

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 29, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu - unveiled a statue of Dravidian stalwart and five-time Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the late M Karunanidhi, in the presence of state CM, M K Stalin on May 28



- ✓ The statue is located at the campus of the multi super specialty government hospital at Omandurar Estate in Chennai
- ✓ It is located a few hundred metres away from the place where the original statue was vandalised 35 years ago in the wake of AIADMK founder MG Ramachandran's death
- ✓ The 16-foot-high bronze statue is mounted on a 14-foot high pedestal.
- ✓ Chief Minister MK Stalin hailed his father Karunanidhi as the 'Father of Modern Tamil Nadu'.
- ✓ In his presidential address, the CM said the statue of Kalaingar is located in between the statues of Periyar and Arignar Anna on Anna Salai
- ✓ Actor Rajinikanth, former Union minister P Chidambaram, CPI general secretary D Raja, PMK leader G K Mani, among others participated in the event.

- The newly carved out Ranipet district in the state - has set a world record by collecting 186.9 metric tonnes of plastic waste materials in just three hours.



- ✓ More than 20,000 volunteers from all sections of the society collected the plastic waste dumped in five municipalities, nine town panchayats and 288 village panchayats in the district.
 - ✓ Earlier, Switzerland held the world record for collecting 128 metric tonnes of plastic waste materials in three hours.
 - ✓ The district in the process also set three other records earning a mention in the Asian Records Academy, India Records Academy and Tamilan Book of Records.
 - ✓ The volunteers including the collector started collecting single-use plastic materials from residential villages, roads, highways, trade houses, and commercial and industrial establishments in the district
 - ✓ Nine adjudicators from the four firms reached the district to oversee and certify the accomplishment.
 - ✓ The volunteers led by the collector cleared 186.9 metric tonnes of plastic waste from an area spread over 2,500sqkm.
- **PMK leader and party founder Dr S Ramadoss' son, Dr Anbumani Ramadoss - was elected as the party's president**
- ✓ Anbumani Ramadoss will replace GK Mani who helmed the position for the last 25 years since 1998.



- ✓ Anbumani Ramadoss earlier held the post of the party's youth wing leader since 2004, after entering active politics in 1996
- ✓ His father, S Ramadoss founded the party in 1989.
- ✓ He is the third president of the party, after S. Ramadoss and Dheeran, who was the first president.
- ✓ Outgoing president Mani, who has been made honorary president of the party, announced Anbumani's elevation at a special general body meeting of the PMK held in Chennai on May 28
- ✓ Anbumani, a Rajya Sabha MP, is 53 years old.
- ✓ He served as the Member of Parliament thrice (2004, 2014 and 2019)
- ✓ Anbumani graduated from Madras Medical College and is the president of the Tamil Nadu Badminton Association.
- ✓ Anbumani served as the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare under the UPA government from 2004 to 2009.
- ✓ During his tenure, he introduced the ban on smoking in public places, the National Rural Health Mission, launch of 108 ambulance service, establishment of FSSAI and the ASHA scheme (Accredited Social Health Activist).
- ✓ Anbumani was the recipient of Luther L Terry Award, WHO Director General's Special Awards for Tobacco control and Leadership
- ✓ He also received Rotary International Polio Eradication champion award

STATES

- **The West Bengal government – has decided to make the state education minister the visitor of 11 private universities instead of the governor.**
- ✓ The Bengal secretariat decided the change, two days after the cabinet decided to replace the governor as the chancellor of state universities with the chief minister.
- ✓ Like in the case of state-run universities, the government is likely to introduce a bill to this effect in the Bengal assembly.
- ✓ The role of the visitor in private universities was smaller than that of the chancellor in state-run universities, as private institutes did not have to depend on government funds.
- ✓ The move by the state government is in line with its decision to remove the governor from his responsibilities in the area of higher education.

NATIONAL

- **The railway ministry - merged 36 posts including of the Railway Board chairman and members to create Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS) at the top level**
- ✓ According to the ministry, this has been done for "removing departmentalism" amongst railway officers and with this there will be no departmental quota for promotion to this level.

