

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 31, 2022

### TAMIL NADU

- **The Greater Chennai Corporation – frames new guidelines to regulate salons, spas and beauty parlours operating in Chennai**
- ✓ The new laws seek to regularise the trade after several unlicensed facilities coming up in recent past
- ✓ Customers of salons and beauty parlours can now expect better quality and safer experience under the new norms



- ✓ In this regard, the GCC has framed 'Chennai City Municipal Licensing — hair cutting salon, beauty parlour, spa and massage parlour rules, 2022' and has sent it to the government for approval
- ✓ As per the new rules, every worker in a salon or parlour will have a uniform and ID card.
- ✓ Further, CCTV cameras should be placed at the entry and exit of each centre and all client details maintained in a register.
- ✓ To enhance quality, specialists in spas should have a reputed university degree in courses such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, acupressure or yoga science.

- ✓ All salons and beauty parlours need to have a licence from the corporation.
  - ✓ The corporation has fixed licence charges ranging from Rs. 500 to Rs. 2,500 depending on the type of salon and services provided.
  - ✓ The civic body has asked these establishments to ensure that no persons suffering from infectious diseases are employed.
  - ✓ On May 30, the GCC has passed a total of 101 resolutions, which includes the unveiling the statues for Rabindranath Tagore, P. Subbarayan and A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
  - ✓ The Corporation also approved the extension of the deadline for the completion of the T. Nagar skywalk to August 31.
- **The state government - will implement “Ennum Ezhuthum Mission” from 2022-23 academic year to ensure all students up to eight years are able to read and possess basic arithmetic skills by 2025**
- ✓ The mission seeks to bridge the 17 months learning gap due to Covid-19 pandemic among primary students
  - ✓ The school education department plans to conduct a baseline assessment when the schools reopen after summer holidays on June 13 for all children in Classes II and III in government and government-aided schools.
  - ✓ Based on the outcome of the assessment, the level of children will be fixed and they will be grouped according to their learning level
  - ✓ In a class, students will be divided into three levels - Arumbu (first), Mottu (second) and Malar (third) levels.
  - ✓ Students will learn letters in the first stage, letters and words in the second stage and letter, words and sentence in the third stage.
  - ✓ The activities are designed for Tamil, English and Maths subjects while environmental studies will be integrated with the languages
  - ✓ The scheme was designed to include teaching, learning, assessment and remedial teaching through activities.
  - ✓ The State Council for Educational Research and Training (SCERT) also prepared handbooks with QR codes for teachers to conduct the activities.
  - ✓ It also prepared workbooks for children to do activities.
  - ✓ After completion of the workbook, the teachers will take classes from regular textbooks.
- **The Greater Chennai Corporation - will soon set up a geographical information system (GIS) database to identify building deviations by comparing with the existing information**
- ✓ This will help in strengthening its geographical building mapping data, revenue collection and decision-making for public utility projects.
  - ✓ The corporation has finished mapping 190 of the 200 wards using drones, satellite images and field visits and gathered geographical info such as building details, size in 3D image, permission and owner details.

## HOW GIS SYSTEM WORKS

- Drone, satellites, physical visits used to survey streets and buildings
- 3D images are captured in maps and geolocated
- Information on building size, approval details, owner names, tagged with the geographical map
- Geographical info is stored in database

### HOW IT HELPS

Bring under-assessed buildings into fold  
 | Detect building violation | Plan infra projects in public spaces | Better collection of property tax | Instant access to property details

### GIS SURVEY COMPLETED IN 190 WARDS IN PIPELINE

- GCC to create separate GIS department with 82 staff including engineers, managers, experts
- They will report to deputy commissioner (revenue and finance)

- ✓ Soon, an exclusive GIS division will be created by the Corporation at a cost of Rs. 8.3 crore.
- ✓ The GIS mapping will also help plan city's public utility projects such as road-relaying work or storm water drains.
- **A three and half years old girl from Tamil Nadu, Wilma – gets 'No Religion, No Caste' certificate**



- ✓ The founder of Seedraps Educational and Charitable Trust, Naresh Karthik and his wife Gayatri have received this certificate for their daughter Wilma.
- ✓ The certificate was issued by Tahsildar of Coimbatore North
- ✓ Naresh received the certificate after signing an affidavit in stamp paper stating that he was aware that applying for a 'no religion, no caste' certificate would make the child ineligible for any government reservation or privileges based on caste and religion.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu State Education Department, in two separate orders of 1973 and 2000, directed the Director of School Education to allow people to leave this column blank if they did not mention religion or caste

