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19 May 2023 Daily Current Affairs

Important days

19 May 2023 - National Endangered Species Day

- ❖ May 19 is National Endangered Species Day. This is a day to consider the dwindling populations of certain animals and work together to help.
- ❖ **Theme : "Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act."**
- ❖ Environmental conservation didn't gain traction until the mid-1800s. America's Endangered Species Act of 1973 sparked both domestic and international conservation by providing a framework for protection.
- ❖ Even today some remain critical of human efforts to make the world more habitable for endangered animals.
- ❖ They argue that natural selection should decide which species live or die. But let's remember that humans have an unprecedented effect on the planet, which can have negative consequences on the lives of other animals.



19 May 2023 - Hepatitis Testing Day

- ❖ Hepatitis Testing Day is commemorated on May 19 every year to raise awareness and encourage people to find out whether they have viral hepatitis, which is an inflammation of the liver that can lead to a variety of health complications, including liver cancer.
- ❖ Hepatitis virus strains A, B, C, D, and E are the most common types found in the population. Hepatitis B and C, taken together, are the leading cause of mortality, accounting for 1.3 million fatalities each year worldwide.
- ❖ To save lives, we must do our part to enhance preventive, testing, and awareness. Do your part and get tested.



Persons in news

Arjun Ram Meghwal becomes the new Law and Justice Minister.

- ❖ Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal becomes the new Law and Justice Minister.
- ❖ He is a member of Lok Sabha from the Bikaner constituency, Rajasthan since 2009.
- ❖ According to Article 75, the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the House of the People.



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- ❖ President allocates portfolios on the advice of the Prime Minister & administers the oath of office and secrecy to the Ministers.
- ❖ According to Article the article 75(5) "A Minister who for any period of six consecutive months is not a member of either House of Parliament shall at the expiration of that period cease to be a Minister".

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Appointment of two Supreme Court judges

- ❖ President Draupadi Murmu appointed Andhra Pradesh High Court Chief Justice Prashant Kumar Misra and senior advocate KV Viswanathan as Supreme Court judges.
- ❖ The collegium headed by Chief Justice DY Chandi Rasood had recommended the names of both the Supreme Court judges to the central government. Based on that, the President has given approval to both the appointments.
- ❖ Both the new judges will be sworn in (May 19).
- ❖ There are 34 sanctioned posts of judges in the Supreme Court.
- ❖ Kalpathi Venkataraman Viswanathan, a senior advocate, studied at the Coimbatore Law College under Bharatiyar University. Registered with Tamil Nadu Bar Council in 1988
- ❖ He started his legal career. In 2009, he was given the status of Senior Advocate in the Supreme Court. He was appointed as Additional Solicitor General in 2013. Currently appointed as Supreme Court Judge, his tenure will be till May 25, 2031.



Reports and Indices

World Economic Situation and Prospects Report Has Been Released By the United Nations.

- ❖ The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) released a mid-year update of its World Economic Situation and Prospects report.
- ❖ The report has projected that the Indian Economy is expected to grow by 5.8% in 2023 and 6.7% in 2024.
- ❖ India will remain the fastest-growing major economy in the world. India's economic growth will be supported by resilient domestic demand.
- ❖ India's inflation is expected to decelerate to 5.5 percent in 2023 due to a decrease in global commodity prices and slower currency depreciation.





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- ❖ As per the report, the world economy is projected to grow by 2.3 per cent in 2023 and 2.5 percent in 2024.
- ❖ The earlier forecast of world economic growth was 1.9 per cent for 2023.
- ❖ The report highlights that the labour markets in the developed countries have shown remarkable resilience.
- ❖ Recently, Fitch Ratings said that India would be one of the fastest-growing sovereigns around the world. It forecasted 6 per cent gross domestic product growth for 2023-24.

Awards and Honours

N Chandrasekaran, Tata Sons Chairman Conferred with Highest French Civilian Honour- "Chevalier De La Légion d'Honneur"

- ❖ Natarajan Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons, was honoured with the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour), the highest French Civilian award, for his substantial role in developing and fostering commercial links between India and France.
- ❖ N Chandrasekaran received the award from Catherine Colonna, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, who gave the award on behalf of French President Emmanuel Macron.



Political Parties and Political Systems in India

Siddaramaiah as the 24th Chief Minister of Karnataka

- ❖ After five days of tussle, Siddaramaiah was elected Chief Minister of Karnataka and D.K. Congress officially announced Sivakumar as well.
- ❖ Siddaramaiah to take office as the 24th Chief Minister of Karnataka. TK Sivakumar will take over as Deputy Chief Minister along with him.
- ❖ Victory in 135 seats: In the Karnataka assembly elections held on May 10, the Congress won 135 seats and secured an absolute majority to form the government.
- ❖ In a meeting of the newly elected MLAs held on May 14 under the chairmanship of state president TK Sivakumar, a resolution was passed to give Congress President Malli Karjuna Kharge the power to elect and announce the Legislative Assembly party leader.
- ❖ Subsequently, a secret ballot was held among the MLAs to determine who should be elected as the Legislative Assembly Party Leader of the Congress Party. A majority of MLAs supported Siddaramaiah.





