

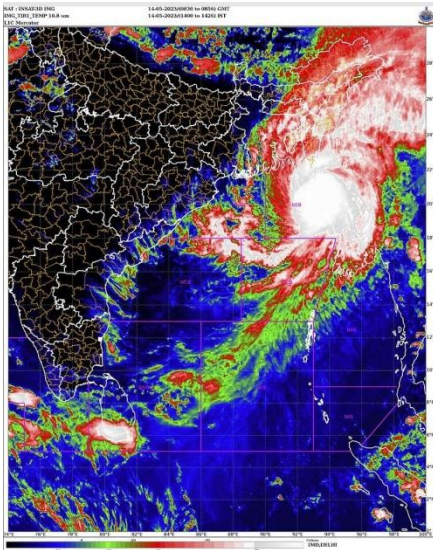
EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 15, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- **Anna University – has decided to reserve 1% of seats within the foreign nationals' category for students from the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) from 2023-24 academic year**
- ✓ Accordingly, around 40 seats will be reserved for students from LDCs and SIDS, who will be able to study engineering at the Anna University campuses at just a fifth of the existing tuition fee
 - ✓ The tuition fee for students from LDCs/SIDS was slashed from \$7,500 to \$1,500
- ✓ The UN list for Least Developed Countries features 46 countries including 33 African countries and nine Asian countries.
- ✓ UNESCO's Small Island Developing States including Caribbean Islands including Antigua, Barbados, Jamaica and islands like Cuba and Fiji.
- ✓ At present, the university gives 5% reservation to foreign nationals in all courses, setting aside around 200 seats.
 - ✓ The fee for this category is \$7,500 per year, while for some courses such as mining engineering, printing technology the fee is \$5,000.
- ✓ Under foreign nationals category, the university is attracting students from countries like Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Somalia by offering the Indian Council for Cultural Relations scholarship.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On May 14, Cyclone Mocha - made landfall in Myanmar's Rakhine state near Sittwe township with winds of up to 209 kmph lashing the coasts**
- ✓ The storm previously passed over Bangladesh's Saint Martin's Island, causing extensive damage and injuries
- ✓ Cyclone Mocha is one of the most powerful cyclones hitting the coast of Bangladesh in nearly two decades



- ✓ Cyclone Mocha (pronounced Mokha) - a name suggested by Yemen - was named after the Red Sea port city which is known to have introduced coffee to the world over 500 years ago.
- ✓ The system of naming cyclones was adopted by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and member countries of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission (ESCAP).
- ✓ The WMO and UN ESCAP comprise India, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Pakistan, and Oman.
- ✓ In 2018, the WMO and ESCAP included five more countries--Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

PERSONALITIES

- **A Nepali sherpa guide, Pasang Dawa Sherpa - climbed Mount Everest for the 26th time on May 14 and became the world's second person to achieve the feat.**
- ✓ Pasang Dawa Sherpa, 46, stood atop the 8,849-m (29,032-ft) peak, sharing the record number of summits with Kami Rita Sherpa.

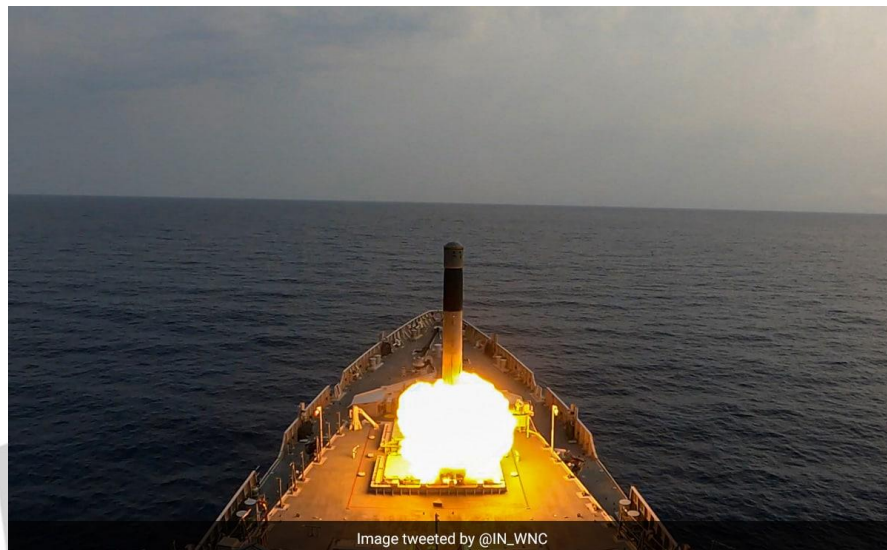


- ✓ Kami Rita, who is also climbing on Everest now, could set another record (27th time) if he makes it to the top.

- ✓ Sherpas are known for their climbing skills and make a living mainly by guiding foreign clients in the mountains.
- ✓ Nepal has issued a record of 467 permits this year for foreign climbers seeking to reach the summit of Everest.
- ✓ Everest has been climbed more than 11,000 times since it was first scaled by Sir Edmund Hillary and his Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay in 1953

DEFENCE

- **On May 14, Indian Navy - successfully test fired a BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from its frontline guided missile destroyer INS Mormugao**



- ✓ INS Mormugao, the latest guided-missile destroyer, successfully hit the target during her maiden BrahMos supersonic cruise missile firing
 - ✓ BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd is an India-Russian joint venture, responsible for producing supersonic cruise missiles that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms
 - ✓ BrahMos missiles fly at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound.
- **The Defence Ministry - has imposed ban on the import of 928 military items to promote self-reliance in the defence manufacturing sector.**
 - ✓ On May 14, the Ministry announced fourth positive indigenisation list in continuation of the first three such lists, which contained a total of 1,238 items.
 - ✓ The first three lists were announced in December 2021, March 2022 and August 2022.
 - ✓ The fresh list of 928 military items, including line replacement units, sub-systems, spares and components, comes under a phased import ban between December 2023 and December 2029
 - ✓ The 928 items in the fourth list, with import substitution value of Rs.715 crore, will be procured from the Indian industry.

