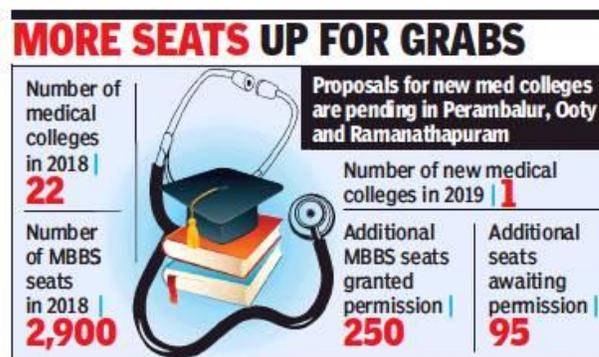


## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 8, 2019

### TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **The Cauvery water management authority - is set to meet in the last week of May, just ahead of the commencement of the water year in June**
  - ✓ The authority had held two meetings last year since it was notified in June 2018, with its last meeting convened in December 2018
  - ✓ The authority is vested with powers on storage, apportionment, regulation and control of Cauvery waters
  - ✓ It has to be recalled that the SC had earlier reduced the allocated share of Tamil Nadu to 177.25 tmcft (thousand million cubic feet)
- ◆ **Tamil Nadu - to establish a new medical college and hospital in Karur**



- ✓ It will begin MBBS admissions for 150 seats from the 2019 academic year
- ✓ The state had also got 100 additional seats for the medical college in Tirunelveli
- ✓ The state has taken a policy decision earlier, to increase the number of medical colleges or add additional seats to existing colleges every year

◆ **Chennai Corporation - to develop multi-level parking lots for one lakh cars at an estimated cost of ₹ 2,000 crore at 101 locations across the city**

- ✓ The Corporation has already identified 12,000 parking slots in areas such as Anna Nagar, Vepery, Besant Nagar and T. Nagar for on-street parking
- ✓ The Chennai Corporation has identified 101 parcels of land in all the 15 zones of the city.
- ✓ Currently, the civic body is developing a multi-level parking lot only on Thyagaraya Road in T. Nagar

◆ **For the first time, environmentalists – have sighted 300 nests of Grizzled Giant Squirrel at Pakkamalai Reserve Forests near Gingee (in Eastern Ghats) in Tamil Nadu**



- ✓ Known by the scientific name, *Ratufa macroura*, it is found along Kaveri River and in the Western ghats hill forests of southern states-Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala
- ✓ In 1988, The Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary located in Tamil Nadu was established to protect vulnerable grizzled giant squirrel
- ✓ It has been placed under 'Near Threatened' category in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List

## STATES

◆ **Purple frog - could be soon designated as Kerala's state amphibian**

- ✓ The official designation of the frog, endemic to Western Ghats, will help in protecting their fragile habitat
- ✓ For almost its entire life it lives in underground tunnels and comes out to surface for only a single day in a year to breed
- ✓ They are called by the scientific name, *Nasikabatrachus sahyadrensis*



- ✓ As per Herpetologists (a specialist in study of reptiles and amphibians), the purple frog should rightly be called 'living fossil' as it is believed that they have co-existed with dinosaurs almost 70 million years ago
- ✓ Their conservation status is endangered as per International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- ✓ The frog was first discovered in 2003 in Kerala's Idukki district.

# NATIONAL

## ◆ **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) – has distributed more than one lakh bee boxes to the farmers and unemployed people across the country under ‘Honey Mission’**



- ✓ Apart from this, basic training was also given to the beekeepers.
- ✓ Beekeepers training include examination of honeybee colonies, honey extraction and wax purification, management of bee colonies in all weathers, acquaintance with apicultural equipments, identification and management of bee enemies and diseases etc.
- ✓ The Honey Mission intends to provide employment and source of income to unemployed rural and urban people by ensuring good Beekeeping practices
- ✓ It was launched in year 2017 with PM Narendra Modi's call for 'Sweet Revolution' in year 2016, while introducing Banas Honey project at Deesa in Gujarat
- ✓ Under mission till date about 246 metric tonnes of honey has been extracted through these bee-boxes valuing over Rs 4 crore
- ✓ Earlier, on 21 May 2018 on the occasion of World Honey Bee Day, KVIC created a new world record by distributing 1,000 bee-boxes among 100 Mishing tribe in Kaziranga forest area in Assam in a single day
- ✓ KVIC is a statutory body formed under 'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956' by Government of India
- ✓ It functions under Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)
- ✓ It is nodal implementation agency of Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) at national level

