

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 19, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- On May 18, Chief minister M K Stalin - laid the foundation stone for the Rs.33.20 crore museum to come up in Porunai in Tirunelveli district through video conferencing.



- ✓ The museum, which is to span 55,000 square feet, would house ancient artefacts unearthed in Korkai, Sivagalai and Adichanallur.
- ✓ Minister for PWD EV Velu, minister for finance and archaeology Thangam Thennarasu were present during the event along with officials.
- ✓ The museum would enclose the three important archaeological sites, including Adhichanallur, which is considered to be the cradle of Tamil Nadu's civilisation; Korkai the ancient port city of the Pandyas of Sangam era, and the iron age site of Sivagalai.
- ✓ These three sites are collectively known as the Porunai civilisation.
- ✓ The announcement for the museum was made in the Tamil Nadu assembly on September 9, 2021.
- ✓ It is spread across an area of 13.02 acres in Melapalayam Reddiarpatti in Tirunelveli district.

- ✓ The site would be developed on 10 acres of land and the museum itself would be established on 55,500 square feet.
- ✓ The museum is to be divided into four regions, for Korkai, Sivagalai, Adhichanallur and the administrative block.
- ✓ As many as 812 artefacts, including terracotta beads, conch bangles, hopscotches, potsherds, northern black polished ware, and silver coins have proved that this site functioned as a port even before the 8th century CE.

NATIONAL

- **On May 18, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - replaced Kiren Rijiju with Arjun Ram Meghwal as Union law and justice minister**



- ✓ Meghwal has been assigned the independent charge of Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice, in addition to his existing portfolios.
- ✓ He is currently the minister of state for parliamentary affairs and the minister of state for culture.
- ✓ The politician hailing from Bikaner, Rajasthan, Meghwal is also a former IAS officer who was re-elected to the Bikaner Parliamentary constituency for the third time.
- ✓ Meghwal was the Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs from 2016 to 2017.
- ✓ He was the Union Minister of State for Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, and Parliamentary Affairs from 2017 to 2019.
- ✓ He had been the Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises and Parliamentary Affairs since 2019
- ✓ Kiren Rijiju has been assigned the portfolio of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ✓ Till now, Union Minister Jitendra Singh was in charge of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and he will continue to hold independent charge of the ministry of science and technology
- ✓ This is the first time since its inception as a separate ministry in 2006, the ministry of earth sciences (MoES) will be headed by a Minister who doesn't also hold charge of the ministry of science and technology

- ✓ MoES is the nodal ministry of the government's ambitious Deep Ocean Mission to explore resources in the ocean and develop deep sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources.
 - ✓ The ministry is mandated to provide services for weather, climate, ocean, hydrology, seismology and natural hazards.
 - ✓ It is also meant for exploring and protecting marine living and non-living resources in a sustainable manner and to explore the three critical parts of planet Earth — Arctic, Antarctic and Himalayas.
 - ✓ Rijiju was appointed as Law Minister in July 2021, after Ravi Shankar Prasad.
 - ✓ In the first term of BJP government under PM Modi, Kiren Rijiju was the minister of state for home affairs, then minister of state for minority affairs and after that minister of state for youth affairs and sports with independent charge from May 2019 to July 2021.
- **PM Narendra Modi – to inaugurate the new Parliament building on May 28, the 140th anniversary of Hindutva ideologue Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, popularly known as Veer Savarkar.**



- ✓ During British rule, Savarkar was imprisoned in the Cellular Jail in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ✓ Incidentally, the portrait of Savarkar was unveiled in the Central Hall of the Parliament on February 26 in 2003 by then President A P J Abdul Kalam
- ✓ Speaker Om Birla met the PM and invited him to dedicate to the nation the new Parliament building, billed to last more than 150 years, with a 150% increase in seating capacity of MPs.
- ✓ The present Parliament building was completed in 1927, close to 100 years ago.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On May 18, the Supreme Court - upheld the constitutional validity of state laws framed to allow the conduct of animal sports in three states – Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra**

