

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 7, 2023

### TAMIL NADU

- HCL Foundation - has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu government to implement one of its flagship programmes - HCL Samuday - in 95 village panchayats in the state.



- ✓ The MoU was signed by Alok Varma, project director – HCL Samuday, HCL Foundation and P Amudha, principal secretary, rural development and panchayat raj department, in the presence of minister for youth welfare and sports development Udhayanidhi Stalin.
- ✓ The programme is to be implemented in Pudur and Vilathikulam blocks of the Tuticorin district
- ✓ It will help 1,40,000 beneficiaries and focus on areas such as water resource management, agriculture, health, education, malnutrition management, leading to better income for underserved families.
- ✓ HCL Samuday has been launched in Tuticorin district with an extensive and comprehensive needs identification exercise in 95 village panchayats.

- ✓ A baseline survey of 42,000 households has been completed and projects have been identified for each village panchayat, which will be compiled into village development plans.
- ✓ Over the past eight years, HCL Samuday has created a sustainable, scalable, and replicable model of integrated and sustainable village development focused on six core areas - Agriculture, Education, Health, Environment, Livelihood, and WASH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene).
- **Health minister Ma Subramanian - recently launched a complaint redressal system mobile application and website of the Food Safety Department at the Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital at Omandurar Estate on May 3.**



- ✓ The minister launched the mobile app 'Tamil Nadu Food Safety Consumer' and website [www.foodsafety.tn.gov.in](http://www.foodsafety.tn.gov.in) where consumers can find information on safe food and other details.
- ✓ The website can be accessed in Tamil and English and also has a screen reader facility for ease of access for the differently-abled.

## STATES

- **In a remarkable feat, Wayanad district in Kerala has come first in the country in the ODF (open defecation-free) Plus rankings of the Swachh Bharat Mission in the three-star category.**
- ✓ Significantly, it is the first district in India to be declared ODF Plus.
- ✓ Wayanad scored a perfect 100 points in the ODF ranking, while Mancheriyal (Maharashtra) and Anupur (Madhya Pradesh) got 90.45 and 88.79 points, respectively to bag the next two spots.
- ✓ The ODF Plus scores of panchayats and districts were determined using the ODF Plus progress reports given by villages till October 1, 2022.
- ✓ Earlier, Wayanad had won two national awards in the sanitation and waste management sectors.

- ✓ The ODF programme was launched on October 2, 2014 by the union government to achieve cleanliness and sanitation across the country.
- ✓ Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) is a flagship scheme launched by the Government of India in 2014
- ✓ The program's main objectives are to end open defecation, enhance solid waste management, and encourage good hygiene and cleaning habits throughout the nation.
- **In Telangana, the Centre for Innovation Incubation Research and Entrepreneurship (C-i2 RE) - was inaugurated by IT Minister K Taraka Ramarao at the Kakatiya Institute of Technology & Science (KITS) Warangal campus on May 5**



- ✓ The Centre will promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the student community to inculcate research and innovative skills among the students, faculty, and young researchers.
- ✓ Over five crore rupees have been invested to provide the necessary infrastructural facilities in the Centre.
- **In Rajasthan, a 50-day countdown to the International Day of Yoga - began at Shri Bhawani Niketan College in Jaipur.**





- ✓ The program was organized by the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga and was supported by the National Institute of Ayurveda, the state government of Rajasthan, local authorities, and various institutions.
- ✓ Governor of Rajasthan Kalraj Mishra and Union AYUSH Minister Sarbananda Sonowal were present during the event
- ✓ During the event, the Minister said that the Ministry of Ayush will explore the possibility of organizing Common Yoga Protocol demonstrations at important ports across the globe under 'Ocean Ring for Yoga' program
- ✓ This will be assisted by the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, the Ministry of Defence, and the Indian Navy
- ✓ International Yoga Day is celebrated annually on June 21.

