

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 20, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- Chief Minister M K Stalin - will inaugurate the 124th edition of the annual flower show at the government botanical garden in Ooty on May 20.



- ✓ The popular annual show is being conducted after two years, when it was cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic situation.
- ✓ A floral model of the 20-ft tall and 80-ft long Tamil Nadu Agriculture University made using one lakh coronation flowers would be the main attraction this year.
- ✓ Life-size flower statues of six of the Nilgiris' indigenous tribes – the Todas, Kotas, Irulas, Kurumbas, Paniyas and Kattunayakans – were also exhibited in the flower show
- ✓ Also, 35,000 flower pots and more than 2 lakh plants in full bloom are on display at the botanical garden, which is spread across 55 acres.
- ✓ On May 21, the CM would inaugurate 'Ooty-200', the bicentenary celebrations, at the Ooty Government Arts College.
- ✓ In 1821, British administrator John Sullivan bought land from Todas and built the first modern house, stone house, in Ootacamund.
- ✓ The stone house, also called 'Kal bangala' by locals, was inaugurated on June 1, 1823, which is considered the foundation day of Ooty.

- **The Kodai Fest – 2022 and the 59th annual Flower Festival - will be conducted in Kodaikanal from May 24 to June 6.**



- ✓ The horticulture department would conduct the flower festival from May 24 to 29, while the tourism department will conduct the 10-day Kodai Fest.
- ✓ The two festivals will be held at Bryant Park, near Kodaikanal Lake
- ✓ Heritage and folk cultural events, decorated boat march, fishing festival and dog show are special attractions of the Kodai fest
- ✓ This is the first time the flower festival, consisting of around 6,000 potted plants, will be held for a period of six days.
- ✓ Liliun plants from the Netherlands have been imported for the show, which will be the second time after 2019.
- ✓ The famed Kodaikanal hill garlic that got the Geological Indication (GI) tag a few years ago will be one of the structures to be made of flowers at the festival this year.
- ✓ The replica of Thiruvalluvar statue in Kanyakumari, cartoon character Shinnchan and Spiderman are the other exclusive models to be featured in the festival.
- ✓ Kodai fest or the summer festival is held every year in Kodaikanal.
- ✓ A grand flower show, amusement games, fishing competition and entertainment events are conducted during the festival.
- ✓ As per the GI journal of the government of India, Kodaikanal hill garlic is medicinal and rich with antioxidant and antimicrobial properties.
- ✓ The GI tag obtained in 2019 makes this garlic a unique agricultural product for Kodaikanal hills.

NATIONAL

- **The court-appointed Commission that conducted the survey of the Kashi Vishwanath temple-Gyanvapi mosque complex - filed the report in the Varanasi court on May 19**
- ✓ The 15-page report on the survey conducted on May 14, 15 and 16 was filed along with 32GB of video footage and photographs

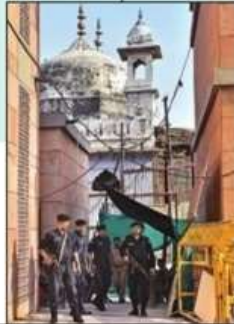
LOWER COURT TO WAIT FOR SC HEARING

➤ Supreme Court stalls mosque survey-related proceedings before a Varanasi court for a day after **mosque mgmt committee alleges concerted attempt to widen ambit of suit** seeking right to worship deities inside mosque

➤ Mosque mgmt committee says more and more applications being filed by plaintiffs, who now **want**

demolition of a mosque wall for worshipping purposes

➤ **Plaintiffs request a day's adjournment of SC hearing** on mosque mgmt's appeal challenging survey ordered by trial court



➤ Bench orders Varanasi court not to proceed with pending suit till Friday, when **SC will hear mosque mgmt appeal at 3pm**

