

**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 28, 2019**

**TAMIL NADU**

- ◆ **Yamaha Corporation - announced the opening of a new music instruments factory in Kancheepuram, with an investment of ₹ 380 crore on the plant**



- ✓ The unit would produce the full line of musical instruments for the domestic and the international market
- ✓ The factory, located about 70 km from Chennai, is being built in phases
- ✓ The first phase is currently producing portable keyboards.
- ✓ This would be followed by acoustic guitars and pro-audio speakers
- ✓ The facility can produce 1.50 lakh portable keyboards and two lakh acoustic guitars annually.
- ✓ Yamaha has recently released the first 'Make in India' keyboard, PSR I500, that is tuned to produce sounds of Indian musical instruments like harmonium, sitar etc
- ✓ Functions like quick sampling, a built-in Tabla/Mridangam & Tanpura function called "Riyaz" that would help musicians learn how to play songs or traditional Indian "Raga" scales are included in the new keyboard
- ◆ **Indian Institute of Technology, Madras - researchers are developing indigenous processes for efficient recovery of oil from mature offshore wells**
- ✓ IIT-M researchers are studying the efficacy of an emerging enhanced oil recovery method called 'Low-Salinity Enhanced Oil Recovery' (LSEOR) in association with research laboratories in Australia

- ✓ The research, funded by IIT-M and Department of Science and Technology (DST), is being headed by Professor Jitendra Sangwai from the department of ocean engineering.



- ✓ At present, domestic crude oil production in India is insufficient to meet the nation's energy demands.
- ✓ In line with this expectation, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has been looking at enhanced oil recovery (EOR) techniques to boost oil and gas output from old and matured fields.

## STATES

### ◆ Kerala – becomes the first state in the country to impose cess on GST

- ✓ The state will levy calamity cess on GST from June 1
- ✓ The move is aimed at raising funds for the Rebuild Kerala project, a state government initiative following the devastating floods last year
- ✓ All items having a GST slab above 5% will be taxed 1% additional for a period of two years.
- ✓ The calamity cess was announced by finance minister T M Thomas Isaac in this year's budget in January
- ✓ Gold, silver and platinum ornaments, though carry a lesser GST rate than 12%, will be levied 0.25% calamity cess
- ✓ The GST council, based on a recommendation by a committee of finance ministers, had authorized Kerala to collect calamity cess for two years.
- ✓ The Kerala government expects to raise ₹600 crore a year through the calamity cess

## NATIONAL

### ◆ India - has invited the leaders of the BIMSTEC Member Countries to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's second term on May 30, 2019.

- ✓ The invitations have also been sent to Sooronbay Jeenbekov, the President of Kyrgyzstan who is the current Chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and to Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth, the Chief Guest 2019 Pravasi Bhartiya Divas
- ✓ These invitations, signed by the Prime Minister himself, were in line with the 'Neighbourhood First' policy of the Government along with an outreach to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- ✓ The presidents of Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Kyrgyzstan will come for the event
- ✓ The Prime ministers of Nepal and Bhutan will grace the occasion while Thailand will be sending a special envoy
- ✓ Kyrgyzstan President Sooronbay Jeenbekov will use this occasion to formally invite Modi for the group's summit in mid-June.
- ✓ Unlike 2014, leaders of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Maldives are not among the invitees.
- ✓ In 2014, all the SAARC leaders were invited for the oath-taking ceremony of PM Modi, including the then Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.
- ✓ India has significantly disengaged with the SAARC and raised its contributions in BIMSTEC simultaneously after the Uri Attack of 2016 that claimed 18 soldiers of the Indian Army
- ✓ The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was founded in 1997
- ✓ The BIMSTEC member countries are Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan, and Nepal
- ✓ Sri Lanka is the current Chair of the BIMSTEC
- ✓ BIMSTEC summits
  - ✓ First - held in Thailand in 1997
  - ✓ Second - held in 2008 in India
  - ✓ Third - held in 2014 in Myanmar
  - ✓ Fourth - held in 2018 in Nepal
- ✓ The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) group comprises Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka
- ✓ The SCO has India, China, Pakistan, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan as its members

◆ **Prem Singh Golay, President of the Sikkim Karantikari Morcha (SKM) – sworn in as the sixth Chief Minister of Sikkim.**



- ✓ Governor Ganga Prasad administered the oath of office and secrecy to Golay
- ✓ Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) won 17 of the 32 Assembly seats in the April 11 election
- ✓ The swearing-in ceremony was attended by outgoing Chief Minister Pawan Chaling of Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF)
- ✓ The Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF), which ruled the State for 25 years, won 15 seats

- ✓ Pawan Chamling of the SDF holds the record for being the longest serving Chief Minister of the country, having won five consecutive terms for a little over 24 years.