## STATES

- **Chhattisgarh - became the second state in the country after Odisha to recognize community forest resource (CFR) rights inside a national park**
- ✓ The Chhattisgarh government recognized the community forest resource (CFR) rights of the Gudiyapadar and Nagalsar villages in Kanger Ghati National Park in Bastar district recently on May 25



- ✓ The recognition of CFR rights gives the forest dwellers decision-making authority and power to formulate rules for forest use.
- ✓ It also enables access to and use of funds available under various government programs for management of their CFRs
- ✓ This is the first time that Chhattisgarh recognized the CFR rights inside a national park.
- ✓ The CFR rights were first recognized in Simlipal national park by the Government of Odisha.
- ✓ Gudiyapadar, located inside the Kanger Ghati National Park, comprises 403 hectares of forest area and consists of four reserved forest compartments.
  - ✓ The village consists of 29 households from the Gond community with lower literacy rates
- ✓ Community forest resource is the common forest land that has been traditionally protected and conserved by the community.
- ✓ Each CFR area has a customary boundary with identifiable landmarks.
- ✓ The CFR rights under section 3(1)(i) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 — commonly known as Forest Rights Act or FRA — provides for the recognition of the rights to “protect, regenerate or conserve or manage” the community forest resource.
- ✓ The Forest Rights Act provides for CFR rights recognition in all forest lands, including wildlife sanctuaries, tiger reserves, and national parks.

## NATIONAL

- **On May 30, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - released benefits under the PM CARES for Children scheme to those who lost their parents during Covid-19 pandemic**





- ✓ On the occasion, the PM transferred scholarships to the schoolchildren and handed over a passbook of PM Cares for children, and a health card under Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- ✓ The benefits will comprise a monthly allowance of Rs.1,000 and an annual academic allowance of Rs. 8,000 to cover the entire school fees, cost of the books and uniform, shoes and other educational equipment.
- ✓ Union minister for women and child development Smriti Irani, many other members of the Union cabinet and chief ministers were among those connected to the event via video conference.
- ✓ The PM Cares for Children Scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on May 29, 2021
- ✓ The scheme was intended to support children who have lost both their parents or legal guardian or adoptive parents or surviving parents to the pandemic, during the period from March 11, 2020, to February 28, 2022.
- ✓ An online portal by the Government was launched to register the children.
- ✓ The portal is a single-window system that facilitates the approval process and all other assistance for children.
- ✓ Under the scheme, youth from 18-23 years of age will get a stipend of Rs. 4,000 every month through other government initiatives and when they are 23 years old, they will get Rs. 10 lakh as financial support
- ✓ Children will also being given the Ayushman Health Card through 'PM Cares for Children' to avail free facility of treatment up to Rs 5 lakh.
- ✓ The government will be providing scholarship assistance through the new "Scholarship for PM CARES Children" giving annual allowance of Rs. 20,000 per child.
- ✓ According to a statement by the ministry of social justice, 3,945 children have been benefited under the scheme with an amount of Rs.7.9 crore for the FY 2022-23

- **The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) - has declared the final result for civil services exam (CSE) 2021 on May 30, 2022**
- ✓ Delhi's Shruti Sharma has bagged the first rank in the exam.



- ✓ This is the fifth time in the past 10 years that a woman has secured the top rank.
- ✓ The second and third spot have been secured by Ankita Agarwal and Gamini Singla respectively.
- ✓ This is the first time that all the top three rank-holders are women.
- ✓ The topper Shruti Sharma graduated from St. Stephens College of Delhi University and joined Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) for her post-graduation
- ✓ Sharma is a student of history who originally hails from Uttar Pradesh's Bijnor.
  - ✓ She later dropped out of JNU and joined Delhi School of Economics at Delhi University to pursue her post-graduate degree
  - ✓ Sharma prepared for the Civil Services exam at Jamia Millia Islamia Residential Coaching Academy (RCA).
- ✓ Aishwarya Verma, who hails from Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh and did his electrical engineering degree in Uttarakhand, is ranked fourth in the merit list and is the topper among male candidates.
- ✓ Of the 685 people who cleared the civil service examination, 27 are from Tamil Nadu
- ✓ Swathi Sree T, who cleared the exam in her third attempt, is the Tamil Nadu topper