## NATIONAL

- **The University Grants Commission (UGC) – had recently launched a common portal for the recruitment of faculty members – the Unified Recruitment Portal for Central Universities or CU-Chayan on May 2**
- ✓ The CU-Chayan offers several features for applicants seeking faculty positions in 54 participating central universities of India.
- ✓ The main purpose of the unified portal is to provide a common platform for both central universities and applicants seeking faculty positions.
- ✓ CU-Chayan is designed to cater to the needs of all stakeholders in the recruitment process and allows central universities to independently drive all stages of recruitment
- ✓ The platform provides a consolidated listing of job openings across all participating universities, a single login for applying to any vacancy, and personalised dashboards to manage the application process.
- ✓ The University of Delhi (DU), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) - Kharagpur and the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) - Tiruchirappalli have the maximum number of teaching staff vacancies among central universities, the IITs and IIMs.
- ✓ According to statistics shared by the Ministry of Education in Parliament in March, over 11,000 teaching posts are vacant in central higher education institutes.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **Charles III - was crowned the King of United Kingdom at Westminster Abbey in London on May 6 following his anointment in a solemn religious ceremony that dates back almost a thousand years**
- ✓ The Archbishop of Canterbury crowned the King, placing the 360-year-old St Edward's Crown on the monarch's head as he sat upon a 14th century throne
  - ✓ St. Edward's Crown, made of solid gold weighing about 2.2kg in 1661, has been used in the Coronation of every British monarch since King Charles II.
- ✓ The King sat in St Edward's Chair, also known as the Coronation Chair, and was anointed with oil.

- ✓ The oil used in the anointing ceremony, known as the Act of Consecration, is known as the Chrism oil.

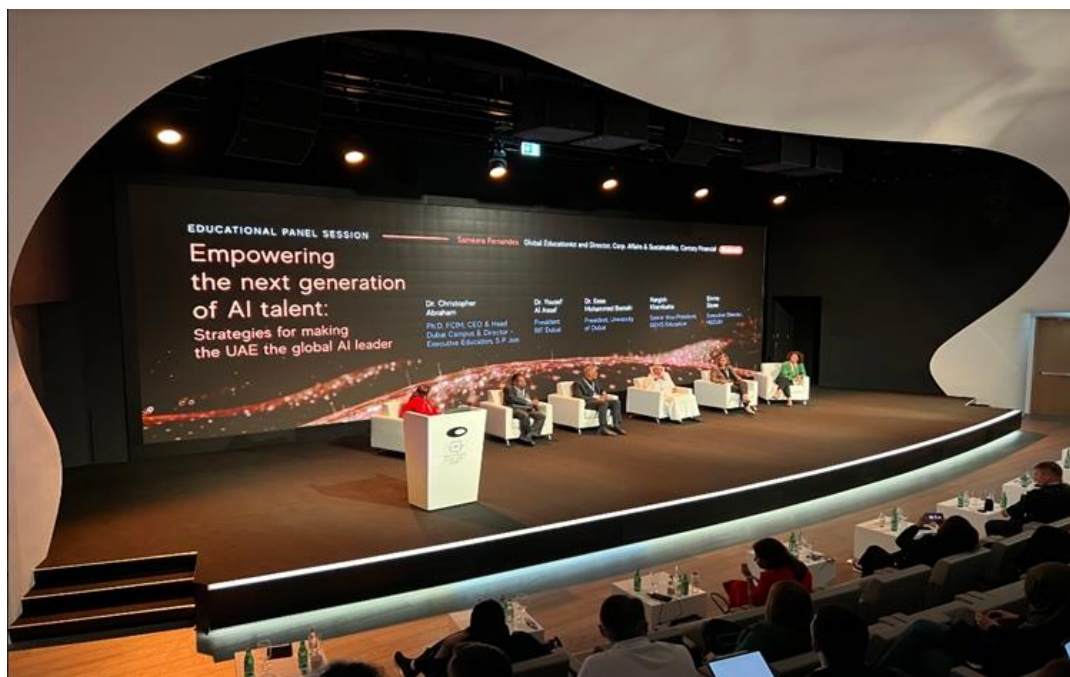


- ✓ The King had taken the solemn oath to govern the people of the United Kingdom with “justice and mercy” and to foster an environment where people of all faiths and beliefs can live freely
- ✓ Earlier, the King arrived at Westminster Abbey along with Camilla, the queen consort.
- ✓ Charles’ wife, 75-year-old Queen Consort Camilla, was also crowned as the Queen by wearing Queen Mary’s Crown during the two-hour event
  - ✓ This is the first time since the 18th century that a consort’s crown has been reused
- ✓ King Charles III will become the fortieth Sovereign to be crowned at Westminster Abbey, with Queen Consort Camilla being crowned beside him.
- ✓ The final part of the service saw King Charles and Queen Camilla taking Holy Communion which is the principal act of worship of the Christian church.
- ✓ Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar and his wife Dr Sudeep Dhankhar arrived at Westminster Abbey to represent India at the historic crowning ceremony of King Charles
  - ✓ They were seated alongside other Commonwealth Heads of State at the ceremony.
- ✓ The ceremony was attended by 2,000 guests, including world leaders, members of the royal family and celebrities.
- ✓ Apple’s former Chief Design Officer, Sir Jony Ive, designed the Coronation Emblem for King Charles III’s Coronation.
- ✓ In addition to being the head of state of Britain, King Charles III also assumed the role of monarch for 14 other countries, including Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, among others.
- ✓ The coronation event is a first since Queen Elizabeth II ascended to the throne in 1953 following the death of her father, King George VI

