

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 6, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- **On May 5, the Tamil Nadu government - announced free travel for children within 5 years of age in buses operated by all the government-run transport corporations**
- ✓ This was announced by Transport Minister S S Sivasankar in the Assembly, while listing out new initiatives of his department for the year 2022-23
- ✓ Presently, for children between 3 and 12 years of age, 'half-fare' (half of the fare collected from adult passengers) system is operational in the state
- ✓ It has to be recalled that travel is free till the age of six in neighbouring Kerala and Karnataka.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu had earlier made commuting free for women, senior citizens, transgenders and students.



TO BENEFIT 3L CHILDREN EVERYDAY

➤ At present, free only for children aged below three

➤ 3-5 age group comprises 2% of TN's daily govt bus patronage

➤ Move to cause revenue loss of 1%



Total number of govt buses
20,304

Daily patronage
1.55 cr

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

➤ Tap travel cards for MTC buses

➤ 10% discount for those booking two-way tickets online



➤ Online purchase of free/concession tokens

- ✓ During his reply for demands for grants for his department, the Minister said that the government is planning to introduce the cashless ticketing system and integrate all public modes of transport on the lines of the National Common Mobility Card norms.

- ✓ Under the automatic fare collection system (AFCS) project, users can buy travel cards using their government IDs and tap them on the electronic ticketing machines (ETMs) with the bus conductors.
 - ✓ Passengers can recharge the cards either online or at counters in government bus depots or major terminals.
 - ✓ The cashless ticketing system project, funded by the German Bank KfW, is set to be initially implemented in city buses in Chennai, Madurai and Coimbatore at a cost of Rs 70 crore.
 - ✓ To increase revenue, a portion of the luggage space in long distance buses would be offered for a fee on a trial basis to parcel and courier services
 - ✓ The initiative will be implemented in the buses plying from Chennai, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli on daily/monthly basis, said the Minister
 - ✓ Further, to encourage passengers to travel in long-distance buses run by State transport corporations, a 10% discount will be provided to those who book two-way tickets online
 - ✓ As part of efforts to offer more services online, the department will enable users to make changes in driving licence and transfer ownership of non-transport vehicles online.
 - ✓ Also, amendments will be made in the Tamil Nadu Motor Vehicles (Regulations and Control of School Buses) Special Rules, 2012 to fix cameras along with sensors in the front and rear side of school vehicles
 - ✓ An integrated grievance redressal cell will be established to address the grievances of passengers, said the minister
- **On May 5, the Tamil Nadu government - tabled a bill to amend Tamil Nadu Dr Ambedkar Law University Act, 1996 to empower the state government in appointing the vice-chancellor, instead of the governor, who is the chancellor of the university.**
- ✓ According to the Bill, to be called the Tamil Nadu Dr Ambedkar Law University (Amendment) Act, 2022, the expression 'Chancellor' will be substituted by the word 'government'.
 - ✓ Law Minister S Regupathy, while tabling the Bill, quoted the Gujarat University Act, 1949 and the Telengana Universities Act, 1991, where the respective State governments have the power to appoint Vice Chancellors of the University
 - ✓ The bill also referred to the Karnataka Universities Act, 2000 according to which the Chancellor will appoint the Vice-Chancellor with the concurrence of the state government.
 - ✓ The Minister also quoted the recommendations of the State Development Policy Council, during the AIADMK rule, to make necessary Amendments to the Tamil Nadu Dr Ambedkar Law University Act, 1996, to ensure the role of the State government in the appointment of Vice-chancellor.
 - ✓ Further, the government proposed to constitute a committee consisting of not less than three members to monitor the functions of vice-chancellor