- ✓ The list also includes several items connected to the HTT-40 trainer aircraft, including main and nose wheel tyres and multi-function displays.
 - ✓ In March this year, the Defence Ministry had signed a Rs.6,828 crore deal for 70 HTT-40 aircraft with defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics for Indian Air Force.
- ✓ The items which were already indigenized comprised 262 from the first PIL, 11 from the second list and 37 from the third PIL, according to the ministry.
- ✓ India is one of the largest importers of arms globally.
- ✓ The defence ministry has set a goal of a turnover of \$25 billion (Rs 1.75 lakh crore) in defence manufacturing in the next five years which includes an export target of \$5 billion worth of military hardware.

APPOINTMENTS

- **On May 14, the government - appointed Karnataka cadre IPS officer Praveen Sood as the new director of Central Bureau of Investigation.**



- ✓ Sood, a 1986 batch officer, is currently the director general of police (DGP) of Karnataka
- ✓ The 59-year-old has been appointed to the post for a period of two years from the date of taking charge
- ✓ Praveen Sood's nomination was approved by a high-level committee that included Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, and Leader of the Opposition Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.
- ✓ The tenure of incumbent CBI director Subodh Kumar Jaiswal ends on May 25.
- ✓ Sood is the third IPS officer of Karnataka cadre to be appointed as CBI chief after Joginder Singh and D R Karthikeyan.
- ✓ Hailing from Kangra in Himachal Pradesh, Sood did his graduation from IIT-Delhi and joined the IPS at the age of 22 in 1986.
- ✓ An alumna of IIM-Bangalore and Syracuse University in New York, Sood served earlier as superintendent of police of Bellary and Raichur districts, deputy commissioner of police (law and order) and additional commissioner of police (traffic) in Bengaluru City, and commissioner of police of Mysore City.

- ✓ The IPS officer has also served as a police advisor to the government of Mauritius.
- ✓ Sood has also been appointed the Managing Director of Karnataka State Police Housing Corporation and the Principal Secretary of the Home Department.
- ✓ Apart from serving various administrative roles in Karnataka, Sood established 'Namma 100', an 'Emergency Response System', which provides 24x7 support with the help of 276 Emergency Response Vehicles (Hoysala) across Bengaluru.
- ✓ Sood is also responsible for the establishment of the 'Suraksha' App and the 'Pink Hoyasala' run by female officers, which is designed specifically for women and children in distress.
- ✓ Sood has been decorated with Chief Minister's Gold Medal for excellence in service in 1996, Police Medal for Meritorious Service in 2002 & President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service in 2011
- ✓ He won several awards which includes the National E-Governance Gold Award for "Most innovative use of technology for traffic management" in 2011 and the Prince Michael International Road Safety Award in 2006.
- ✓ Sood will hold the position for two years till May 2025

SPORTS

- **On May 13, Telangana's Vuppala Prraneeth - became India's 82nd Grandmaster**



- ✓ Prraneeth achieved the GM norm when he defeated GM Hans Niemann of the US in the penultimate round of the Baku Open 2023.
- ✓ With this win, Prraneeth crossed the 2500 Elo live ratings, to achieve the GM title.
- ✓ The 16-year-old Prraneeth, a first year intermediate student at Vishwa Chaitanya Junior College, is being trained by Israel GM Victor Mekhalevski.
- ✓ Prraneeth earned his first GM norm in March 2022 and achieved the International Master title.
- ✓ Four months later in July 2022, he earned his second GM norm at Biel MTO.
- ✓ He achieved his third and final GM norm at the Formentera Sunway International Chess Festival in Spain in April.
- ✓ Vuppala also holds the distinction of being a former world number 1 in the under-11 age group category.

- ✓ Prraneeth is now the sixth Grandmaster from the State of Telangana.
- **The Squash World Cup - is returning to Chennai after a gap of twelve years**
- ✓ The mixed team competition will be played in the city from June 13 to June 17
- ✓ It will feature eight teams from four continents — Australia, Colombia, Egypt, Hong Kong, China, Japan, Malaysia, South Africa and hosts India.
- ✓ Each team will include two men and two women, and the matches will be played with seven-point games for the first time ever, instead of the usual 11 points.
- ✓ The tournament will consist of two round robin pools, followed by a knockout stage.
- ✓ The Indian team comprises Saurav Ghosal, Abhay Singh (men), Joshna Chinappa and Tanvi Khanna (women).
- ✓ The World Cup will be played at two venues - the Express Avenue Mall and the Indian Squash Academy.
- ✓ The event will be sponsored by the Tamil Nadu government and supported by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sport
- ✓ The first edition of the Squash World Cup was played in 1996 in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia and featured 16 teams.
- ✓ The World Cup was last held in 2011 in Chennai, with Egypt being crowned as Champions
- ✓ In 2012, Under 21 World Cup was held in Chennai and Egypt were crowned again as Champions
- ✓ Chennai last hosted a global squash event in 2018, when the World Junior Championships (both individual and team) were held.

