

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 6, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin - handed over sanction orders for investments to the tune of Rs. 9.75 crore in eight Startups founded by entrepreneurs from the SC/ST community**
- ✓ MSME minister TM Anbarasan, MSME secretary Arun Roy, and other officials were present during the event held on May 5
- ✓ The investment was made in the form of Compulsorily Convertible Debentures (CCD), thereby making the state government a shareholder in these companies.



- ✓ The investments were made through Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission (StartupTN) under the Tamil Nadu SC/ST Startup Fund, a Rs 50 crore fund announced by the state government in Budget 2023-24.
- ✓ This the second batch of SC/ST startups to be backed by the fund, taking the total investment to Rs 17.25 crore in 13 startups.
- ✓ The investment will be used by the startups to strengthen the business model and expand operations through the government backing.

- ✓ The eight startups that secured investment work in sectors including advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence, health tech, architecture, clean energy.
- ✓ The three ventures led by entrepreneurs belonging to the scheduled tribes that received funding are TAMS Tribal Green Fuel, a biomass briquettes manufacturing facility; Namsanthai Kotagiri, a firm producing and trading in coffee and honey, and Sholakar Tribal Creations, a firm trading honey, seamar brooms and furniture.

VENTURES LED BY SC ENTREPRENEURS

Startup	Business	Investment
Guhan Industrial and Manufacturing Solutions	Manufacturer of abrasive waterjet cutting systems for high precision engineering	₹2.5 crore
SM Smartygen Media Networks	OTT platform for short-content genre content makers	₹2 crore
India Speak Research Lab	Startup working on Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) and Text to Speech tech	₹2 crore
Sprint6 Specialized Services	Facility management company with services focused on restroom optimisation solutions	₹50 lakh
Destratum Solution	Digital clinical management system	₹25 lakh

- ✓ The other startups to receive the funding are Guhan Industrial and Manufacturing Solutions Pvt Ltd, SM Smartygen Media Networks Pvt Ltd (Shortfundly), India Speak Research Lab Pvt Ltd, Sprint6 Specialized Services Pvt Ltd and Destratum Solution Pvt Ltd (Health Attai).
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government has set a funding target of Rs 50 crore for the current year.
- ✓ During the day, the CM also handed over the Tamil Nadu Seed Fund (TANSEED) grant to 25 startups.
- ✓ The CM handed over cheques for the first tranche of Rs. 5 lakh each to the first batch of 25 Startups, totalling Rs.1.25 crore of Tamil Nadu Seed Fund (TANSEED) grant.
 - ✓ This takes the total number of TANSEED beneficiaries in the State to 109, of whom the founders of 100 Startups have directly received the benefit from the Chief Minister since December 2021.
- ✓ The second tranche of Rs. 5 lakh each will be handed over to them after they reach the milestones set for them.
- ✓ Launched on July 22, 2022, TANSEED is a flagship initiative of StartupTN and was launched by the Tamil Nadu government to support early-stage startups with a seed grant of up to Rs.10 lakh each.

- ✓ These startups are located in various parts of the state including Chennai, Thanjavur, Namakkal, Coimbatore, Tenkasi and other districts, and were shortlisted in a multistage screening process.
- ✓ The chosen startups include assistive technologies startup dVerse Technologies, robotics startup Imrobonix, social commerce firm Live Box and EV startup Zealev DC-Tech.
- **On May 5, Minister for youth welfare and sports development Udhayanidhi Stalin - launched the mobile 'skill on wheels' service in Chennai**
- ✓ It is an initiative under the Naan Mudhalvan scheme of Tamil Nadu Skill Development department.
- ✓ The service aims to take the message of the importance of developing skill sets to the remotest of villages in the state.
- ✓ Minister for higher education K Ponmudi, minister for labour welfare and skill development C V Ganesan among others were present during the event.

NATIONAL

- **NCP president and Rajya Sabha MP, Sharad Pawar - has decided to reverse his decision of resignation and will continue as the president of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP).**
- ✓ Pawar withdrew his decision after a 18-member committee of senior party leaders, formed to decide on his resignation and the way ahead, unanimously rejected it.
- ✓ Announcing the decision, the veteran leader emphasized that he cannot disrespect the sentiments of the party members.
- ✓ His daughter and Baramati MP Supriya Sule, Maharashtra NCP chief Jayant Patil and senior party leader Praful Patel were among those present at the press meet.
- ✓ The three-day drama following his resignation saw fierce protests from the party members

INTERNATIONAL

- **On May 5, the World Health Organisation (WHO) – declared that Covid-19 is no longer a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC)**
- ✓ According to WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the decision was made following a recommendation from the UN agency's emergency committee that met on May 4
- ✓ Almost 7 million deaths have been reported to WHO from around the world over the past three years due to Covid-19
- ✓ WHO designated Covid-19 as PHEIC, the highest level of alarm under international law, on January 30, 2020