- ✓ The committee will enquire if a vice-chancellor willfully omits or refuses to carry out the provisions of the law, or abuses powers vested in him, or misbehaves or mismanages or his conduct involves moral turpitude or if it otherwise appears to the government that the continuance of the vice-chancellor in office was detrimental to the interests of the university.
 - ✓ At present, the Tamil Nadu Governor, who is also the Chancellor of the state universities, makes the appointment of the Vice Chancellors from a panel of three names recommended by a selection committee.
 - ✓ This is the third Bill tabled in the ongoing Assembly session with the intentions of shifting the power of appointing Vice Chancellors from Governor to the State and the Chief Minister
 - ✓ The new bill is in addition to the two bills that sought to empower the government to appoint Vice Chancellors of 13 state universities.
 - ✓ While the 13 state universities bills are under the aegis of the state Higher Education Department, the Dr Ambedkar Law University is under the Law Department.
 - ✓ The first two bills, Tamil Nadu Universities Laws (Amendment) Act, 2022, and Chennai University Act, 1923 [Chennai University (Amendment) Act, 2022] were passed with the expression "chancellor" being replaced with "government" on April 25.
 - ✓ In February, the Tamil Nadu assembly had adopted the anti-NEET bill for the second time after the governor sent it back last year.
- **The Tamil Nadu government – has decided to revive the bed and breakfast scheme and hop-on-and-hop-off tours covering tourist spots in Chennai after a gap of almost ten years**
- ✓ The bed and breakfast scheme is aimed at ensuring economical accommodation for tourists in destinations where hotels are not available
 - ✓ On May 5, tourism minister M Mathiventhan told in the state assembly that the guidelines have been formed to register properties for the bed and breakfast scheme

PROJECTS FOR THE YEAR

- Poondi Dam and Kolavai lake in Chengalpet to have water sports, boat rides, adventure activities and bird watching decks
- Annual Chennai Vizha to showcase handicrafts, handloom and food festival
- Annual summer festival of flower, fruit, vegetable and palm products in Chennai
- Glow Garden with lighting, amusements activities to be held at Mamallapuram
- The eatery at Island Grounds to have outdoor dining, open-air theatre, barbecue counter and a cafeteria
- Tirupati tours from other cities

File photo of Poondi reservoir



- ✓ Property owners from across the state will be able to apply online to list their houses as part of the scheme.
- ✓ The tourism department officials will check the building and facilities before approving the request for listing as accommodation for tourists.
- ✓ The move will be in sync with the efforts to promote tourist arrivals and move by the state government to develop destinations across the state
- ✓ The government has sanctioned ₹30.99 crore to develop Kolli hills, Jawadhu hills, Yelagiri hills, Mudaliarkuppam, Thiruvalluvar statue in KanyaKumari, eco-camping sites at hills, forests, dams and coastal areas.
- ✓ Further, the Minister said that facilities for tourists including boating, accommodation, parking and others will be set up at Sittar dam, Gundaru dam in Tenkasi district, Kamaraj Sagar dam in Nilgiris, Mudaliarkuppam near Chennai, Pirappin Valasai in Ramanathapuram district

SCHEMES

- **On May 5, the Chhattisgarh government - announced a new scheme of buying cow urine from cattle rearers**



- ✓ The new scheme is aimed at increasing the income of the rural population and ensuring better cow protection.
- ✓ This was announced by the CM Bhupesh Baghel, while participating in the ongoing 'Meet & Greet' (Bhet mulaqat) public contact programme at Rajpur in Surajpur district in north Chhattisgarh
- ✓ According to the CM, cow urine procured by the state government would be refined and used for manufacturing medicines.
- ✓ He said this would be the first scheme of its kind in the country, which would directly benefit the rural population.
- ✓ Chhattisgarh was the first state in the country to launch a unique 'Gaudhan Nyay Yojana' on June 25, 2020, for procurement of cow dung to prevent instances of farmers abandoning old cows.

