

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 8, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- **The state government – has hit out at the Centre for replacing the national broadcaster’s name ‘All India Radio’ (AIR) with ‘Akashvani’ and demanded that the Union government restore the name ‘AIR’**
- ✓ This rule was announced in accordance with the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990.
- ✓ DMK MP T R Baalu has written to Union minister for information Anurag Singh Thakur following a request from chief minister M K Stalin on the move by national broadcaster Prasar Bharati, alleging it was “a move to impose Hindi in the region”.
- ✓ For decades, all English broadcasts and regional broadcasts have been using All India Radio.
- ✓ The stations in Tamil Nadu have been using ‘vaanoli’, the equivalent to Akashvani.
- ✓ Though AIR has been officially known as Akashvani since 1956, both names were used in radio shows and broadcasts.
- ✓ The term 'Akashvani' (meaning ‘voice from the sky’) was coined by the legendary poet Rabindranath Tagore in 1939.
- ✓ As on date, with a network of over 262 radio stations, AIR is available to 92% of India’s area and nearly all of its population.
- ✓ It broadcasts in 23 languages and 146 dialects, catering to India’s diverse demographics and tastes.
- ✓ It also has an External Services Division which broadcasts in 11 Indian and 16 foreign languages, reaching out to more than 100 countries.

NATIONAL

- **The government - has decided to release over Rs 500 crore of subsidy under FAME II scheme to four electric two-wheeler manufacturers — Ola Electric, Ather, TVS and Hero MotoCorp**

- ✓ Under the scheme, Ola will get the highest payout from the ministry of heavy industries, which will be to the tune of Rs 370 crore, followed by around Rs 275 crore for Ather.
- ✓ TVS is likely to get around Rs 150 crore, while Hero MotoCorp will receive Rs 28-30 crore
- ✓ The remaining amount, which adds up to Rs 288 crore, will be released once the companies submit details of the reimbursements for chargers made by them
- ✓ Till now, the companies have been charging the cost of the EV charger separately from the cost of the scooters.
- ✓ This was done in order to bring down the cost of the vehicle and make it eligible for the subsidy
- ✓ Now, the companies are planning to issue refunds to customers who were separately billed for chargers that were given with the scooters.
- ✓ The government had previously halted the release of subsidies worth nearly Rs 800 crore due to concerns that manufacturers were billing customers separately for the vehicle and the chargers to keep the prices below the eligibility threshold.
- ✓ The move by the four manufacturers is expected to enable them to qualify for the subsidy, which will ultimately help in boosting the adoption of electric two-wheelers in India.
- ✓ The FAME incentives are offered on electric vehicles with a price tag of upto Rs. 1.5 lakh
- ✓ The government had announced the Rs 10,000-crore FAME II scheme a few years ago to promote electric vehicles, especially those used for public transport.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The Arab League - readmitted Syria after more than a decade of suspension on May 7**
- ✓ The decision was taken at a closed-door meeting, attended by foreign ministers from 13 out of 22 member states of the organisation, held in Cairo, Egypt.
- ✓ Syria was ousted from the Arab League in 2011 following President Bashar al-Assad's brutal crackdown on pro-democracy protests, which led to the ongoing civil war in the country.
- ✓ The conflict has since killed around half of a million people and displaced about 23 million.
- ✓ The ruling has also called for a resolution of the civil war and the resulting refugee and drug smuggling crises.
- ✓ A committee involving Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq will soon be created to ensure Syria achieves these goals.
- ✓ The Arab League, formally known as the League of Arab States, was established in 1945 with initially just six nations - Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria.

- ✓ Currently, it has 22 member states, who have pledged to cooperate on economic and military affairs, among other issues.

SPORTS

- **Triple Jumper Praveen Chithravel - clinched the men's triple jump event at an athletics meet in Havana, Cuba on May 6.**



- ✓ He accomplished this with a national record-breaking mark of 17.37m at the World Athletics category F event, Prueba de Confrontacion 2023.
- ✓ Praveen broke the men's triple jump national record of 17.30m recorded by Renjith Maheswary at the third Indian Grand Prix in Bangalore in 2016
- ✓ With this win, the 21-year-old athlete from Tamil Nadu, Praveen also qualifies for the World Athletics Championships 2023, to be held in Budapest from August 19 to 27.
- ✓ The qualifying standard for the event is set at 17.20 m.
- ✓ Praveen's personal best jump previously was 17.18m, which he achieved during the National Inter-State Athletics Championships in Chennai last year.
- ✓ Praveen won a silver medal by setting a new national indoor record at the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships 2023 in Astana in February
- ✓ He followed it by winning a gold medal at the second Indian Open Jumps Competition 2023 in March
- ✓ Chithravel is currently training in Cuba under coach Yoandri Betanzos, who is the native of that country.
- ✓ Meanwhile, India's Avinash Sable and Parul Chaudhary set men's and women's 5000m national marks in the another track event in USA



- ✓ Sable and Chaudhary, both 28, bettered the old men's and women's 5000m national records at the Sound Running Track Festival, a World Athletics Continental Tour silver level event, in Los Angeles in USA on May 6.
 - ✓ Sable also holds the national record in 3000m steeplechase
 - ✓ He had won a silver medal in 3000m steeplechase at the 2022 Commonwealth Games.
 - ✓ Sable has also already qualified for the 2023 World Athletics Championships men's 3000 steeplechase event.
- **Indian weight lifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga - won a silver in the Asian Weightlifting Championship at Jinju, Korea on May 7.**



- ✓ The 20-year-old won a silver medal in the snatch event with a personal best-equalling lift of 141kg in the non-Olympic 67 kg weight class.
- ✓ This is the first tournament participated by Lalrinnunga since the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

