

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DEC 20, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- **The Tamil Nadu Rural Development Department - received 13 awards from the Centre for effective implementation of rural development schemes, including MGNREGA, the 100-day job guarantee scheme.**



- ✓ The state received awards in the category of state, district, panchayat union and village panchayats in programmes like MGNREGA, National urban Mission and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana.
 - ✓ Overall, the rural development department received 31 national awards this fiscal.
 - ✓ S P Velumani, municipal administration minister, received the awards on behalf of the State Government
- **The Madras High Court - has decided to discontinue its age-old Criminal Rules of Practice, framed way back in 1948.**
 - ✓ From 2020, the functioning of all criminal courts across Tamil Nadu and Puducherry will be based on new Criminal Rules of Practice
 - ✓ The new rules focus on contemporary needs and permit the use of new technologies.
 - ✓ A committee led by Justice P.N. Prakash has taken “painstaking efforts” to draft the rules, which cover almost all aspects
 - ✓ As per the new rules, orders granting bail or suspension of sentence shall be communicated officially by the High Court through ‘e-mail’ to the trial courts, where the accused have to execute bonds and furnish sureties

- ✓ The new rules also permit Judicial Magistrates to record dying declarations using electronic devices, apart from the practice of recording them in writing.
- ✓ Further, the rules authorise the trial courts to accept chargesheets filed by the police 'electronically'
- ✓ It also stipulates that the mobile phone numbers and e-mail IDs of the complainants, the accused as well as the witnesses, should be furnished to the courts concerned by the police at the time of forwarding the FIRs and also while filing charge-sheets.
- ✓ The details would assist the courts to issue summons through the electronic mode, apart from other conventional modes of service
- ✓ According to the new rules, every transperson arrested and produced before a Judicial Magistrate for remand should be subjected to a medical test by an officer not below the rank of District Medical Officer to ascertain his/her predominant sex orientation, and shall be detained in a men's or women's prison
- ✓ Transpersons should be admitted to prisoners' wards in government hospitals until their sex orientation is determined by the Medical officer.
- ✓ While issuing summons to the complainants, the accused or the witnesses, the courts should add the prefix "Thiru/Tmt/Selvi/Thirunangai/Thirunambi", as the case may be.

NATIONAL

- **The Union Territories of Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli - will be merged together to become a single UT on January 26, 2020**
- ✓ The merged Union Territory will be named as Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu
- ✓ Earlier, the Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Bill, 2019 was passed by both Houses of Parliament in the just-concluded winter session
- **The Centre - has designed a standard format for ration cards as it seeks to implement 'one nation, one ration card' initiative across the entire country soon.**
- ✓ It has asked State governments to follow the new format while issuing fresh ration cards.
- ✓ Currently, the central government's initiative is being implemented on a pilot basis in a cluster of six States.
- ✓ It plans to implement this facility across the entire country from June 1, 2020.
- ✓ Under the initiative, eligible beneficiaries would be able to avail their entitled foodgrains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) from any Fair Price Shop in the country using the same ration card.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa - announced the setting up of a Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize in Portugal, to promote Gandhi's ideals**



- ✓ He was attending the second meeting of the National Committee for the Commemoration Mahatma Gandhi's 150th Birth Anniversary, chaired by President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ✓ Costa is the only foreign Prime Minister to be a part of the committee
- ✓ Every year, the prize would be inspired by Gandhi's thoughts and quotes and the first edition of the prize would be dedicated to animal welfare
- ✓ The committee includes Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Cabinet colleagues and Chief Ministers, apart from Gandhians
- ✓ The bilateral relations between India and Portugal started with India's independence in 1947
- ✓ Due to the issue of Goa, Daman, and Diu, both the countries cut off their diplomatic relations in 1955
- ✓ It further went down as Portugal refused to recognize Indian sovereignty.
- ✓ In 1974, India and Portugal renewed their diplomatic relations with a new government in Portugal.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Indian foreign minister S Jaishankar and defence minister Rajnath - met US counterparts Mike Pompeo and Mike Esper in the second 2+2 dialogue between both the countries in Washington**