STATES

- **On May 5, the Delimitation Commission for Jammu and Kashmir - finalised the delimitation order and submitted it to the Election Commission of India**

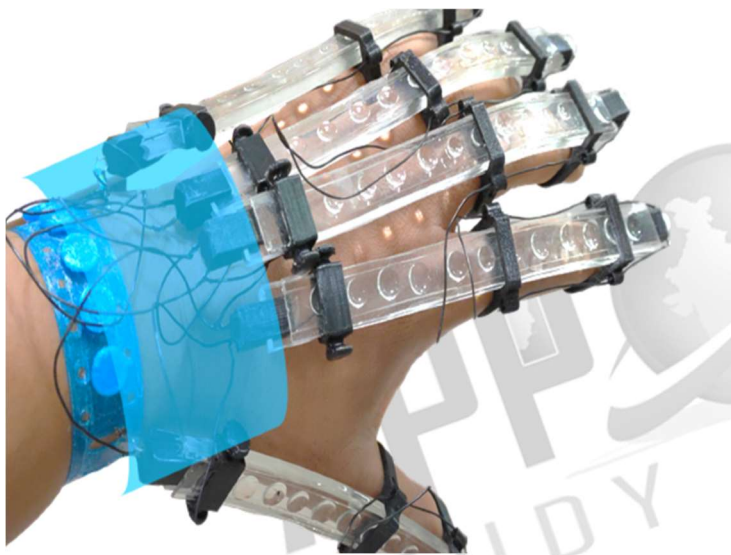


- ✓ The Commission has recommended 43 Assembly seats for Jammu division and 47 seats to the Kashmir region, out of the 90 Assembly Constituencies in the region
- ✓ For the first time, nine Assembly Constituencies (ACs) have been reserved for the Scheduled Tribes, out of which, six are in Jammu region and three in Kashmir
- ✓ The constitution of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state had no provision for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly.
- ✓ Further, the Commission has set aside 7 ACs for members of Scheduled Caste
- ✓ The panel has recommended reorganisation of the Lok Sabha constituencies in such a way that all five parliamentary seats in the UT have an equal distribution of assembly segments.
- ✓ The panel has also recommended the provision of at least two seats for members (with one woman) from among Kashmiri migrants in the assembly.
- ✓ It has also recommended that the Central government consider giving displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir some representation in the assembly
- ✓ The completion of the process of redrawing the electoral map of Jammu and Kashmir paves the way for assembly elections in the Union Territory (UT), an erstwhile state that has been without an elected government since June 2018.
- ✓ As of now there are 46 seats in Kashmir region and 37 seats are in Jammu division.
- ✓ The Delimitation Commission was headed by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India
- ✓ Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and Election Commissioner of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir K.K. Sharma were the Ex-Officio members of the Commission
- ✓ The Delimitation Commission was constituted by the Centre on March 6, 2020 in exercise of powers conferred by Section 3 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 (33 of 2002)
- ✓ The Delimitation Commission was entrusted with the work of delimiting the Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir on the basis of 2011 Census

- ✓ The redrawing of electoral constituencies was necessitated after Jammu and Kashmir was split into two Union Territories on August 5, 2019 with the abrogation of Article 370, which granted special status to the erstwhile state.
- ✓ Initially the Commission was asked to submit its report on redrawing the Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies of J&K within a year.
- ✓ However, it was given two extensions, one in 2021 and another on March 6, 2022
- ✓ The first draft recommendations were released on January and the second draft report in February before the delimitation order was passed on May 5.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Researchers from IISc's department of physics - have developed a soft, wearable device to help rehabilitate stroke patients.**



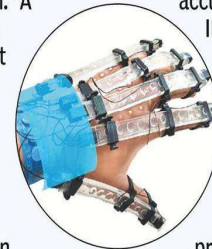
TECH BASED ON PROPERTIES OF LIGHT

IISc said the technology that drives the device is based on the fundamental properties of light – refraction and reflection. “A light source is placed at one end of a transparent rubbery material and the other end has a light detector. Any movement in the finger or arm causes the flexible material to deform. The deformation alters the path of light, and its properties. The device translates this change in light properties to a quantifiable unit. Since light travels

across the entire length of the device, movement along any part of the patient's finger/arm can be accurately measured,”

IISc added.