- ✓ Hailing from Thoppampatti Pirivu near Thudiyalur of Coimbatore, Swathi, 25, has secured the all-India 42nd rank in the Civil Services exams.
- ✓ She had completed her schooling in Ooty and Coonoor and had finished BSc agriculture at RVS Agriculture College in Thanjavur.
- ✓ In her previous attempt in the 2020 UPSC exam, Swathi Sree secured 126th rank and was allotted IRS cadre in the Income Tax (I-T) Department
- ✓ C Ramya, from Chennai, bagged the second spot in Tamil Nadu (AIR 46), and Sivanandam, from Chennai, secured the third spot (AIR 87).
- ✓ A total number of 685 candidates have been recommended for administrative posts in central government, which includes 177 women (25.8%)
- ✓ Of the recommended, as many as 244 are from unreserved category followed by 203 OBC, 105 from SC, and 73 from EWS category.
- ✓ The least number of students shortlisted are from ST category with 60 students making the cut.

### 177 SUCCESSFUL WOMEN CANDIDATES

➤ **Shruti Sharma, Ankita Agarwal & Gamini Singla 1st, 2nd and 3rd**, respectively. 15 men & 10 women in top 25

➤ **Shruti Sharma:** Studied in Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, graduated in History (Hons) from St Stephen's; joined JNU for PG but dropped out. Later, joined DSE. Prepared for UPSC at Jamia Millia Islamia Residential Coaching Academy



➤ **Ankita Agarwal:** Did economics (Hons) from DU. An IRS officer of the 2020 batch



➤ **Gamini Singla:** Did BTech in computer science



➤ **Women have bagged top 3 slots** – in CSE 2014, they had bagged the top four positions

➤ **Aishwarya Verma**, an electrical engineer, ranks 4th & is the **topper among men**

- ✓ The civil services examination is conducted annually by the UPSC in three stages preliminary, main and interview to select officers of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and the Indian Police Service (IPS) among others
- ✓ The written or main part of the examination was conducted in January, 2022, and the interviews were held in April and May this year
- ✓ The UPSC CSE exam 2021 was held for a total of 749 vacancies
- **On May 30, Tata Motors - announced the signing of a tripartite pact with Ford and the Gujarat government to acquire the American auto major's vehicle manufacturing plant at Sanand.**
- ✓ In this regard, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd (TPEML) - a subsidiary of Tata Motors -and Ford India Pvt Ltd (FIPL) with the Gujarat government
- ✓ The MoU is aimed at the potential acquisition of FIPL's Sanand facility, including land, buildings, vehicle manufacturing plant, machinery and equipment





- ✓ The MoU signed also includes the transfer of all eligible employees of FIPL Sanand's vehicle manufacturing operations, subject to the signing of definitive agreements and receipt of relevant approvals.
  - ✓ Tata Motors has a strong presence in Gujarat for more than a decade with its own manufacturing facility at Sanand.
- **The Union Government - has approved new guidelines for Micro and Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP).**
- ✓ The guidelines will be implemented during the 15th Finance Commission Cycle from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
  - ✓ The scheme aims at enhancing the competitiveness and productivity of Micro and Small Enterprises by means of certain interventions
    - ✓ The interventions include setting up of common facility centres and infrastructure development.
  - ✓ Under the new guidelines, the Centre's grant will be restricted to 70% of the cost of common facility centre (CFC) project from Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore and 60% of the cost of project from Rs 10 crore to Rs 30 crore
  - ✓ For infrastructure development, government grant will be restricted to 60% of the cost of project from Rs 5 crore to Rs 15 crore for the setting up of new industrial estate/flatted factory complex.
  - ✓ For upgradation of existing industrial estate/flatted factory complex, the grant will be 50% of the cost of project from Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore
  - ✓ The projects would have to be completed within 18 months from the date of approval order of the project by the National Project Approval Committee (NPAC) chaired by Secretary MSME
  - ✓ During FY22, 31 projects (17 CFCs and 14 infrastructure development projects) were approved, of which 16 were completed as against 20 projects completed in FY21 and 22 projects completed in FY20
  - ✓ In October 2007, the erstwhile cluster development scheme Small Industries Cluster Development Programme (SICDP) was renamed MSE-CDP and was last revised in 2019



