

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 26, 2023

STATES

- Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan - has declared that Kerala has become the country's first fully e-governed state



- ✓ Accordingly, the entire spectrum of government services in the state has been digitised for making their delivery prompt, transparent and inclusive.
- ✓ The delivery of all vital services in the state has been digitised, covering all key domains including health, education, land revenue, documentation of properties, public distribution system and social security payouts
- ✓ The CM made the declaration at the 'Total e-Governance Kerala' event organised by the Kerala IT Mission at Nishagandhi auditorium in Thiruvananthapuram on May 25
- ✓ Kerala has made around 900 services available through a single window system called 'e-sevanam' Portal, which was introduced to help providing government services to the people.
- ✓ About 7.5 crore certificates have been made available through another popular scheme, e-district.

- ✓ Further, around 250 services are being delivered online in panchayats.
 - ✓ The setting up of country's first digital university and launch of the digital science park project worth Rs 1,500 crore were the other major steps taken by the government to bring about total e-governance in the state
 - ✓ Another noteworthy step in this direction is the implementation of the Kerala Fibre Optic Network (KFON) project, which has made internet access a citizen's right.
 - ✓ The project, to be commissioned on June 5, targets connectivity to 20 lakh students from economically weaker sections.
- **The Rajasthan government - has hoisted yellow flags with “Om” written on them atop all the 593 temples in the state under the Devasthan department**



- ✓ This was done on May 25 on the occasion of Guru-Pushya Sanyog, referring to the day of combination of planets in a specific way.
- ✓ According to the government, the purpose of hoisting yellow flags on the temples on the occasion of Guru-Pushya Sanyog is to wish for happiness and good health for the common people

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **On May 25, the US Food and Drug Administration - approved the world's first oral antiviral, Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir and ritonavir tablets) for adults**
- ✓ Paxlovid, manufactured by US pharma major Pfizer, is the fourth drug — and first oral antiviral pill — approved by the FDA to treat Covid in adults.
 - ✓ The drug is approved for the treatment of mild to moderate Covid in adults at high risk of progression to severe Covid, including hospitalisation or death.
 - ✓ So far, Paxlovid was being sold under emergency use authorisation (EUA) in US.
 - ✓ With the pandemic now in its endemic stage, oral treatments, or pills, are ideally taken for mild to moderate infections.
 - ✓ A clutch of domestic companies, including Cipla, Dr Reddy's, Torrent, Hetero, Biocon, Emcure, Granules India, Glenmark and Sun Pharma, signed agreements last year with Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) for the manufacture of the generic drug substance and product.

- ✓ Overall, 35 generic manufacturers globally signed agreements with MPP to produce low-cost, generic versions of Pfizer's oral Covid-19 treatment for supply to 95 low and middle-income countries.
- ✓ In India, Hetero announced that "NIRMACOM", the world's first generic version of Paxlovid, had received WHO pre-qualification in December.
- ✓ The Hyderabad-based company also has EUA approval from the Drugs Controller General of India to manufacture and market the oral antiviral within the country.

DEFENCE

- **An Indian Navy MiG-29K fighter jet - landed on the deck of indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant in the Arabian Sea for the first time at night on May 24**



- ✓ The night landing is seen as an important step towards the 45,000-tonne INS Vikrant warship becoming fully operational along with its air wing by the year-end
 - ✓ Vikrant, which has 76% indigenous content, will operate an air wing consisting of 30 aircraft including the new fighters, MiG-29Ks, Kamov-31 choppers, MH-60R multi-role helicopters, and advanced light helicopters.
- ✓ The aircraft carrier is currently sailing in the Arabian Sea
- ✓ Earlier, a MiG-29K and a prototype of the naval version of the locally made light combat aircraft (LCA) landed and took off from the aircraft carrier for the first time during day in February
- ✓ The ongoing flight trials on board INS Vikrant involve the Russian-origin MiG-29K fighter jets
- ✓ INS Vikrant is the largest-ever warship to be built in India at Cochin Shipyard for about Rs.20,000 crore
- ✓ Vikrant is 262 metres long, has a height of 61 metres (keel to mast) and its flight deck measures 12,500 square metres
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi commissioned India's first indigenously-built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant in September last year

- ✓ It has been named after aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, which was operated by the navy from 1961 to 1997.
- ✓ INS Vikrant has a sophisticated air defence network and anti-ship missile systems
 - ✓ It has over 2,300 compartments, designed for a crew of around 1700 people, including specialised cabins to accommodate women officers
- ✓ Only the US, the UK, Russia, France and China have the capability to build aircraft carriers this size
- ✓ Vikrant is the fourth aircraft carrier to be operated by the Indian Navy -- first Vikrant (British origin) from 1961 to 1997, INS Viraat (British origin) from 1987 to 2016 and INS Vikramaditya 2013 onwards.
- ✓ The navy's other aircraft carrier, INS Vikramaditya, operates MiG-29K fighters.
- ✓ INS Vikramaditya was bought second-hand from Russia for \$2.33 billion.

