

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 22, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **The 100-bed Institute of Mental Health in Theni – becomes the second hospital exclusively for treatment of mental illness after Chennai-based Institute of Mental Health**

PUTTING MENTAL HEALTH FIRST



- > The Institute of Mental Health in Chennai was the only exclusive hospital for mental health care in the state
- > Medical college hospitals and district hospitals have less than 20 psychiatric beds
- > Mental illnesses affect an estimated 10% of the population. Of this, up to 3%

have severe psychotic conditions such as bipolar disorder or schizophrenia

- > In 2010, the state announced a new mental health hospital in Theni

- > The out-patient ward was inaugurated six months ago

- > The new hospital can treat at least 100 in-patients

- ✓ The facility is attached to Theni Medical College and Hospital at the renovated district headquarters hospital
- ✓ Besides treating patients, the institute will offer PG medical courses in psychiatry
- ✓ The Theni hospital has seven psychiatrists, seven nurses, two medical officers and auxiliary health staff
- ◆ **The 60,000th Coach, a self-propelled inspection car - was flagged off from the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) on May 21**

- ✓ ICF had rolled out 3,262 coaches last year (2018-19) and this makes it the largest coach manufacturer in the world.



- ✓ In the current year, the factory will take up the design, development and production of Train 19, a sleeper version of Train 18 on the lines of Rajdhani Express.

- ✓ ICF will also manufacture more number of Vande Bharat Express train sets and 40 such train sets will be rolled out soon

INTERNATIONAL

◆ **United Arab Emirates (UAE) - had launched 'Golden Card' permanent residency scheme for wealthy individuals and exceptional talent around the world**

- ✓ It is open to investors and 'exceptional talents' like scientists, engineers, doctors, students and artists
- ✓ The scheme offers conducive business environment and permanent residency apart from providing several benefits to cardholders as well as to their families
- ✓ This new initiative will attract greater foreign investment and increase UAE's competitiveness on a global scale

PERSONALITIES

◆ **Dave Sharma, the Liberal candidate and former Australian ambassador to Israel - becomes the first Indian-origin lawmaker in the Australian Parliament**



- ✓ Sharma, 43, defeated independent candidate Kerryn Phelps for the eastern suburb seat of Wentworthin district in Sydney
 - ✓ Sharma was Australia's ambassador to Israel from 2013 to 2017
- ### ◆ **Kami Rita Sherpa, a Nepali mountaineer - has broken his own record by climbing Mount Everest for a record 24th time and also twice within a week**



- ✓ Earlier, he had scaled the world's tallest mountain for the 23rd time on May 15
- ✓ Kami was leading a team of Indian police as a senior climbing guide when he broke his previous record
- ✓ Earlier, he has shared his record of 21 summits with Nepalese climbers Apa Sherpa and Phurba Tashi Sherpa, both of whom have already announced retirement.
- ✓ Kami Rita made the maiden ascent of Everest in 1994 when he was 24 years old

- ✓ As many as 5,000 climbers have already scaled the 8848m-world's highest peak since 1953
- ✓ Mt. Everest is called 'Sagarmatha' in the local nepali language

◆ **PCT Humanity, a charity run by an Indian named Joginder Singh Salaria in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) - sets a new Guinness World Records for 'Longest Line of Hunger Relief Package' in Abu Dhabi**

- ✓ The PCT stands for Pehal Charitable Trust
- ✓ It had set the record with Iftar distribution
- ✓ A vegetarian iftar is held separately daily by PCT Humanity at premises of Salaria's company Pehal International in Dubai Industrial Park, Abu Dhabi
- ✓ PCT Humanity's record-breaking Iftar line contained seven meal items spread in a line for about a kilometer length

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ **India's largest liquid hydrogen storage tank – is flagged off at the VRV Asia Pacific's manufacturing plant at Sri City in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh**



- ✓ It was inaugurated by K Sivan, Chairman of ISRO
- ✓ VRV Asia Pacific manufactured the storage tank with a Liquid Nitrogen (LIN) shield
- ✓ It was a collaborative effort with Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, under the Make in India initiative
- ✓ The storage capacity of the tank is 120 kilo liters.
- ✓ Liquid hydrogen is used as fuel for satellite launch vehicles

◆ **Dr Gaurav Sharma, senior research scientist at Battelle, a Columbus-based global research and development organization - is among six teams which won grants from US Military to develop brain-machine interfaces**



- ✓ Dr Sharma is an Indian scientist in the US, who shot to fame after developing a neuroprosthetic technology named NeuroLife in 2016, which enabled a

quadriplegic man (an accident victim who was paralysed from waist down) to move his hand using just his thoughts

- ✓ He has now won a \$20 million contract from US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to develop a system that could ultimately allow a soldier to put on a helmet and use their mind to control multiple unmanned aerial vehicles or even a bomb disposal robot.
- ✓ Sharma, who hails from Meerut, has been tasked with developing a minimally invasive neural interface for the US military.
- ✓ He will lead the project that aims to develop a nanotransducer that can be temporarily introduced into the body via injection so that the brain is able to communicate through a helmet-based transceiver.
- ✓ The system is named BrainSTORMS (Brain System to Transmit Or Receive Magnetoelectric Signals).
- ✓ DARPA is the agency of the United States department of defence