- ✓ The meeting between the leaders agreed to strengthen ties and address global threats and advance maritime security "to work together in support of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region"
- ✓ The two sides discussed ways to expand the "21st century defence partnership" between the US and Indian militaries through enhanced exercises such as the first-ever tri-service 'Tiger Triumph' exercise (which will become an annual event) and defence enabling agreements, including a recently concluded agreement

called the Industrial Security Annex (ISA) to promote defence collaboration between our private sectors

- ✓ The ISA will enable U.S. defence companies to partner with the Indian private sector for several multi-billion dollar deals, including the one for 114 fighter jets
- ✓ The ISA is a part of the General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), which India signed with the U.S. long back
- ✓ After decade-long negotiations, India signed the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Understanding (LEMOA) in 2016 and third agreement 'Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement' (COMCASA) last year.
- ✓ The COMCASA facilitates most of the U.S.-origin platforms to have a "secure communication capability.
- ✓ The Indian Navy has invited friendly nations to post liaison officers at the Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) that was set up last year.
- ✓ The first 2+2 dialogue was held in September 2018 between then-Ministers of External Affairs and Defence, Sushma Swaraj and Nirmala Sitharaman, with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and then-Secretary of Defence James Mattis.

ECONOMY

- **For the first time, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) – to conduct its own version of 'Operation Twist' on December 23, to manage the yields and bring down interest rates**
- ✓ As part of the plan, the RBI will simultaneously buy and sell government securities worth ₹10,000 crore each under its open market operations (OMO)
- ✓ The RBI will buy ₹10,000 crore of 6.45% government bonds maturing in 2029 and simultaneously sell ₹10,000 crore of short-term bonds maturing in 2020.
- ✓ Operation Twist is a move taken by U.S. Federal Reserve in 2011-12 to make long-term borrowing cheaper.
- ✓ It was followed by other nations later.

AWARDS

- **Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu - will give away the National Film Awards at a formal ceremony in New Delhi on December 23**
- ✓ He will also confer the Dadasaheb Phalke award to Bollywood actor, Amitabh Bachchan during the event



- ✓ Traditionally, the National Awards are handed out to the winners by the President of India

- ✓ Last year, President Ram Nath Kovind had presided over the ceremony, but he gave away only 11 awards, while the remaining recipients received their awards from the Union Ministers, Smriti Irani and Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore
- ✓ This led to a controversy, after nearly 60 awardees boycotted the function, on the ground that the recipients were not informed in advance about President not giving the awards to all the winners
- ✓ The apparent communication gap led to massive protests and a large section of filmmakers who arrived in Delhi stayed away from the award function
- ✓ The winners of 66th National Film Awards were announced in August this year with Gujarati film "Hellaro" bagging the Best Film honour.
- ✓ Vicky Kaushal and Ayushmann Khuranna jointly won the Best Actor trophy for their performances in "Uri: The Surgical Strike" and "Andhadhun", respectively.
- ✓ Keerthy Suresh won the Best Actress award for her role in Telugu movie "Mahanati".
- ✓ Aditya Dhar of "Uri" won the Best Director award.

IPL 2020 AUCTION EXPENSIVE BUYS - REPORT



SUPER 6

MOST EXPENSIVE BUYS AT IPL 2020 AUCTION

PAT CUMMINS (Aus) | ₹15.5cr, KKR

At \$2.2m, he's the fourth costliest buy in IPL history – and the **most expensive foreign player ever** – but KKR will consider the money well spent because they needed a genuine quickie who could deliver upfront and at the death. Cummins being no mug with the bat doesn't hurt either

GLENN MAXWELL (Aus) | ₹10.75cr, KXIP

One of the most destructive batsmen in the white ball world. Kings XI would be dreaming of him and Nicholas Pooran coming in after Gayle and Rahul have exploded at the top. But he's **coming off a six-month break** for physical and mental issues. Worthwhile risk? We'll wait to see

CHRIS MORRIS (SAF) | ₹10cr, RCB

Can provide cover in the bowling department and add depth to RCB's already impressive batting line-up. **They'll hope he can inject the balance** to turn the team from paper tigers into champions

SHELDON COTTRELL (WI) | ₹8.5cr, KXIP

This canny left-arm fast-medium bowler has a knack for picking up wickets upfront and in the middle overs. With his signature salute, **will add to the team's entertainment value**

