

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 11, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Tamil Nadu - to soon include milk in midday meals for Classes I to V in all government schools**

NUTRITION MATTERS

➤ Students of Classes I to V to be provided milk every morning

➤ It will be provided to students as part of midday meal scheme

➤ Milk is a rich source of calcium and is beneficial for bone development in children



➤ It also helps maintain healthy blood pressure and reduces risk of strokes and heart-related problems

➤ Midday meals in TN schools now include 13 items; vegetables & eggs provided five times a week

- ✓ In 2018, the Union ministry of human resource development had written to all states asking them to include milk in midday meals.
- ✓ Haryana and Rajasthan were the first two states to begin supplying milk to their students in a few districts.
- ◆ **Voters - to be applied 'indelible' ink on their left middle finger for the repoll in 13 booths on May 19**
- ✓ As per the Chief Electoral Officer Satyabrata Sahoo, new EVMs & VVPAT units will be used in the 13 polling stations

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

◆ The Supreme Court - extended till August 15 the deadline for the three-member Ayodhya mediation panel

For a negotiated solution



▪ Ayodhya dispute sent by five-judge Bench for mediation on March 8, in a bid to heal minds and hearts. The initial deadline was eight weeks

▪ Mediators comprise former SC judge F.M.I. Kalifulla, who is the Chairman, spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and

senior advocate Sriram Panchu, a pioneer in alternative dispute resolution mechanisms

▪ Panel filed interim report dated May 7 with Constitution Bench, conveying "progress" in talks. It has held several meetings with stakeholders in Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh, where the disputed site is located. Next meeting is in June

- ✓ The panel headed by former SC judge F M I Kalifulla was formed to explore the possibility of a negotiated solution to the long drawn dispute over ownership of the 2.77 acre Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land in Ayodhya
- ✓ A bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer extended the deadline to have a meaningful result in the vexed issue
- ✓ The Justice Kalifulla panel has so far filed two reports before the court
- ✓ In its first report filed in April, the panel had detailed the persons and parties they met and the procedure they intended to adopt for conducting negotiations.
- ✓ In its second report of May 7, the panel expressed optimism about reaching a negotiated solution even though it would be a long drawn process

INTERNATIONAL

◆ The University of Bristol, UK - is offering a 12-week course in 'Happiness' to students from all university disciplines from next year

- ✓ The course, to be taught by professor Bruce Hood, a psychologist who researches how the brain works and how humans think, will explore on how to achieve happiness
- ✓ It will count towards 20 of their 120 credit points for their first year
- ✓ Under the new course starting in September, students will attend a one-hour lecture each week as well as attending a "happiness hub"
- ✓ Students will be asked to select one of seven happiness exercises to practice for a week, then assess the effect it has on them

- ✓ The exercises include sleeping more, meditating, taking time to savour enjoyment, expressing gratitude for people and things, and practising random acts of kindness
- ✓ The move follows Yale University's Psychology and the Good Life classes

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ **Germany - has opened its first ever section of “eHighway”, which allows hybrid cargo trucks to charge their batteries while they are on the move**



- ✓ The German government introduced the technology on a six-mile-long stretch of Autobahn near the city of Frankfurt
- ✓ It uses 670-volt direct-current overhead cables which let electric trucks draw down power and recharge batteries on the go.
- ✓ The programme, called ELISA (electrified innovative heavy traffic on the Autobahn), is an environment ministry-sponsored project involving Siemens and authorities from the state of Hesse, where it is taking place
- ✓ The trucks — which have conductor rods called pantographs added to the top of the cabin — must be going less than 56 miles/hour to successfully make a connection
- ✓ When they're connected they run on electricity alone.
- ✓ When they rejoin the normal highway, they switch back to their hybrid engines.
- ✓ The 6-mile stretch will be tested until 2022, after which it will be decided to expand the project or not
- ✓ The project costs 14 million Euros so far to the Government
- ✓ As per Siemens, the technology will save a 40-tonne truck €20,000 (\$22,000) in fuel costs over 62,100 miles.

- ◆ **Jeffrey P Bezos, the founder and chief executive of Amazon - unveiled a moon lander, Blue Moon, a vehicle that will help build space colonies in future**



