

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 3, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - announced cash incentives of ₹ 10 lakh and ₹ 5 lakh to Gomathi Marimuthu and Arokia Rajiv, who won gold and silver medals in the recently-held Asian Athletics Championship at Doha in Qatar**



- ✓ Gomathi won in the 800m, while Arokia Rajiv was part of the Indian team that placed second in the 400m mixed relay
- ◆ **In a first, the state government - is likely to ask Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to conduct online counselling for admissions to engineering courses this year**
 - ✓ The counselling, which will be held in two stages, will be monitored by the Directorate of Technical Education.
 - ✓ As per the schedule, the online counselling will be held from July 3 to 28
 - ✓ This year, following differences over reconstitution of Tamil Nadu Engineering Admissions (TNEA) committee, M K Surappa, vice-chancellor of Anna University, resigned from the committee.
 - ✓ Anna University, which has conducted engineering counselling for the past 22 years, introduced online counseling in 2018

STATES

- ◆ **Kerala's Muslim Educational Society (MES), which controls 150 educational institutions - has banned "any dress that covers the face" for girls on all its campuses from academic year 2019-20**

FACE TO FACE

➤ A circular issued by MES state president Dr Fazal Gafoor on April 19, 2019 has prohibited girl students from coming to its campuses wearing any kind of veils covering their faces

➤ It has asked institution heads to include this as



a rule on the campus from academic year 2019-20

➤ Some organisations like Samastha Kerala Jem-Iyyathul Ulema and Samastha Kerala Sunni Students Federation have questioned the MES's authority in 'passing diktats' on religious issues

- ✓ The institutions that MES controls include 10 professional colleges, 18 arts and science colleges, 12 higher secondary and 36 CBSE affiliated schools

NATIONAL

- ◆ **Cyclonic Storm 'Fani' - crossed Odisha Coast between Gopalpur and Chandbali around Puri on May 03, 2019 with maximum sustained wind speed of 170-180 kmph gusting to 200 kmph**

- ✓ Due to the cyclone, there was a warning for widespread rainfall in North Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya
- ✓ This could be the first time since the 1999 Super Cyclone that the state would bear the brunt of such a severe storm.
- ✓ Indian Coast Guard and the Navy have deployed ships and helicopters for relief and rescue operations
- ✓ NDRF has deployed 12 teams in Andhra Pradesh, 28 teams in Odisha and 6 teams in West Bengal
- ✓ Army and Air Force units in the three States have also been put on standby.



- ✓ The 1999 cyclone killed nearly 10,000 people, battering the state with winds of 270kmph to 300kmph.

BRACING FOR EXTREME IMPACT

'Extremely severe' cyclone Fani set to make landfall today forenoon at Odisha coast, between Gopalpur and Chandbali near Puri

Likely Force | Sustained winds of 170-180 kmph gusting to 225 kmph. Storm likely to remain extremely severe for 4-6 hours after landfall. Intensity will gradually reduce thereafter

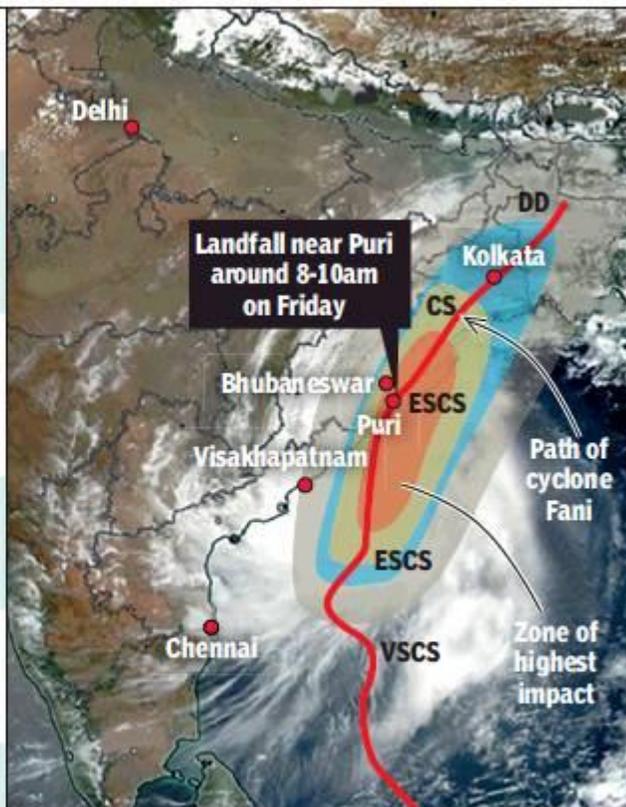
What To Expect | 1.5-2m high wave surges may flood areas of Ganjam, Khurda, Puri and Jagatsinghpur districts at landfall. Huts, weak structures may be 'totally destroyed'. Widespread rains

