

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 25, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- On May 24, Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin - signed six memoranda of understanding (MoU) in his maiden visit to Singapore



- ✓ The agreements were signed by the Tamil Nadu government with various institutions and companies at an investment conclave on the second day of his visit to Singapore.
- ✓ Singapore's Minister for Transport and Minister in-charge of Trade Relations, S Iswaran was present during the occasion
- ✓ Of the six MoUs, five are related to cooperation among organisations in various fields and one pertains to investment.
- ✓ The MoU on investment was signed between Guidance Tamil Nadu and Hi-P International Private Limited.
 - ✓ Hi-P International, a Singaporean firm involved in electronics component manufacturing, has proposed to invest Rs 312 crore to set up its facility and create employment for 700 people in Tamil Nadu in six years.

- ✓ Among other pacts, Guidance Tamil Nadu, the investment promotion agency of the State government, and Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries have signed an MoU for research and development (R&D) initiatives, collaboration between universities, government and private players, as well as assistance in exports from companies in Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ The State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) signed an MoU with Singapore-India Partnership Office (SIPO) for cooperation between the two.
 - ✓ Another tripartite MoU was signed between SIPO and FaMe TN (Facilitating MSMEs of Tamil Nadu) and Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (TANSIM) towards technical education and start-ups.
 - ✓ Further, the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation signed an MoU with ITE Education Services for technology transfer and skill development in the field of technical and vocational education and training.
 - ✓ Another MoU was signed with the Singapore University of Technology and Design for technology transfer.
 - ✓ Later, the CM participated in a cultural programme organised by Singapore Tamils and inaugurated a new cultural exchange programme 'In Search of Roots'
 - ✓ Under this programme, as many as 200 Tamil youths from Singapore will visit Tamil Nadu every year to learn about the architecture of ancient Tamils, their water management techniques, attire and ornaments, art and literature, archaeological excavations, etc.
 - ✓ During the event, CM Stalin announced that a monument will be established for the late Lee Kuan Yew (LKY), Singapore's first prime minister, considered the founding father of the country
 - ✓ According to the CM, a library in Lee Kuan Yew's name and a statue will be established in Mannargudi
- **Justice S Vaidyanathan, the senior-most judge of the Madras high court - has been named acting Chief Justice of the court by the President of India.**



- ✓ Justice Vaidyanathan's appointment came hours ahead of the scheduled retirement of the incumbent acting Chief Justice of the Madras high court, Justice T Raja, on May 24.

- ✓ The appointment that takes effect from May 25 was announced in exercise of the power conferred by Article 223 of the Constitution of India
- ✓ Justice Vaidyanathan was born in Coimbatore and did his schooling in Singaram Pillai High School Villivakkam, Chennai.
- ✓ After his graduation in B A (Economics) from D G Vaishnav College, Arumbakkam, during 1979-1982, he joined the Madras Law College (now known as Tamil Nadu Dr Ambedkar Government Law College) in 1982.
- ✓ After receiving his postgraduate diploma in personnel management, labour welfare and industrial relations in 1986, he enrolled as an advocate in August 1986.
- ✓ Justice S Vaidyanathan started his career in the high court, where his paternal grandfather L S Vaidyanathan served as superintendent in the copyist section and retired in 1952.
- ✓ His father V Subramanian was a shoe polish seller who later grew to be a trade unionist.
- ✓ His father's efforts led to the formation of Madras Commercial Employees Union in Chennai in 1946.
- ✓ Justice Vaidyanathan also served as an editor of Labour Law Books published by Madras Book Agency and was elevated as an additional judge of the high court on October 25, 2013 and became a permanent judge on April 14, 2015.
- **On May 24, Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) - launched 15 centres of excellence (CoE) as part of the 'Institute of Eminence' (IoE) scheme**
- ✓ These centres will undertake cutting edge research and develop next-generation technologies.
- ✓ The 15 CoEs include a quantum centre for diamond and emergent materials, centre of excellence in radio frequency, analog and mixed signal integrated circuits, technologies for low carbon and lean construction, healthcare and assistive technologies.
- ✓ Further, the COEs include maritime experiments to maritime experience, sports science and analytics, centre for soft matter, centre for cancer genomics and molecular therapeutics, energy consortium and centre for quantum information, communication and computing.
- ✓ The IoE scheme was launched by the government of India to enable higher educational institutions to become world-class teaching and research institutions.
- ✓ IIT-M has established several research initiatives in diverse fields with funds from IoE grants.