NATHAN COULTER-NILE (Aus) | ₹8.5cr, MI

Considered one of the top Aussie talents of his generation, as a fast bowler, athletic fielder and power hitter. But injuries have prevented him delivering on all that his talent promised. **Mumbai may find themselves not playing him often enough** to justify the bill | **Reports, P 20**




Pat
Cummins

PRICIEST INDIAN PLAYER

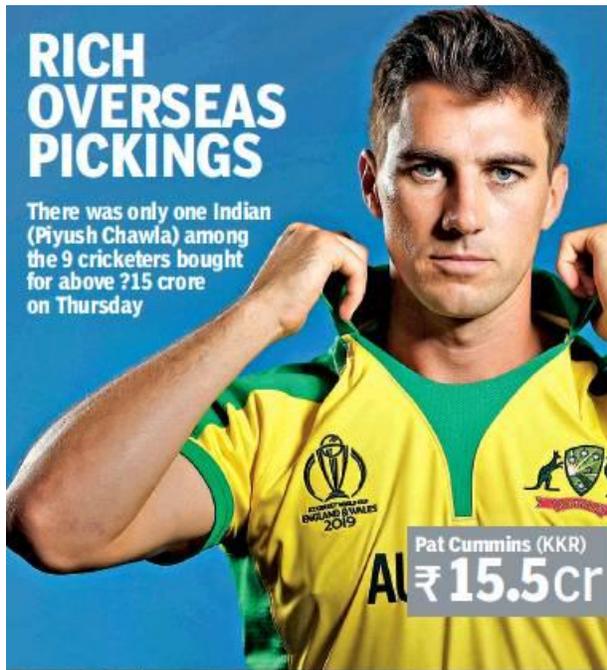


PIYUSH CHAWLA | ₹6.75cr, CSK

The Indian leggie can be a **wicket taker and a useful lower order bat**, but with Imran Tahir, Harbhajan, Jadeja and Mitchell Santner already among the tweakers in their ranks, it's not clear why CSK found it worth their while to bid big on him. Get set for underprepared Chennai pitches?

RICH OVERSEAS PICKINGS

There was only one Indian (Piyush Chawla) among the 9 cricketers bought for above ₹15 crore on Thursday



Pat Cummins (KKR)
₹15.5cr



Glenn Maxwell (KXIP)
₹10.75cr



Chris Morris (RCB)
₹10cr



Sheldon Cottrell (KXIP)
₹8.5cr



Nathan Coulter-Nile (MI)
₹8cr



Shimron Hetmyer (DC)
₹7.75cr



Piyush Chawla (CSK)
₹6.75cr



Sam Curran (CSK)
₹5.5cr



Eoin Morgan (KKR)
₹5.25cr

COSTLIEST INDIAN PICKS



Piyush Chawla (CSK)
₹6.75cr



Varun Chakaravarthy (KKR)
₹4cr



Robin Uthappa (RR)
₹3cr



Jaydev Unadkat (RR)
₹3cr



Yashasvi Jaiswal (RR)
₹2.4cr



Ravi Bishnoi (KXIP)
₹2cr

MOST EXPENSIVE BUYS IN IPL AUCTION HISTORY

₹16cr
Yuvraj Singh (DD) 2015

₹15.5cr
Pat Cummins (KKR) 2020

₹14.5cr
Ben Stokes (RPS) 2017

₹14cr
Yuvraj Singh (RCB) 2014

₹12.5cr
Dinesh Karthik (DD) 2014

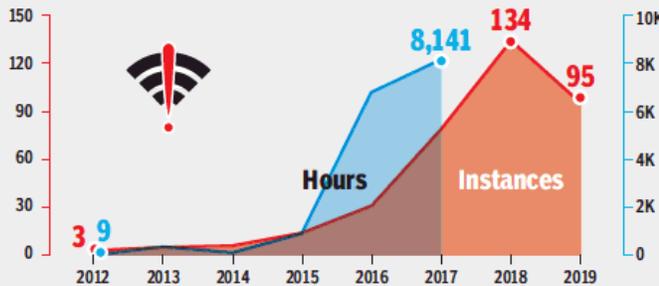
₹12.5cr
Ben Stokes (RR) 2018

INTERNET SHUTDOWNS IN INDIA - REPORT

India Now The Global Leader In Internet Shutdowns

For the 95th time this year, India saw an internet shutdown, this one in parts of Delhi and UP following mass demonstrations against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. **India sees the most internet shutdowns in the world**, and at a considerable economic cost, according to research by two think tanks, including the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations. Since 2012, the government has suspended internet services 367 times and, in 2018 alone, **67% of the world's internet shutdowns were in India**