Shifted To Safety | 8 lakh people in Odisha by 7pm Thursday. Evacuation target: 11.5 lakh. People moved to 4,000 locations, including 900 cyclone shelters.

Airports Shut | No flights to and from Bhubaneswar today. Kolkata airport to shut from 9.30pm on Friday till 6pm on Saturday. 223 trains cancelled

Ready For Rescue Ops | NDRF (28 units), Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (20), 525 fire personnel

Deployed | 302 rapid response force teams of health personnel



(In descending order of severity) ESCS: Extremely severe cyclonic storm; VSCS: Very severe cyclonic storm; CS: Cyclonic storm; DD: Deep depression

- ✓ The name of the Cyclone 'Fani' was suggested by Bangladesh. It means 'Snake' or 'hood of snake'
- ✓ Eight countries namely, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan and Thailand send names of tropical cyclones developing in the North Indian Ocean to the regional committee

◆ **The water storage level available in 91 major Indian reservoirs - was 40.592 BCM (Billion cubic meters), which is 25% of total storage capacity of these reservoirs, for the week ending on 2 May 2019**

- ✓ It has shown a decline of 1% compared with the week ending on April 25, 2019
- ✓ When compared with the last year's level, it was 115% of storage of corresponding period of last year (i.e. May 2018) and 104% of storage of average of last ten years (i.e. May 2009)
- ✓ The total storage capacity of these 91 reservoirs is 161.993 BCM
- ✓ The details of these storage levels was released by the Ministry of Water resources
- ✓ Storage status of the States (against the corresponding period last year)
- ✓ States having better storage are Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu
- ✓ States having equal storage are Odisha and Andhra Pradesh and Telangana combined (AP&TG, Two combined projects in both states)
- ✓ States having lesser storage are Rajasthan, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala

◆ **The Office of Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to Government of India - has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) - to set up a Centre of Excellence for Waste to Wealth Technologies in the country**

- ✓ The 'waste to wealth' mission project has been approved as one of the nine national missions under Prime Minister's Science Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) to address major scientific challenges in India
- ✓ Under it, a waste to wealth programme management centre will also be set up at IIT Delhi

◆ **Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu - released postage stamp in New Delhi to commemorate 750th birth anniversary of Sri Vedanta Desikan**

- ✓ He is one of the most prominent religious saint in 'Sri Vaishnava' tradition post Ramanuja period
- ✓ His notable works includes 'kavi tarkika-kesari', 'sarva-tantra-svatantra', 'ramanuja-daya-patram', 'Rahasya Traya Sara', 'Silpartha-Saram', Subhashita Neevi' and Aahaara Niyamam'



- ✓ His great work 'Paduka Sahasram' shows his poetic eloquence and his mathematical ingenuity
- ✓ In two verses of this collection, he gave a solution to mathematical problem that was solved about 500 years later by mathematician, Leonard Euler

◆ **The 14th edition of the annual Sino-Indian border trade - opened at Nathu La, the frontier post at Sino-Indian border in Sikkim**



