

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 8, 2022

### TAMIL NADU

- On May 7, Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin - announced a free breakfast scheme for government school students studying in Classes 1 to 5 in the state.
- ✓ In the first phase, the scheme would be implemented in primary schools in a few corporations, municipalities, and remote villages through local body administration.
- ✓ It would be extended across the state in a phased manner.
- ✓ The nutrition scheme has been designed based on a study, which revealed that most children have nutrition deficiencies, said the CM
- ✓ It is one of the five schemes announced by the chief minister under Rule 110 in the assembly to mark the completion of one year of the DMK government.



**In pipeline:** Here are the five schemes announced by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in the T.N. Assembly

- Free breakfast for Class I-V government school children in a phased manner

- Initiatives to eradicate nutrition deficiency

- Setting up of Schools of Excellence

- Setting up of primary healthcare-like centres in urban areas

- Expanding the 'CM in Your Constituency' grievance redressal scheme to all 234 constituencies in the State

- ✓ Tamil Nadu will be the first state in the country to offer breakfast in government schools, along with the mid-day meal
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu was the pioneer of the midday meal scheme as the first initiative to provide meals to children had been taken by the erstwhile Madras Municipal Corporation around 1920.
  - ✓ In post-Independence India, Tamil Nadu was again the pioneer, with Chief Minister K Kamaraj rolling out a school feeding scheme in 1956
  - ✓ Among the other announcements, the CM mentioned that a nutrition scheme would be rolled out for children below the age of six years.
  - ✓ The government would establish 'schools of excellence' on the lines of the Delhi government and urban health centres at a cost of Rs.180.45 crore to extend integrated medical care to urban dwellers.
  - ✓ Further, the CM said "Ungal Thoguthiyil Muthalamaichar " would be extended to all constituencies at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore.
- **The Tamil Nadu government - will carry out feasibility studies to extend three corridors of metro rail phase-2.**
- ✓ This was announced by Finance minister PTR Palanivel Thiagarajan in the assembly on May 7
  - ✓ The 118.9km phase-2 lines of metro rail constructed at a cost of Rs. 61,843 crore are expected to be ready by 2025.
  - ✓ According to the Minister, a feasibility study will be conducted to extend Light House to Poonamallee bypass corridor-4 of phase-2 to Sriperumbudur.
  - ✓ The extension of the line is to cater to the Thirumazhisai satellite town, intercity bus terminuses and the growing number of factories and companies along the Chennai-Bengaluru national highways.
  - ✓ The metro line to Sriperumbudur may also be an advantage as the two sites now identified for a second airport for Chennai — Pannur and Parandur — are near Sriperumbudur.
  - ✓ The government has announced feasibility studies to extend metro rail's corridor-5 from Thirumangalam to Avadi via Mogappair and Ambattur.
    - ✓ At present, the proposed corridor-5 links Madhavaram with Sholinganallur via Koyambedu, Alandur and Madipakkam.
  - ✓ Further, Metro rail's Madhavaram-Siruseri Sipcot via OMR corridor-3 will be extended from Siruseri to Kelambakkam for which a study will be conducted to assess the need for transport services along this stretch.
  - ✓ The state government has decided to do a feasibility study for introducing the air-conditioned suburban trains, particularly on Beach-Tambaram-Chengalpet route, in collaboration with Southern Railway.
  - ✓ Air conditioned trains currently run on the Mumbai suburban network.
  - ✓ Further, Finance minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan told the assembly that the government spends Rs. 3,205 crore annually under the new contributory pension

scheme, and pays Rs. 24,000 crore annually towards pension and family pension under the old scheme.

## One Step Forward, Two Steps Back

Old Scheme	New Scheme
Under this, govt gives <b>50%</b> of the salary as pension on retirement	Available to both pvt and govt employees
Since this puts a financial burden on the exchequer, the Centre had introduced a new pension system	Contribute <b>10%</b> of salary, employer matches it
	Money invested in securities
	Can't withdraw full amount at retirement
	Have access to <b>60%</b> of funds accrued; <b>40%</b> has to be reinvested

- ✓ About 6.02 lakh employees recruited on or after April 1, 2003, have been enrolled under the contributory pension scheme (CPS).
- ✓ Under it, 10% of basic pay, dearness pay, and allowance is recovered from the employees with an equal matching contribution from the government.
- ✓ Except Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, all states had shifted to the new pension scheme.
- ✓ A sum of Rs. 50,265 crore has been accumulated as of January 31 this year, as contribution and interest and kept in Public Account.

## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Simplification of procedures to get family pension by incorporating details of spouse in IFHRMS portal</li> <li>➤ A detailed study will be taken up to improve the services and reduce the expenses in state public sector undertakings</li> <li>➤ Financial experts will be consulted to strengthen Bureau of Public Enterprises, besides efforts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>for debt restructuring</li> <li>➤ A financial analytics centre will be set up to keep track of the trends in economic and financial indices on a real time basis</li> <li>➤ Planning and development dept will set up a coordination centre for Sustainable Development Goals in association with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</li> </ul>
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- ✓ The government will soon take a decision on the pension issue, as per a policy note tabled in the assembly
- ✓ Further, the state had also not designated a fund manager for the contributory pension scheme.
- ✓ According to the CAG, the state faced additional financial cost of Rs.1,200 crore annually in terms of negative interest carry
- **On May 7, the state government - introduced a bill in the assembly to allow redevelopment of apartment complexes with the consent of two-thirds of flat owners.**



- ✓ In this regard, housing minister S Muthusamy introduced the Tamil Nadu Apartment Ownership Bill, 2022
- ✓ If passed, the new Act would repeal the old Act passed in 1994 and govern all housing complexes with four or more units
- ✓ The new legislation was introduced to safeguard the interest of the apartment owners as well as improve the administration of common areas and facilities.
- ✓ The Bill mandates that a residents association should be registered only under the new law.
- ✓ Notably, a provision in the Bill empowers the association to fine an apartment owner if the latter fails to pay dues to it.

## STATES

- **The Maharashtra Department of Prisons - has launched a first-of-its-kind loan scheme titled 'Jivhala' for inmates serving sentences in jails across the state.**
  - ✓ The credit scheme is being offered by the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank.
  - ✓ The pilot of the initiative was introduced for prisoners at Yerawada Central Jail in Pune, and will gradually be extended to nearly 60 prisons across the state.
  - ✓ The scheme has been launched primarily for convicted inmates who are undergoing a prison sentence of more than three years.
  - ✓ In the initial phase, a loan of Rs 50,000 will be given by the government at a 7% interest rate
  - ✓ Inmates will be able to use the loans for education of their children, medical treatment of family members, legal fees, agricultural expenses or any other expenses
  - ✓ Once an inmate takes a loan, the Equated Monthly Instalment (EMI) calculated will be directly deducted from their prison accounts, which consists of their earnings from the jail
- **India's first tribal health observatory – is proposed to come up in Odisha**



- ✓ In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC) and ST & SC Development Department

- ✓ The observatory is the 'first in the country' and designed to be an effective, evidence-based and a policy-oriented centre
- ✓ It will perform systematic and continuous observation on disease burden, health-seeking behaviour and healthcare delivery system pertaining to tribal health in the state.
- **In a first of its kind initiative in the country, Telangana Government – has set up a 'Flow Chemistry Technology Hub' at Dr Reddy's Institute of Life Sciences in Hyderabad**
- ✓ The hub, launched in association with industry partners, houses various state-of-the-art flow chemistry equipment