- ✓ Almost 70 years ago — on June 2, 1953 — it was former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru who represented India, when the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II took place.
- ✓ The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II was the first to be televised with around 27 million people in the UK tuned in to watch the ceremony.
- ✓ The coronation of every king and queen of England and Britain has been held at the Abbey since 1066, with William the Conqueror being the first monarch to be crowned there.
- ✓ King Charles III, formerly known as The Prince of Wales, became King on the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022.
- ✓ While King Charles III will be the oldest heir to the throne, it is the first time since 1937 that a queen consort will be crowned beside a king
  - ✓ Mary, Queen of Scots holds the distinction of being the youngest monarch in history after becoming the Queen in 1542 when she was just six days old.
  - ✓ King William III and Queen Mary II were crowned in 1689 as joint Sovereigns for the first and only time.

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The UAE government - launched the 'Machines Can See 2023' Summit at the Museum of the Future in Dubai**



- ✓ The Summit is one of the international conferences to be held in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Middle east region
- ✓ It is being held in partnership between Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy, and Remote Work Applications Office and 'Machines Can See' company.

- ✓ The conference aims to bring together experts from around the world to discuss the future of AI and its potential in contributing to the UAE's vision of creating the next Silicon Valley.
- ✓ The summit explored the current advancements of AI, its applications, and its future in the UAE and the rest of the world.
- ✓ The one-day event was hosted in collaboration with Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism and the Dubai Future Foundation.
- ✓ The summit featured presentations and panel discussions from various experts in the field of AI.
- ✓ The UAE is the only country with a state-level AI programme, which is a testament to its commitment in supporting the progress of AI technology.

## DEFENCE

- **INS Magar, the lead ship of Magar-class amphibious warfare vessels of the Indian Navy - was decommissioned after 36 years of service at a ceremony held at the south naval jetty in Kochi naval base on May 6**



- ✓ Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Southern Naval Command, Vice Admiral M A Hampiholi was the chief guest for the ceremony.
- ✓ INS Magar, an amphibious assault ship of the Indian Navy, was commissioned in Kochi on July 18, 1987
- ✓ It was the first domestically built vessel with a gross register tonnage of more than 5000 and the first of the Landing Ship Tank (Large) class.
- ✓ Constructed by GRSE Kolkata, the ship can carry 11 battle tanks, 13 BMP infantry fighting vehicles, 10 trucks, eight heavy motor vehicles, and more than 200 troops in various configurations
- ✓ INS Magar has been involved in several significant operations, including 'Operation Pawan' in 1987 and 'Operation Samudra Setu' during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ The vessel had also played a significant role during the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami by assisting in the relief efforts



- **The Armed Forces – recently conducted a "Buland Bharat" exercise in Tawang and West Kameng districts of Arunachal Pradesh**
- ✓ The high-voltage combat exercise was aimed at testing their integrated surveillance and firepower capabilities.
- ✓ The Artillery and Infantry collaborated with Special forces, Aviation, and CAPF to combine their surveillance and firepower.
- ✓ The exercise took place at the newly operationalised High Altitude Artillery Ranges of Eastern Theatre in West Kameng and Tawang districts



- ✓ Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and the Special Forces conducted day and night training for integrated surveillance and application of fire to maximize destruction at target.
- ✓ The high-altitude exercise witnessed the use of 155mm Bofors howitzers, 105mm field guns and 120mm mortars, among other heavy weapon systems by the Indian Army
- ✓ The month-long training, in which troops and equipment were tested in simulated war conditions in high-altitude area and extreme weather conditions, culminated in 'Buland Bharat' test exercise

## SPORTS

- **Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath - jointly launched the Logo, jersey, Jitu the Barasingha mascot, torch and anthem of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2022 in Lucknow on May 5.**
- ✓ The 3rd edition of the Khelo India University Games will take place from May 23 to June 3.
- ✓ The opening ceremony is scheduled for May 25 at the Babu Banarasi Das University in Lucknow.
- ✓ The number of sports disciplines to feature in this edition is 21, which is also the highest ever in the history of the University Games



- ✓ More than 4700 athletes from 200 universities across the country will participate in this event.