- ✓ Bezos also owns Blue origin, a rocket company
- ✓ Blue Moon would be used to transport equipment, and possibly human beings, to the south pole of the moon by 2024
- ✓ It will be capable of carrying scientific instruments, the four small rovers, and also a future pressurised vehicle for humans.
- ✓ The vehicle has been under development for the past three years
- ✓ The goal is to land on the moon's south pole, where ice deposits were confirmed in 2018
- ✓ Fully loaded with fuel, Blue Origin will weigh about 33,000 pounds (15,000 kilograms), which will decrease to around 7,000 pounds when it is about to land
- ✓ He also made a direct reference to Nasa and the White House to send astronauts back to the moon by 2024 through the expertise of Blue origin
- ◆ **Chandrayaan-2 – to carry 14 Indian payloads or study devices, as per ISRO**
 - ✓ The lunar lander mission is planned to be launched during July 9-16 window
 - ✓ The 3,800-kg spacecraft includes an orbiter which will circle the moon at 100 km - a five-legged lander called Vikram that will descend on the moon on or around September 6 - and a robotic rover, Pragyan, that will probe the lunar terrain around it.
 - ✓ ISRO has chosen a landing area at the unexplored lunar south pole, making it the first agency to touch down at the south pole if it succeeds in its first landing attempt.
 - ✓ ISRO will send the mission on its heavy lift booster, the MkIII, from Sriharikota.
 - ✓ In October 2008, the space organisation had launched its orbiter mission Chandrayaan-1 on its PSLV booster.

On the moon

Chandrayaan-2, a fully-indigenous mission, has three modules – an orbiter, a Lander named 'Vikram' & a Rover called 'Pragyan'



Payloads: 14 Indian payloads: 8 on Orbiter, 4 on Lander and 2 on Rover

▪ Chandrayaan-2 will be launched on board a GSLV-MkIII rocket. Chandrayaan-1 was launched on board a PSLV

Target launch: July 2019

▪ The Pragyan Rover will be used mostly for insitu experiments

Mission: Weighing around 3,290 kg, Chandrayaan-2 would orbit around the moon to collect scientific information on lunar topography, mineralogy, elemental abundance, lunar exosphere and signatures of hydroxyl and water-ice

- ✓ The spacecraft had 11 payloads.
- ✓ One of the U.S. payloads shares credit with Chandrayaan-1 for confirming the presence of water ice on the moon

DEFENCE

◆ Australian warship HMAS Toowoomba - is making a port visit to Chennai from May 10-15



- ✓ The visit is as part of Australia's commitment to engage with Indo-Pacific nations and promote regional maritime security and cooperation
- ✓ The visit of the warship, commanded by Commander Mitchell Livingstone, follows the success of AUSINDEX19 that saw the largest ever Australian Defence Force Joint Task Force deployed to India.
- ✓ The ship will participate in Exercise La Perouse in the Bay of Bengal, which aims to enhance interoperability, build partner capacity and strengthen professional relationships with regional nations

AWARDS

- ◆ **The Hindu - won a gold award under the Best In Print category (above 150,000 circulation) at the WAN-IFRA Asian Media Awards**
 - ✓ This award is presented to newspapers deserving recognition for their excellence in standardised printing.
 - ✓ The focus of the award is to show the ability of newspapers to print consistently high quality according to international standards.
 - ✓ The Apple Daily (Taiwan), Apple Daily Publication Development Limited, Taiwan Branch, also won a gold award under the same category
 - ✓ The silver went to The Times of India, Airoli, Mumbai, published by Bennett, Coleman & Co Ltd.
 - ✓ The winners of the WAN-IFRA's Asian Media Awards were announced on May 8, during the Publish Asia/Newsroom Summit Asia 2019 conferences in Singapore
 - ✓ This year's competition attracted 350 entries from 55 media companies in 16 countries across Asia and the Middle East

SPORTS

- ◆ **Former Sri Lankan Test players, Nuwan Zoysa and Avishka Gunawardene - have been charged with match-fixing by the International Cricket Council (ICC)**



- ✓ The charges against the two cricketers relate to a T10 league played in the UAE in December
- ✓ Three months ago, the ICC banned Sri Lanka's former skipper and ex-chief selector Sanath Jayasuriya, from all forms of the game for two years for failing to cooperate with an anti-corruption investigation
- ✓ Last month, ex-Sri Lanka fast bowler Dilhara Lokuhettige was suspended over three match corruption accusations

OBITUARY

- ◆ **Thoppil Mohamed Meeran, noted Tamil writer and Sahitya Akademi award winner (74 years)**

1944 - 2019	SHORT STORIES	NOVELS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Anbukku Muthumai Illai> Thangarasu> Ananthasayanam Colony> Oru Kutti Theevin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Saaivu Naarkkali (Sahitya Akademi)> Oru Kadalora Graamaththin Kathai> Thuraimugam> Koonan Thoppu> Anju Vannam Theru
Thoppil Mohd Meeran Born In 1944 at Thekkaipattinam in Kanyakumari	Awards Meeran received eight awards	They include Sahitya Akademi and Tamil Nadu Kalai Ilakkiya Perumantram (in 1992)

- ✓ Meeran authored several novels in Tamil and Malayalam and won the Sahitya Akademi award for “Saaivu Naarkkali” (reclining chair) in 1997
- ✓ In the novels, Meeran explained the lives of Muslims in detail, especially fishermen and problems they faced
- ✓ Meeran was the first author to bring out the life of Muslims in south Tamil Nadu in almost all his novels