◆ **Naveen Patnaik - will be sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Odisha on for the fifth consecutive term on May 29, 2019.**

- ✓ This will be the fifth consecutive term of Patnaik.
- ✓ On the day of swearing-in, 6 to 7 lakh farmers will receive the financial assistance of Rs 5000 through Direct Benefit Transfer under the state's 'Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation' (KALIA) scheme

◆ **YSR Congress party President, Jagan Mohan Reddy - will be sworn-in as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh on May 30, 2019 at IGM Stadium in Vijayawada**

- ✓ Governor E. S. L. Narasimhan will administer the oath of office and secrecy

◆ **Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal (ACM) B.S. Dhanoa - pays homage to the martyrs of 'Operation Safed Sagar' at Kargil on May 28, 1999**

- ✓ He visited Air Force Station in Bhisiana and Sarsawa to pay tribute to Squadron Leader Ajay Ahuja and other martyrs



- ✓ It was on 28 May 1999 that India lost a Mi-17 after successfully attacking the Pakistani positions in the Drass sector in Jammu & Kashmir
- ✓ ACM B S Dhanoa led a four-aircraft MiG-21 'missing man' formation flypast along with the Western Air Command chief, Air Marshal R. Nambiar at Bhisiana Air Force station in Punjab's Bathinda district to pay homage to the martyrs'
- ✓ In doing so, both officers made history as this is the first time that an IAF chief and the Air Officer commanding-in-chief of a command have flown together in the same formation
- ✓ The 'missing man' formation is an aerial salute accorded to honour fallen comrades-in-arms
- ✓ In a missing man formation, three aircraft fly in a four-aircraft formation leaving a gap in between to depict the missing man.
- ✓ Ajay Ahuja was the Flight Commander of 17-Squadron - the Golden Arrows based out of Srinagar and ACM Dhanoa was its Commanding Officer.
- ✓ Squadron Leader Ahuja was flying a MiG 21, well within the Indian Territory during a reconnaissance mission in Batalik sector, when his plane was shot at by the Pakistani Army on May 27, 1999
- ✓ He ejected but landed in Pakistani territory.

- ✓ Pakistan later handed over his body that was severely mutilated on May 28, 1999
- ✓ He was awarded the nation's third highest wartime gallantry award 'Vir Chakra' posthumously.
- ✓ Earlier this year, the Missing Man formation was flown at the Aero India show in Bengaluru in February as a tribute to the Surya Kiran pilot who was killed in a freak mid-air collision during training before the show

◆ **The Government - proposes to merge the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) with the Central Statistics Office (CSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**

- ✓ Post merger, the combined entity will be named National Statistical Office (NSO)
- ✓ NSO will be headed by Secretary (S&PI), with various divisions reporting to him through three Director Generals (DGs) in charge of Statistics, National sample Survey and Coordination, Administration and Policy

◆ **Indian Air Force's (IAF's) AN-32 aircraft - was formally fleet certified to fly on blended aviation fuel which contain up to 10% of indigenous bio-jet fuel**

- ✓ The Russian made AN-32 aircraft is certified for flying on blended aviation fuel at the aero-engine test facilities at Chandigarh



- ✓ The indigenous bio-jet fuel was first produced in 2013 by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP) lab at Dehradun
- ✓ This indigenous bio-jet fuel is made from Jatropha oil sourced from Chhattisgarh Biodiesel Development Authority (CBDA) and then processed at CSIR-IIP lab at Dehradun

◆ **SpiceJet - became fourth Indian airline to have a 100 aircraft in its fleet after a recent induction of a Boeing 737 which became its 100th plane**