- ✓ The KIUG 2022 Games will be held in Varanasi, Noida and Gorakhpur, besides the state capital of Lucknow.
- ✓ The Shooting competition will be organized in New Delhi at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range.
- ✓ For the first time, water sports such as Rowing will be a part of the Khelo India University Games.
- ✓ Two indigenous Sports Disciplines namely Mallakhamb and Yogasana, which were part of the last edition of the Khelo India University Games held in Karnataka, will also be part of this edition

## RANKINGS

- **India - has slipped down to rank 161 out of 180 countries in the 2023 World Press Freedom Index with a score of 36.62 as per the latest report by French news watchdog, Reporters Without Borders.**
- ✓ Last year, India scored 41 and stood at rank 150, which has now been occupied by Pakistan
- ✓ According to the report, the situation has gone from 'problematic' to 'very bad' in three other countries - Tajikistan (down 1 at 153rd), India (down 11 at 161st) and Turkey (down 16 at 165th)
- ✓ The organisation asserts that many journalists in India are forced to censor themselves due to extreme pressure.
- ✓ Of the five indicators, India's ranking was lowest in the safety of journalists category (172) and best in the social indicator category (143).
- ✓ The organisation reports that one journalist has been killed in India since January 1, 2023, and a total of 10 have been detained as on date.

- ✓ The lone death refers to the murder of Mahanagri Times reporter Shashikant Warishe on February 28.

INDEX 2023		INDEX 2022	
 <b>161</b> / 180		 <b>150</b> / 180	
Score : 36.62		Score : 41	
POLITICAL INDICATOR	<b>169</b> 33.65	POLITICAL INDICATOR	<b>145</b> 40.76
ECONOMIC INDICATOR	<b>155</b> 34.15	ECONOMIC INDICATOR	<b>149</b> 30.36
LEGISLATIVE INDICATOR	<b>144</b> 42.92	LEGISLATIVE INDICATOR	<b>120</b> 57.02
SOCIAL INDICATOR	<b>143</b> 45.27	SOCIAL INDICATOR	<b>127</b> 56.25
SECURITY INDICATOR	<b>172</b> 27.12	SECURITY INDICATOR	<b>163</b> 20.61

- ✓ The Indian Women's Press Corps, Press Club of India, and the Press Association released a joint statement condemning the country's dip in the index.
- ✓ According to the report, of the 180 countries and territories analysed – the situation is “very serious” in 31 countries, “difficult” in 42, “problematic” in 55, and “good” or “satisfactory” in 52 countries.
- ✓ Norway, Ireland, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Netherlands, Lithuania, Estonia, Portugal and Timor-Leste occupy the top 10 ranks in the World Press Freedom Index 2023
- ✓ Countries ranked lower than India include Afghanistan (152), Bangladesh (163), Turkey (165), Saudi Arabia (170) and Iran (177).
- ✓ Vietnam, China and North Korea occupy the last three spots at 178, 179 and 180, respectively.
- ✓ The index was published on May 3, which is also World Press Freedom Day.
- ✓ The ranking is based on a country's performance in five broad categories: political context, legal framework, economic context, socio-cultural context and safety of journalists.

## USCIRF REPORT – AN OVERVIEW

- The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) - has advised that the US administration should designate India as

**a 'Country of Particular Concern' (CPC) for engaging in or tolerating systematic violations of religious freedom**

- ✓ According to the statement released by the Ministry of External Affairs, India has rejected the "biased and motivated" comments made by the USCIRF about the country in its annual report
- ✓ The USCIRF has been making similar recommendations to the State Department since 2020, which have not been accepted.
- ✓ The USCIRF recommended that India should be added to a religious freedom blacklist, saying that conditions in the country for religious minorities "continued to worsen" throughout 2022.
- ✓ The recommendations of USCIRF are not mandatory for the State Department.
- ✓ For the first time, USCIRF has proposed to include Sri Lanka in the "special watch list" or SWL due to its deteriorating religious freedom conditions in 2022.
- ✓ In its 2023 Annual Report released on May 1, USCIRF recommends 17 countries to the State Department for designation as Countries of Particular Concern (CPCs)
- ✓ These include 12 countries that the State Department designated as CPCs in November 2022 - Burma, China, Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, Nicaragua, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan - as well as 5 additional recommendations - Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, Syria, and Vietnam.
- ✓ For the first time ever, the State Department designated Cuba and Nicaragua as CPCs in 2022.

