

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 31, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- **The Tamil Nadu government - signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Japan's Omron company for establishing a new medical device factory in the State.**
- ✓ The electrical equipment manufacturer will invest Rs 128 crore for the plant, which will be its first medical equipment manufacturing plant in India.
- ✓ The proposed manufacturing plant for automatic blood pressure monitors will be located at Origins by Mahindra – a 600 acres industrial cluster at Peruvoyal Village in Gummidipoondi Taluk of Thiruvallur district.



- ✓ A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed in the presence of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin in Osaka, Japan on May 30
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Industries Minister TRB Rajaa and senior officials including Additional Chief Secretary S Krishnan were present.
- ✓ The Omron Group has diversified business presence including industrial automation, healthcare devices, and electronic components manufacturing, with exports to over 120 countries.

- ✓ Under personal healthcare business, the Japanese company is into the manufacture of home blood pressure monitoring kits, portable main management devices, fitness devices including wearables, low-frequency pain therapy equipment, electronic thermometers, body composition monitors and respiratory devices such as table-top nebulizer systems for respiratory therapy to name a few.
- ✓ Omron currently manufactures its healthcare devices in Japan, China, and Vietnam.
- ✓ Omron is the fourth international company to choose Tamil Nadu for fresh investment or expansion this month after Mitsubishi Electric, Cisco and Hyundai.
 - ✓ Mitsubishi Electric is also building its first India factory at Origins by Mahindra in Peruvoyal village, 40 km from Chennai, to manufacture room air conditioners and compressors.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu is the fourth largest medical devices manufacturing state in India
- ✓ The Trivitron Medical Technology Park (TMTP) in Irungattukottai, near Chennai, houses the projects under major Indian manufacturers and exporters of medical devices.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu competes with neighbors Telangana and Karnataka as well as Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Haryana for investments in this domain
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has been touring Singapore and Japan over the last week to attract investments to the State and to invite business communities to the Global Investor Meet (GIM) to be held in January 2024.
- ✓ On May 29, Tamil Nadu signed six MoUs worth Rs.818.9 crore with Japanese companies to set up various manufacturing facilities across the State.

SCHEMES

- **On May 29, the Odisha government - announced a new rural housing scheme 'Mo Ghara'.**
- ✓ Approximately 4 lakh people will be covered under the new scheme for which the government will bear Rs 2,150 crore over a period of two years.
- ✓ The cabinet has approved the new housing scheme called 'Mo Ghara' (my home) to provide financial assistance to meet the aspirations of the lower and lower middle-income households of rural Odisha.
- ✓ The scheme will cover all such families who were left out in the existing housing schemes due to eligibility criteria or due to insufficient allocation and also those who had received housing assistance of smaller amounts in the past and now want to upgrade or expand their houses
- ✓ This is a credit linked housing scheme with capital subsidy which is fully funded from the state budget.
- ✓ Under the scheme, a beneficiary can avail housing loan up to Rs 3 lakh which can be repaid in 10 years excluding 1 year moratorium period in easy installments.

- ✓ The state government will provide subsidies of Rs 30,000, Rs 45,000, and Rs 60,000, for loan amounts of Rs 1 lakh, Rs 1.50 lakh, Rs 2/3 lakh, respectively.
- ✓ A dedicated web portal will also be launched for filing of online applications, monitoring and implementation of the scheme.

STATES

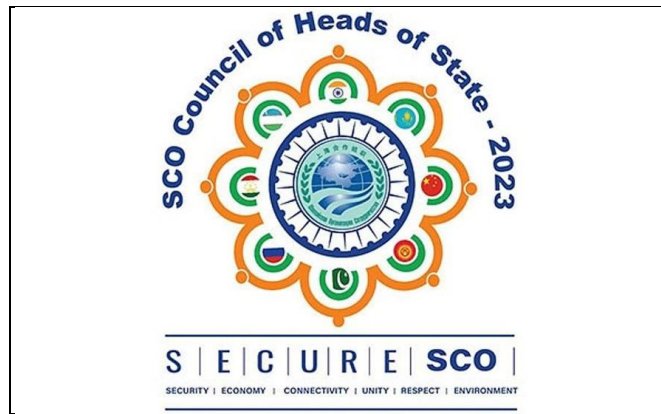
- **Rajasthan - will provide 100 units of electricity free every month to each household from June 1**
- ✓ The decision has been announced in line with the Congress government's budget declaration
- ✓ It is aimed at giving relief to more than 1 crore domestic consumers connected to the grid in the state.
- ✓ The new scheme will likely cost the state exchequer Rs.5,200 crore annually.
- ✓ Consumers with multiple connections will also be eligible to get free power.
- ✓ Consumers will be eligible for the scheme after registering at a government-organised programme, called inflation relief camp.

