slender Loris Wildlife Sanctuary.

➤ **Cyclone Asani**

- ✓ On May 9th the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said that the severe cyclonic storm 'Asani' is likely to weaken in the next 48 hours.
- ✓ Asani is the first cyclonic storm of the season.
- ✓ Asani means 'wrath' in Sinhalese (Srilankan language).

➤ **Sagittarius A**

- ✓ On May 12, astronomers - announced the presence of a supermassive black hole, known as Sagittarius A*, at the centre of Milky Way galaxy.
- ✓ It's the first direct observation confirming the presence of the black hole
- ✓ Black holes are regions of space where the pull of gravity is so intense that nothing can escape, including light.

➤ **PHESGO**

- ✓ Multinational pharma giant Roche - has announced the launch of a new drug 'PHESGO' for the treatment of breast cancer patients.
- ✓ PHESGO is a combination of Perjeta (pertuzumab) and Herceptin (trastuzumab) with hyaluronidase
- ✓ It is the world's first-ever subcutaneous fixed-dose formulation in the history of cancer treatment.

➤ **Human-Rated Solid Rocket Booster (HS200)**

- ✓ Isro - successfully completed the static test of human-rated solid rocket booster (HS200) for the Gaganyaan programme at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, on May 13.
- ✓ Based on the successful launch pedigree of this launch vehicle, including Chandrayaan-2, the GSLV-Mk3 has been identified as the launcher for Gaganyaan mission.



SPORTS

➤ **Asia Badminton Championships**

- ✓ P.V. Sindhu won the bronze medal for the second time in the Asia Badminton Championships.
- ✓ She lost to defending champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in the semifinal.

➤ **IWF Junior World Championships**

- ✓ 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.

➤ **75th Santosh Trophy**

- ✓ Kerala - were crowned champions of the 75th Santosh Trophy at the Payyanad Stadium in Manjeri, Malappuram on May 2.
- ✓ It was Kerala's seventh Santosh Trophy.

➤ **Deaflympics**

- ✓ Dhanush Srikanth - became the first Indian to win a gold medal at the Deaflympics on May 5.
- ✓ The 19-year old shooter from Telangana, clinched the gold medal in the men's 10m air rifle event at the 24th Deaflympics in Caxias do Sul, Brazil, after shooting a world-record score in the final.

➤ **Chessable Sunway Formentera Open Chess Tournament**

- ✓ On May 8, Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh - emerged champion in the 1st 1 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.

➤ **Avinash Sable**

- ✓ India's Avinash Sable broke a 30-year-old record of Bahadur Prasad in 5000m, setting a new national record with a timing of 13:25.65 at the Sound Running Track meet in San Juan Capistrano, USA.
- ✓ The 27-year-old from Maharashtra broke the old record of 13:29.70 set by Bahadur Prasad in 1992.

➤ **Jerlin Anika**

- ✓ On May 12, Tamil Nadu's Jerlin Anika - won three gold medals in the women's singles badminton event in the ongoing 24th summer Deaflympics at Caxias do Sul in Brazil.
- ✓ She bagged gold in individual women, mixed doubles and India team events.
- ✓ 18-year old Jerlin Anika of Villapuram in Madurai is a special child who can neither hear nor speak.

➤ **Thomas Cup**

- ✓ Indian Men's Badminton team has won Thomas Cup for the first time ever.
- ✓ It has defeated 14 times Champions Indonesia in Bangkok on 15 May 2022.
- ✓ India had never reached the Thomas and Uber Cup final before.
- ✓ It has become the 6th nation to win the Thomas Cup title after China, Indonesia, Japan, Denmark, and Malaysia.

OBITUARY

➤ **Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed**

- ✓ UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed passes away.
- ✓ Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan served as the president of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi since November 3, 2004.
- ✓ Under his reign, the UAE has witnessed an accelerated development that ensured decent living for the people calling the country home.

REPORT

➤ Highest Sex Ratio at Birth

- ✓ Ladakh recorded the highest sex ratio at birth in the country in 2020, followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tripura and Kerala, according to the annual report on Vital Statistics based on 2020 Civil Registration System report.
- ✓ "Highest Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) based on registered events has been reported by Ladakh (1,104) followed by Arunachal Pradesh (1,011), A&N Islands (984), Tripura (974), and Kerala (969).
- ✓ Sex ratio at birth is the number of females per thousand males.

➤ India's Fertility Rate

- ✓ India's Fertility Rate Decreases to 2 from 2.2.
- ✓ India's total fertility rate (TFR) has declined from 2.2 children in 2015-16 to 2 children per woman now, the latest edition of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) showed.
- ✓ The TFR is currently below the replacement level of fertility of 2.1 children per woman. According to the report, the median age at first birth among women aged 25-49 is 21.2 years.

➤ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

- ✓ The number and duration of droughts - has risen 29% globally since 2000, as per a new report from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) released on May 11.
- ✓ As per the report, the effect of severe droughts is estimated to have reduced India's gross domestic product (GDP) by 2-5% over the 20 years from 1998 to 2017.
- ✓ The report was released on the sidelines of the ongoing 15th session of the UNCCD conference (COP15) at Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
- ✓ Globally, droughts caused economic losses of roughly \$124 billion during that period.

