

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 18, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi – will hand over the keys to the first batch of beneficiaries of housing units constructed under the Global Housing Technology Challenge (GHTC) at Perumbakkam in Chennai next week.**
- ✓ The Light House Project, under GHTC, provides houses to the poor, which are built using technology suitable for the geo-climatic conditions of the region.
- ✓ The project is a joint initiative of the Union ministry of housing and urban affairs and the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB)
- ✓ Under the project, a total of 1,152 tenements were built over a period of 15 months at a cost of Rs.116.3 crore.
- ✓ Each unit costs Rs.10 lakh, of which Rs.1.5 lakh is borne by the beneficiary, Rs. 5.5 lakh contributed by the Centre and Rs. 3 lakh by the State government
- ✓ The Perumbakkam project includes 12 blocks, each with ground and five storeys comprising 96 tenements and an elevator.
- ✓ The plinth area of a unit is 406 sqft with each tenement consisting of a hall, a bedroom, a kitchen and a toilet.

STATES

- **Karnataka - becomes the ninth state in the country to enact a law against 'forced' religious conversions**
- ✓ On May 17, Karnataka governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot gave his assent to the ordinance to implement the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, better known as the anti-conversion bill.
- ✓ A similar law already exists in Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand.
- ✓ The bill was passed in the legislative assembly in December last year and was pending approval in the legislative council for short of majority.
- ✓ The government then promulgated an ordinance on May 12 to implement the law.

- ✓ Under the new law, people proven guilty of indulging in forceful conversions can be imprisoned for a term of 3-5 years and fined Rs. 25,000.
 - ✓ In case the convert is a minor, woman, or from the SC/ST community, the tenure of imprisonment will extend up to 10 years with Rs. 50,000 fine.
 - ✓ Mass conversions will also attract a jail term of 3-10 years and a fine of Rs. 1 lakh.
- **Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann - launched his government's flagship 'lok milni' (public interaction) program for on-the-spot redressal of the people's grievances in Chandigarh on May 16**



- ✓ Chief minister Mann and other top officials and administrative heads of the departments heard the complaints of the people
 - ✓ According to the CM, the program is aimed to ensure a single window platform for redressal of people's complaints.
 - ✓ The people who had submitted their complaints and grievances with the AAP-led government in the last two months were called at the programme.
 - ✓ As many as 61 complaints were listed before the CM during the 'lok milni' event
 - ✓ The CM directed the top officers of the various departments present on the occasion to ensure immediate resolution in a time bound and result oriented manner.
 - ✓ He also announced that he would personally monitor the status of these complaints every week.
 - ✓ Earlier, the program was named as 'janta darbar' but it was later renamed
- **The World Bank - has approved \$350 million aid for the 'Systems Reform Endeavors for Transformed Health Achievement' in Gujarat, also called as SRESTHA-G project.**



- ✓ The SRESTHA-G project will be a \$500 million project with \$350 million support coming from the World Bank, while the rest will be borne by the State government
- ✓ The project will include transforming key health delivery systems in the state.
- ✓ The programme will focus on four key result areas to improve quality, equity, and comprehensiveness of primary healthcare system, services for adolescent girls and the capacity of disease surveillance systems.
- ✓ This project will be implemented by the state government of Gujarat through the Health and Family Welfare Department of the state.
- ✓ The project seeks to improve the quality of the health system of the state by expanding the health services to the rural and urban people and strengthening the epidemic prevention system of the state
- ✓ The project also focuses on increasing the quality of non-communicable and psychiatric services in the state as well as the quality of mother and child nutrition services