More than 16,000 hours of shutdown during 2012-17

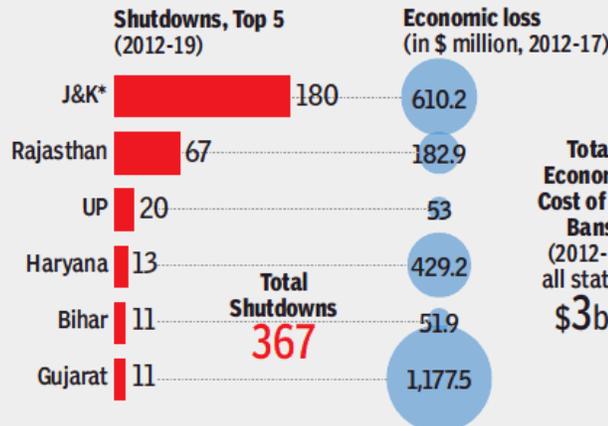


Note: Data for total hours of internet shutdown available for 2012 to 2017 only. Duration of some shutdowns not available. Number of shutdowns is till December 19, 2019

Between January 2012 and January 2019, 60 shutdowns lasted less than 24 hours, 55 between 24 hours and 72 hours, and 39 for more than 72 hours

136 days & counting
Longest ongoing internet shutdown, from August 5, 2019, in Kashmir

J&K sees most shutdowns, economic impact worst in Guj



Total Economic Cost of Net Bans (2012-17, all states) \$3bn

How internet ban takes place in India...

Union or state home secretary, the 'competent authority' in such cases, orders internet ban

Orders sent via officer not below SP rank, who then asks service provider to block services

Order has to be sent within next working day to central or state govt review panel, which has to review it in 5 working days

In emergencies, joint secretaries authorised by the Union or state home secretaries can order an internet ban, but it is subject to confirmation within 24 hours by the Union or state home secretary

*J&K data before bifurcation of state. Source: ICRIER, Software Freedom Law Centre

US PRESIDENT'S IMPEACHMENT - REPORT

TRUMP THIRD PRESIDENT TO FACE REMOVAL

Voting nearly along party lines, the House approved two articles of impeachment against President Trump, making him the third president in US history to face removal by the Senate

VOTE COUNT

Article I: Abuse of Power



Article II: Obstruction of Congress

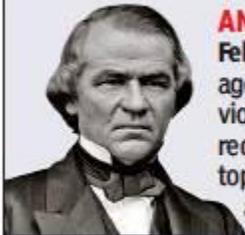


Only two of the 31 Democrats representing areas Trump won in 2016 voted against impeaching the president. Hawaii representative **Tulsi Gabbard**, who is seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, voted present on both counts



THE OTHER US PRESIDENTS WHO WERE IMPEACHED

US presidents who have been impeached or threatened with impeachment by the House of Representatives



ANDREW JOHNSON

Feb 24, 1868 | Impeached 151 years ago for sacking secretary of war in violation of Tenure of Office Act, which required Senate approval to remove top officeholders. Senate narrowly acquitted him by 1 vote

In 1974, RICHARD NIXON

faced an impeachment inquiry over Watergate scandal, but he resigned from office on August 9 that year before a House vote



BILL CLINTON

Dec 19, 1998 | Impeached 21 years ago for lying under oath about sex with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. Not convicted by Senate, remained in office until the end of his term in 2001



➤ No president in the 243-year history of the US has been removed from office by impeachment. That would require a 2/3rd majority in the 100-member Senate, meaning at least 20 Republicans would have to join Democrats in voting against Trump