- ✓ Every year bilateral border trade between two countries is organised four days a week for period of six months, between May 1 and November 30
- ✓ After a gap of 44 years, cross border trade was resumed on 6th, July 2006
- ✓ The three open trading border posts between India and China are Nathu La in Sikkim, Shipkila in Himachal Pradesh and Lipulekh (or Lipulech) in Uttarakhand

INTERNATIONAL

◆ **Japan's new Emperor Naruhito - ascended the Chrysanthemum Throne on May 1, 2019**

- ✓ 59-year old Naruhito took the throne after his father Akihito's historic abdication (first in more than 200 years) on April 30, 2019



- ✓ The ascension marks the beginning of new era 'Reiwa' from May 1, 2019, bringing an end to 'Heisei' era
- ✓ The term "Reiwa" means "Beautiful Harmony", derived from 'Manyoshu', a 1200-year old anthology of Japanese poems
- ✓ It is the first time that the era name (also known as "gengo") has been taken from a Japanese document, and not from Chinese classics, which is a break from more than 1,300 years old practice With the ascension, Naruhito becomes the 126th emperor in world's oldest hereditary monarchy (from 5th century)
- ✓ Akihito (now 85 years old), who took throne in 1989, is the first emperor in Japan's modern history whose era did not have a war

- ◆ **Afghanistan – convened ‘Loya Jirga’, a four day long massive meeting of delegates from across the country in its Capital, Kabul - to discuss about the war, ceasefire and US efforts to reconcile with Taliban**



- ✓ It is a centuries-old tradition in Afghanistan which is usually convened at times of national crisis
 - ✓ It means “grand council” in Pashto
 - ✓ The Taliban are scheduled to meet separately with US peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad in Doha in May 1st week to reach a deal, paving way for the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan
- ◆ **Pakistan – names its February 27, 2019 attack against India as ‘Operation Swift Retort’**
 - ✓ The day marked the Pakistan Air Force’s (PAF) retaliatory action against India
 - ✓ On that day, India lost its MiG-21 Bison aircraft and its pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, who allegedly shot down PAF’s F-16 fighter aircraft was captured by Pakistan
 - ✓ He was later released and handed over to India on March 1
 - ✓ Earlier, Indian Air Force carried out air strikes, hitting a JeM training camp in Balakot in Pakistan on 26 February 2019
 - ✓ The Indian air strikes followed a Jaish-e-Mohammed suicide bomber attack in Pulwama on February 14, 2019 in which 40 CRPF soldiers were martyred
- ◆ **UK’s parliament - declared a symbolic climate change “emergency” for “rapid and dramatic action” to protect the environment for generations to come.**

- ✓ The development comes following mass protests by the Extinction Rebellion activist group that caused major disruptions in London in recent weeks

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ **India - is planning to launch its latest radar imaging satellite RISAT 2BR1 towards the end of May 2019 on a reusable Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C46 rocket**
- ✓ After its launch, Isro will send up a cartography satellite Cartosat-3.
- ✓ The RISAT was first deployed in orbit on April 20, 2009 as the RISAT-2

- ✓ It uses synthetic aperture radars (SAR) to provide Indian forces with all-weather surveillance and observation
- ✓ It would take off from the first launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh

DEFENCE

- ◆ **The 17th edition of Indo-French joint naval exercise, Varuna - begins off the Goa coast on May 1, 2019.**



- ✓ From the Indian side, the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, destroyer INS Mumbai, the Teg-class frigate, INS Tarkash, the Shishumar- class submarine INS Shankul, and the Deepak- class fleet tanker INS Deepak will be participating in the exercise.
- ✓ The first part of the exercise, Varuna 19.1, will be conducted off the Goa coast from 1st to 10th May 19 and second part, Varuna 19.2, is scheduled to be held at the end of May 2019 in Djibouti
- ✓ The exercise will be conducted in two phases – Harbour Phase and Sea Phase
- ✓ The joint naval exercise was first initiated in 1983 and was named as 'Varuna' in 2001
- ✓ It is in line with 'Joint Strategic Vision of India-French Cooperation' in Indian Ocean Region (IOR) signed by President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his state visit to India in 2018