- ✓ The apex court has upheld the amendments passed by the states to 'The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960' to conduct bull-taming sport jallikattu in Tamil Nadu, race of male buffaloes known as kambala in Karnataka and bullock cart race in Maharashtra
- ✓ It held that there are sufficient additional safeguards to prevent cruelty to animals in these ancient sports.
- ✓ A five-judge Constitution bench comprising Justice KM Joseph, Justice Ajay Rastogi, Justice Aniruddha Bose, Justice Hrishikesh Roy and Justice CT Ravikumar pronounced the verdict.
- ✓ The top court in 2014 had banned these sports holding them to be violative of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, (PCA), 1960.
- ✓ Jallikattu, also known eruthazhuvuthal, is a sport played in Tamil Nadu as part of the Pongal harvest festival.
- ✓ The Kambala race, held in Karnataka between November and March, involves a pair of buffaloes tied to a plough and anchored by one person.
- ✓ The laws were declared to be constitutional and not violative of Article 21 (right to life and liberty), Article 14 (right to equality) and fundamental duties under Article 51A that seeks to encourage compassion for animals
- ✓ The Court held that the states were empowered to enact the laws as prevention of cruelty to animals was a subject relatable to Entry 17 of Concurrent List (List 3) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government brought an amendment in 2017 to modify the PCA Act to allow the use of bulls in Jallikattu under certain guidelines and the amendment received the approval of the President too.
- ✓ The "Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act 2017", introduced by the then Chief Minister O Panneerselvam, was passed by voice vote
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government asserted that Jallikattu is protected under Article 29 of the Constitution and told the court that practice, which is centuries-old and symbolic of a community's identity, can be regulated and reformed.
- ✓ Jallikattu first came under legal scrutiny in 2007 when the Animal Welfare Board of India and the animal rights group People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) moved petitions in the Supreme Court against the sport as well as bullock cart races.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government, however, came out of the ban by passing a law in 2009, which was signed by the Governor.
- ✓ In 2011, the UPA regime at the Centre added bulls to the list of animals whose training and exhibition is prohibited
- ✓ In May 2014, the Supreme Court banned the bull-taming sport, ruling on a petition that cited the 2011 notification.
- ✓ A year later, in 2015, the apex court also dismissed the Tamil Nadu government's plea calling for a recall of its verdict.

- ✓ In January 2017, massive protests erupted across Tamil Nadu against the ban, with Chennai witnessing a 15-day-long Jallikattu uprising.
 - ✓ The same year, the government released an ordinance amending the central Act and allowing Jallikattu in the state and this was later ratified by the President.
 - ✓ Animal rights body PETA challenged the state move, arguing it was unconstitutional.
 - ✓ Parties in the case are the Animal Welfare Board, PETA, CUPA, Federation Of Indian Animal Protection Organisations and Animal Equality, Union of India and the State of Tamil Nadu
- **On May 18, the Supreme Court – refused to allow Bihar to continue with the caste survey in the state and asked the state to wait for the next hearing on July 3 in the HC.**
- ✓ A bench of justices Abhay S Oka and Rajesh Bindal said it would have to examine if the exercise being carried out is a census in the name of survey.
 - ✓ On May 11, the Bihar government moved the Supreme Court challenging the Patna High Court's May 4 order on an interim stay of caste-based survey in the state.
 - ✓ The state government said the collection of caste-based data is a constitutional mandate under Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution.
 - ✓ Article 15 of the Constitution says the State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them, while Article 16 states there shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State.
 - ✓ The first round of caste survey in Bihar was conducted between January 7 and 21, while the second round started on April 15 and was supposed to continue till May 15.

ECONOMY

- **SBI - has become the country's first lender to report an annual net profit of over Rs 50,000 crore.**

Q4 NET ZOOMS 83%		
SBI's Q4 report card	Amt in ₹ crore	YoY chg
Net interest income	40,393	29%
Operating expenses	29,733	13.7%
Total provisions	7,927	-7.5%
Net profit	16,695	83%
FY23 net profit	50,232	59%
Gross NPA	2.78%	-119 bps

- ✓ The public sector bank has also overtaken HDFC Bank, which was the most profitable lender in India for several years.
- ✓ On May 18, SBI reported a net profit of Rs 16,695 crore for the March quarter, an increase of 83% over Rs 9,114 crore in the year-ago period.
- ✓ The bank's net profit for FY23 stood at Rs 50,232 crore, a rise of 59% over Rs 31,676 crore recorded in the previous year.
- ✓ HDFC Bank had reported a net profit of Rs 44,108 crore for FY23, an increase of 19% over Rs 36,961 crore in FY22.