DEFENCE

◆ **The Indian Air Force - successfully test fired the aerial version of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile from a Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft on May 22, 2019**

- ✓ The 2.5 tonne air-to-surface missile has a range of around 300 km
- ✓ The BrahMos cruise missile travels at a speed of Mach 2.8, nearly three times that of the sound



- ✓ The IAF had become the first air force in the world to have successfully fired an air-launched 2.8 Mach surface attack missile of this category on a sea target on November 22, 2017
- ✓ It was the second such live launch of the weapon on May 22, 2019

ECONOMY

◆ **Reliance Industries - has topped State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to become the country's biggest company by revenue**

- ✓ Reliance, in the 2018-19 fiscal year that ended March 31, reported a turnover of ₹6.23 lakh crore
- ✓ In comparison, IOC posted a turnover of ₹6.17 lakh crore for the fiscal
- ✓ It was also the most profitable company in the country with a net profit of more than double that of IOC in FY2019

APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **Pakistan appointed Moeen-ul-Haq, its ambassador to France - as the new high commissioner to India**



- ✓ He replaces former high commissioner Sohail Mahmood, who was elevated as the country's foreign secretary following the retirement of Tehmina Janjua

AWARDS

- ◆ **Former Indian Foreign Secretary, Shyam Saran – to receive Japan's Second Highest National award 'Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star' - in recognition of his contribution to strengthening Japan-India ties**



- ✓ He served as India's Foreign Secretary from year 2004 to 2006
 - ✓ During his tenure Junichiro Koizumi, (then Japanese Prime Minister) visited India for first time in 5 years
 - ✓ During his tenure as Deputy Chief of Mission of Embassy of India in Japan, he organized "India Festival" at Japan in 1988
- ◆ **Indian Police Officer Jitender Kumar - to be honoured with the prestigious United Nations medal this year for his courage and sacrifice in the line of duty**
 - ✓ **He will be honoured posthumously with the 'Dag Hammarskjöld Medal' on the International Day of UN Peacekeepers on May 29**
 - ✓ He made the supreme sacrifice while serving in the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Central African country of Congo
 - ✓ Kumar is among the 119 military, police and civilian personnel who will be honoured with the medal this year
 - ✓ The medal is named after Dag Hammarskjöld, who was the second Secretary-General of the United Nations

- ✓ He died in a plane crash in 1961 while en route to cease-fire negotiations during Congo Crisis.
- ✓ The first Medal was presented to the family of Dag Hammarskjöld in 1998
- ✓ India is ranked at fourth place in contributing police personnel to the peacekeeping missions overseas
- ✓ Currently, over 6,400 Indians are serving as peacekeepers in overseas UN missions in West Asia, Western Sahara, Congo, Lebanon, Abyei, Cyprus, Haiti, and South Sudan

◆ **Oman author Jokha Alharthi - won the prestigious ‘Man Booker International Prize 2019’ for her novel “Celestial Bodies”**



- ✓ Alharthi became the first Arabic-language writer to win the coveted prize and the first female writer from Oman to have her work translated into English.
- ✓ She will split the prize money of 50,000 pound (USD 64,000) with her UK-based translator, Marilyn Booth
- ✓ Alharthi also won the ‘Best Omani Novel Award’ for Celestial Bodies in 2010.
- ✓ The Man Booker International Prize of United Kingdom is a counterpart to the ‘Man Booker Prize’ that is awarded only for English-language novels
- ✓ It is open to books in any language that have been translated into English and is distributed in Britain
- ✓ The 2018 winner of the prestigious prize was novel ‘Flights’ by Polish author Olga Tokarczuk
- ✓ The award will be renamed as the ‘International Booker Prize’ from next year as the current sponsor Man Group PLC is withdrawing the assistance
- ✓ From June 1, 2019, the charitable foundation of Michael Moritz KBE and his wife Harriet Heyman, ‘Crankstart’ will be the new supporter of the Booker Prize and the International Booker Prize.

◆ **The Malawian soldier Chancy Chitete - to be honoured with the United Nation’s (UN) highest peacekeeping award, called “Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal for Exceptional Courage”.**



- ✓ He will be awarded posthumously in New York, US on May 24 2019
- ✓ The late UN peacekeeper from Mali sacrificed his life while serving in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

- ✓ The UN's highest peacekeeping award is named after Captain Mbaye Diagne of Senegal, who served with former UN Mission in Rwanda and saved thousands of Rwandans from death in 1994 genocide
- ✓ It was established in 2014

SPORTS

◆ Haryana and Kerala - clinched the boys' and girls' titles in the 36th Youth National basketball championship at Coimbatore



- ✓ Haryana had defeated Kerala in the boy's final while Kerala had defeated Tamil Nadu in the girls' final
- ✓ Sathya of Tamil Nadu was adjudged as the promising youngster of the tournament

INTERNATIONAL DAY

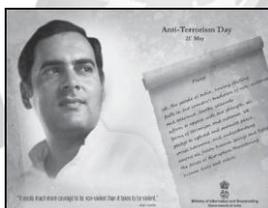
◆ The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) - May 22