## ◆ **National Institute of Open Schooling – signs Memorandum of Understanding with the Maharashtra state government's National Health Mission of Public Health Department – to provide vocational programmes to the health service providers**

- ✓ The agreement will impart structured training to health workers and Community Health Workers for ASHAs followed by their assessment, evaluation and certification
- ✓ The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) was established in November 1989 as an autonomous organisation by the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development
- ✓ It also offers Elementary level Courses through its Open Basic Education Programmes

◆ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - is the second most followed politician in the world on social media**



- ✓ He has a total audience of 110.9 million on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
- ✓ He surpasses US President Donald Trump who has 96 million followers globally.
- ✓ Former US President Barack Obama is the world's most followed politician with a total following of 182.7 million
- ✓ However, Trump is still the second most followed politician position globally on Twitter with 59.8 million followers, followed by Modi with 47 million followers
- ✓ In April 2017, Time Magazine featured Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the annual list of 100 most influential people of 2017
- ✓ In May 2018, PM Modi was ranked among the 10 most powerful people in the world in the Forbes World's Most Powerful People list 2018

◆ **India - was re-elected as Observer to the Arctic Council, an intergovernmental forum**

- ✓ The decision was taken during the 11th Arctic Council ministerial meeting at Rovaniemi, Finland
- ✓ The Council also appointed the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) as a new Observer.
- ✓ India was first elected as the Observer to the Arctic Council in 2013 during the Kiruna Ministerial meeting held in Sweden.
- ✓ India has its Arctic research station 'Himadri' at the International Arctic Research base in Svalbard, Norway since 2008
- ✓ It was set up by India's National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, an institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ✓ The station works on the mass balance of glaciers, studies the effect of the global warming on the water bodies, and observes the formation of clouds and precipitation.
- ✓ The Arctic Council promotes cooperation and integration among the Arctic States
- ✓ It was established in 1996 by Ottawa Declaration with its headquarters at Tromso in Norway
- ✓ It has 8 countries as its members - United States, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, and Sweden.
- ✓ 13 Non-arctic States have been accredited as Observers to the Council, till date
- ✓ They are France, Japan, Poland, Singapore, United Kingdom, Germany, Netherlands, India, Spain, Italy, China, Korea and Switzerland
- ✓ Iceland currently holds council's rotating chair

## INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- ◆ **State broadcaster Prasar Bharati - will be co-producing a feature film on the life of the founding father of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**



- ✓ It will be directed by Shyam Benegal, renowned Indian director
- ✓ The decision was taken after a Bangladeshi delegation led by Dr. Gowher Rizvi, adviser to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, and including Bangladesh High Commissioner to India, Syed Muazzem Ali, met Information and Broadcasting Secretary Amit Khare
- ✓ The announcement is a culmination of a three-year dialogue between the two countries on the issue
- ✓ The Prasar Bharati has agreed to carry Bangladesh TV on its DD Free Dish platform free of cost.
- ✓ Co-production of a documentary on the Bangladesh Liberation War was also discussed in the meeting.
- ✓ As a reciprocal gesture, the Bangladesh delegation announced that a Doordarshan channel will be adopted on the soon-to-be launched DTH platform of Bangladesh.

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- ◆ **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj - to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan later in May 2019**



- ✓ The two-day Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting will conclude on May 22, 2019
- ✓ The meeting will also be attended by Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi.
- ✓ The meeting is scheduled to take place ahead of the planned heads of government meeting in Bishkek on June 14-15, 2019, in which the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan are expected to attend

◆ **India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Sherpas meeting - was held in Cochin, Kerala from May 3 to May 5, 2019**



- ✓ Before IBSA Sherpas meeting, the 9th IBSA trilateral Ministerial Meeting was also concluded at the same venue.
- ✓ Indian delegation was led by T.S. Tirumurti, Secretary (Economic Relations) in Ministry of External Affairs
- ✓ The Sherpas of all three countries conveyed their happiness that the first Gandhi Mandela Memorial Freedom Lecture was delivered by Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa on 25th January, 2019 in New Delhi
- ✓ The Sherpas welcomed 6th India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime (IBSAMAR) exercise conducted off the Coast of South Africa in September, 2018

