

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 23, 2019

### STATES

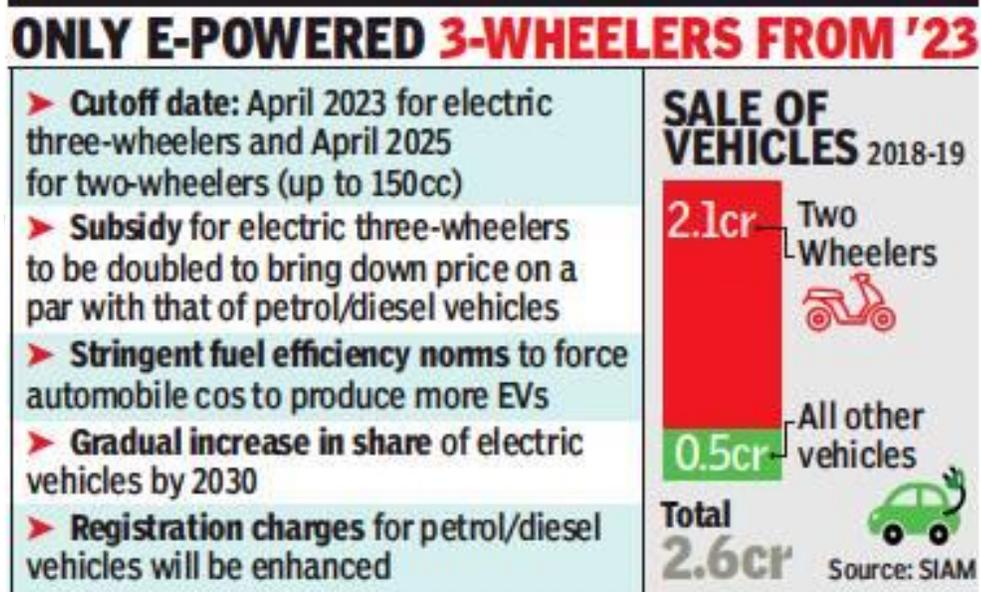
- ◆ **Gujarat – passes a legislation under which chain snatchers in the state will face up to 10 years imprisonment instead of three years elsewhere in the country.**
  - ✓ The Criminal Law (Gujarat Amendment) Bill 2018 will provide a maximum of 10 years of imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹25,000 if anyone in Gujarat is convicted for the crime of chain snatching and causing injuries in the process
  - ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to the bill recently
  - ✓ As per the new law, for an attempt to snatch chain, the accused will get minimum five and maximum seven years of imprisonment.
  - ✓ However, while committing the offence, if the accused injures somebody while trying to escape, he will be liable to an imprisonment of up to 10 years
  - ✓ In rest of the country, chain snatchers are normally charged with the Section 379 of the IPC which is related to the crime of theft and invites a punishment of up to three years in jail or with fine, or with both.
- ◆ **Karnataka - has the largest number of out-of-court settlements in south India, followed by Tamil Nadu.**
  - ✓ In Karnataka, more than 1.5 lakh cases having been settled through alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in the last four-and-a-half years
  - ✓ While Tamil Nadu with 1.4 lakh cases stands second in South India, Andhra Pradesh has 89,201 cases, Telangana has less than 50,000 and Kerala has less than 80,000.
  - ✓ Nationally, only Maharashtra (2.9 lakh), Gujarat (2.4 lakh) and Delhi (1.6 lakh) have more cases than Karnataka

# NATIONAL

◆ **Department of biotechnology (DBT) – signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with department of atomic energy (DAE) for supporting joint collaborative research programme in cancer and funding clinical trials in the country.**

- ✓ It includes strategising and prioritising cancer research, development of new and affordable technologies, interventions, training of manpower and infrastructure development.
- ✓ The DAE is represented by its Tata Memorial Centre which also functions as the coordinating centre on behalf of the National Cancer Grid of India.