- ✓ The survey team also recorded symbols resembling the swastika, a trishul, damru, betel leaves, bells, designated places to keep earthen lamps and idols of deities, and mandaps for rituals from the site
 - ✓ The Supreme Court, meanwhile, asked the Varanasi court to not proceed with hearing the Gyanvapi case till it takes up the matter
 - ✓ The Gyanvapi mosque is adjacent to the iconic Kashi Vishwanath temple
 - ✓ The Varanasi civil court is hearing a plea by a group of five Hindu women seeking the court's permission for daily prayers before the idols on its outer walls
 - ✓ Another petition contending that the entire premises belonged to the Kashi Vishwanath and that the Gyanvapi Mosque was only a part of the Temple, is also pending in the court since 1991
 - ✓ According to the petitioner, Kashi Vishwanath Temple had been built over two thousand years ago and the temple had been demolished by the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb
 - ✓ Earlier this week, lawyers of the Hindu side claimed that a 'shivling' had been found in a well in the mosque complex.
 - ✓ The Muslim side denied the claim, stating that the structure is a fountain
 - ✓ After the discovery of the shivling, the Supreme Court asked the Varanasi district magistrate to ensure the area in the complex is protected without restricting the Muslim community's right to worship.
- **Railways - will collaborate with IIT Madras to develop hyperloop whose first commercial run is expected around 2030**
- ✓ This was announced by Telecom and IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw after inspecting hyperloop research centre at New Academic Complex at IIT Madras on May 19
 - ✓ The Minister handed over Rs.8.3-crore grant extended by the railway ministry for hyperloop development to IIT Madras

- ✓ Railways has approved IIT-M's research proposal for collaborative working for indigenous development and validation of hyperloop technology-based transport system and its subsystems



- ✓ In this regard, IIT Madras has set up a Centre of Excellence for Hyperloop Technology at IIT-M.
 - ✓ Vaishnaw also visited the 5G testbed at IIT-Madras, which had been inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 17.
 - ✓ He also made a video call using 5G infrastructure developed at IIT-M as part of 5G testbed, one of five such facilities across the country.
 - ✓ The testbed is used by startups and other companies or research institutes to test and validate their products locally and reduce dependence on foreign facilities.
- **Union minister of state for information & broadcasting, fisheries, animal husbandry and dairy, L Murugan - will participate in the Cannes Film Festival in France from May 22 to May 24**



- ✓ He would be visiting Cannes to promote India as a destination for making movies.
- ✓ The Minister will participate in various events at the festival, including visiting the India pavilion inaugurated by Union I&B minister Anurag Thakur.
- ✓ The government rolled out a red carpet for foreign filmmakers on May 18 to make movies in the country by offering incentives up to Rs.2.5 crore for co-production and hiring local manpower.
- ✓ The minister would meet international filmmakers from various countries attending the film festival to encourage them to take advantage of the opportunity.

- ✓ He will also invite them to visit the country and make use of various incentives introduced by the Centre to make films in India.
- **West Central Railway - has developed a battery-operated dual-mode locomotive named Navdoot.**
- ✓ This engine runs on two modes - battery and electricity.
- ✓ Currently, it is being used during shunting of trains at Jabalpur, Mudwara, and other stations on a trial basis



- ✓ This e-engine can pull 18 coaches at a speed of 30 kmph.
- ✓ It has 84 batteries and has a capacity to pull 400 tonnes at present.
- ✓ It was developed by the Electric Department of New Katni Junction.
- ✓ This Dual Mode Locomotive has also received the Best Innovation Award from the Railway Board.
- ✓ The Railways is expected to save 1000 liters of diesel every day with this new locomotive

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On May 19, the Supreme Court - ruled that recommendations of the GST Council are not binding on the Union and state governments and only have a persuasive value**
- ✓ A Bench led by Justice D Y Chandrachud and also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Vikram Nath, upheld a 2020 order by the Gujarat High Court quashing the levy of 5% integrated GST (IGST) in an ocean freight case
- ✓ The SC ruled in its 153-page verdict that the provisions under Articles 246A and 279 indicate that states and the Centre have equal powers to legislate on taxation matters and cannot act independently of one another
- ✓ The apex court further said the Council must work in a harmonious manner to achieve workable solutions between the Centre and the states
- ✓ The court acknowledged that the Centre has a one-third vote share in the GST Council while all the states given a weightage of two-thirds of the total votes.