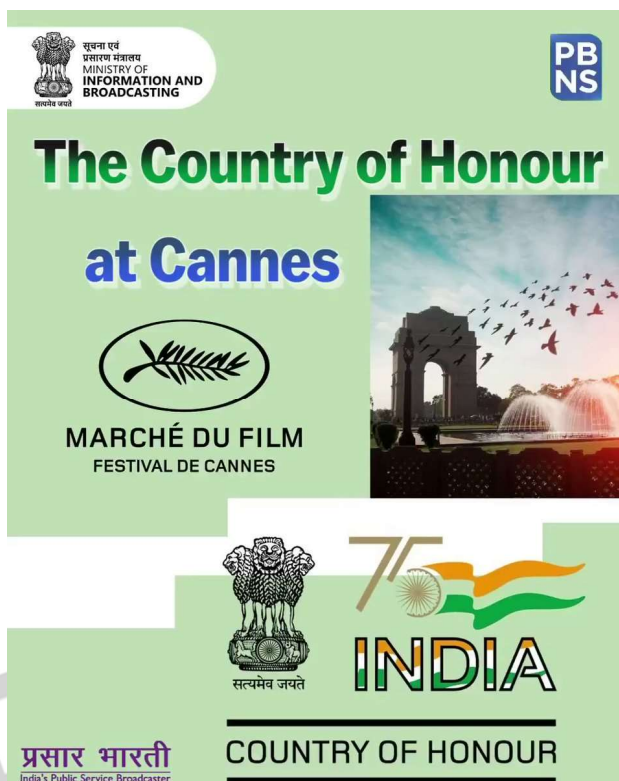


- ✓ It provides hands-on training and promotes scientific capability building for the R&D activities of pharma industry
- ✓ In recent years, flow chemistry and pharmaceutical continuous manufacturing were the most discussed topics in the pharma industry
- ✓ With over 800 pharmaceutical companies, Hyderabad hosts the highest number of USFDA approved facilities globally and contributes to about 35% of India's overall pharmaceutical production.
- ✓ Flow chemistry deals with the process of performing chemical reactions in a tube or pipe

## NATIONAL

- **India - will be the official Country of Honour for the Marché du Film 2022, which is organised alongside the Cannes Film Festival from May 17-25, 2022**
- ✓ This was announced by Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur in New Delhi.
- ✓ It is the first time the Marche du Film has an official Country of Honour
- ✓ Going forward, this special focus will continue annually with different nations in the spotlight at future editions
- ✓ India is also named as a 'Country of Honour' at Cannes Next

- ✓ During this event, five new Indian startups will be given an opportunity to pitch their ideas for the audio-visual industry
  - ✓ Further, upto 10 professionals from India can participate on the Animation Day networking.



- ✓ As part of the celebration of India as the Country of Honour, R. Madhavan's 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect' will have its grand premiere at the Palais De Festivals on May 19.
  - ✓ India has also been given an opportunity to pitch five selected movies at the "Goes to Cannes Section"
  - ✓ These movies include *Baghjan* by Jaicheng Zxai Dohutia (Assamese), *Bailadila* by Shailendra Sahu (Hindi, Chhattisgarhi), *Ek Jagah Apni* by Ektara Collective (Hindi), *Follower* by Harshad Nalawade (Marathi, Kannada, Hindi) and *Shivamma* by Jai Shankar (Kannada).
  - ✓ Further, there is also a celebration of filmmaker Satyajit Ray and his movie, 'Pratidwandi' will be screened at the Cannes Classic section.
  - ✓ The restored version of the 1970 Bengali drama film, written by Ray and based on Sunil Gangopadhyay's eponymous novel, will be screened during the event
  - ✓ Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone was named as one of the jury members for the Cannes film festival
- **The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) - will launch its inaugural Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train on June 21, 2022**
- ✓ This train will go along the Ramayana Circuit, which is part of the 'Swadesh Darshan' initiative and includes major locations related to Lord Shri Rama's life.





**Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train**

- ✓ The journey will include train ride to the Ram Janaki temple in Janakpur, Nepal, for the first time ever.
- ✓ The 18 days tour will start from Delhi Safdarjung Railway Station on June 21 with a total of around 600 tourists
- ✓ Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train is launched under the Union government's initiative 'Dekho Apna Desh' to promote domestic tourism in the country.
- ✓ The proposed Bharat Gaurav Tourist train tour has its first stop at Ayodhya, the birthplace of Lord Rama, where tourists will visit Shri Ram Janmbhumi temple and Hanuman temple and additionally Bharat Mandir at Nandigram.
- ✓ The train will also go to Kanchipuram where Shiv Kanchi, Vishnu Kanchi and Kamakshi temples will be covered and also to Rameshwaram, covering Dhanushkodi and Ramanathaswamy temple
- ✓ The train will cover a distance of around 8000 Km in this entire Ramayana tour

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- **On May 7, Afghanistan's Taliban rulers - ordered all Afghan women to wear head-to-toe clothing in public**



- ✓ The decree says that women should leave the home only when necessary, and that male relatives would face punishment — starting with a summons and escalating up to court hearings and jail time — for women's dress code violations.