◆ **The government - is expected to permit the sale of only electric three-wheelers from April 2023 and electric two-wheelers with engine capacity up to 150cc from April 2025**



- ✓ The radical recommendations of a high-level government panel are aimed at reducing vehicular pollution
- ✓ The inter-ministerial steering committee headed by Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant is expected to propose similar deadlines for delivery vehicles and school and city buses
- ✓ The committee has also pushed for doubling direct subsidy for electric three-wheelers to ₹20,000 per kilo watt hour to make them affordable

◆ **For the first time since 2008, the Supreme Court - will function at its full strength of 31 judges from May 22, 2019**

- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind appointed four new judges — Justices Aniruddha Bose, A S Bopanna, B R Gavai and Surya Kant on May 22
- ✓ Parliament had increased SC's sanctioned strength from 26 to 31 in 2008

- ✓ The collegium headed by CJI Ranjan Gogoi on May 8 reiterated its April 12 recommendation for appointment of Jharkhand HC Chief Justice Bose and Gauhati HC CJ Bopanna as SC judges, brushing aside the Centre's objections on the ground of seniority and equal representation to states



- ✓ On May 8, the collegium of CJI Gogoi and Justices S A Bobde, N V Ramana, Arun Mishra and R F Nariman had also recommended the names of Bombay HC's Justice Gavai and Himachal Pradesh CJ Kant for appointment as SC judges.
- ✓ With this, the CJI Gogoi-headed collegium has succeeded in appointing 10 SC judges in seven months.
- ✓ The other six are Justices Hemant Gupta, R Subhash Reddy, M R Shah and Ajay Rastogi on November 2 and Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Sanjiv Khanna on January 18
- ✓ Among the four new SC judges likely to take oath in the next two days, Justice Gavai will become CJI for a little over six months in 2025
- ✓ In him, the SC will get a judge from the Scheduled Caste community after nearly a decade.
- ✓ Justice Kant will succeed Justice Gavai as CJI on November 23, 2025, and remain in office till February 9, 2027

## INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

### ◆ Japan and India - could soon be developing and operating the Eastern Container Terminal (ECT) at Colombo port

- ✓ Sri Lanka's cabinet is set to approve a tripartite agreement with India and Japan for the ECT.
- ✓ Sri Lanka will keep 51% ownership, while the rest will be with India and Japan.



- ✓ Colombo port was developed over decades with Japanese aid
- ✓ The venture will be seen as a counter to China, which has the lease to run the Hambantota port for 99 years after Sri Lanka couldn't clear the debt for its construction and operation.
- ✓ The Hambantota port is a major transshipment hub for cars exported from Chennai and bound for markets in Africa and Europe.

- ✓ In 2017-18, India acquired operational control of Mattala International Airport close to Hambantota, which has been described as the emptiest airport in the world India and Japan then sealed a deal to develop an LNG terminal project within Colombo port, as well as build a floating storage regassification unit (FSRU)

## PERSONALITIES

- ◆ **Sweta Shahi from Nalanda, Bihar – was named as the face of World Rugby’s global campaign**



- ✓ She was the only Indian selected for the new global campaign video to promote women’s rugby
- ✓ The 20-year-old winger has represented India at three Asia Rugby Sevens tournaments, plays for the Bihar state team and coaches 100 players from her district, 70 of whom are men.
- ✓ She is attending the national training camp next month and hopes to be selected for the national 15-member India women’s rugby team which is participating in the 2019 Asia Rugby Women’s Championship Division I in Manila in June

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ **Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) – launches third radar imaging earth observation satellite, Risat-2B onboard PSLV C-46 on May 22**

**All-season satellite**  
RISAT-2B is a radar imaging earth observation satellite developed by ISRO

**PSLV-C46**  
Height: 44.4 m

**Key features**  
Lift-off weight | 615 kg  
Altitude | 557 km  
Payload | X-Band radar  
Inclination | 37 degrees  
Mission life | 5 years

**Applications**

- Disaster management support
- Forestry
- Agriculture

Source: ISRO

- ✓ The 615kg Risat-2B took off from the first launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota
- ✓ It has the capability to identify and capture images of objects on the ground on a centimetre scale precision in all-weather conditions through day and night
- ✓ It was PSLV's 48th flight and 14th with 'corealone' configuration.
- ✓ The rocket also carried a microelectromechanical systems (MEMS)-based inertial navigation system and an indigenous Vikram processor
- ✓ The satellite carried an indigenous 3.6m radial rib unfurlable and deployable antenna developed in a record time of 13 months, instead of an imported antenna that would have taken about 3-4 years
- ✓ With its X-band synthetic aperture radar (SAR), it has lower penetration through cloud cover and cannot penetrate through the ground
- ✓ X-band radar has all day/night imaging on ground and an all-weather capability except in very heavy cloud and fog
- ✓ It can be used for civil and military purposes of planning and tracking
- ✓ Risat-2 was the first to be launched on April 20, 2009
- ✓ The radar carried an Israeli-made X-band SAR sensor
- ✓ Subsequently, Risat-1 launched on April 26, 2012, carried an indigenously developed radar.
- ✓ Both the satellites had a five-year mission life