NATIONAL

- **On May 17, the Supreme Court collegium - recommended appointment of new Chief Justices to six high courts**
- ✓ This includes the transfer of Telangana HC CJ Satish Chandra Sharma to Delhi HC which had been without a CJ since March 12.
- ✓ The collegium comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices U U Lalit and A M Khanwilkar also finalised names of five judges of various HCs for appointment as CJs.
- ✓ As per the recommendation, Delhi HC's acting CJ Vipin Sanghi would become CJ of Uttarakhand HC, while Bombay HC's Justice Amjad A Sayed would be the CJ of Himachal Pradesh HC;
- ✓ Bombay HC's Justice S S Shinde will be posted as CJ of Rajasthan HC; Gujarat HC's Justice Rashmin M Chhaya as CJ of Gauhati HC and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan (whose parent HC is Gauhati) as CJ of Telangana HC.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Chennai Port and Waterways Leisure Tourism Private Ltd - have signed an MoU for home porting their cruise ship in Chennai for the upcoming cruising season.**
- ✓ This was among the eight MoUs signed recently at the first Incredible India International Cruise Conference in Mumbai on May 14 and 15, 2022
- ✓ Out of the eight MoUs, Mumbai port signed four MoUs, IWAI signed 3 MoUs and Chennai Port signed one MoU with various cruise agencies.
- ✓ Union Tourism Minister, G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated the conference and invited domestic and international tourists to 'Come, Cruise in India.'

- ✓ According to the Union Tourism Minister, the Government is currently working towards a comprehensive Indian National Tourism Policy and cruise tourism will be a priority sector.
- ✓ With Government initiatives like the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, tourism-related infrastructure is also being developed by the government with a focus on shipping, river tourism, and forest and wildlife tourism.
- ✓ The Minister also said that under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned ten projects under coastal thematic circuits worth Rs. 648.80 crore across various states / union territories.
- ✓ Further, the government has also sanctioned Rs. 228.61 crore for various projects on developing cruise terminals and related infrastructure at major ports under the "Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development" scheme
- ✓ The two-day conference was jointly organised by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, the Government of India and FICCI

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The first total lunar eclipse of 2022 – occurred recently on May 15 and May 16 and it was a supermoon as well as a blood moon**



- ✓ A total lunar eclipse takes place when the Earth comes between the Sun and the moon blocking Sun's rays from lighting up the moon.
- ✓ A supermoon occurs when a full Moon coincides with the Moon's closest approach to Earth in its elliptical orbit, a point known as perigee, and can only happen three to four times a year.
- ✓ A supermoon appears as a larger-than-usual Moon in the night sky because it is closer to Earth.
- ✓ A blood moon occurs during a total lunar eclipse.
- ✓ The entire Moon falls within the darkest part of Earth's shadow, called the umbra, as a result of which the Moon will appear reddish due to the Rayleigh scattering effect.
- ✓ The eclipse was not seen in India since the moon was below the horizon during this eclipse

- ✓ According to NASA website, the eastern half of the United States and all of South America witnessed every stage of the lunar eclipse.
- ✓ It was also visible in much of Africa, western Europe, Central America, and most of North America
- ✓ The first eclipse of the year was on April 30, 2022, a partial solar eclipse.
- ✓ A solar eclipse always occurs about two weeks before or after a lunar eclipse.
- ✓ During the October-November 2022 eclipse season, a partial solar eclipse will occur on October 25, and a total lunar eclipse will occur on November 7 and 8.
- ✓ An eclipse season is an approximate 35-day period during which at least two eclipses take place.

DEFENCE

- **On May 17, Defence minister Rajnath Singh - launched two indigenously built warships 'Surat' and 'Udaygiri' at the Mazagon Docks in Mumbai.**
- ✓ This is the first time that the two indigenously built warships have been launched concurrently



- ✓ The Mazgaon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) is a premier ship and submarine building defence public sector undertaking.
- ✓ 'Surat' is the fourth ship of Project 15B Destroyers, which represents the makeover of the P15A (Kolkata Class) destroyers
- ✓ It is named after the commercial capital of Gujarat and also the second largest commercial hub of western India after Mumbai.
- ✓ The Project 15B class of ships are the Navy's next generation stealth guided missile destroyers being built at the MDL.

ECONOMY

- **Wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation - jumped to a new high of 15.1% in April, as per the data released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade on May 17**
- ✓ This is the 13th consecutive month of double-digit WPI inflation and the highest in over nine years in the current series, which began in April 2012.