- ✓ The other three domestic airline with 100 Aircraft fleet are national carrier Air India, now grounded Jet Airways and IndiGo
- ✓ SpiceJet is a Gurugram-based budget carrier.
- ✓ It has 30 Bombardier Q-400s, 68 Boeing 737s and two B737 freighters in its fleet

- ✓ It is a key player in Union government's regional connectivity scheme called UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) operating around 42 flights per day
- ✓ At present SpiceJet on an average operates 575 daily flights to around 62 destinations in 53 domestic and 9 international routes

◆ **The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) - has decided that candidates awarded the Doctor of Pharmacy degree (Pharm D) from recognized universities will be authorized to use the 'Dr' prefix**

- ✓ The six-year long Pharm D course was started in India in 2008.
- ✓ In 2012, the council had issued a circular that Pharm D candidates can use Dr before their names

◆ **The Commerce Ministry - has notified a comprehensive draft of the export policy**

- ✓ It includes product- specific rules with a view to provide a ready reckoner for exporters.
- ✓ The draft policy aims at consolidating the export norms for each product as applicable at different government agencies.
- ✓ ITC-HS Codes are Indian Trade Clarification based on Harmonised System of Coding.
- ✓ It was adopted by India for import-export operations.
- ✓ Every product has been accorded eight digit HS codes.
- ✓ The compendium will help an exporter know all the applicable norms pertaining to a particular product, helping him/her understand policy conditions for that item
- ✓ A similar policy exists for import purposes also.
- ✓ While Schedule 1 deals with imports, Schedule 2 deals with export related matters.
- ✓ The directorate had sought the views of all stake holders on the draft.

## INTERNATIONAL

◆ **US President Donald Trump - created history by becoming the first foreign leader to meet Japan's newly crowned emperor, Emperor Naruhito on May 26, 2019**



- ✓ Emperor Naruhito ascended the Chrysanthemum Throne on May 1, marking the beginning of a new era in the Japanese timeline - the Reiwa era

- ✓ His father Emperor Akihito abdicated the throne on April 30, 2019, thereby becoming the first Japanese emperor to do so since 1817
- ✓ The US President is on a four-day visit to Japan.

◆ **A centuries-old 'Guru Nanak palace' - was partially demolished by a group of vandals who sold its precious windows and doors in Pakistan's Punjab province**



- ✓ The walls of the four-storey building had pictures of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak and Hindu rulers
- ✓ The "Palace of Baba Guru Nanak", said to have been built over four centuries ago, was frequented by a number of Sikhs from across the world
- ✓ The structure at a village in Narowal city (about 100 kms from Lahore) had 16 rooms with each of them having at least three doors made with expensive wood and at least four ventilators

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

◆ **The Second Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Mass Media Forum - is being held at Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan capital) from 23 to 26 May 2019**



- ✓ A delegation from Ministry of Information & Broadcasting is representing India at the Forum.
- ✓ The first SCO Media Summit was held on 1 June 2018 in Beijing, China.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ **SpaceX - launched a rocket carrying the first 60 satellites of its 'Starlink' constellation, from Cape Canaveral, Florida in US**



- ✓ The satellites, meant to provide internet from space, were launched by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rockets at an altitude of 450 kilometers
- ✓ Each satellite weighing only 500 pounds, they are built in-house in Redmond, near Seattle in US
- ✓ Starlink's constellation will become operational once over 800 satellites will be activated, requiring atleast 12 similar payload launches

- ✓ The 60 launched satellites are among the first of a planned 12,000-satellite megaconstellation with aim to provide high-speed internet service from space

## DEFENCE

### ◆ DRDO - has successfully test fired AKASH-MK-1S missile from ITR , Chandipur, Odhisa on May 25 and 27, 2019

- ✓ Akash MK 1S is a surface to air missile that can neutralize advanced aerial targets
- ✓ It is an upgraded version of existing Akash missile with indigenous technology.



