

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 2, 2023

### TAMIL NADU

- On May 1, Chief Minister M K Stalin - said the bill passed by the assembly to amend the Factories Act, 1948 has been withdrawn.
- ✓ This was announced by the CM while participating in a May Day function held at the May Day park in Chintadripet



- ✓ When the bill to introduce “flexible working hours” to employees in select factory sectors was passed in the assembly recently, there was opposition from political parties as well as trade unions.
- ✓ Subsequently, the state government held talks with the trade unions and withheld the proceedings of the bill.
- ✓ On April 21, the Tamil Nadu government brought in the amendment to insert a new Section 65A in the Factories Act, 1948, to enable factories to have flexible working hours.
- ✓ The bill includes provisions to extend the daily working hours for factory workers from the existing 8 hours to 12 hours if they choose to work a 4-day week.
- ✓ According to the CM, the state government introduced the Factories (Amendment) Act, 2023 to attract investments and to provide employment, especially in the southern districts.

- ✓ He added that the amendment was not intended for all the factories, but would have applied to only a few sectors and the timing restrictions were planned after the government's consideration.
- ✓ However, after criticism and within days of opposition, the bill has now been withdrawn by the government.
- ✓ In February this year, neighbouring Karnataka had also passed a law allowing working hours for labour up to 12 hours a day, but with maximum of 48 hours of work in a week.
- ✓ In May 2020, a total of 10 states — Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Uttarakhand, Assam, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh — had proposed tweaking labour laws in order to revise working timings to 12 hours.
- ✓ In May 2020, the Uttar Pradesh government had withdrawn its order increasing the daily work timings from 8 to 12 hours.

## STATES

- **On May 1, Odisha - became the second state in the country to launch the OBC survey.**
- ✓ The objective of the survey is to get a picture of the present social and educational conditions of the people belonging to backward classes in Odisha
- ✓ The survey is being carried out in all 314 blocks and 114 urban local bodies of Odisha
- ✓ The social and educational conditions of 208 enlisted OBC communities will be collected during the survey
- ✓ The survey, which will end on May 27, will be followed by a special drive to ensure that all the backward class people were covered across the state
- ✓ The Odisha State Commission for Backward Classes (OSCBC) is conducting the survey in both online and offline modes
- ✓ The survey will collect various details such as occupation, educational qualifications, marital status from people belonging to backward classes
- ✓ The survey will also require documents related to caste details, Aadhaar number, voter ID card, passport number, PAN, ration card number, and mobile phone number.
- ✓ Bihar was the first state to have launched the survey, the first phase of which was launched on January 21 and the second on April 15 this year.

## SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **In a landmark judgment on May 1, the Supreme Court - said that it has the discretion to dissolve a marriage and grant a decree of divorce to consenting parties in cases of “irretrievable breakdown” of marriage.**
- ✓ This can be done through exercising of its plenary powers under Article 142 (1) of the Constitution, without referring the parties to a family court first, where they must wait for 6-18 months for a decree of divorce by mutual consent.

- ✓ The court also noted that the period of separation should be sufficiently long, and “anything above six years or more will be a relevant factor”.
- ✓ As per Article 142(1), a decree passed or an order made by the apex court is executable throughout the territory of India.
- ✓ Article 142 of the Constitution deals with enforcement of decrees and orders of the apex court to do “complete justice” in any matter pending before it.
- ✓ A Constitution Bench comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, A.S. Oka, Vikram Nath, and J.K. Maheshwari pronounced the verdict.
- ✓ The Court also stated that the mandatory waiting period of six months for divorce by mutual consent under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, can be waived under certain conditions.
- ✓ The mandatory six-month wait is intended to give the parties time to withdraw their plea.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **Turkish forces - have killed the leader of the Islamic State group during an operation in Syria**
- ✓ This was announced by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on April 30.
- ✓ The IS leader, code-named Abu Hussein al-Qurayshi, was killed in a strike conducted in Aleppo, Syria on April 29.



- ✓ Turkiye has conducted numerous operations against IS and Kurdish groups along the Syrian border, capturing or killing suspected militants.
- ✓ The country controls large areas of territory in northern Syria following a series of land incursions to drive Kurdish groups away from the Turkish-Syrian border.
- ✓ Abu Hussein al-Qurayshi was named leader of the militant group after its previous chief Abu al Hassan al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi was killed in October.
- ✓ The IS group broke away from al-Qaida about a decade ago and ended up controlling large parts of northern and eastern Syria as well as northern and western Iraq.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