- ✓ It was the latest in a series of repressive orders issued by the Taliban leadership, even though they were all not implemented.
  - ✓ Last month, for example, the Taliban banned women to travel alone, but after a day of opposition, that has since been silently ignored.
  - ✓ The decree, which calls for women to only show their eyes and recommends they wear the head-to-toe burqa, was similar to restrictions on women during the Taliban's previous rule between 1996 and 2001.
  - ✓ The Taliban previously decided against reopening schools to girls above grade 6, which does not have widespread support among leadership
- **Vietnam - opened the 'world's longest' glass-bottomed bridge named Bach Long (White Dragon) in northwest Son La province.**



- ✓ The bridge's entire length is 632 metres (2,073 feet), and the floor is constructed of tempered glass created in France that can carry up to 450 people at a time
  - ✓ The bridge's glass bottom is made of three layers of each 40 mm thick super-tempered glass panels manufactured by French specialists Saint-Gobain
  - ✓ The area is one of Vietnam's most-popular tourist destinations and is known for its forests, bat caves, waterfalls, lakes, and tea plantations.
  - ✓ The world's longest pedestrian glass bridge in Vietnam surpasses a 526 m structure outside Qingyuan in Guangdong, China.
  - ✓ The bridge has been constructed at a height of 150 meters over a lush green jungle.
  - ✓ Since the bridge stretches between two mountains and has a glass floor, visitors can look straight down at the valley floor 490 feet below.
  - ✓ The opening of the bridge is expected to boost tourism in Vietnam, which had come to a halt during the two-year shutdown
- **On May 4, the United Nations – announced the launch of 'UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2025' to support the transition to clean, affordable energy for all and net-zero emissions**
- ✓ The 'Plan of Action' was launched by some 30 leading organisations comprising UN-Energy



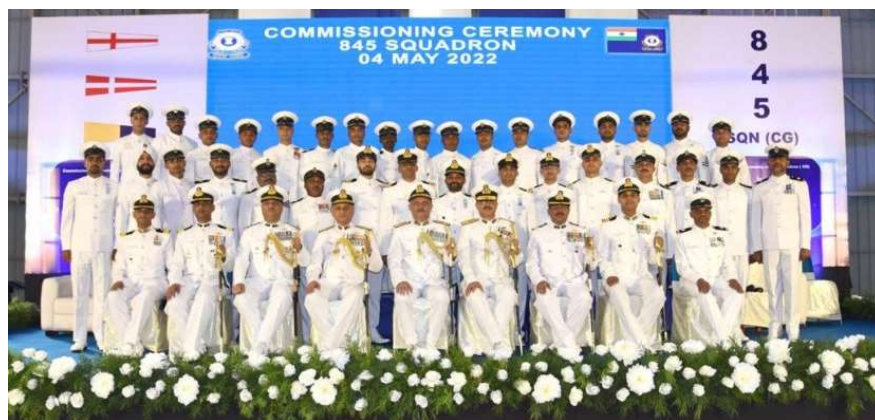
- ✓ The aim is to achieve the pledge made by the organizations in various areas at the time of the High-level Dialogue on Energy last September.
- ✓ During the occasion, an 'Energy Compact Action Network' was also launched
- ✓ The initiative seeks to provide support to the needy governments for their clean energy goals from the investments of governments and businesses that have pledged over \$600 billion

