

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 16, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- **Automobile major Hyundai Motor India Limited – has won the top exporter award for being the highest foreign exchange earner at the southern region export Excellence awards programme held in Chennai**
- ✓ The company has also won the 'Top 5 star export house' award in the southern region
- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin handed over the awards to Hyundai Motor India Limited

NATIONAL

- **The National Highways Logistics Management Ltd (NHLML), a subsidiary of NHAI - has invited bids for the first ever ropeway project for city commuters in India.**
- ✓ The 3.8km ropeway link will connect Varanasi's Cantonment railway station and Godowlia Chowk in Varanasi
- ✓ The project will be developed with an investment of Rs. 461 crore.
- ✓ The ropeway will enable the passengers to travel the total 3.8km in just 17 minutes.
- ✓ A total of 218 cable cars will be deployed to ensure the frequency of this service is in less than a minute.
- ✓ Each car will have 10 seats and at full capacity, around 4,500 people will be able to travel in one hour in one direction.
- ✓ The successful bidder will be responsible for completion of the project in three years and maintain and operate the project for 15 years, according to the bid document.
- **The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare – signed an agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for strategic partnership on agriculture, crop insurance and credit**

- ✓ Under the MoU, the UNDP will provide technical support towards Centre's Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana scheme (PMFBY) and Kisan Credit Card - Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (KCC-MISS)



- ✓ The MoU was signed in the presence of Union Minister of Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar and Union Minister of Agriculture for State Kailash Chaudhary on May 12
 - ✓ KCC-MISS and PMFBY were launched to tackle the problematic areas of previous schemes and also to apply uniformly across the entire country with a provision to cover all crops.
 - ✓ The crop insurance scheme, PMFBY was launched in 2016 and is being administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
 - ✓ Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme, launched in 1998, provides short-term credit to farmers for their agricultural needs.
- **The Union Ministry of Tourism - has launched an innovative idea of establishing 'YUVA Tourism Clubs' as part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations**
- ✓ Supporting the initiative, the Central Board of Secondary Education has given instructions to all CBSE affiliated schools regarding formation of Yuva Tourism Clubs
 - ✓ According to 'Yuva Tourism Clubs– handbook for schools-2022', the clubs will nurture and develop young ambassadors of the Indian tourism.
 - ✓ The tourism clubs will facilitate development of soft skills mainly teamwork, management, leadership and also encourage the adoption of responsible tourism practices and concern for sustainable tourism.
 - ✓ The clubs will help children to be more aware about their States and neighborhood along with the cultural aspects.
 - ✓ The activities of the clubs will integrate with activities of other clubs as tourism, culture, and heritage are also part of subjects taught in school.

- ✓ The teachers and schools are encouraged to incorporate allied activities under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) programme like excursion, online or e-tourism, pen pals in the paired state/UT and learning the language of the paired state/UT
 - ✓ YUVA Tourism Clubs will also enable learners to appreciate the importance of travel and tourism, ignite a passion for tourism and its value in learners, encourage, teach and propagate responsible tourism practices
 - ✓ The Clubs will also improve physical and mental health through exploratory, adventure and sports tourism
 - ✓ They aim to spread awareness about tourism opportunities at an early stage and encourage learners to be skilled professionals and entrepreneurs in the hospitality and tourism sector.
- **On May 13, NITI Aayog - launched the National Data & Analytics Platform (NDAP) for open public use**
- ✓ The platform aims to provide free access to public government data by making them accessible, interoperable, interactive, and available on a user-friendly platform
 - ✓ This public launch follows a beta release of the platform in August 2021 that had provided access to a limited number of users for testing and feedback
 - ✓ NDAP hosts foundational datasets from various government agencies, presents them coherently, and provides tools for analytics and visualisation.
 - ✓ Currently, NDAP hosts 203 datasets and these datasets are chosen based on use-cases and expert advice, interoperable with each other, and easy to download and use.
 - ✓ NDAP also has in-built tools to search, merge, and visualise datasets.