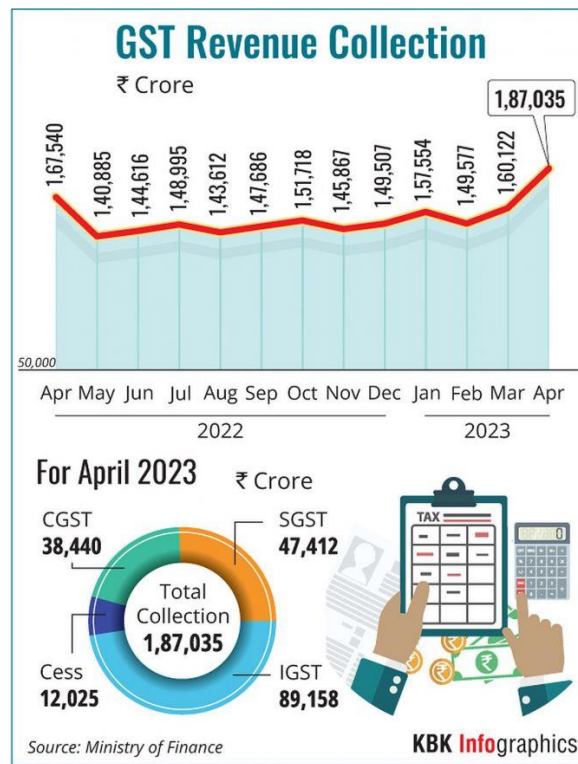
- **Scientists at the Chennai-based Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) - have developed a leather-like material from mango pulp to make bags, belts and more.**
- ✓ The new material, considered as an eco-friendly alternative to synthetic leather, contains 50% mango pulp and degrades faster than polyurethane leather.
- ✓ CLRI scientists, who have applied for a patent, transferred the technology to Mumbai-based startup Aamati Green Private Limited, which sponsored the research and development.
- ✓ The team combined mango pulp with a biopolymer in liquid and powder form which then underwent a simple process to be made into a sheet-like material.
- ✓ The process leaves a low to moderate carbon footprint compared to animal hide leather production, which requires animal skins and a lot of water.
- ✓ According to the scientists, the only company that makes mango-based leather-like material is in the Netherlands.
- ✓ India is the largest producer of mangoes (20 million tonnes annually), and farmers leave up to 40% of the mangoes in the fields as they do not meet standards and requirements.
- ✓ These discarded mangoes can be used to make the leather-like material.

## DEFENCE

- **The defence ministry - has decided to abolish colonial-era cantonments and designate them as military stations controlled by the Indian Army**
- ✓ The first cantonment to be renamed a military station is Yol in Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ The next in line to be renamed are Secunderabad in Telangana and Nasirabad Cantonment in Rajasthan.
- ✓ The move will benefit civilians who were not getting access to state government welfare schemes and enable the army to focus more on developing military stations
- ✓ There are 62 cantonments in 19 states across the country, covering 1.6 lakh acres and housing 50 lakh military and civilian personnel.
- ✓ The Indian Army has 237 military stations under their exclusive control.
- ✓ Civilian residents of Cantonments do not benefit from State government assistance initiatives because they are controlled by Cantonment Boards through Ministry of Defence's Defence Estates Department.

## ECONOMY

- **The Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections - touched a record high of Rs 1.87 lakh crore in April 2023**



- ✓ This is the first time the gross GST collection has crossed Rs.1.75 lakh crore mark, since the rollout of the indirect tax regime in July 2017.
- ✓ Previously, the highest GST collection was recorded in April last year at Rs 1.68 lakh crore.
- ✓ Out of the total collections, CGST is Rs.38,440 crore, SGST is Rs.47,412 crore, IGST is Rs.89,158 crore and cess is Rs.12,025 crore
- ✓ The revenues for the month of April 2023 are 12% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year.
- ✓ The month saw the highest ever tax collection on a single day on April 20, 2023, when Rs.68,228 crore was paid through 9.8 lakh transactions.
- ✓ This surpasses the previous record of Rs 57,846 crore collected through 9.6 lakh transactions on the same day last year
- ✓ The GST collection for March 2023 stood at Rs 1.60 lakh crore
- ✓ In April, smaller states and Union Territories reported higher growth with Sikkim registering the highest increase of 61%, followed by Mizoram (53%), J&K (44%), Ladakh (43%) and Goa & Manipur (32% each).
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh (28%), Karnataka (23%), Maharashtra & Uttar Pradesh (21% each) and Tamil Nadu (19%) grew faster than the national average, while Odisha (3%), Gujarat (4%), Rajasthan (5%), Andhra Pradesh (6%) and Delhi (8%) were at the bottom of the growth list.

## SPORTS

- **Long jumper Murali Sreeshankar - claimed the gold medal with a leap of 8.29m at the MVA High Performance athletics meet 1 held in Chula Vista, USA.**



- ✓ This was the second event participated by the long jumper in the season
- ✓ The 24-year-old produced a great effort which was just 0.07m off his personal best of 8.36m made last year.
- ✓ Sreeshankar had won a silver medal at the 2022 Commonwealth Games held in Birmingham, UK.



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