INTERNATIONAL

- **China - launched a spacecraft carrying three astronauts, including its first civilian, to its Tiangong space station on May 30.**
- ✓ This is the country's fifth manned mission to a fully functional space station since 2021
- ✓ The Shenzhou 16 spacecraft lifted off from the Jiuquan launch center on the edge of the Gobi Desert in northwestern China atop a Long March 2-F rocket.
- ✓ The launch also marks the 475th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.
- ✓ For the first time, China has included a civilian in its rotating crew for the space station which otherwise remained a domain of the military personnel.
- ✓ The mission's commander is Jing Haipeng, who is also making history by becoming the first Chinese astronaut to go into space for a record fourth time.
- ✓ China's first manned space mission in 2003 made it the third country after the former Soviet Union and the U.S. to put a person into space under its own resources.
- ✓ Once ready, China will be the only country to own a space station as the International Space Station (ISS) of Russia is a collaborative project of several countries.
- ✓ The ISS station is also set to be decommissioned by 2030.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **India - is all set to host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State on July 4, 2023.**



- ✓ On May 30, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced that the 22nd Summit of SCO will be held in virtual format
- ✓ Under India's first-ever chairmanship, the summit will be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- ✓ As per the MEA, all the SCO member states — China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan — have been invited to attend the summit.
- ✓ In addition, Iran, Belarus and Mongolia have been invited as observer states.
- ✓ As per SCO tradition, Turkmenistan has also been invited as the guest of the chair.
- ✓ Further, Heads of the two SCO bodies — the secretariat and the SCO RATS (Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure) will also be present.
- ✓ The MEA said heads of six international and regional organisations have also been invited to the summit.
 - ✓ The organisations are the UN, the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States), CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organization), EAEU (Eurasian Economic Union) and CICA (Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia).
- ✓ The theme of the summit is 'Towards a SECURE SCO'.
- ✓ The SECURE acronym was coined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 2018 SCO summit
- ✓ The acronym stands for Security; Economy and Trade; Connectivity; Unity; Respect for Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity; and Environment.
- ✓ India assumed the rotating chairmanship of the SCO at the Samarkand Summit on September 16 last year
- ✓ The SCO is an influential economic and security bloc and has emerged as one of the largest transregional international organisations.
- ✓ The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- ✓ India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017.
- ✓ India hosted the foreign ministers of the SCO at a two-day conclave in Goa earlier this month

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **On May 30, scientists - put a GPS collar on Igoo, a Himalayan squirrel, living at 9,000 ft in the Ladakh Himalayas**



- ✓ With this, the Himalayan Marmot became the first species to be radio collared in Ladakh.
 - ✓ The radio-collaring of the Himalayan squirrel is to study the impact of changing climate and anthropogenic pressure on its behaviour and movement.
 - ✓ This furry, brown squirrel lives in alpine grasslands of the Himalayas
 - ✓ It hibernates for nearly half the year from autumn to early spring deep inside their burrows and comes out only during summers to bask in the sun or to snack on green grass.
 - ✓ According to the locals, erratic climate has impacted their behaviour.
 - ✓ Nowadays, these squirrel were seen in any given month, as unusually warm winters and snow in summers seemed to have “confused” them
 - ✓ The squirrel was named after a place called Igoo in Ladakh.
The variation in temperature and scale of movement will give an insight about climate change and its impact on this species.
 - ✓ This data is imperative to conserve this tiny species, whose role is vital in the Himalayas.
 - ✓ These tiny creatures are among the ideal preys for the topmost carnivores of the Himalayas, such as snow leopards
 - ✓ They are listed by the IUCN under the category of “Least Concern”
 - ✓ Unlike regular squirrels, the Himalayan Marmot doesn’t climb trees and are only found in high altitudes (between 9,000 ft and 18,000 ft) of India, Pakistan, China and Nepal.
- **An international team of scientists led by Professor Abhijit Chakraborty of the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad - has discovered the densest alien planet, which is 13 times bigger than Jupiter.**
 - ✓ This is the third exoplanet to have been discovered from India, and by the PRL scientists