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Indian Space Research Organisation – is planning to send a spacecraft to orbit Venus to study what lies beneath its surface**
- ✓ ISRO is expecting to launch the mission by December 2024 with orbital manoeuvre planned for a year after that.
  - ✓ Orbital manoeuvre is the use of propulsion systems to change the orbit of a spacecraft, which enables it to enter into a planet's orbit.
- ✓ In 2025, the Earth and Venus would be aligned in a manner that it would require minimum amount of propellant for the spacecraft to enter the orbit of the hottest planet in the Solar System.
- ✓ A similar window to conduct the mission would next be available in 2031.
- ✓ The aim of the mission is to study Venus' atmosphere, which is toxic and corrosive in nature as clouds of sulphuric acid cover the plane
- ✓ The mission will also bring an instrument to Venus to examine the planet's atmosphere in infrared, ultraviolet and submillimeter wavelengths
- ✓ The spacecraft will also include a high resolution synthetic aperture radar to examine the surface of the planet, which is covered by dense clouds that make it impossible to view

## DEFENCE

- **Indian Coast Guard - commissioned its second Air Squadron, 845 Squadron (CG), at the Coast Guard Air Enclave at Nedumbassery in Kochi on May 4**
- ✓ The new Air Squadron was commissioned by Coast Guard Director General V S Pathania



- ✓ The new squadron is equipped with the indigenously developed Advanced Mark III (ALH Mark III) helicopters.
- ✓ Four helicopters have been positioned in Kochi to cover the entire coast of Karnataka, Kerala and Lakshadweep.
- ✓ Out of 16 ALH MK-IIIs, 12 have been inducted so far into the Indian Coast Guard in a phased manner
- ✓ The helicopters have powerful Shakti engines, full-glass cockpit, high-intensity searchlight, traffic alert and collision avoidance system, advanced communication systems, modern surveillance radar/electro-optical equipment, automatic identification system and automatic flight control system, among others
- ✓ The helicopter is provided with a heavy machine gun to undertake missions at sea and also a removable medical intensive care unit (MICU) to facilitate critically ill patients during medevac operations
- ✓ With induction in March this year, the squadron has already flown over 350 hours and conducted numerous operational missions namely NATPOLREX VIII in Goa
- ✓ The Squadron, led by Commandant Kunal Naik, has nine officers and 35 men.

## SPORTS

- **India's top middle distance runner Avinash Mukund Sable - broke the 5000m national record at the Sound Running Track Meet 2022 in San Juan Capistrano, California, USA on May 6.**



- ✓ Avinash Sable clocked 13:25.65s to finish 12th in the race in California and broke the previous record of 13:29.70 set by Bahadur Prasad in Birmingham back in 1992.
- ✓ The Sound Running Track Meet is a World Athletics Continental Tour bronze level event.
- ✓ Norway's Tokyo Olympics 1500m gold winner Jakob Ingebrigtsen won the race with a time of 13:02.03s.
- ✓ It was only the second time Avinash Sable competed in the 5000m.
- ✓ His debut in the event came at the Federation Cup in Kozhikode last month, where he won the gold medal with a timing of 13:39.43s.

- ✓ The 27-year-old Army man Avinash Sable, a Tokyo Olympian, now holds the national record in three events.
  - ✓ Sable is known for breaking his own 3000m steeplechase national record seven times.
  - ✓ The Maharashtra native had set a half-marathon record in Delhi in 2020 and established a new 3000m steeplechase mark at the Indian Grand Prix in Thiruvananthapuram in March this year.
  - ✓ Sable has already qualified for the World Championships to be held in Eugene, USA from July 15 to 24.
  - ✓ The oldest athletics record in India is Shivnath Singh's 1978 mark in the marathon, a road race.
- **India - won its second gold medal in shooting at the 24th Deaflympics in Caxias do Sul, Brazil**
- ✓ Abhinav Deshwal claimed the men's 10m air pistol title on May 7



- ✓ The 15-year-old from Roorkee, Uttarakhand won the gold in a shoot-off
  - ✓ India now has four medals from the shooting competition.
  - ✓ Earlier, Dhanush Srikanth had won gold in the men's 10m air rifle while Shourya Saini had won bronze in the same event.
  - ✓ Then on May 5, Vedika Sharma won a bronze in the women's 10m air pistol.
  - ✓ India has sent ten shooters in their 65-strong contingent for the Brazil Deaflympics.
  - ✓ It is their largest and youngest-ever squad and will be participating in 11 sporting disciplines.
- **A consortium led by LA Dodgers baseball team part-owner Todd Boehly - has won the bid to acquire English Premier League football club Chelsea in a deal worth 4.25 billion pounds (\$7.41 billion).**
- ✓ Boehly's consortium includes a fellow co-owner of the Dodgers baseball franchise, Mark Walter, Swiss billionaire Hansjoerg Wyss and US investment firm Clearlake Capital.