- ✓ Out of the 36 posts, seven posts will be at the Board level and the remaining 29 will be general manager (GM) level posts
 - ✓ The railways will also introduce the 360 degree assessment involving all stakeholders while carrying out empanelment of officials, as it is being done in the case of IAS, IPS and IFS officers
 - ✓ The railways has also introduced “psychometric measurement of emotional intelligence quotient (EQ)” of officers which will apply for their empanelment for these posts
 - ✓ The new norms are part of the railway ministry’s move to revamp its bureaucracy and management, which were notified on May 27
 - ✓ The Union cabinet had on December 24 approved the comprehensive restructuring of the railway organisation to end interdepartmental conflicts.
- **The government - has launched a revamped Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) mobile application under its flagship scheme of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**
- ✓ This was announced by the National Health Authority (NHA), which is the nodal agency for implementation of the health insurance scheme Ayushman Bharat
 - ✓ The ABHA app, previously known as NDHM Health Records app, is available for download from the Google Play Store
 - ✓ The updated version of the ABHA app has new User Interface (UI) and added functionalities that enable individuals to access their health records anytime and anywhere
 - ✓ The ABHA mobile application enables an individual to create an ABHA address (username@abdm), an easy to remember username that can be linked with the 14 digit randomly generated ABHA number.
 - ✓ The mobile application also enables users to link their health records created at ABDM compliant health facility and view them in their smartphones.
 - ✓ The application also allows self-uploading of physical health records in the ABDM compliant health lockers along with sharing of digital health records
- **The Department of Posts - has rolled out NEFT and RTGS facilities for its savings account holders to enable electronic transfer of money**
- ✓ The NEFT facility has been made available for Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) customers from May 18, while the RTGS facility will be made available from May 31, 2022
 - ✓ The NEFT stands for National Electronic Fund Transfer, while the full form of RTGS is Real-Time Gross Settlement
 - ✓ These facilities are available 24X7X365, regardless of post office/bank holidays and timings.
 - ✓ NEFT is an interbank payment system that can be used round the clock throughout the year and transactions are cleared between banks in half-hour batches by the RBI

- ✓ RTGS is a real-time fund transfer settlement system in which individual fund transfer instructions are settled and like NEFT, it is available round the clock throughout the year.
- ✓ But unlike the NEFT transfers, the RTGS transactions are settled in real-time
- **Union Minister of Textiles, Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal – recently announced the formation of the Cotton Council of India under the Chairmanship of Suresh Bhai Kotak, a renowned veteran cotton man**
- ✓ The council will have representation from the Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Finance, Commerce and Industry, Cotton Corporation of India and Cotton Research Institute
- ✓ The first meeting of the proposed council has been scheduled for 28th May 2022.
- ✓ The council will discuss, deliberate and prepare a robust action plan for bringing out a tangible improvement in the cotton industry.
- ✓ Cotton is one of the most important cash crops and India accounts for around 25% of total global cotton production
- ✓ The Cotton Corporation of India was set up in 1970 by the government as a public sector organisation in the field of cotton marketing.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The 75th World Health Assembly - concluded in Geneva, Switzerland on May 28, 2022**
- ✓ This is the first in-person Health Assembly since the COVID-19 pandemic began.
- ✓ The theme of this year's Health Assembly is 'Health for peace, peace for health'.
- ✓ The Health Assembly started its annual meeting on May 22, 2022
- ✓ The World Health Assembly is the decision-making body of WHO and it meets every year in Geneva
- ✓ WHA is attended by delegations from all WHO 194 Member States.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **External affairs minister S Jaishankar – inaugurated the two-day NADI- 3 Asian Confluence River Conclave that started in the Guwahati, Assam on May 27**



- ✓ The third edition of the conclave, 'NADI' (Natural Allies in Development and Interdependence), was organized by Shillong-based think tank Asian Confluence
 - ✓ The conclave was organised in collaboration with the Union External Affairs Ministry, Act East Policy Affairs Department of the Assam government, North Eastern Council and other partners
 - ✓ NADI is an international river conference that focuses on the collective vision of cooperation in the Bay of Bengal and the Southeast Asian region
 - ✓ Bangladesh foreign minister AK Abdul Momen also addressed the gathering in the inaugural session
 - ✓ Several ministers and diplomats from Bangladesh, Japan and ASEAN countries are attending the event.
 - ✓ Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman will deliver the valedictory address of the conclave on May 29.
 - ✓ The first two editions of the conference were held in Shillong and Dhaka
- **The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind - inaugurated the National Women Legislators' Conference-2022 in Thiruvananthapuram on May 26, 2022**