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

◆ **NASA's first planetary defence technique, The Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) - to hit a small moon asteroid, called Didymos or Didymos B, with a spacecraft in September 2022**

- ✓ Didymos B asteroid orbits a larger twin asteroid system, Didymos A, which is the most accessible asteroid from the Earth



- ✓ Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) is a planned space probe that will demonstrate the kinetic effects of crashing an impact spacecraft into an asteroid moon for planetary defence purposes
- ✓ The mission is intended to test whether a spacecraft impact could successfully deflect an asteroid on a collision course with Earth.

◆ **Researchers at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai – have found a new function for stress buster, Serotonin**



- ✓ As per the new findings, Serotonin will be helpful in treating neurological diseases

- ✓ It shows that serotonin is involved in generation of new mitochondria (powerhouse of the cell) in neurons, increased cellular respiration and fuel (ATP) in cell
- ✓ Serotonin, called 5 hydroxytryptamine (5-HT) chemically, is a monoamine neurotransmitter which means, it is a chemical that transmits signals between neurons
- ✓ It is a chemical in brains that makes us calm and cope up with stress

◆ **Microsoft - released its own fully managed Azure Blockchain Service.**

- ✓ This will help in simplifying the formation, management and governance of the businesses, as they can develop their own applications now on this new cloud-based platform.
- ✓ “Quorum”, an enterprise-focused version of open-sourced platform Ethereum, will be the first ledger available in Azure Blockchain Service
- ✓ This has been announced after a partnership between J.P Morgan and Microsoft

## APPOINTMENTS

◆ **India's Jagjit Pavadia - was re-elected for another term to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**



- ✓ Pavadia has been a member of the narcotics control board since 2015 and her current term was set to come to an end in 2020
- ✓ Pavadia has been re-elected for a five-year term beginning on March 2, 2020 and expiring on March 1, 2025
- ✓ Jagjit Pavadia has held several senior positions in the Indian Revenue Service in the past 35 years including Narcotics Commissioner of India and Central Bureau of Narcotics (2006-2012)
- ✓ Pavadia was also member of the Indian delegation to the Commission on Narcotics Drugs, Vienna (2007-2012) and member of the International Narcotics Control Board since 2015
- ✓ She was awarded the Presidential Appreciation Certificate for Specially Distinguished Record of Service in 2005, on India's Republic Day
- ✓ The International Narcotics Control Board is the independent and quasi-judicial control organ, established in 1968, for the implementation of the United Nations drug conventions
- ✓ It plays an important role in monitoring enforcement of restrictions on narcotics and psychotropics

# AWARDS

- ◆ **Late G D Robert Govender, an Indian-origin journalist in South Africa - was honoured with V K Krishna Menon Award 2019 in United Kingdom for his outstanding contribution to journalism**



- ✓ He became first person to be honoured with this award posthumously
- ✓ The award was given by 'V K Krishna Menon Institute' on 123rd birth anniversary of renowned Indian diplomat and politician V K Krishna Menon
- ✓ G D Robert Govender, born in South Africa in 1930, was an acclaimed journalist and author and was also first journalist to call for international boycott of whites-only sports teams of South Africa
- ✓ V K Krishna Menon was India's first High Commissioner to Britain (United Kingdom)
- ✓ He served as Defence Minister of India from April 1957 to October 1962
- ✓ He holds the record for longest speech (8 hours) before UN Security Council (UNSC) while defending India's sovereignty over Kashmir

- ◆ **Two Indian peacekeepers, Jitender Kumar and Shikha Garg – were among the 143 peacekeepers from 43 different nations – paid tribute by UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres along with other top UN officials and Peacekeeping personnel**

- ✓ They lost their lives in peace keeping services between January 2018 and March 2019
- ✓ Jitender Kumar was an Indian police officer deployed to UN Organisation Stabilisation Mission in Democratic Republic of the Congo