- **The Border Road Organization (BRO) - successfully completed the final excavation work of the Nechiphu Tunnel on the strategically vital Tezpur-Tawang road in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh**



- ✓ This comes just months after the BRO completed the excavation of the Twin Tube 'Sela tunnel' on the same route in January 2022
- ✓ The two upcoming tunnels are part of the effort to rapidly deploy troops and weapons along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China
- ✓ At present, it takes about 12-14 hours by road to complete the long-winding route and it often gets blocked due to heavy snow for three-four months during winter.
- ✓ The Nechiphu Tunnel is designed to bypass extreme foggy conditions prevailing around Nechiphu Pass which affects general traffic and military convoys for many decades.
  - ✓ It was built by BRO under Project Vartak utilizing the new Austrian tunnelling method (NATM) to ensure faster pace of completion
  - ✓ The unique 500-metre-long "D-shaped, single tube, double lane tunnel" at an altitude of 5,700 feet connects Balipara in Assam to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh bordering China
  - ✓ The foundation stone for the project was laid by Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh on October 12, 2020
- ✓ The Sela tunnel, which too is being excavated under the same project and announced by the government in 2018, will be the longest twin-lane tunnel in the world
  - ✓ At Sela, the Rs 700-crore project will provide year-round connectivity and shorten the route by 90 minutes.
  - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation of the Sela project in 2019.
- ✓ Both tunnels will accommodate two-way traffic and will be equipped with modern lighting and safety facilities.
- ✓ The BRO, a wing under the Ministry of Defence, had earlier made high-altitude and mountainous tunnels like the Atal Tunnel, Rohtang, in Himachal Pradesh and the Chamba Tunnel in Uttarakhand.

- **The National Board for Archaeology - was reconstituted for a three-year term to provide for a closer association of learned societies in India with the ASI's activities.**
- ✓ The Board will ensure closer contact between the Archaeological Survey of India and Indian universities conducting archaeological research
- ✓ The Board will consist of the Director-General of the ASI, as well as five persons have chosen in their personal capacity by the Government of India.
- ✓ Former ASI Director-Generals will also be members of the Board.
- ✓ The Board will meet once a year and will be advising the Central government regarding various archaeological matters
- ✓ CABA was last reconstituted on 17th February, 2014 and the last meeting of the Board was held in 2017.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- **The World Bank - is planning to disburse Rs.700 million to crisis-ridden Sri Lanka by re-purposing its present loans.**
- ✓ The move would help the island nation get some much-needed relief till a bailout package with the IMF is worked out.
- ✓ Sri Lanka is nearing bankruptcy and has severe shortages of essentials from food, fuel, medicines and cooking gas following an unprecedented economic crisis
- ✓ World Bank country manager Chiyo Kanda met Sri Lankan foreign minister recently and assured him that the agency will work with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the UN office to “re-purpose their already committed projects”
- ✓ Earlier this month, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said it remains committed to assisting Sri Lanka in line with its policies

## **INDIA AND OTHERS**

- **India - has joined the public-private partnership ‘First Movers Coalition’ launched by US President Joe Biden and the World Economic Forum (WEF) at COP26**
- ✓ It is a global initiative aimed at decarbonising the heavy industry and long-distance transport sectors responsible for 30% of global emissions
- ✓ A total of 50 new corporate members with collective market cap of \$8.5 trillion also joined the Coalition, which includes 9 governments covering over 40% of global GDP.
- ✓ Besides India, Denmark, Italy, Japan, Norway, Singapore, Sweden and the United Kingdom have also joined the US as government partners
- ✓ India, along with Japan and Sweden, has also joined the steering board of the coalition
- ✓ The First Movers Coalition targets most carbon-intensive sectors including aluminium, aviation, chemicals, concrete, shipping, steel and trucking

- ✓ The coalition also announced two new target sectors - carbon dioxide removal and aluminium, which join the four existing sectoral pledges (aviation, shipping, steel and trucking) launched at the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) held at Glasgow, UK in November 2021
- ✓ According to the World Economic Forum, aluminium represents 2 % of global emissions

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Researchers from Indian Institute of Technology, Madras - are developing mechanically-rechargeable zinc-air batteries as an alternative to lithium-ion batteries used in electric vehicles.**