PERSONALITIES

- **Devasahayam Pillai - became the first Indian layman to be declared a saint by the Vatican on May 15**



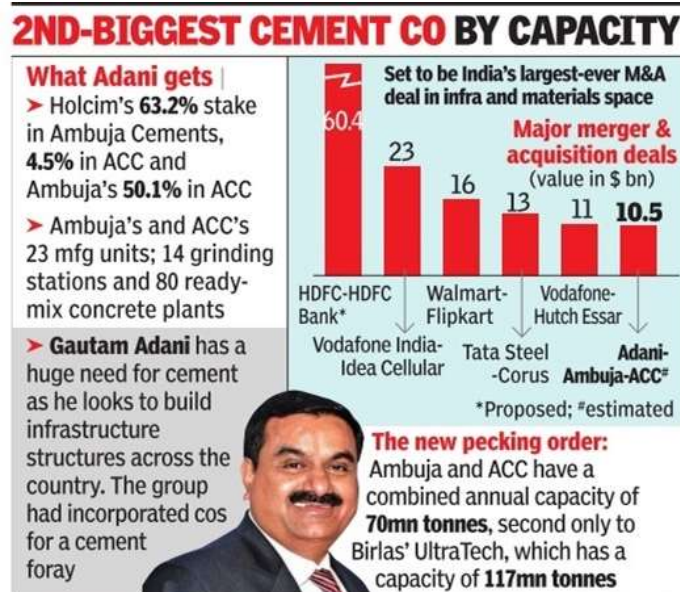
- ✓ The previous saints from the country were religious people, nuns and priests from the church.
- ✓ Devasahayam Pillai was born a Hindu in Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu and converted to Christianity in the 18th century

- ✓ Pope Francis canonised Blessed Devasahayam during the Canonisation Mass in St Peter's Basilica honouring him and nine other new saints
- ✓ The event was attended by over 50,000 faithful from all over the world as well as government delegations
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Ministers T Mano Thangaraj and Gingee KS Masthan and State Minorities Commission chief Peter Alphonse have reached Rome to take part in the canonisation of the Tamil Nadu's first Catholic Saint.
- ✓ Devasahayam was born on April 23, 1712 as Neelakanta Pillai into a Hindu Nair family in Nattalam village in Kanyakumari district, and went on to serve in the court of Marthanda Varma of Travancore.
- ✓ After meeting a Dutch naval commander Eustachius Benedictus De Lannoy at the court, Devasahayam was baptised in 1745, and assumed the name 'Lazarus', meaning 'God is my help'.
- ✓ The Travancore Maharaja was, however, furious about his conversion and shot him dead at Kattadimalai in Aralvaimozhy forest on January 14, 1752
- ✓ He is widely considered a martyr, and his mortal remains were interred inside what is now Saint Francis Xavier's Cathedral in Kottar, Nagercoil.
- ✓ In 2004, the diocese of Kottar along with Tamil Nadu Bishops' Council and Conference of Catholic Bishops of India recommended Devasahayam for beatification.
- ✓ He was declared blessed by the Kottar diocese in 2012, 300 years after his birth.
- ✓ In 2014, Pope Francis recognised a miracle attributed to Devasahayam, clearing the path to his canonization
- ✓ He was approved for sainthood in February 2020 for "enduring increasing hardships" after he decided to embrace Christianity
- ✓ While clearing Devasahayam for sainthood, the Vatican dropped 'Pillai' from his name, and referred to him as "Blessed Devasahayam".

