

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2, 2022

### TAMIL NADU

- On June 1, School education minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi - launched a 'reading marathon' programme in Corporation Middle School at Bhagavathipuram in Tiruverumbur



- ✓ The programme is aimed at improving the skill set of school children to read, speak and write languages at ease.
- ✓ Around 1.20 lakh students across 6,110 Illam Thedi Kalvi centres will be trained to improve communication and comprehension ability in both Tamil and English.
- ✓ In this regard, the school education department has already signed an MoU with Google
- ✓ As per the terms of agreement, volunteers will download the Google readalong mobile application to engage children in regular reading habits
- ✓ Training will be offered in four stages till June 12
- ✓ Under the programme, Google readalong applications available in the play store will be installed either on the volunteer's mobile or on the parent's mobile to train the children

- **Tamil Nadu - boycotted the two-day National Education Ministers' conference in Gujarat beginning June 1**
  - ✓ Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan along with MoS for skill development and entrepreneurship and electronics and information technology Rajeesh Chandrasekhar took part in the conference
  - ✓ Education Ministers of states and union territories (UTs) will be participating in the conference
  - ✓ This conference has been organised by the Human Resource Development department in collaboration with the Ministry of Gujarat in Gandhinagar
  - ✓ The main agenda of the conference is on the implementation of National Education policy (NEP) and strengthening the education ecosystem in the country
  - ✓ The conference also focuses on implementing various digital initiatives such as the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR), etc.
  - ✓ Since Tamil Nadu is opposed to NEP, it boycotted the event
  - ✓ The state claims NEP is against social justice and focussed on hereditary education.
- **The Central Haj Committee - has reduced the embarking points for Haj pilgrims from 21 to 10 across India and scrapped several centres including Chennai.**
  - ✓ Now, the Haj pilgrims from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mahe, and Lakshadweep Islands will have to reach Kochi to leave for Mecca.
  - ✓ Haj pilgrims from Tamil Nadu must travel at least five days ahead of their departure
  - ✓ At least 1,498 have been selected for the pilgrimage this year.
  - ✓ Despite the Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin writing to the Prime Minister and the Central Haj Committee to include Chennai as one of the embarking centres, it has been scrapped.
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu minister for minorities welfare and non-resident Tamils welfare Gingee KS Masthan would be in Kochi to oversee the arrangements for pilgrims from Tamil Nadu.
  - ✓ Haj pilgrims are permitted to visit Saudi Arabia after a gap of two years due to pandemic.
  - ✓ The pilgrims volunteering to travel to Mecca this year filed their application three months ago.

## STATES

- **Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar - announced the conduct of the long-demanded caste-based count in the state instead of a "census" to avoid legal complications.**

- ✓ The unanimous decision was taken after an all-party meeting in the Secretariat at Patna on June 1



### FIRST SINCE 1931

- Exercise will be called 'caste-based enumeration of population', not 'census'
- Info about every citizen will be collected & compiled within a timeframe to be fixed by the cabinet
- Bihar's last such caste-based exercise conducted in 1931 by the British

- ✓ Leaders of nine political parties being represented in the Assembly were present in the meeting
- ✓ The leaders of every party, including the BJP, agreed on a caste-based census, which would be called 'Jaati Aadharit Ganana' (caste-based count)
- ✓ According to the CM, the caste-based census will be conducted at the expense of the state government and after the approval of the cabinet of the Bihar government.
- ✓ Bihar CM also stated that the state government will publish the data related to the census through advertisements in newspapers, ensure that all details are shared with all the stakeholders including the political parties
- ✓ To impress upon the Centre to conduct a nation-wide caste based census, CM Nitish led an all-party delegation to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in August 2021
- ✓ However, the BJP government refused to carry out a caste-based census but left it to states to go for a caste count.
- ✓ States like Karnataka, Odisha and Telangana have already carried out similar counts in the name of a "socio-economic survey" in the past
- ✓ A national caste census took place when the Congress-led UPA was in power in 2011
- ✓ The 2011 socio-economic data from the census was made public only in 2015, but the caste data was withheld due to "discrepancies" and "flaws"
- ✓ The last caste census in India was conducted by the British in 1931 and all government policies are framed according to this data, in which the count of Other Backward Classes was shown to be 52%.

## NATIONAL

- On June 1, the Union cabinet - decided to allow cooperatives to procure goods and services through the government e-marketplace (GeM) platform

- ✓ The move is aimed at helping over 8.5 lakh cooperatives and their 27 crore members take advantage of open and transparent prices to purchase products and services at more competitive rates
  - ✓ At present, the platform is open for procurement by all government buyers -- central and state ministries, departments, public sector enterprises, autonomous institutions and local bodies.
  - ✓ As per the existing mandate, GeM is not available for use by private sector buyers.
  - ✓ The GeM was launched on August 9, 2016, by the commerce ministry to create an open and transparent procurement platform for government buyers.
  - ✓ A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) by the name of GeM SPV was set up as the National Public Procurement Portal in May 2017.
- **The Tata Group – have decided to ground Air India's iconic Boeing 747 after flying for over half a century**