Environment and Ecology

As per WMO, next five years are expected to remain the warmest on record

- ❖ According to the UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the combined effect of El Nino and greenhouse gases will increase the temperature.
- ❖ World Meteorological Organization said that global temperatures are likely to surpass 1.5° Celsius of warming by 2027.
- ❖ It said that there is a 98-percent chance that at least one of the next five years will set a new record of warmth.
- ❖ There is a 66% chance of temporarily exceeding of temperature from 1.5°C in at least one year.
- ❖ The entire period of 2023-27 is likely to remain the warmest ever on record. WMO said that a warming El Niño is likely to develop in the coming months.
- ❖ Global temperatures are expected to exceed the ambitious target set out in the Paris Climate Accord.
- ❖ Eight of the hottest years ever have been recorded between 2015 and 2022. Now, as climate change accelerates, the prospect of increasing temperatures is increasing.
- ❖ The global mean temperature in 2022 was 1.15 Celsius above the 1850-1900 average.
- ❖ Paris Agreement's objective is to hold global average temperature increase to "well below 2°C above preindustrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels".



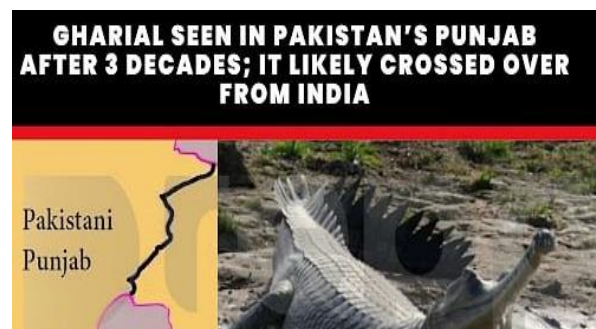
Ban the use of fossil fuels

- ❖ New York has become first state in the US to ban the use of natural gas and other fossil fuels in the majority of new buildings.
- ❖ This is an important win for climate activists, but it could encounter pushback from the fossil fuel industry.
- ❖ By 2026, all new buildings under seven floors must have all-electric heating and cooking, and for higher buildings by 2029.



Gharial in Pakistan

- ❖ A gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) has been seen in Pakistan's Punjab province for the first time after three decades.
- ❖ It could have been from a population reintroduced on this side of the Radcliffe Line in 2017.





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- ❖ India has reintroduced the gharial in the Harike wetland which is 50 km from the border
- ❖ Between 2017 and 2021, some 94 gharials were released into the Beas River in the Amritsar, Tarn Taran Sahib and Hoshiarpur districts under three phases of the Punjab (India) government's programme.
- ❖ The animals were brought mostly from the Chambal basin in Madhya Pradesh.

Science and Technology

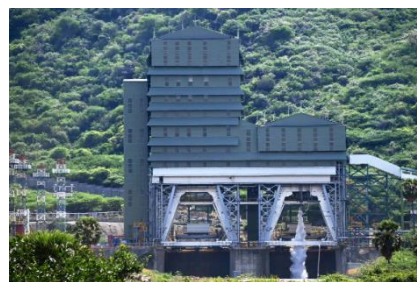
Catalyst for Green Hydrogen Fuel

- ❖ IIT - Guwahati have developed a catalyst that can produce sustainable green hydrogen fuel from wood alcohol.
- ❖ Also, it wouldn't produce carbon dioxide as a by-product.
- ❖ The easy and environmentally safe process also produces formic acid which is a useful industrial chemical.
- ❖ This makes methanol a promising Liquid Organic Hydrogen Carrier (LOHC) and contributes to the concept of hydrogen-methanol economy.



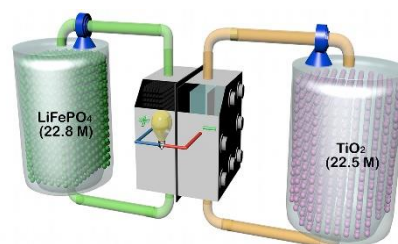
Semi-Cryogenic Engine Tests

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation has successfully commenced testing of its semi-cryogenic engines.
- ❖ The very first integrated test on an intermediate configuration of the 2000 Kn (Kilonewton) semi-cryogenic engine carried out.
- ❖ This test conducted in newly-commissioned Semi cryogenic Integrated Engine & Stage Test facility at ISRO Propulsion Complex at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.