- ✓ Shikha Garg was a consultant with UN Development Programme (UNDP), attached with India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- ✓ She was killed in Ethiopian Airlines (ET 302) plane crash
- ✓ Out of 115 peacekeepers honoured by UN, 103 were African peacekeepers

◆ **The ‘Team Caeli’ from India - emerged as First Runner-up (second position) in Microsoft’s Imagine Cup World Championship final held in Seattle, US**



- ✓ The Team Caeli comprises of three Indian students namely Bharat Sundal, Aakash Bhadana and Vasu Kaushik
- ✓ They won for developing “Caeli”, which is world’s first smart automated anti-pollution and drug delivery mask designed for asthmatic and chronic respiratory patients
- ✓ It is a portable, easy-to-carry pocket nebulizer and customized mask
- ✓ The drug doses can be scheduled through a specially developed App, which also monitors real-time air quality in the environment
- ✓ For this innovation, the team has earlier won first position in Asia Regional Final contest held in Sydney in February 2019
- ✓ Team EasyGlucose from United States was adjudged the winner for 2019 for their Deep Learning non-invasive blood glucose level monitor

## SPORTS

◆ **World No 1, Bajrang Punia - lost a thrilling 65kg category bout to unheralded American Yianni Diakomihalis by a narrow 8-10 margin in the ‘Grapple at the Garden – Beat the Streets’ event at New York’s famous Madison Square Garden**



- ✓ Bajrang was invited by USA Wrestling – the national governing body for the sport in United States – to participate in the event.
- ✓ The 25-year-old became the first Indian wrestler to compete at the iconic Madison Square Garden
- ✓ Bajrang had won nine gold medals in his last 10 international tournaments – the one in which he missed out was 2018 World Championships where he won silver.
- ✓ He is now the world No. 1 in 65kg category
- ✓ In the last three weeks, Bajrang won a gold each at the Asian Wrestling Championships in Bangkok and the Ali Aliyev Wrestling tournament in Kaspiisk (Russia)

◆ **Tiger Woods - received his country's highest civilian honour, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, from U.S. President Donald Trump**



- ✓ Woods had stunned the sports world last month when he won his fifth Masters title at Augusta, ending an 11-year major title drought
- ✓ Trump, an avid golfer, described the 15-times major champion as a "a global symbol of American excellence, devotion and drive"
- ✓ Woods joined Arnold Palmer, Charlie Sifford and Jack Nicklaus as the only golfers to have received the award.
- ✓ The Presidential Medal of Freedom is awarded annually to people who have made outstanding contributions to the security or national interests of the country, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ **World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day – May 8**



- ✓ The day is celebrated annually to remember those who are helping people in need
- ✓ The day marks the birthday of Henry Dunant, who had generated the Red Cross Committee of the International (ICRI) in 1863 in Switzerland, Geneva
- ✓ He was also the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.
- ✓ Theme 2019 – ‘#Love’
- ✓ Post World War I, Red Cross was introduced in order to call for peace as part of international commission of 14th International Conference of the Red Cross
- ✓ Red Cross was found on October 5, 1854 with its headquarters at Geneva, Switzerland
- ✓ The first Red Cross Day was celebrated on 8 May 1948
- ✓ The official title of the day changed over time, and became "World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day" in 1984

## ◆ Basava Jayanthi – May 7



- ✓ The day marks the birthday of Basavanna, a Hindu Kannada poet of 12th century
- ✓ It was traditionally observed by the Lingayats (also called Virashaiva, are devotees of Shiva in southern India)
- ✓ It was celebrated across states like Karnataka (a government holiday), Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh with people offering prayers to Lord Basaveshwar temples
- ✓ The 12<sup>th</sup> century philosopher, Basava is a great Kannada poet, believed to be the founding saint of Lingayat section
- ✓ As a social reformer, he advocated all human beings are equal irrespective of castes
- ✓ He was born in Karnataka's Ingaleshwar, Bagewadi town on third day of Vaisakha month of Anandanama (Samvatsara) in year 1134 A.D
- ✓ His followers believe that with the birth of prophet Basavanna, a new era namely 'Basava Era' began
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated the statue of Basavanna along bank of river Thames at Lambeth in London, UK on November 14, 2015
- ✓ He was also the first Kannadiga in whose honour a commemorative coin has been minted in recognition of his social reforms