ECONOMY

- **Asia's richest man, Gautam Adani-led Adani group - has acquired a controlling stake in Switzerland-based Holcim AG's cement businesses in India in a deal worth \$10.5 billion.**
- ✓ With this, the Adani group became the second biggest cement producer in the country.
- ✓ This is also the largest-ever acquisition by Adani, and India's largest-ever M&A transaction in the infrastructure and materials space.
- ✓ Holcim owns 63.11% in Ambuja Cements and 54.53% in ACC—the twin assets through which it entered India in 2005
- ✓ Gautam Adani's conglomerate acquired 63.19% of Ambuja Cements Ltd and its subsidiary ACC along with related assets
- ✓ Adani group, the buyer of the two companies, has become the second-biggest player in the country after K M Birla's UltraTech Cement

- ✓ Of the total 540 million tonnes annual capacity in India, UltraTech accounts for 117 million tonnes, while Ambuja Cements-ACC is at 70 million tonnes



- ✓ The two companies, Ambuja Cements-ACC, together have 23 cement plants, 14 grinding stations, 80 ready-mix concrete plants and over 50,000 channel partners across India.
- ✓ Adani group had last year set up two cement subsidiaries -- Adani Cementation Ltd and Adani Cement Ltd -- under Adani Enterprises Ltd.
- ✓ The world's largest cement maker Holcim last month announced its exit from the Indian market after struggling over a long period
- ✓ India is the second largest cement producer in the world after China and accounts for more than 7% of the global installed capacity

AWARDS

- **Anna Qabale Duba, a Kenyan nurse stationed at the Marsabit County Referral Hospital - won the inaugural Aster Guardian Global Nursing Award on May 12**



- ✓ She received the award as the world's best nurse for endorsing education, campaigning against early marriage and outdated cultural practices like Female Genital Mutilation in her community.


- ✓ Duba was the only university-educated girl from Torbi village, and the only girl educated past primary school level in her family of 19 children.
- ✓ Duba was feted by Emirates CEO Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum at an award ceremony held in Dubai, which commemorated the International Nurses Day.
- ✓ This is second high-profile award for Duba, having won the Global Citizens' People's Choice Award in New York in 2019.
- ✓ The award was launched in 2021 and received 24,000 nominations from nurses all over the globe
- ✓ Duba was among nine other finalists who were selected by a grand jury for their works in extending humanitarian care in their respective communities.
- ✓ She won \$ 250,000 (approx. Ksh.29 million) in prize money, while the other finalists each took home \$ 5,000 (approx. Ksh.580,000) in prize money
- ✓ Lincy Joseph and Manju Dhandapani were two of the finalists shortlisted from India

SPORTS

- **India - have defeated the 14-time champions Indonesia 3-0 to win the Thomas Cup for the first time on May 15 in Bangkok, Thailand**
- ✓ India had never reached the final of the Thomas and Uber Cup in the tournament's 73-year-long history
- ✓ With this win, India became only the sixth nation after China, Indonesia, Japan, Denmark, and Malaysia to win the Thomas Cup title

INDIA'S KINGS OF THE COURT

After upsetting Malaysia and Denmark en route to the summit clash, India shuttlers showed steel and spark to clinch the most prestigious team championship in men's badminton



The shuttlers celebrate in Bangkok Sunday | P 12

Kidambi Srikanth (age: 29; world ranking: 11) | The silver winner at 2021 World Championships is known for his mercurial stroke play

Lakshya Sen (20; 9) | The young gun has taken the world by storm, clinching the World Championships ('21) bronze and All England silver this year

HS Prannoy (29; 23) | His lion-hearted show in the quarters and semis that took India to the final. Won CWG gold and Asian Championships bronze in '18

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (21; 7) | The doubles specialist is a CWG '18 gold medallist and the winner of 2019 Thailand Open

Chirag Shetty (24; 7) | Satwik's partner also won CWG '18 gold and Thailand Open a year later

FINAL REPORT CARD

Lakshya Sen bt AS Ginting 8-21, 21-17, 21-16 |

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Md Ahsan and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo 18-21, 23-21, 21-19 | **Kidambi Srikanth** bt J Christie 21-15, 23-21

- ✓ In the first game, the 20-year-old World No. 9, Lakshya Sen powered India to a 1-0 lead with a come-from-behind win over world number five Anthony Sinisuka Ginting
- ✓ Then, India's doubles pair Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy defeated World No. 1 and World No. 2 doubles stars Kevin Sanjaya and Mohammad Ahsan in the most sensational victory of their career, to give India a 2-0 lead.