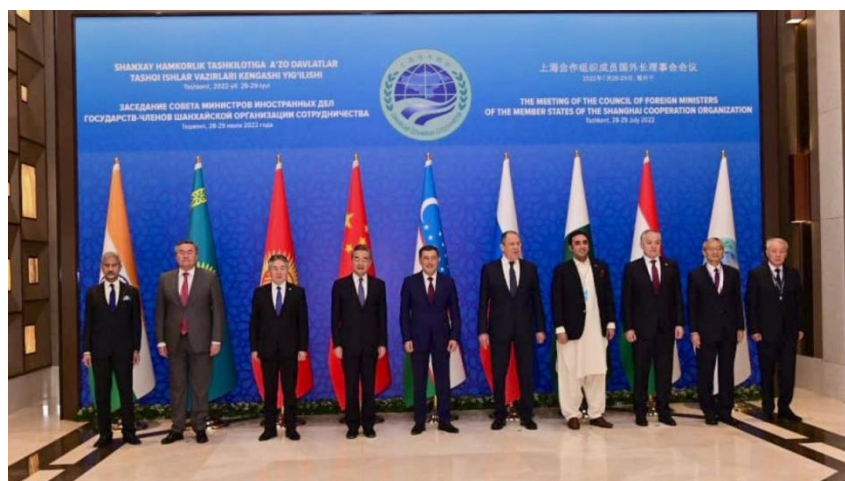
- ✓ The announcement was made weeks after the outbreak of SARS-CoV2 (novel coronavirus) was reported from central China's Wuhan city before it evolved as a pandemic.
- ✓ India reported the first case of Covid-19 on January 30, 2020.
- ✓ Since then, more than 4.4 crore cases and over 5.3 lakh fatalities due to the disease have been reported in the country.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will be the Guest of Honour at France's National Day celebrations on July 14**
 - ✓ This was announced by both India and France in separate statements.
 - ✓ July 14, also called Bastille Day, is a day on which the French people celebrate the values of liberty, equality and fraternity.
 - ✓ PM Modi will be only the second Indian PM, after Manmohan Singh in 2009, to receive the honour.
 - ✓ The celebrations are marked by a military parade on Paris' most iconic avenue, the Champs-Élysées.
 - ✓ A contingent of troops from the Indian armed forces will march down the Champs-Élysées with French troops, reflecting the solidarity, trust, and exceptionally close ties between our two countries.
 - ✓ The PM's visit is expected to signify the next phase in the India-France Strategic Partnership by setting new and ambitious goals for our strategic, cultural, scientific, academic, economic cooperation, including in a wide range of industries
 - ✓ According to France, PM Modi's visit this year bears special significance since France and India are celebrating the 25th anniversary of our strategic partnership, launched in 1998.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **A two-day meeting of foreign ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) – was held in Goa on May 4 and 5.**



- ✓ Foreign ministers of 8 nations, including Pakistan and China, participated in the key meeting.
- ✓ The SCO Council of Foreign Ministers' meeting at the sea-side Taj Exotica resort in Goa's Benaulim was chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.
- ✓ Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang, Russia's Sergey Lavrov, Pakistan's Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and Uzbekistan's Bakhtiyor Saidov were among those who attended the meeting in Goa
- ✓ According to Foreign Minister, S Jaishankar, the key focus areas of the summit are startups, youth empowerment, traditional medicine, science and technology.
- ✓ During the meeting, the SCO Foreign Ministers assessed the status of decisions that will be approved at the upcoming SCO Summit in July in New Delhi
- ✓ Further, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar sought the support of members to make English the third official language of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
 - ✓ Currently, Russian and Mandarin are used as official and working languages.
- ✓ The meeting also finalised agreements for the inclusion of Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Myanmar and the Maldives as dialogue partners in the SCO
- ✓ Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was also in attendance at the Goa Summit.
 - ✓ Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's trip is the first visit to India by a Pakistani Foreign Minister ever since Hina Rabbani Khar met the former Indian External Affairs Minister SM Krishna in 2011.
 - ✓ This is also the first visit by any Pakistani leader since 2014 when former PM Nawaz Sharif visited India to attend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing-in ceremony.
- ✓ The Indian foreign minister, Dr Jaishankar was held bilateral meetings with the foreign ministers of China, Russia and Uzbekistan on the sidelines of the SCO meeting
- ✓ India, which took over the chairmanship of the SCO grouping in September last year, is the host this year.
- ✓ The SCO has Russia, India, China, Pakistan, and four central Asian countries - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, as its members.
- ✓ The theme for India's Chairmanship of the SCO in 2023 is 'Secure-SCO'.
- ✓ The SCO is a multinational economic and security bloc and has emerged as one of the largest transregional international organisations.
 - ✓ It 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 was made an observer at the SCO in 2005 and has participated in the ministerial-level meetings of the grouping, which focus mainly on security and economic cooperation in the Eurasian region.

PERSONALITIES

- **President Joe Biden - picked a senior aide, Neera Tanden, to replace Susan Rice as his domestic policy adviser**



- ✓ Tanden is a longtime Democratic aide who served in two prior presidential administrations
- ✓ She will assume one of the most senior policy jobs in the administration, covering most areas outside of national security and the economy.
- ✓ As Biden's staff secretary, Tanden already played a major role in the West Wing, controlling the schedules, briefing books and other paperwork that reach the president's desk.
- ✓ Stefanie Feldman, an aide to Rice, will replace Tanden as staff secretary.
- ✓ Rice departed after a two-year term that included differences over tense issues from immigration to healthcare, guns and police reform.