FUEL, POWER UP 39%

- WPI inflation was above 10.7% in April last year
- Fuel and power inflation stood at 38.7% in April
- Wheat prices rose an annual 10.7%, vegetables by 23.2% and manufactured products by 10.9%
- The April number is the highest in over 9 years in the current series, which began in April 2012

- ✓ It is the highest in 31 years going by the 1981-82 series when it posted 16.3% in September 1991.
- ✓ This is the highest wholesale inflation reported in India since March 1995
- ✓ The WPI inflation stood at 14.6% in March and above 10.7% in April last year
- ✓ The WPI data showed fuel and power inflation at 38.7% in April 2022.
- ✓ As per the recent data, wheat prices rose an annual 10.7%, vegetables by 23.2% and manufactured products by 10.9%
- ✓ Earlier, on May 12, the National Statistical Office (NSO) released data which showed that retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), in April was 7.79%, the highest value since the 7.87% reading in April 2014
- On May 17, Life insurance behemoth LIC - listed at Rs 867, an 8.6% discount to its offer price of Rs 949 and closed the maiden trading day at Rs 875 — down nearly 8% from its IPO price.

MOST BIG LISTINGS IN RED ON DAY 1

How top IPOs performed on listing day

% change from IPO price	Listing price	Day 1 close
LIC (₹21k cr)	-8.6	-7.8
Paytm (₹18.3k cr)	-9.1	-27.2
Coal India (₹15.2k cr)	17.4	39.7
Reliance Power (₹11.6k cr)	21.7	-17.2
GIC Re (₹11.4k cr)	-6.8	-4.6

India's Biggest Cos By Market Cap (₹ lakh cr)

Reliance	17.1
TCS	12.6
HDFC Bank	7.3
Infosys	6.4
LIC	5.5
HUL	5.3

LIC IPO price ₹949 Listing price ₹867 Close ₹875

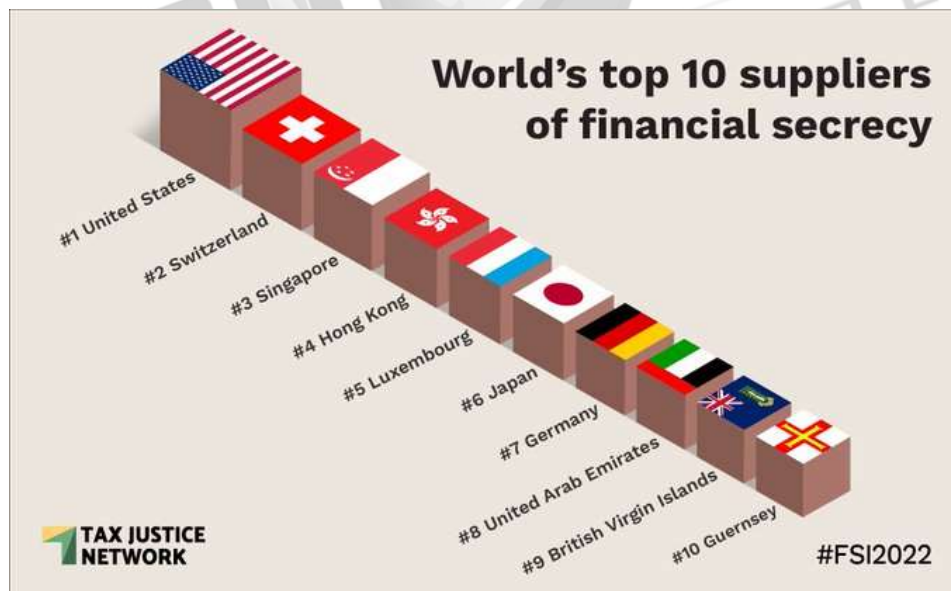
Source: BSE, NSE

- ✓ At the close of the session, shareholders in LIC lost about Rs 46,500 crore
- ✓ After the listing, the company's market capitalisation stands now at Rs 5.5 lakh crore, compared to about Rs 6 lakh crore going by its IPO price.