◆ **The Chennai-based Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF) – found out the links between NAPRT1 gene and schizophrenia, a mental illness**

- ✓ This implicates the role of a nutrient, niacin — also known as Vitamin B3 — in the mental disorder
- ✓ SCARF has analyzed more than 3,000 blood samples from people of uniform Tamil ethnicity along with some amount of inbreeding
- ✓ Schizophrenia is a mental illness marked by a loosening grip on reality, delusions, paranoia and hallucinations
- ✓ It is estimated that nearly 10% of the population have some kind of psychotic ailments and 4-5% suffer from major ailments such as bipolar disorder and schizophrenia
- ✓ To address the large gaps in mental healthcare, in 2018, the state formed the State Mental Health Authority under the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017
- ✓ The authority will register private and public mental health establishments, maintain registries and frame rules

◆ **The British Council - announced the launch of DARA –India's first chatbot for creative professionals**



- ✓ The digital assistant will help creative professionals discover potential international collaborators for their ongoing projects
- ✓ It will provide them access to greater resources, more networking opportunities and potentially a wider global audience for their work.
- ✓ DARA is an extension of the council's commitment to democratizing arts and connecting artists from the UK and India.

◆ **Washington – becomes the first state to approve composting as an alternative to burying or cremating human remains**



- ✓ It allows licensed facilities to offer “natural organic reduction,” which turns a body, mixed with substances like wood chips and straw, into about two wheelbarrows’ worth of soil within a few weeks.
- ✓ Loved ones are allowed to keep the soil to spread or even use it to plant vegetables or a tree
- ✓ A pilot project at Washington State University tested the idea last year on six bodies
- ✓ In 2017, Recompose was founded — a company working to bring the concept to the public

## DEFENCE

◆ **Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth – becomes IAF’s first woman fighter pilot to become “fully ops (operational) by day”**

- ✓ Bhawana, who hails from Bihar’s Darbhanga, has topped the three in her batch of women fighter pilots — the others are Flight Lieutenants Avani Chaturvedi and Mohana Singh — to successfully complete her “day operational syllabus” on the MiG-21s ‘Bison’ supersonic jet at the Nal airbase in Bikaner.



- ✓ She is the first woman fighter pilot to qualify to undertake missions by day on a fighter aircraft.
- ✓ Bhawana joined her fighter squadron in November 2017 after initial flying on Pilatus turbo-props and Kiran trainers as well as Hawk advanced jet trainers.
- ✓ She flew her first solo on a MiG-21Bison in March 2018.
- ✓ The IAF has so far inducted six women into its fighter flying stream on “an experimental basis” for five years by spending Rs 15 crore to train a single fighter pilot

## SPORTS

- ◆ **The Tamil Nadu women's football team, Sethu FC from Madurai - emerged champions of the third edition of the Indian Women's League at the Guru Nanak Stadium in Ludhiana**



- ✓ Sethu FC had defeated Manipur Police SC 3-1 in the final to clinch the title.
- ✓ Last year, Tamil Nadu girls had won both the senior and junior National Championships
- ✓ It has to be recollected that Chennai City FC won the I-League in March

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

- ◆ **World Schizophrenia Awareness Day - 24 May**



- ✓ May 20 to 27 is observed as Schizophrenia Awareness Week all across the world
- ✓ Schizophrenia Awareness Week is being celebrated in May every year since 1986
- ✓ Schizophrenia is a mental condition which affects normal functioning of the brain.
- ✓ It affects the normal functioning of the brain, interfering with a person's ability to think, feel and act
- ✓ The aim of World Schizophrenia Day is to fight the stigmas associated with the mental disease and makes people more aware of the mental disorder