- ✓ The research team include scientists from India, Germany, Switzerland, and the USA
 - ✓ The team used the indigenous PRL Advanced Radial-velocity Abu-sky Search spectrograph (PARAS) at the Gurushikhar Observatory in Mt. Abu to measure the mass of the planet precisely.
 - ✓ The newly discovered exoplanet, with a mass of 14 g/cm³, orbits a star called TOI4603 or HD 245134
 - ✓ The new finding has now been confirmed to be a planet and has been named TOI 4603b or HD 245134b.
 - ✓ The planet is located 731 light years away from Earth and orbits its star every 7.24 days.
 - ✓ The planet is raging hot with a temperature of 1396 degrees Celsius.
 - ✓ The newly discovered exoplanet TOI 4603b is one of the most massive and densest giant planets that orbit very close to its host star at a distance less than 1/10th the distance between our Sun and Earth.
 - ✓ These planets' masses range from 11 to 16 times the mass of Jupiter and fewer than five exoplanets are currently known in this mass range so far.
 - ✓ While the search for a life form beyond Earth continues, scientists have discovered over 5000 exoplanets outside the solar system that are of different natures, properties, and atmospheres.
- **In a groundbreaking announcement, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) - has revealed its plans to embark on a pioneering space mission to explore the main asteroid belt situated between Mars and Jupiter.**
- ✓ The Emirates Mission to the Asteroid Belt (EMA) will be launched on a spacecraft named 'MBR Explorer' after Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, the ruler of Dubai and prime minister of the UAE.
 - ✓ The mission's primary objective is to unravel the mysteries surrounding the formation of our solar system and to unearth potential clues to the origins of life that may be concealed within the asteroid belt.
 - ✓ The mission will consist of a six-year development phase for the spacecraft, followed by a seven-year journey beyond Mars to reach the main asteroid belt.
 - ✓ The MBR Explorer will conduct close flybys of seven asteroids in the belt, aiming to conduct unique observations and gather valuable data.
 - ✓ Slated for launch in 2028, the EMA will study the building blocks of the solar system and also "investigate the potential of water-rich asteroids as a usable resource"
 - ✓ The MBR Explorer will cover a staggering distance of 5 billion kilometres before visiting its first asteroid in 2030
 - ✓ It will then pass by six asteroids -- the asteroids (10254) Westerwald, (623) Chimaera, (13294) Rockox; (88055) 2000 VA28, (23871) 1998 RC76 and (59980) 1999 SG6

- ✓ In 2034, the mission aims to touch down upon Justitia, also known as the red asteroid.
 - ✓ Justitia and Chimaera are around 50 kilometres in diameter, with the remaining asteroids less than 10 km across each.
 - ✓ The MBR Explorer will carry four science instruments to probe the geology, composition and structure of the asteroids - a high-resolution camera, a thermal infrared camera, a mid-wavelength spectrometer and an infrared spectrometer.
 - ✓ The UAE made history by becoming the first Arab country and only the second nation ever to achieve a successful entry into Mars' orbit on its inaugural attempt.
 - ✓ The UAE Space Agency currently has a probe orbiting Mars -- the Emirates Mars Mission, also called Hope.
 - ✓ Launched in July 2020, it arrived at the Red Planet seven months later and successfully entered orbit around Mars in 2021.
 - ✓ It continues to collect data on the Martian atmosphere beyond its initial short mission.
- **Nvidia Corporation, a leading multinational technology company - is building Israel's most powerful AI supercomputer, Israel-1, to meet the rising demand for AI applications**
- ✓ The cloud-based system costing hundreds of millions of dollars is set to be partially operational by the end of 2023
 - ✓ The system is expected to deliver performance of up to eight exaflops of AI computing, making it one of the world's fastest AI supercomputers
 - ✓ One exaflop can perform 1 quintillion calculations per second.
 - ✓ The Israel-1 system is the brainchild of the former Mellanox team, an Israeli chip designer that Nvidia purchased for nearly \$7 billion in 2019, outbidding Intel Corp.

SPORTS

- **Jyothi Yarraji - bagged the gold medal in the women's 100m hurdles event in the T-Meeting 2023 athletics meet, in Tilburg, the Netherlands, on May 29.**



- ✓ In the category E World Ranking competition the 23-year-old clocked 13.20s in the final to secure victory in the event.

- ✓ With this, Jyothi won her second gold medal in a span of three days.
- ✓ Jyothi Yarraji topped the heats with a time of 13.08s before entering into the final.
- ✓ The Andhra runner won the first gold medal in the women's 100m hurdles event at the Kurpfalz Gala 2023 athletics meet, in Weinheim, Germany on May 27.
- ✓ In Germany, she managed to clock a season-best time of 12. 84s.
- ✓ Earlier this month, Jyothi clocked 12. 89s at the Federation Cup 2023 to qualify for the Asian Athletics Championships, which is scheduled in July.
- ✓ She also managed to finish fourth in the women's 100m heats at the T-Meeting 2023.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ **World No Tobacco Day - May 31**



- ✓ The day is observed every year by the World Health Organization (WHO) to raise awareness about the risks involved and harmful effects of tobacco usage.
- ✓ In 1987, the World Health Assembly passed a resolution calling for 7 April 1988 to be a "World No-Smoking Day."
- ✓ Later in 1988, another resolution was passed, calling for the celebration of World No Tobacco Day, every year on 31 May.
- ✓ Theme 2023 - 'We need food, not tobacco'
- ✓ India is the second largest producer and consumer of tobacco products in the world with over 27 crore tobacco users.
- ✓ Tobacco use result in death of over 8 million people every year.
- ✓ Tobacco and smoking contribute to a wide range of diseases, including strokes, heart attacks, lung disorders, and various cancers affecting multiple organs such as the mouth, throat, lungs, pancreas, bladder, kidneys, liver, and stomach.