MAJOR MILESTONES IN INDIAN BADMINTON

1980: Prakash Padukone wins All England Championships

1983: Prakash Padukone wins bronze at the World Championships

2001: Pullela Gopichand wins All England Championships

2010: Saina Nehwal wins Commonwealth women's singles gold, Jwala Gutta-Ashwini Ponnappa win women's doubles gold and India win team gold

2011: Jwala-Ashwini bag women's doubles bronze at World Championships

2012: Saina Nehwal wins women's singles bronze at London Olympics

2013: Sindhu wins women's singles bronze at World Championships, she repeats the feat in 2014.

2014: Indian women win Uber Cup bronze

2015: Saina wins silver at World Championships. Become No.1

2016: Sindhu wins silver at Olympics. India win bronze in Uber Cup

2017: Sindhu wins Worlds silver, repeats the feat next year. Saina wins bronze at Worlds. Srikanth wins four Super Series titles.

2018: Srikanth becomes World No.1

2019: Sindhu becomes world champion

2020: Sindhu wins bronze in Olympics.

2022: India are Thomas Cup champions.

- ✓ In the third game, Kidambi Srikanth defeated Asian Games gold medallist Jonatan Christie to seal the historic triumph without losing a game in the finals
- ✓ The former World No. 1 has bagged his second medal for this year after having won the silver at the world championships earlier in 2022.
- ✓ India won the gold medal while Indonesia finished with the silver.
- ✓ This was Indonesia's 21st final at the mega event and it is the most successful team with 14 titles
- ✓ India had not even reached the last-four stage since 1979
- ✓ India has defeated five time champions Malaysia in the quarters and prevailed over 2016 winners Denmark in the semi finals
- ✓ India have lost just one match against Chinese Taipei in the group stage.
- ✓ Denmark and Japan finished with the bronze at the prestigious team championship.
- ✓ Japan had lost 3-2 to Indonesia, while Denmark had lost to eventual champion India 3-2 in the semi finals
- ✓ Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has announced Rs 1 crore for the entire team

- ✓ Among Indian players, Lakshya Sen won bronze at the World Championships in his very first attempt in 2021.
- ✓ He became the first Indian man after Pullela Gopichand to reach the final of the All England Championships in 2022.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Maharashtra's Chirag Shetty helped India to win the historic men's team gold in the 2018 Commonwealth Games
- ✓ In 2019, they became the first Indian doubles pair to win the BWF Super 500 event, the Thailand Open
- ✓ Srikanth is the only Indian to become the men's singles World No. 1, a feat he achieved in 2018.
- ✓ In 2017 he became the only Indian to win four Super Series titles
- ✓ He is also the first Indian to win a silver medal at the World Championships (2021).

STATEWISE MONTHLY GST COLLECTIONS – A REPORT

TN IN FOURTH SPOT AMONG STATES IN GST COLLECTIONS

TN continues to be among the top five states bringing in the most Goods and Service Tax (GST) collections on a monthly basis even as the rate at which the collections are growing on a YoY basis lags the gains made by other top states. In April, TN's GST collections stood at ₹9,724 crore, up 10% from the ₹8,849 crore it brought in last April. Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat – that occupied the top three spots – grew their monthly GST collections by 25%, 19%, and 17% respectively. The three states continue to be in the top three spots with TN at the fourth spot on a regular basis.

India's gross GST collection in April at ₹1,67,540 crore was at all-time high, ₹25,000 crore more than the next highest collection of ₹1,42,095 crore in March. Authorities and experts believe this shows a clear improvement in compliance behaviour, a factor that has also historically been the strength of the highly rule-based state of Tamil Nadu