- ✓ The voting provision has been exercised only once so far – in December 2019, six states voted against uniform tax of 28% for lotteries, but the differential tax system prevailed by majority vote.
- **On May 19, the Supreme Court – had decided to set up special courts headed by retired judicial officers to deal with cheque bounce cases.**
- ✓ As a pilot project, a bench of justices L Nageswara Rao, B R Gavai and S Ravindra Bhat directed setting up of total 25 such special courts in five districts of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ In these five districts, the pendency of the cheque bounce cases is the highest
- ✓ Overall, more than 33 lakh cheque bounce cases are pending in different courts across the country
- ✓ The court said that the special courts will start functioning from September 1 for one year by using the services of retired judges
- ✓ The court would take a further call to expand it across the country after evaluating their one-year performance.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **PM Narendra Modi - will have a bilateral meeting with US President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the Quad summit in Tokyo on May 24**
- ✓ The Quad summit will provide an opportunity for the leaders to exchange their views on developments in the Indo-Pacific and contemporary global issues
- ✓ The PM will also have bilateral meetings with his Japanese and Australian counterparts.
- ✓ Upholding the principles of a free and open Indo-Pacific, Biden will also launch the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework to tackle new economic challenges.
- **On May 18, Union Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan - addressed the high-level Ministerial meeting on 'Global Food Security-Call to Action' in New York**



- ✓ US Secretary of State Antony Blinken chaired the 'Global Food Security-Call to Action' in New York.
- ✓ During the meeting, the Union Minister said that the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing conflict between Russia-Ukraine impacted the developing countries with high energy and commodity prices leading to disruptions in global logistical supply chains.
- ✓ During his speech, the Minister pointed out the Global Report on Food Crises and said that according to the 2022 report, 139 million people had suffered across the world from conflict-induced acute food insecurity, up by around 30% reported previously.
- ✓ Referring to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, the Union Minister said that India is donating 50,000 Metric tonnes of wheat
- ✓ He further said that India is strongly committed to the cause of global food security and also has contributed to the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the UNOCHA in response to various humanitarian crises over the years.

ECONOMY


- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - has asked banks and ATM operators to provide an option of interoperable cardless withdrawal at ATMs.**


HOW IT MAY WORK

Currently, ATM users need their debit/credit card & PIN to withdraw cash from a machine. Here's a look at how the UPI could possibly offer an alternative:

- 1 At any ATM, opt for cash withdrawal option
- 2 Next, select the UPI option to withdraw money
- 3 The ATM will display a QR code on its screen
- 4 You will have to select a UPI-based payment app on your mobile

- 5 After selecting the app, activate the QR code scanner
- 6 Once QR code is scanned and verified, you should be able to enter an amount of up to ₹5,000 for withdrawal
- 7 Enter your UPI PIN, and hit 'Enter' or 'Proceed' to withdraw the amount





- ✓ Under the proposed system, account holders can withdraw money from ATMs without any card by using their mobile phones and scanning a QR code.
- ✓ According to RBI, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) will facilitate integration of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform with all banks and ATM networks.
- ✓ While the UPI would be the mode of customer authentication, the settlement would continue to be through the National Financial Switch (NFS), which forms the backbone of ATM networks.
- ✓ Several banks are already providing a facility for cardless withdrawal to their customers using the bank's mobile app.
- ✓ The new framework puts a common standard, allowing customers to withdraw from any bank.
- ✓ The bulk of UPI transactions currently takes place through PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm.

SPORTS

- **Indian boxer Nikhat Zareen - won the Women's World Championships held in Istanbul with a 5-0 victory over Thailand's Jitpong Jutamas in the flyweight (52kg) final on May 19.**



- ✓ The 25-year old Telangana boxer became only the fifth Indian boxer to win the world title with this victory.
- ✓ India last won a World title when Mary had become a six-time champion in Delhi in 2018.
- ✓ Mary Kom is a six-time champion (2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2018) and apart from her, the world titles have also been won by Sarita Devi (2006), Jenny RL (2006), and Lekha KC (2006).
- ✓ Zareen is the only boxer besides Mary Kom to become a world champion since women's boxing became part of the Olympic programme in 2012
- ✓ In her previous appearance in the event in 54kg, Zareen had made it to the quarterfinals in 2016 in Astana.
- ✓ Zareen joined boxing at the age of 13 in 2010 and won a gold in the state championship within six months