- ✓ The group's recently revamped fleet list does not feature the jumbo jets
- ✓ The Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has deregistered Air India's last four Boeing 747s in April
- ✓ Stationed in Mumbai, the airline had got its first jumbo jet, named Emperor Ashoka, in 1971
- ✓ At present, Lufthansa and Korean Air operate Boeing 747s, while India has none now

## **PERSONALITIES**

- **A woman from Gujarat, 24-year-old Kshama Bindu from Vadodara – is all set to marry herself on June 11 in an act of 'self-love' and 'self-acceptance'.**
- ✓ Bindu's 'self-marriage' is possibly the first of its kind in Gujarat, and probably even India
  - ✓ This type of rare relationship has been called 'sologamy', or 'autogamy' indicating 'marriage by a person to themselves'



- ✓ According to Bindu, 'self-marriage' is a "commitment to be there for yourself and unconditional love for oneself"

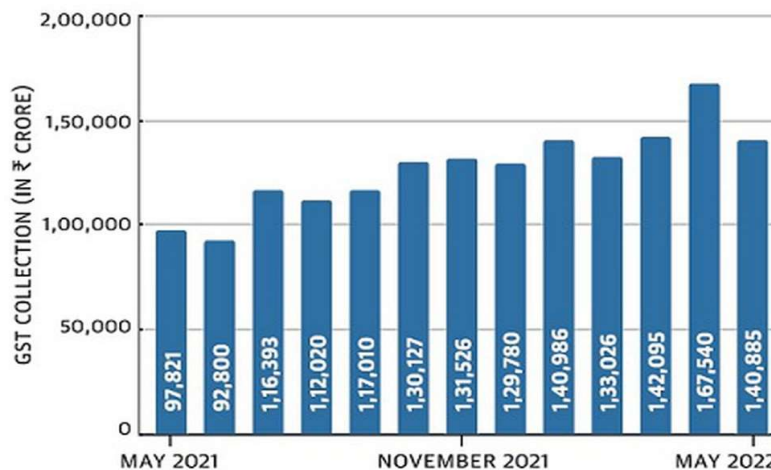


- ✓ The act of Sologamy has been on the rise globally, especially among rich women.
- ✓ However, it is neither recognised by law of any country nor as a social norm so far.

## ECONOMY

- The gross revenue collections from Goods and Service Tax (GST) in the month of May - came in at Rs 1,40,885 crore, which is 16% less than the all time high collection in April 2022

**Revenue check** | India's goods and services tax collections crossed the **₹1.4 lakh crore** mark for the third consecutive month in May 2022. The revenues were 44% higher than a year earlier



- ✓ This is the fourth time the monthly GST collection crossed Rs 1.40 lakh crore mark since inception of GST in 2017 and the third straight month since March 2022.
- ✓ Of the total collection in May, CGST amounted to Rs 25,036 crore, SGST was Rs 32,001 crore, IGST was Rs 73,345 crore, and cess Rs 10,502 crore.
- ✓ The GST revenues for May 2022 were 44% higher than collected in the same month last year, at Rs 97,821 crore.

- ✓ Earlier, the monthly collection had touched a record high of Rs 1.68 lakh crore in April 2022.
- ✓ In the preceding March month, the gross GST collection was Rs 1.42 lakh crore.
- ✓ The collection in the month of May, which pertains to the returns for April, the first month of the financial year, has always been lesser than that in April, which pertains to the returns for March, the closing of the financial year
- ✓ The Centre has released GST compensation of Rs 86,912 crore to the states and UTs on May 31, 2022.

## OBITUARY

- **Chennai's sailor-historian Hemachandra Rao (83 years) – passed away on June 1 after suffering an heart attack last week**



- ✓ He had a special love for lighthouses across the country and hence he was fondly known by the title 'Lighthouse Man'
- ✓ A civil engineer and historian, Rao gave Chennai its first heritage maritime museum after turning his house into a museum
- ✓ An avid philatelist, Rao developed an interest and passion of collecting stamps during his young age and carried it till the end.
- ✓ Rao's collection extended beyond stamps and coins – to old bank notes, lottery tickets, match box labels, bottles, key chains, ceramic vases, porcelain, medals and pocket watches
- ✓ Rao moved to Madras from Kochi in 1943 at the age of four along with his father who was a medical practitioner at King Institute.
- ✓ In 1971, while visiting a stamp exhibition at the US Consulate, Rao met members of the South India Philatelists' Association and enrolled as a life member.
- ✓ Joining hands with a Rotarian, he began a philatelic survey of India's maritime heritage.
- ✓ Later, he embarked on his journey to visit and capture the more than 200 lighthouses in the country

## SPORTS

- The Indian men's hockey team - defeated Japan 1-0 and clinched the bronze medal in the Asia Cup in Jakarta on June 1.



- ✓ Defending champions India lost the chance to play the final on goal difference following the last match draw with South Korea
- ✓ South Korea clinched a record fifth Asia Cup title by beating Malaysia 2-1 in the summit clash.
- ✓ This is the fifth time the Korean side have lifted the prestigious trophy.
- ✓ They have won the title in 1994, 1999, 2009 and 2013.
- ✓ India and Pakistan have won the trophy thrice