New flow battery technology

- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology of Madras have developed a 'non-aqueous allorganic redox flow battery' (NORFB).
- ❖ They have developed a new type of electrolyte using 'pyrylium salts', which are a class of organic chemicals.
- ❖ With suitable structural modifications these chemicals allow high-voltage operation, namely they can store more energy.
- ❖ The electrolyte is designed to carry more current density as well as voltage.
- ❖ Conventional flow batteries feature aqueous (water-based) electrolytes like hydrochloric acid, sulphuric acid, and alkali metal hydroxides.
- ❖ Water in the electrolyte undergoes electrolysis, reducing the operating voltage limit and energy density.





Economy and banking

IRDAI Forms Task Force to Facilitate Ease of Doing KYC Using Aadhaar

- ❖ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), a statutory body under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance (MOF), has constituted a task force to facilitate ease of doing Know Your Customer (KYC) and allied matters by insurers using Aadhaar, the 12-digit individual identification number.
- ❖ At Present, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) framework allows insurance companies to identify the customer by using their Aadhaar with consent management.
- ❖ The 12-member task force is headed by the Member (finance and investment (F&I)) of IRDAI.
- ❖ The panel has been asked to suggest measures to ease of onboarding of customers using Aadhaar, and steps for fraud management at the underwriting and claims stages.
- ❖ The 12-point terms of reference also seek the panel's suggestion on linking of ABHA ID (Ayushman Bharat) and facilitating insurers to access annuity life certificates (Jeevan Pramaan).

Tamil Nadu News

4th Line of Chennai Metro Rail Project

- ❖ Line 4 of the Chennai Metro Rail Project will be constructed for a length of 26.1 km up to Lighthouse - Poontamalli Bypass.
- ❖ This work has been contracted by 'ITD Cementation India'. 4 machines of Herrenknecht from Germany are to be used for tunneling on this route.
- ❖ Trial run of the machine named 'Pluming Go' (Poonarai) for digging 3rd mine was successfully completed in presence of General Counsels and Officers at HK Factory at Achinchiwakkam Village, Pon Neri.
- ❖ 29 m underground. It has been informed that the tunnel will be started at depth and will be tunneled through Lighthouse, Concert Road, Thirumailai, Alwarpet, Bharathidasan Metro station and will finally reach Boat Club in November.



Introduction of Illam Thiru Prasadham, 'Thirukoil' app projects

- ❖ Charitable Affairs Minister PK Shekhar Babu launched the Thirukoil Prasadham program and the 'Trukoil' app.
- ❖ Festival app can be downloaded and installed from Play Store for Android and all Android mobiles and from App Store for IOS mobiles.
- ❖ To be sent all over the world... According to the wishes of the devotees of the same, a project has been started to send the Prasadham of 48 senior temples to their homes through the postal department.





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- ❖ You can find news video about temples, live streaming of festivals, google guide to reach temples, services for devotees.
- ❖ Similarly, when senior citizens, disabled people visit temples too.
- ❖ A phone number service is also available for wheelchair transport with administrative control in electric vehicles and vehicles.
- ❖ Apart from this, you can also give donations like Annadanam, Thirup Pani through the app. He launched a mobile application called 'Thirukoil', which is designed to provide easy access to information and services, and a project to send offerings from 48 major temples to the homes of devotees in collaboration with the Central Government's postal department.
- ❖ Applications of the application: Minister Sir Shekharbabu then told the media: Through the 'Thirukkoil' application, the temple's history, history, opening hours, pujas, prayers and payment details of the temples will also be available.
- ❖ Also, Devaram, Thiruvasaki, Thirupatis, Nalayirativya Prabandham etc. have been fully uploaded. In the first phase of this app, 50 famous masters Thiruk Koilkan will be featured. In the next phase, the work of connecting 88 temples is going on. Details of other temples will be added gradually.

State News

Flood Relief Exercise 'Jal Rahat' in Assam

- ❖ Indian Army's Gajraj Corps, along with other disaster management groups, conducted a joint flood relief drill, 'Exercise Jal Rahat', at Hagrama Bridge on Manas River in Assam.
- ❖ Apart from Indian Army- SSB, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and Police representatives participated in the exercise.
- ❖ The event included coordination and rehearsal for rescue missions of people from inundated areas by joint efforts of expert teams of Army, NDRF and SDRF.
- ❖ Purpose of "Jal Rahat" Exercise is to showcase the Indian Army's preparedness and capabilities in responding to natural disasters, particularly floods and also effectively coordinate relief efforts, rescue operations, and provide essential supplies and medical aid to the affected people in a timely manner.



Assam State

Chief Minister - Himanta Biswa Sarma

Governor - Jagdish Mukhi

State Animal - Indian Rhinoceros

State Bird - White Winged Duck

National Parks - Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Nameri

National Park, Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park



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International relations

MoUs for two projects to be implemented under Government of India grant assistance signed today aim at improving quality of life for people in Nepal

- ❖ The Embassy of India - Government of Nepal signed Memorandums of Understanding for undertaking two High Community Development Projects in Nepal under the grant assistance of Government of India
- ❖ The construction of these two projects aims at providing better health care and education facilities for the local community and improving the quality of life for people in Nepal.