- ✓ A year later, she won the gold in the 2011 World Junior and Youth Championships for girls in Antalya, Turkey.
 - ✓ Zareen had an impressive run in 2019 with bronze at the Asian Championships and gold in Strandja Memorial
 - ✓ India finished the event with one gold and two bronze medals after Manisha Moun (57kg) and Parveen (63kg) bagged the bronze medals.
 - ✓ Overall, India has won 10 gold, eight silver and 21 bronze medals in the 12 editions of the World championships till now —third highest after Russia (60) and China (50).
 - ✓ Out of 12 participating Indian boxers, eight made it to the quarter-finals in this year's tournament—the joint highest alongside Turkey.
 - ✓ A record number of 310 boxers from 73 countries participated in the event, which also marked the 20th anniversary of the Women's World Championships.
 - ✓ In 2021, Zareen lost to Mary Kom at the trials and failed to qualify for the Olympics.
 - ✓ Zareen will now prepare for the Commonwealth Games trials in which she will participate in the 50kg category.
- **Indian women archers - won a team bronze in the recurve section to take their medal's tally to three at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 at Gwangju, South Korea on May 19**
- ✓ The trio of Ridhi Phor, Komalika Bari and Ankita Bhakat defeated Chinese Taipei in a one-sided bronze medal play-off encounter.



- ✓ The Indian women's team had to fight for a bronze after they lost out to home favourites Korea in the semi-final.
- ✓ This is the first World Cup medal of the season for the Indian women's recurve archery team and the second bronze medal for India
- ✓ Earlier, the women's compound team of Avneet Kaur, Muskan Kirar and Priya Gurjar won the bronze on May 18
- ✓ Meanwhile, the men's compound team of Asian games gold medalist Abhishek Verma alongwith Aman Saini and Rajat Chauhan are assured of atleast one silver medal after defeating South Korea to reach final

- **On May 19, Sift Kaur Samra and Surya Pratap Singh - won silver medal in the 50m rifle prone mixed team event**



- ✓ India finished on top at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany.
- ✓ India's tally of 33 medals - 13 golds, 15 silvers, and five bronze - was the most by any country at the 2022 edition
- ✓ Italy – with four golds, two silvers and five bronze medals – finished second on the table.
- ✓ Sift and Surya lost to the Polish pair of Maja Magdalena Gawenda and Wiktoro Sajdak in the final.
- ✓ At the last edition of the ISSF Junior World Cup in 2021, India had 43 medals - 17 golds, 16 silvers and 10 bronze - to top the medals table

RANKINGS

- **India – retains top spot as the world's fastest growing major economy with a growth forecast of 6.4% for this fiscal year**
- ✓ This was revealed by the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) mid-year report released on May 18, 2022
 - ✓ As per the report, the global economy this year is expected to grow by only 3.1% as against the earlier prediction in January of 4.0%
 - ✓ This report has been published by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the UN.
 - ✓ Last fiscal year, India's economy grew by 8.8%, slightly less than the January forecast of 9%
 - ✓ For the fiscal year 2023, India's growth is forecast to be 6%
 - ✓ China, which ranks as the second-fastest growing large economy, is forecast to grow by 4.5% this year and 5.2% next year.
 - ✓ The US is projected to grow by 2.6% this year and 1.8% in the next year
 - ✓ The European Union economy is now expected to grow by 2.7% in 2022, down from 3.9% expected in January

- ✓ For the South Asia region, the WESP projected growth to be 5.5% this year – 0.4% lower than the January forecast.
- ✓ Global inflation is projected to increase to 6.7% in 2022, twice the average of 2.9% during 2010 - 2020, with sharp rises in food and energy prices
- ✓ The report suggests that the overall drop in growth is related to the ‘fragile economic recovery’ from the COVID-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine.
- ✓ The UN’s projections for India are lower than those made by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) last month
- ✓ The IMF had forecast a growth of 8.2% and the World Bank predicted a growth of 8%

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ National Endangered Species Day – May 20, 2022



- ✓ The Day is observed every year on the third Friday in May to create awareness and take action for protection of threatened and endangered wildlife species.
- ✓ This day was founded by David Robinson and the Endangered Species Coalition in 2006
- ✓ The Endangered Species Coalition proposed the day to the US Senate in 2006 and received a unanimous resolution proclaiming the Day in the US
- ✓ Theme 2022 - “Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration”
- ✓ In the United States, the Endangered Species Act of 1973 came into existence on December 28, which seeks to provide for wildlife conservation and rehabilitation of endangered species.