- ✓ It has a strike range of 25 km and capability to carry warhead of 60 kilogram.
- ✓ The missile is guided by a phased array fire control radar called 'Rajendra' which is termed as Battery Level Radar (BLR) with a tracking range of about 60 km

## APPOINTMENTS

### ◆ Home secretary Rajiv Gauba - seen as the frontrunner to take over as the new cabinet secretary



- ✓ If selected, the 1982-batch IAS officer from Jharkhand cadre will replace P K Sinha, whose four-year term is due to end on June 12.
- ✓ Mr. Gauba, one of the senior most bureaucrats, is supposed to complete his two-year tenure as Home Secretary on August 31.
- ✓ Cabinet secretary is the senior-most bureaucrat and the most important link between the PMO and the civil service.

## AWARDS

### ◆ Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Professor Balram Bhargava - recently won the 2019 Dr Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health



- ✓ He was conferred with the award at the 72nd World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland



- ✓ The award recognises his multi-facted achievements as a clinician, innovator, researcher and trainer.

◆ **Acharya Balkrishna, Managing Director (MD) of Patanjali Ayurved Limited - was conferred the 'UNSDG 10 Most Influential People in Healthcare Award' in Geneva, Switzerland**



- ✓ He accepted the award on behalf of India's Patanjali Group of Institutions
- ✓ The award recognises his role in treating lifestyle diseases with Ayurveda, Yoga and other traditional Indian methods and Patanjali's contribution towards achieving this
- ✓ He was among the five keynote speakers of UNSDG (United Nations Sustainable Development Goals) organization with others including
- ✓ Randy Oostra (UNICEF executive director) Henrietta H Fore (WHO director-general) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and Abe Lee
- ✓ Renowned yoga guru Baba Ramdev co-founded the company along with Acharya Balkshrina

◆ **Sri Lankan writer Guy Gunaratne - was announced as the winner of 2019's Swansea University International Dylan Thomas Prize**

- ✓ He won the award for his debut novel 'In Our Mad and Furious City'
- ✓ Gunaratne is a 35 years old British-Sri-Lankan human rights documentary filmmaker, turned novelist.
- ✓ The book was shortlisted for The Gordon Burn Prize, The Goldsmiths Prize and the Writers Guild Awards and also longlisted for The Man Booker Prize 2019
- ✓ The award recognises best published literary work in English language, written by an author aged 39 or under.
- ✓ The year 2019 marks the 11th year of world's largest English language literary prize for young authors

## SPORTS

◆ **Indian Shooters, Rahi Sarnobat and Saurabh Chaudhary - won gold medals at World Cup shooting in Munich on May 27**



- ✓ Rahi won with a quota place for the Tokyo 2020 Games, while Saurabh shot a new world record

- ✓ It was the sixth Olympic quota for India after those won by Anjum Moudgil, Apurvi Chandela, Saurabh Chaudhary, Divyansh Singh Panwar and Abhishek Verma for the Tokyo 2020 Games.
- ✓ Rahi, 28, who had become the first Indian pistol shooter to win a World Cup gold in Changwon, Korea in 2013, clinched her second gold by topping the women's 25m pistol final
- ✓ The Kolhapur girl also has a World Cup bronze to her credit, and became the first Indian woman pistol shooter to win gold at the Asian Games last year.
- ✓ Saurabh, the 17-year old teenager from Meerut, also won his second World Cup gold, in only his second appearance in the elite championship, when he topped the men's 10m air pistol final
- ✓ This is the second time Saurabh has set a world record in the senior category.
- ✓ In his maiden World Cup participation in New Delhi in February, Saurabh had won gold and broke the seniors' record by shooting 245 in the final, clinching a Tokyo quota place in the process
- ✓ At the moment, Saurabh holds the senior and junior world records in 10m air pistol events
- ✓ He also holds the junior and senior 10m air pistol mixed event world records with Manu Bhaker.
- ✓ Thus, the Youth Olympics, World junior and Asian Games champion owns world records (finals) in all the events he participates in.
- ✓ Both Rahi and Saurabh are supported by not-forprofit sports organization, Olympic Gold Quest
- ✓ With three gold medals, Apurvi Chandela had bagged the women's air rifle on May 26, India was on top of the medals table.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ◆ World Thyroid Day - May 25



- ✓ World Thyroid Day was established in 2008.
- ✓ It was formed as part of a campaign led by the American Thyroid Association and European Thyroid Association.
- ✓ The observance of the day seeks to create an awareness about thyroid diseases globally, its new treatment modalities and to focus on urgent need for education and prevention programs