- ✓ The objective of observing this day is to spread awareness about species turning endangered or going to extinct apart from increasing understanding of biodiversity issues
- ✓ Theme 2019 - "Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health"
- ✓ On the eve of the day, an awareness campaign was launched by the name of 'Not all animals migrate by choice' to be displayed at major airports across India
- ✓ The campaign aims to create awareness about illegal wildlife trade and conservation of wildlife
- ✓ It was inaugurated by Dia Mirza, the UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador (and also UN Secretary-General's SDG Advocate)

- ✓ In collaboration with Airports Authority of India (AAI) and GMR Group, the campaign is set to travel across 22 airports across India over the next year
- ✓ UN Environment has already initiated a global campaign, Wild for Life, to create awareness about illegal trade in wildlife
- ✓ The first Biological Diversity International Day was observed by Second Committee of the UN General Assembly on December 29, 1993
- ✓ In the year 2000, UN General Assembly adopted 22 May as International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB)
- ✓ The awareness about biological diversity assumes significance as more than 90% of yield varieties have vanished from farmers' lands over the last century
- ✓ There is a severe threat to local food production systems, including related indigenous, traditional and local knowledge
- ✓ Over the years, more than 50% of the breeds of many domestic animals have been lost, and all of the world's 17 main fishing grounds are now being above their sustainable limits.
- ✓ With all these damages, agricultural biodiversity is fast disappearing, along with essential knowledge of traditional medicine

◆ **Anti-Terrorism Day – May 21**



- ✓ The observance of the day seeks to spread awareness among people about dangers of violence and terrorism and its effect on people, society and country altogether
- ✓ The day marks the death anniversary of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who was assassinated in 1991 at an election rally near Chennai
- ✓ The University Grants Commission (UGC) has directed universities and higher educational institutions (HEIs) in India to observe 21 May as Anti-Terrorism Day so as to wean youth away from terrorism

◆ **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development – May 21**



- ✓ The year 2019 has been declared 'International Year of Indigenous Languages' by UN General Assembly, so as to bring awareness to importance of linguistic diversity

- ✓ In 2001, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted 'Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity' as a result of the destruction of the Buddha statues of Bamiyan in Afghanistan in 2001
- ✓ Then in December 2002, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) declared 21 May to be World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
- ✓ The 2019 event coincided with UAE's declaration of 2019 as the 'Year for Tolerance'

◆ **World Bee Day – May 20**



- ✓ It marks the birthday anniversary of 18th century beekeeping pioneer, Anton Janša.
- ✓ He pioneered modern beekeeping techniques in his native country Slovenia and praised bees for their ability to work so hard
- ✓ The theme for World Bee Day 2019 was "Save the Bees"
- ✓ 20 May was designated as World Bee Day by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by unanimously passing a resolution proposed by Slovenia in December 2017
- ✓ The day intends to raise awareness about importance of bees and pollinators, threats faced by them, their contribution to sustainable development and to acknowledge their role in ecosystem

◆ **World Metrology Day – May 20**



- ✓ The day commemorates anniversary of signing of the international treaty called Metre Convention in Paris on 20 May 1875, by which International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) was created
- ✓ The Metre Convention provides the basis for a global coherent measurement system
- ✓ The theme for WMD 2019 was "The International System of Units – Fundamentally better."
- ✓ Metrology means the 'measurement'

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS – A REPORT

- ◆ **The world's second-largest democratic elections — the European elections, in which 400 million people are entitled to vote – to take place on May 23**

WORLD'S SECOND-LARGEST ELECTIONS TO BEGIN THIS THURSDAY

Seats per country from July 2019

Germany	96
France	74
Italy	73
UK	73
Spain	54
Poland	51
Romania	32
Netherlands	26
Belgium	21
Czech Rep.	21
Greece	21
Hungary	21
Portugal	21
Sweden	20
Austria	18
Bulgaria	17
Denmark	13
Slovakia	13
Finland	13
Ireland	11
Croatia	11
Lithuania	11
Latvia	8
Slovenia	8
Estonia	6
Cyprus	6
Luxembourg	6
Malta	6



European elections are the 2nd-largest democratic contest in the world, second only to Indian elections

Voting to take place from May 23 to 26
500M voters in 28 EU nations will elect 751 members of the European Parliament

May 26 (Sunday) | Day results will be declared. The members' 5-year term will begin on July 2

- UK voted to leave the EU in June 2016 but PM Theresa May has been unable to get a withdrawal agreement passed through parliament, so the UK's membership of EU has been extended to October 31
- UK voters will be selecting 73 MEPs (members of the European Parliament) in 12 electoral regions

Functions of EU Parliament

- Shares power over EU budget and legislation with the Council of the European Union (EU governments)
- Plays a key role in electing the President of the European Commission
- Makes sure other EU institutions are working democratically



MEPs eam ₹6.8 lakh per month

The European Parliament is situated in Brussels and Strasbourg

- ✓ The 751-seat European Parliament holds elections every five years
- ✓ Britons will also cast their votes in this election, even though the Brits voted to leave the bloc in June 2016