The device is highly sensitive, enough to respond to the touch of a butterfly, says team member Abhijit Chandra Roy, a DST-Inspire faculty and the brain behind the project. While existing devices can only detect the bending of a finger, the new one can even measure the degree of bending at every joint of the finger, he explains.



- ✓ The device seeks to exploit the fundamental properties of light to sense a patient's limb or finger movements
- ✓ The customisable, 3D-printed gloves can be remotely controlled by physiotherapists or doctors to make patients' hands move, opening up the possibility of teleconsultation
- ✓ Stroke was India's third leading cause of death and sixth leading cause of disability.
- ✓ Physiotherapy is one of the few treatments available for rehabilitating stroke victims and patients with physical injuries
- ✓ However, it can take days to months depending on severity of the disability and the new gloves will help such patients.

APPOINTMENTS

- **On May 5, the Supreme Court collegium - recommended to the Union government to appoint Gauhati HC chief justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and**

fourth generation Parsi lawyer in Gujarat HC's Jamshed Burjor Pardiwala as SC judges.



- ✓ If the government accepted the recommendations, Justice Pardiwala would go on to head the judiciary in 2028 and have a tenure of more than two years as CJI.
- ✓ Sainik School alumni Justice Dhulia would have a short tenure of little over three years as SC judge.
- ✓ The collegium headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana and comprising Justices U U Lalit, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud and L N Rao recommended to fill existing two vacancies in the SC, which has a full strength of 34 judges
- ✓ Meanwhile, the CJI headed three-judge collegium, comprising Justices Lalit and Khanwilkar, also cleared names of seven advocates for appointment as judges of the Delhi HC.
- ✓ Pardiwala's great grandfather Navrojji Bhikhaji Pardiwala started practice in 1894 at Valsad, grandfather Cawasji Navrojji Pardiwala joined the Bar at Valsad in 1929 and father Burjor Cawasji Pardiwala joined Bar at Valsad in 1955.
- ✓ His father was also the Speaker of Gujarat assembly from December 1989 to March 1990.
- ✓ Pardiwala started practice at Valsad in 1989 and shifted practice to Gujarat HC at Ahmedabad the next year.
- ✓ He was made a permanent judge on January 28, 2013.

SPORTS

- **Dhanush Srikanth** - became the first Indian to win a gold medal at the Deaflympics on May 5.



- ✓ The 19-year old shooter from Telangana, clinched the gold medal in the men's 10m air rifle event at the 24th Deaflympics in Caxias do Sul, Brazil, after shooting a world-record score in the final.
- ✓ The Hyderabad shooter shot 247. 5 in the final, while Korea' Kim Woo Rim bagged the silver with the final score of 246. 6.
- ✓ The bronze went to another Indian shooter Shourya Saini, who shot 224. 3.
- ✓ Dhanush broke German shooter Colin Muller's record of 243. 2, set in 2019.
- ✓ He trains at Gagan Narang's Gun For Glory Academy in Hyderabad.
- ✓ Dhanush, who became the first shooter with hearing impairment to get selected in the Indian national squad in 2019, shot in an event meant for athletes with hearing impairment for the first time.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Hand Hygiene Day – May 5



- ✓ The Day is observed every year to highlight the importance of effective hand hygiene by raising awareness of handwashing by soap to prevent the transmission of infectious microbes
- ✓ According to WHO, thoroughly cleaning hands with soap or an alcohol-based hand rub helps prevent a range of diseases, including the biggest killers of children under-five years globally - pneumonia and diarrhoea.
- ✓ To highlight on the need for handwashing among health care workers and other people around the world, WHO started a global campaign called "Save Lives: Clean Your Hands" in 2009.
- ✓ Now, this campaign is celebrated annually as World Hand Hygiene Day on May 5.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - Unite for safety: clean your hands