### MOST EXPENSIVE SPORTS TEAMS

1	Chelsea FC	\$5.2bn
2	New York Mets	\$2.4bn
3	Carolina Panthers	\$2.3bn
4	Houston Rockets	\$2.2bn
5	Los Angeles Clippers	\$2 bn
6	Los Angeles Dodgers	\$2bn
7	Manchester United	\$1.5 bn
8	Buffalo Bills	\$1.4 bn
9	Miami Marlins	\$1.2 bn
9	Seattle Mariners	\$1.2 bn

Nos 2, 6, 9 are baseball teams; 3, 8 are American football teams; 4,5 are basketball teams

- ✓ The proposal has now been sent to the UK government and Premier League for approval.
- ✓ The sale is expected to complete in late May subject to all necessary regulatory approvals.
- ✓ The new owners would pay 2.5 billion pounds to purchase shares while committing a further 1.75 billion pounds to invest in the stadium, women's team, the academy and the Chelsea Foundation
- ✓ All proceeds of the sale would be placed in a frozen UK bank account
- ✓ Russian owner Roman Abramovich, who is currently subject to sanctions by the British government, would donate all of the proceeds to charitable causes
- ✓ Roman Abramovich put the London club up for sale in early March following his country's invasion of Ukraine.
- ✓ Boehly is part owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers MLB franchise and also has minority stakes in the NBA's Los Angeles Lakers and WNBA's Los Angeles Sparks.
- ✓ The sale of the European champions Chelsea brings to an end 19 successful years under the 55-year-old Abramovich, who has overseen five Premier League titles and two Champions League triumphs.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ➤ World Mother's Day – May 8

- ✓ The Day is observed every year in celebration of motherhood and unwavering commitment of a mother to her children's well-being
- ✓ This day celebrates mother's unconditional love and sacrifices made by her for the children.
- ✓ Mother's Day is celebrated on various dates throughout the world.



- ✓ It is celebrated on the second Sunday of May in many countries, including India
- ✓ Mother's Day was first celebrated in the US, in 1908 when a woman named Anna Jarvis wished to celebrate Mother's Day as a recognised holiday
- ✓ Anna wanted to honour the day for her mother, Ann Reese Jarvis who was a peace activist and had passed away three years prior.
- ✓ She also built a memorial for her mother in St. Andrews Methodist Church in West Virginia which is also now the International Mother's Day Shrine
- ✓ The Day was made a national holiday by US President Woodrow Wilson in 1914

## REPORT

- **The world - has lost 420 million hectares (mha), approximately 10.34% of its total forest area, in the last 30 years (between 1990 and 2020) due to deforestation.**
- ✓ This was revealed in the 2022 edition of The State of the World's Forests (SOFO) report, released at the World Forestry Congress on May 2
- ✓ The report is regarded as one of the most important update on forest ecosystems.
- ✓ It added that although the rate of deforestation was declining, 10 mha of forests were lost every year between 2015 and 2020.
- ✓ This poses severe risks for the 68% of mammal species, 75% of bird species, and 80% of amphibian species that inhabit forests.
- ✓ The report stated that 30% of new diseases, reported since 1960, can be attributed to deforestation and land-use change.
- ✓ The State of the World's Forests is the flagship publication of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), published every two years.
- ✓ FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security.
- ✓ The State of the World's Forests report presents an analysis of the interaction between forests and people, focusing on the importance of forests to the global economy and biodiversity.
- ✓ Forests cover 4.06 billion ha (31%) of the earth's geographical area.

