

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DEC 9, 2019

TAMIL NADU

◆ **The Tamil Nadu government - is planning to allow all sub-registrar offices in a particular registration district to register assets that fall under its jurisdiction**

- ✓ Till now, sub-registrar offices can deal with those properties that come under their respective revenue jurisdiction.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu, which has 37 revenue districts, is divided into 50 registration districts.

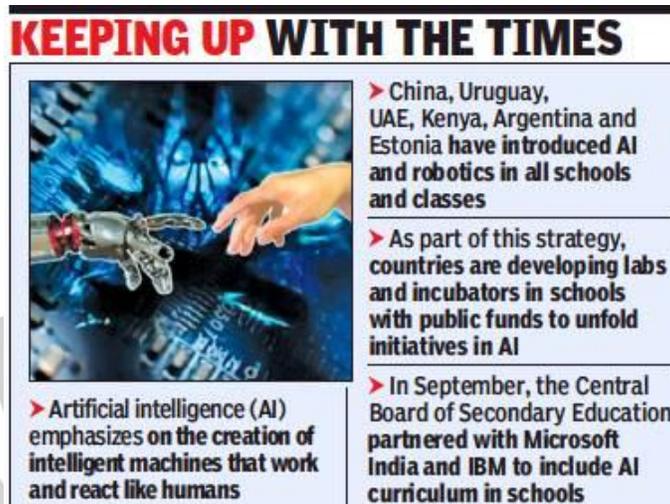
NO MORE WAITING AT SR OFFICES

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| <p>WHAT IS A REGISTRATION DISTRICT?</p> <p>A registration district, which is different from a revenue district, encompasses select number of sub-registrar offices located within its jurisdiction. TN has 50 registration districts</p> |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Chennai zone has five registration districts which include Chennai, Chengalpet, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur revenue districts > Any transaction with respect to any asset located within a registration district can be executed in any of the sub-registrar offices located within that registration district |
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- ✓ Chennai zone is divided into 5 registration districts comprising of Chennai, Chengalpet, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur revenue districts.
- ✓ Chennai zone, which provides 45% of the total revenue generated in TN through property transactions, is likely to emerge as the biggest beneficiary.
- ✓ The move is also expected to help people in Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur districts as the jurisdictional limit of Kancheepuram district registrar office covers the entire Tiruvallur district
- ✓ However, Cross registration of properties from one (registration) district to another district will not be permitted.

- ✓ Currently only district registrars have the power to allow land registrations at any office within their (registration) district
- ✓ The practice is currently followed across Pune district in Maharashtra
- ✓ Of the 575 sub-registrar offices in Tamil Nadu, 64 are located in Chennai zone.
- ✓ Around 17.18 lakh land documents were registered across the state between April and November this year
- ✓ Around 16.98 lakh property registrations were recorded for the same period last year

◆ **The Department of school education – is planning to introduce a course on artificial intelligence from Classes VI to IX across all government schools in a phased manner starting next academic year**



- ✓ The Department has decided to take the assistance of tech giants such as Microsoft and Google to create a comprehensive course on AI depending on the class.
- ✓ It is also considering making the course an elective.
- ✓ Class VI students will be introduced to basics of information and communication technology and Artificial Intelligence
- ✓ The course moves to the next levels from the introduction, as the students progress through to the higher classes
- ✓ The state had announced last year that it would set up well-equipped hi-tech labs and smart classrooms in 6,000 government schools across the state at a cost of Rs 462.62 crore.

◆ **Researchers at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) - have been working on chitosan to make nano materials, which can be used in a range of applications**

- ✓ Chitosan is obtained from the cell walls of crustaceans (such as prawns) and from microorganisms

MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS

TO BE TESTED ON FARMS

➤ Nano-fiber based smart delivery of functional molecules increase yield by 10%-15%

➤ Nano intervention in pest and disease management increases efficiency by 15%-20%

➤ Super absorbent bio-

polymer which can absorb more water

➤ Nano intervention in replacing synthetic plastics

➤ Cancer research using the medicinal plant *Annona muricata*



UNDER RESEARCH

➤ Nano weedicides

➤ Multi-nutrient nano pellets for

balanced crop nutrition

➤ Chitosan nano sphere-based

formulation to disinfect fungal growth in copra

➤ Carbon nano dot-based water disinfectant for drinking water



- ✓ Chitosan will be used to make seed coatings, smart delivery nano-systems for fungicides and pesticides and a super absorbent bio-polymer, which would retain water longer
- ✓ It is the second most abundant natural polymer next to cellulose.
- ✓ The project on 'designer seeds' or 'seed priming' involves impregnating growth regulators into chitosan nano-fibres and coating it over seeds before giving them to farmers.
- ✓ This technology is expected to increase seed yield by 10% to 15%
- ✓ Chitosan nano-particles can be used as a carrier for pesticides and fungicides as it shows anti-fungal and anti-bacterial properties

NATIONAL

- ◆ **The proton beam therapy machine for Cancer patients - is expected to be installed at Tata Memorial Centre (TMC) in Mumbai by September next year.**



- ✓ The machine provides sub-millimetre precision in destroying cancer cells in the affected patients.
- ✓ The machine will be made available to at least half the patients at one-tenth of what it costs in the US
- ✓ There are barely 120 such machines worldwide and only one in India
- ✓ Roughly, 50-60% of all cancer patients need radiation.