AWARDS

- ◆ **Former ISRO chairman A S Kiran Kumar - was conferred with France's highest civilian honour, Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Legion d'Honneur, for his contribution to India-France space cooperation**



- ✓ A S Kiran Kumar served as the Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation from 2015 to 2018.
- ✓ He currently holds the Chair of the ISRO Committee on Earth Observation Satellites

- ✓ He was instrumental in the design and development of the electro-optical image sensors used in India's first remote sensing satellite, Bhaskara, which was launched in 1979 and the subsequent one in 1981
- ✓ He was also responsible for the Terrain Mapping Camera and Hyperspectral Imager payloads of Chandrayaan-1 project
- ✓ In 2014, Kumar was awarded the Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian award, for his contributions to the fields of science and technology
- ✓ The National Order of the Legion of Honour is the highest French order of merit for military and civil merits, established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte
- ✓ The order is divided into five degrees of increasing distinction - Chevalier (Knight), Officier (Officer), Commandeur (Commander), Grand Officier (Grand Officer) and Grand-Croix (Grand Cross)
- ✓ The past Indian recipients of the Chevalier (Knight) award includes Metro Man E. Sreedharan (2005), Nadir Godrej (2008), Shahrukh Khan (2014), Manish Arora (2016), Kamal Haasan (2016), Soumitra Chatterjee (2018), Azim H Premji (2018) and Father Francois Lobarde (2019).
- ✓ Maharaja Bhupinder Singh of Patiala (1930), Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala (1948) and Maharaja Paramjit Singh of Kapurthala (1950) were the only Indian recipients of the Grand-Croix (Grand Cross)

SPORTS

- ◆ **World number one Bajrang Punia - won the gold medal after defeating Viktor Rassadin 13-8 in the finals of men's 65kg freestyle in the 2019 Ali Aliyev Wrestling Tournament in Kaspiisk, Russia**



- ✓ This is his second title in two weeks.
- ✓ Earlier on April 23, Bajrang won gold in the same category, beating Kazakhstan's Sayatbek Okassov 12-7 in the final of the Asian Wrestling Championships in Xi'an, China
- ✓ Recently, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on April 29, 2019 recommended Bajrang Punia for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, the highest sporting honour of India.
- ✓ Going forward, Bajrang will be participating in the "Grapple at the Garden" Beat the Streets fight night event at the Madison Square Garden, New York on May 6, 2019
- ✓ With this, Punia will become the first Indian wrestler to fight at iconic New York's Madison Square Garden in the Beat the Streets event, a major showcase platform for international wrestling since 2010.

- ✓ Punia will take on two-time US national champion Yianni Diakomahlis, as per the invitation of USA Wrestling
- ✓ Bajrang won Gold at the 2018 Asian Games, 2018 Commonwealth Games and silver at the 2018 World Wrestling Championships in the men's freestyle 65 kg category

◆ **Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) - to bid for the 2024 edition of the biennial World Team Championships**

- ✓ The last time India hosted a World Championships was way back in 1987
- ✓ In the 2024 edition, 32 teams will take part
- ✓ Usually, Team Championships take place on even years and Individual Championships on odd years.
- ✓ Recently, India had hosted World Junior Championships in 2012 at Hyderabad

INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ **World Press Freedom Day – May 03**



- ✓ The day intends to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom and pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty
- ✓ This year, the observance of the day is jointly organized by UNESCO, the African Union Commission and the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
- ✓ The main event has taken place in Addis Ababa, on May 03, 2019 at the African Union Headquarters
- ✓ Theme 2019 - “Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation”
- ✓ World Press Freedom Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993
- ✓ Since then, 3 May, the anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek is celebrated worldwide as World Press Freedom Day.
- ✓ UNESCO marks the day by conferring the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, instituted in 1997