- ✓ The researchers, who have filed for patent for the battery technology, are collaborating with major industries to develop zinc-air batteries.
- ✓ The zinc-air batteries are economical compared to existing lithium-ion batteries and have a longer shelf life, besides being a widely available resource
- ✓ Zinc-air batteries can be used in two-wheeler and three-wheeler EVs.
- ✓ Although lithium-ion batteries are widely used, there are several limitations such as availability.
- ✓ The new technology is based on 'battery swapping', in which vehicle users can swap used 'zinc cassettes' of the battery with fully-charged 'zinc cassettes' at recharge stations.
- ✓ The research team has currently developed zinc-air cells and is working towards developing zinc-air packs for EVs.
- ✓ The researchers are planning separate 'zinc recharge stations', similar to petrol stations.
- ✓ The EV users utilising zinc-air batteries can reach out to these bunks whenever the batteries are drained.

- ✓ At present, the only option available with the lithium-ion batteries is that the entire used battery pack has to be removed and swapped with a complete lithium-ion battery pack, needing more investment.

## AWARDS

- **Delhi-based filmmaker Shaunak Sen's 'All That Breathes' won the L'Oeil d'Or (Golden Eye) for the best documentary at the 75th Cannes Film Festival on May 28**



- ✓ This is the second consecutive year that an Indian documentary has come home with this award.
- ✓ Last year, Payal Kapadia from Mumbai bagged the L'Oeil d'Or for her film 'A Night of Knowing Nothing'.
- ✓ The 90-minute documentary picked up the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance in the World Cinema Documentary Competition.
- ✓ The award, which includes a cash prize of 5,000 euros, was announced by a jury chaired by veteran Polish filmmaker Agnieszka Holland.
- ✓ 'All That Breathes' follows the lives of two brothers who run a bird hospital in Delhi dedicated to rescuing injured black kites.
- ✓ This is Sen's second project after his 2016 documentary 'Cities Of Sleep', about homeless people searching for a place to sleep in Delhi.
- ✓ The L'OEil d'Or documentary award, also known as The Golden Eye award, was created in 2015 by French-speaking authors' society LaScam in collaboration with the Cannes Film Festival
- ✓ **Ruben Ostlund's social satire "Triangle of Sadness" won the Palme d'Or at the 75th Cannes Film Festival**
- ✓ This is the second time Swedish director Ruben Ostlund has won the prize after winning it for "The Square" in 2017
- ✓ Korean star Song Kang Ho was named as best actor for his performance in Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-eda's film "Broker", while best actress award went to Zar Amir Ebrahimi for her performance as a journalist in Ali Abbasi's "Holy Spider"



- ✓ This year's award for best first film, the Camera d'Or, went to Elvis Presley's granddaughter Riley Keough and Gina Gammell for the movie "War Pony"
- ✓ To mark the 75th jubilee edition of the festival, a special prize was awarded to Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, who have twice won the Palme d'Or awards
- ✓ The awards were selected by a nine-member jury headed by French actor Vincent Lindon, which included Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone
- ✓ The 75th edition of the film gala, which kick-started on May 17, concluded on May 28

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ➤ World No Tobacco Day – May 31



- ✓ The day is observed every year to highlight the health risks associated with the consumption of tobacco and the preventive measures needed to be taken against it
- ✓ The World Health Organization (WHO) promotes the day to encourage governments to put policies into action that help reduce smoking and the use of other tobacco products
- ✓ According to WHO, tobacco use kills more than 8 million people around the world each year
- ✓ In 1987, the World Health Organisation passed a resolution that announced April 7, 1988, as World No Smoking Day
- ✓ Later in 1988, the organization passed another resolution that the 'World No Tobacco Day' will be observed on May 31.
- ✓ In 2008, the WHO banned any kind of advertisement or promotion of tobacco which can attract youth to indulge in smoking.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - "Protect The Environment"
- ✓ Every year, the World Health Organisation honours governments, organisations and individuals for their efforts and contributions to curbing tobacco use.
- ✓ **This year, the WHO has selected Jharkhand for the World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) Award-2022.**
- ✓ India runs a National Tobacco Control Programme to educate people about the health implications of tobacco consumption

- ✓ This programme was extended to Jharkhand in 2012.
- ✓ Smoking any kind of tobacco reduces lung capacity and increases the severity of respiratory diseases, leading to lung cancer
- ✓ Tobacco is the leading cause of death for men and the second leading cause when both men and women are included.