STATES

- **The National Campaign for Updation and Verification of People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) - was launched in Goa on May 23**



- ✓ The campaign aims the launch of documentation and preservation of India's rich biodiversity.
 - ✓ The launch was organised by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in association with the Goa State Biodiversity Board, National Biodiversity Authority and Goa government.
 - ✓ At least 2,67,608 people's biodiversity registers (PBR) have been prepared in the country so far by various by biodiversity management committees
 - ✓ The People's Biodiversity Register is a comprehensive record of various aspects of biodiversity
 - ✓ It includes details such as habitat conservation, preservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals, microorganisms, and knowledge accumulation related to the area's biological diversity.
- **Arunachal Pradesh government - will set up Institute for Transforming Arunachal (ITA) with the help of NITI Aayog to ensure the development of the state.**
- ✓ This was revealed by Chief Minister Pema Khandu in a social media post.
 - ✓ The proposed Institute for Transforming Arunachal would act as transformation leader for the state, provide assistance to various departments to advance their development strategies and unlock their potential.
 - ✓ The Institute will also help build an ecosystem for knowledge platform for further learnings

NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - virtually inaugurated the Delhi (Anand Vihar)-Dehradun Vande Bharat Express on May 25.**



- ✓ This is the first Vande Bharat to be introduced in Uttarakhand
 - ✓ Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw were present at Dehradun railway station.
 - ✓ The train will cover a distance of 302 km in 4 hours and 45 minutes.
 - ✓ It has been indigenously developed and is equipped with advanced safety features including the Kavach technology
 - ✓ This will be the sixth Vande Bharat connecting Delhi from different routes.
 - ✓ Till now, the national capital is connected with Ajmer, Varanasi, Katra, Bhopal, and Amb Andaura.
 - ✓ During the event, the PM also dedicated to the nation, newly electrified rail sections and declared Uttarakhand a 100% electric traction state.
- **The Indian Naval Sailing Vessel Tarini - created history as it entered Goa harbour after successfully completing a 17,000 nautical miles trans-ocean intercontinental voyage in 188 days.**



- ✓ The crew had two women officers - Lt Cdr Dilna K and Lt Cdr Roopa A - who undertook the entire expedition from Goa to Rio de Janeiro via Cape Town and back.

- ✓ Other members of the crew included Capt Atool Sinha, Lt Cdr Ashutosh Sharma, Lt Aviral Keshav, Cdr Nikhil Hegde, Cdr MA Zulfikar, Cdr Divya Purohit, and Cdr AC Doke.
- ✓ The six-member crew were received at the INS Mandovi jetty by Pramod Sawant, Goa Chief Minister; Smriti Irani, Union Minister of Women and Child Development; and R. Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff.

AWARDS

- **The 2023 International Booker Prize - has been awarded to Georgi Gospodinov's 'Time Shelter', translated by Angela Rodel.**



- ✓ This is the first Bulgarian novel to win the coveted prize meant specifically for books written in other languages and translated into English.
- ✓ 'Time Shelter' is about "a 'clinic for the past' that offers a promising experimental treatment for Alzheimer disease sufferers
- ✓ Gospodinov is a Bulgarian poet, writer and playwright, whose works are translated into 25 languages.
- ✓ Time Shelter, after published in Bulgaria, topped the book charts and won the Strega European prize.
- ✓ Rodel, originally from the US state of Minnesota, is a musician and literary translator who lives and works in Bulgaria
- ✓ In 2014, she was granted Bulgarian citizenship for her work and contribution to Bulgarian culture.
- ✓ Last year, Geetanjali Shree's Tomb of Sand, translated by Daisy Rockwell, had become the first Hindi novel to win the International Booker.
- ✓ The prestigious award recognises works of fiction from around the world that have been translated into English and the £50,000 (\$62,000) prize is split equally between the author and the translator.
- ✓ The winners were awarded the newly-renamed Booker trophy, the "Iris", and a cash prize of £25,000 each.

SPORTS

- **Indian Long jumper Murali Sreeshankar - won gold while compatriot Jeswin Aldrin finished bagged silver at the International Jumping Meeting at Kallithea in Greece on May 24.**



- ✓ Commonwealth Games silver medallist Sreeshankar registered his season-best jump of 8.18 m and successfully defended his title in the Men's long jump event
- ✓ He beat his compatriot and national record holder Jeswin Aldrin, who claimed silver with an effort of 7.85 meter at the World Athletics Continental Tour bronze level event.
- ✓ This was Sreeshankar's second international gold of the season.
- ✓ He had earlier won the gold at the MVA High Performance Meet in Chula Vista, USA with a wind-assisted jump of 8.29m on April 30