- ✓ The two-day conference was hosted by the Kerala Legislative Assembly as part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- ✓ Arif Mohammed Khan, the governor of Kerala presided over the inaugural session of the conference
- ✓ Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Ministers, Speaker M.B. Rajesh, Opposition Leader V.D. Satheesan, Members of Parliament, Legislative Councils and prominent woman personalities were among those present.
- ✓ At this conference, various sessions will be held that are based on themes vital to the country's women legislators
- ✓ This is the first-ever such event that is being hosted by the Kerala state Assembly
- ✓ This event witnessed the participation of a large number of female legislators and parliamentarians from across the country.
- ✓ It included Lok Sabha MP Kanimozhi, Gujarat Assembly Speaker Nimaben Acharya, MPs Supriya Sule and Jaya Bachchan, former Rajya Sabha member Brinda Karat, and former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar

- ✓ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla addressed the valedictory function on May 27, 2022

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **PARAM PORUL, a state-of the art Supercomputer at NIT Tiruchirappalli – was dedicated to the nation under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) recently on May 25, 2022**



- ✓ The NSM is a joint initiative of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Department of Science and Technology (DST)
- ✓ The PARAM PORUL supercomputing facility is established under Phase 2 of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).
- ✓ The majority of the components used to build this system have been manufactured and assembled within the country.
- ✓ This includes the indigenous software stack developed by C-DAC, in line with the Make in India initiative.
- ✓ NIT Tiruchirappalli has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Centre for Development in Advanced Computing (C-DAC) on 12th October 2020 to establish this 838 TeraFlops Supercomputing Facility under NSM.
- ✓ PARAM PORUL system is based on Direct Contact Liquid Cooling technology to obtain high power usage effectiveness and thereby reducing the operational cost.
- ✓ The National Supercomputing Mission aims to empower the national academic and R&D institutions spread over the country by installing a vast supercomputing grid comprising more than 70 high-performance computing facilities.
- ✓ It has been implemented at an estimated cost of Rs.4,500 crore over seven years
- ✓ Under NSM, till date 15 supercomputers have been installed across the nation with compute capacity of 24 petaflops.
- ✓ NIT, Tiruchirappalli has been carrying out research in the areas of societal interest such as Health, Agriculture, Weather, and Financial Services.
- ✓ In 2019, the first Supercomputer “PARAM Shivay” was designed and built under the Build approach of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) by C-DAC at the Indian Institute of Technology (BHU), Varanasi.
- ✓ PARAM Shivay uses more than one lakh twenty thousand compute cores (CPU + GPU cores) to offer a peak compute power of 833 TeraFlops.

DEFENCE

- **The third edition of Indian Navy (IN) – Bangladesh Navy (BN) Bilateral Exercise ‘Bongosagar’ - commenced at Port Mongla, Bangladesh on May 24, 2022**



- ✓ The Harbour Phase of exercise was scheduled from 24-25 May which was followed by a Sea Phase in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 26-27 May.
 - ✓ The exercise was aimed at developing a high degree of interoperability and joint operational skills through the conduct of maritime exercises and operations between the two navies
 - ✓ Indian Naval Ships Kora, an indigenously built Guided Missile Corvette, and Sumedha, an indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel participated in the Exercise.
 - ✓ Bangladesh Navy was represented by BNS Abu Ubaidah and Ali Haider, both Guided Missile Frigates.
 - ✓ The sea phase of the exercise would facilitate ships from both the navies to participate in intensive surface warfare drills, weapon firing drills, seamanship evolutions and coordinated air operations in a tactical scenario.
 - ✓ The harbour phase of the exercise includes professional and social interactions, and friendly sporting fixtures, in addition to the tactical level planning discussions on the conduct of the exercises at sea.
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- **The fourth edition of the Indian Navy-Bangladesh Navy Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) – was held between May 22 and 23 in the northern Bay of Bengal**
 - ✓ The last edition of the IN-BN CORPAT exercise was conducted in October 2020
 - ✓ Two indigenously built IN Ships - Kora, a guided-missile corvette, and Sumedha, an offshore patrol vessel, participated in the exercise along with Bangladesh Navy Ships BNS Ali Haider and BNS Abu Ubaidah
 - ✓ During the exercise, Maritime Patrol Aircraft of both navies also undertook joint patrol along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL)

- ✓ The exercise has strengthened mutual understanding and enhanced interoperability between both the navies in countering transnational maritime threats