- ✓ The majority government-owned life insurer is now the fifth most valued company in India, behind RIL, TCS, HDFC Bank and Infosys, but ahead of giants like HUL, ICICI Bank and SBI.
- ✓ It's also the most valued PSU entity, ahead of SBI, ONGC and NTPC.
- ✓ Earlier, LIC's policyholders got the shares at Rs 889 and retail investors were allotted at Rs 904, while other shareholders were allotted the shares at Rs 949.
- ✓ According to Government, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has generated the biggest ever retail response to an initial public offering (IPO).
- ✓ The IPO was the third-largest globally, and in Europe the aggregate IPOs were less than \$3 billion.
- ✓ The issue saw 73 lakh investors applications with 53 lakh allottees.
- ✓ On May 9, LIC closed its Rs 21,000-crore IPO with a subscription figure of nearly three times.
- ✓ Through the offer, the government sold 3.5% of its stake, or about 22.1 crore shares of the life insurer.

RANKINGS

- **The US - topped the list of countries in the Financial Secrecy Index (FSI2022), which was released on May 17.**



- ✓ According to Tax Justice Network (TJN), which issues the biannual index, the US is way ahead than the rest of the world by enabling the biggest supply of financial secrecy ever recorded by the index
- ✓ It is nearly twice as much as Switzerland, which currently occupies second spot to be followed by Singapore.
- ✓ According to TJN, an estimated \$10 trillion is held offshore beyond the rule of law by wealthy individuals through secretive arrangements.

- ✓ TJN is calling on the G7 to commit to a global asset register to ensure accountability.
- ✓ Countries such as US, Singapore, Japan, Germany and UAE that figure among the top 10 (and are perceived as actively promoting secrecy in global finance) are also among the top 10 FDI source countries for India.
- ✓ India is ranked 36 among the 141 nations in this index and neighbouring China is at eleventh position.
- ✓ As per the previous index FSI-2020, the top three spots were held by Cayman Islands, US and Switzerland.
- ✓ Cayman Island, which had ranked first in the FSI-2020, is no longer in the list of the top ten countries and ranked currently at 14
- ✓ The reason is that the size of the financial services provided by a country to non-residents also impacts ranking and for the first time Cayman Island disclosed data that showed the true scale of these services.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ International Museum Day – May 18



- ✓ The Day is observed every year to highlight the value of museums as means of cultural exchange and enrichment among people
- ✓ The annual observance of International Museum Day is coordinated by the International Council of Museums (ICOM) since 1977
- ✓ Theme 2022 - "The Power of Museums"
- ✓ In 2021, as many as 37,000 museums from across the world participated in the event which was celebrated in 158 countries and territories.
- ✓ Founded in 1814, the Indian Museum in Kolkata, also known as the Imperial Museum, is the oldest museum in India
- ✓ The Ministry of Culture organized week-long celebration across its museums from May 16 to 20, 2022

➤ World Hypertension Day – May 17



- ✓ The Day is observed every year to raise awareness about the symptoms of hypertension, which is also commonly known as high blood pressure.
- ✓ Hypertension occurs when the blood pressure rises to an unhealthy level of 140/90 or dangerous level of 180/120
- ✓ This force can cause damage to blood vessels, and lead to heart attack, brain stroke, kidney damage, or nerve damage.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer'
- ✓ The first World Hypertension Day was observed on May 14, 2005, by the World Hypertension League, an umbrella organization of 85 national hypertension societies
- ✓ The following year the day was observed on May 17 and has been an annual practice since then
- ✓ Blood pressure is written as two numbers – systolic/diastolic
 - ✓ The first (systolic) number represents the pressure in blood vessels when the heart contracts or beats.
 - ✓ The second (diastolic) number represents the pressure in the vessels when the heart rests between beats.
- ✓ Around 1.13 billion people worldwide suffer from hypertension, which is more common among men than women
- ✓ The India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) is being implemented with its prime focus on controlling high blood pressure.
- ✓ The initiative aims to provide quality hypertension treatment in the country to prevent deaths from heart attacks, strokes, and kidney failure.
- ✓ According to the recent project findings of IHCI, nearly 23% out of 2.1 million Indians have uncontrolled blood pressure.
- ✓ The findings have mentioned that 47% of the known hypertension patients registered with the programme had their blood pressure under control, 23% had uncontrolled hypertension and 27% did not have a documented health facility visit
- ✓ Blood pressure control was lowest in West Bengal (34%) and highest in Telangana (60%).
- ✓ The proportion of patients with uncontrolled blood pressure during the most recent visit was highest in Kerala (40%) and lowest in Telangana (11%)