RANKING

➤ World Press Freedom Index

- ✓ India's ranking in the World Press Freedom Index - has fallen down to 150th position from last year's 142nd rank out of 180 countries.
- ✓ The index, which was published on May 3 by Reporters Without Borders, categorises India as "one of the world's most dangerous countries for media" with an average of three or four journalists getting killed every year.



IMPORTANT DAYS

➤ **International Labour Day: May 1**

- ✓ International Workers' Day, also known as Labour Day in most countries, is observed every year on May 1.
- ✓ It recognizes employees' contributions to society and their willingness to make sacrifices.
- ✓ It is also known as May Day in India.

➤ **World Laughter Day: May 1**

- ✓ World Laughter Day is celebrated on the first Sunday of May every year to spread happiness in the whole world.
- ✓ For 2022, it was observed on May 1.

➤ **World Tuna Day: May 2**

- ✓ On May 2 every year, World Tuna Day is celebrated to spread awareness among people about Tuna fish regarding sustainable fishing practices.
- ✓ Tuna is a significant source of food for humans as the fish has several rich qualities such as Omega 3, Vitamin B12, proteins, and other minerals.

➤ **World Press Freedom Day: May 3**

- ✓ May 3, is celebrated as World Press Freedom Day across the world. It is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of press freedom in any democracy.
- ✓ This year's World Press Freedom Day theme is "Journalism Under Digital Siege".

➤ **International Firefighter's Day 2022 - May 4**

- ✓ International Firefighter's Day is observed every year on May 4th to pay respect to those firefighting experts who have lost their lives in the line of duty.
- ✓ The main aim of this day is to recognise and honour professional firefighters across the world.

➤ **World pulmonary hypertension day: May 5**

- ✓ Pulmonary hypertension organizations and groups celebrate World pulmonary hypertension day every year on 5 May.
- ✓ World pulmonary hypertension day raises awareness about the importance of improving the quality of life and raising the life expectancy. The day's main aim is to increase awareness and understanding about pulmonary hypertension disease.

➤ **World Hand Hygiene Day - May 5**

- ✓ The Day is observed every year to highlight the importance of effective hand hygiene by raising awareness of hand washing by soap to prevent the transmission of infectious microbes.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - Unite for safety: clean your hands.

➤ **International No Diet Day 2022 - May 6**

- ✓ 'International No Diet Day 2022' is celebrated all over the world on 6th May.
- ✓ On this day, people are made aware of body acceptance, leaving aside behaviour like body shaming, which includes people of all shapes and sizes.

➤ **World Athletics Day 2022 - May 7**

- ✓ World Athletics Day is celebrated every year globally on the 7th of May to raise awareness about the importance of fitness and encourage them to play sports, especially athletics.

The basic objective of World Athletics Day is to boost the participation of youths in athletics.

➤ **World Mother's Day - May 8**

- ✓ The Day is observed every year in celebration of motherhood and unwavering commitment of a mother to her children's well-being
This day celebrates mother's unconditional love and sacrifices made by her for the children.

➤ **World Red Cross Day: May 8**

- ✓ World Red Cross Day, also known as Red Crescent Day, is celebrated on May 8 every year.
- ✓ This date marks the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, who is the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- ✓ The theme of World Red Cross Day 2022 is 'BeHumanKind'.

➤ **World Thalassaemia Day: May 8**

- ✓ Every year on 8 May World Thalassaemia Day is celebrated to create awareness regarding this disease and to encourage those who struggle to live with this disease. People suffering from Thalassaemia have less haemoglobin than normal, which leads to anemia.
- ✓ Theme 2022: "Be Aware. Share, Care: Working with the global community as to improve thalassaemia knowledge".

➤ **World Lupus Day - May 10**

- ✓ The day is observed every year to raise awareness about Lupus, which is a serious life-threatening autoimmune disease.
- ✓ Lupus causes the immune system to become overactive, which creates antibodies and attacks the healthy tissue causing pain, inflammation and damage in a given part of the body like skin, brain or kidney.

➤ **National Technology Day 2022 - May 11**

- ✓ National Technology Day is observed every year on 11th May across the country. National Technology Day has significant historical importance in India. Every year on this day, officials pay honour to India's scientists for their achievements.

➤ **International Nurses Day - May 12**

- ✓ The Day is celebrated annually to honour and celebrate the invaluable and selfless contributions of nurses to sick patients all over the world
- ✓ The day is celebrated on Florence Nightingale's birth anniversary on May 12 every year.

➤ **International Day of Plant Health - May 12**

- ✓ The United Nations designated 12 May the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) to raise global awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect biodiversity and the environment, and boost economic development.
The United Nations declared 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH).

➤ **World Migratory Bird Day: May 14**

- ✓ World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is observed on the second Saturday in May and the second Saturday in October.
- ✓ The day raises awareness about the problems that migratory birds face. "Impact of Light Pollution on Migratory Birds" is the theme of the campaign for 2022.

➤ **International Families Day - May 15**

- ✓ This day helps in promoting the significance of families and their welfare, such as education, gender, equality, health, rights for children and social inclusion among others.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - Families and urbanization.