- ✓ As per the findings, over half the people – 55% – received treatment at primary health centre, 18% in community health centre, and 10% in district and sub-district hospitals.
- ✓ The analysis is based on data for 9.9 lakh registered patients with hypertension across five Phase I and three Phase II states where the programme had been active for at least six months by the end of 2020.
- ✓ The programme has since covered 20 lakh patients with hypertension across 13,821 healthcare facilities in 19 states.
- ✓ The IHCI was launched in 2017 to achieve the target of 25% relative reduction in prevalence of raised blood pressure.
- ✓ It is a five-year initiative by the Union Ministry of Health and Family welfare, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), State Governments, and the World Health Organization (WHO)
- ✓ As part of the National Action Plan and Monitoring Framework for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), there is a target to reduce the prevalence of high blood pressure by 10% by 2020.
- ✓ Under the “25 by 25” goal, India aims to reduce premature mortality due to non-communicable diseases by 25% by 2025

AIR POLLUTION – LANCET REPORT

- **Pollution - caused nearly nine million deaths in 2019, or 16% of all deaths globally, according to the Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health**
- ✓ This number had effectively unchanged since the last such analysis in 2015

HIGHEST TOLLS

ALL POLLUTION*



AIR POLLUTION*



* In 2019

TOXIC AIR

Lancet analysis shows

- One in 6 deaths worldwide due to pollution
- Deaths in India dropped from 2.5m in 2015 to 2.35m in 2019
- Deaths in China rose to 2.17m from 1.8m in 2015
- Air pollution accounts for 6.67m or 74% of all deaths



- ✓ Of the nine million deaths, air pollution (both household and ambient) remains responsible for the greatest number of deaths at 6.67 million worldwide
- ✓ Water pollution was responsible for 1.36 million premature deaths, Lead contributed 900,000 premature deaths, followed by toxic occupational hazards at 870,000 deaths

- ✓ The global cost of fossil fuel air pollution is estimated to be about US \$8 billion per day.
- ✓ The air pollution killed 1.67 million Indians in 2019, accounting for 18% of all fatalities, according to a report released by The Lancet in 2019
- ✓ Pollution remains the world's largest environmental risk factor for disease and premature death, especially affecting low and middle-income countries.
- ✓ Significantly, India remains one of the worst affected countries when it comes to air pollution.
- ✓ As per the report, in the year 2000, India lost output equivalent to 3.2% of its GDP as a result of pollution.
- ✓ About India, the Lancet report says that in 93% of India, the amount of pollution remains well above the WHO guidelines.
- ✓ It says that in 2019, India had the largest estimated number of pollution-related deaths
- ✓ The new report is an update of the last report The Lancet Commission on pollution and health published in 2017
- ✓ For the update, six economies were chosen – India and China (two most populous countries globally); Nigeria and Ethiopia (two most populous countries in Africa); the USA (world's largest economy); and European Union (large economic entity with common pollution standards across member states)
- ✓ A 2019 study published by the Collaborative Clean Air Policy Centre noted that the single greatest contributor to air pollution in India was the burning of solid fuels in households.
- ✓ To combat this menace, the government has launched the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana programme in 2016 and is aimed at making LPG connections available to rural households.