- ✓ The proton beam is safer than standard radiation therapy done using X-rays as X-rays have a tendency to pass through a body
- ✓ The proposed machine at TMC will be the second machine in the country and the entire Southeast Asia region.
- ✓ The first proton beam therapy machine is located in Apollo Cancer Centre, Chennai
- ✓ The proton ensemble costs about Rs 550 crore, leading to high patient charges
- ✓ At Apollo's Chennai centre, patients spend between Rs 20 lakh to Rs 30 lakh for the entire treatment.
- ✓ However, as Tata Memorial Centre falls under the Department of Atomic Energy, it plans to subsidise the therapy for patients

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- ◆ **Myanmar - is set to soon commission its first-ever submarine after it is formally handed over by India.**



- ✓ India is planning to transfer the Russian-origin INS Sindhuvir as part of India's continuing policy to counter China's strategic inroads into Myanmar.
- ✓ The 3,000-tonne, 31-years old INS Sindhuvir has undergone regular refits in India and Russia over the years
- ✓ The latest modernisation work is being undertaken on the diesel-electric boat at Hindustan Shipyard Limited in Visakhapatnam.
- ✓ Myanmar is planning to use INS Sindhuvir to train its sailors in the complex art of underwater combat operations from March-April 2020.
- ✓ Myanmar is also planning to buy similar Kilo-class submarines — called Sindhughosh-class by India — from Russia
- ✓ Recently Bangladesh had inducted two Ming-class diesel-electric submarines from China in 2016 and it also plans to construct a submarine base in Cox's Bazar with China's assistance
- ✓ Of late, the Indian Navy has been training its sailors at the submarine school INS Satavahana in Vizag
- ✓ It is also sending 'mobile training teams' to Yangon for the last couple of years.
- ✓ India has been supplying military hardware and software to Myanmar, ranging from Islander maritime patrol aircraft and naval gun-boats to 105 mm light artillery guns, mortars, grenade-launchers and rifles.
- ✓ Myanmar is also provided with some armaments and electronic equipment, including radars manufactured by defence PSU, Bharat Electronics for its frigates and corvettes.

- ✓ Myanmar is the only Asean country with which India shares a 1,643-km land border as well as a maritime boundary.
- ✓ India also regularly holds exercises, coordinated naval patrols and service-to-service staff talks with Myanmar.
- ✓ The next 'IMBEX' exercise between the two armies is scheduled to be held in Myanmar in February-March 2020.
- ✓ The armies from the two countries have attacked several insurgent bases and arrested dozens of militants along their borders under 'Operation Sunrise' since January 2019

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ The golden jubilee flight of the four stage PSLV – to lift off at 3.25pm on December 11 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota

- ✓ Duchifat-3, a satellite designed entirely by school kids, will be launched on the 50th flight of the workhorse of India's space programme, PSLV.
- ✓ Duchifat-3 is an experimental and educational spacecraft developed at the space laboratory of Israel's Herzliya Science Centre.
- ✓ It has an onboard camera for earth imaging apart from having an amateur radio transponder to transmit messages.
- ✓ The launch of Duchifat-3 symbolises the strengthening of Indo-Israeli space cooperation.
- ✓ India has so far launched 4 satellites from Israel, the first one being the Tech-SAR reconnaissance satellite in 2008.
- ✓ Duchifat-1 was launched by Russia in 2014 and Duchifat-2 by the US in 2017.
- ✓ Apart from Duchifat-3, the 50th flight of the PSLV will also fly one satellite from Italy and Japan each along with six satellites from the US
- ✓ The main payload for this historic mission will be India's 628kg radar imaging satellite, Risat-2BR, which has widespread applications in the areas of agriculture, forestry, disaster management and military
- ✓ It has to be recalled that the first launch of the PSLV, on September 20, 1993, failed.
- ✓ Thereafter, of the 49 launches, 46 were successful, 2 were complete failures, and one a partial success.
- ✓ Some of the significant payloads of PSLV include
 - ✓ India's maiden lunar mission, Chandrayaan-1, launched on October 22, 2008
 - ✓ The country's first mission to Mars, the Mangalyaan, on November 5, 2013, and
 - ✓ The PSLV-C37 on February 15, 2017, created a world space record by placing 104 satellites in orbit at one go.

DEFENCE

- ◆ **A joint military exercise, Hand-in-Hand, between India and China - began at Umroi Cantonment, Meghalaya under the aegis of United Nations**



- ✓ It will be conducted from December 7 to December 20, 2019, with a theme against terrorism
- ✓ About 130 soldiers each from the Tibet Military Command (on behalf of China) and Indian military will participate in the exercise
- ✓ The first exercise will be focused on the anti-terrorism mechanism and the second on humanitarian and disaster relief (HADR) operations.
- ✓ The bilateral military exercise "Hand-in-Hand" was launched in the year 2007 in Kunming (China)
- ✓ The second edition was held in Belgaum, Karnataka in India, after which it was stopped for the next few years.
- ✓ Later, in 2013, the exercise was resumed after five years.

ECONOMY

- ◆ **The National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) system - will be made available 24x7 on all days, including holidays, from December 16, 2019.**

- ✓ This was announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently
- ✓ The move is aimed at promoting digital transactions in the country.
- ✓ Currently, during the weekdays, the NEFT slots include from 8 am to 7 pm.
- ✓ During weekends, NEFT settlement takes place from 8 am to 1 pm but only on the first and third Saturdays.
- ✓ The NEFT transfer system is currently not available on holidays or Sundays
- ✓ Recently, the RBI had decided not to impose any charge on transactions done through NEFT and RTGS system from July 1, 2019
- ✓ While NEFT is used for money transfers up to Rs 2 lakh, the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system is used for large-value instantaneous fund transfers.

SPORTS

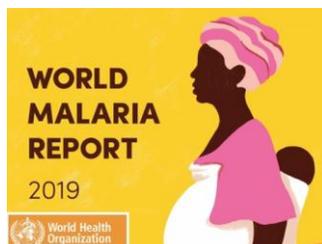
- ◆ **Shooters Divyansh Singh Panwar, Elavenil Valarivan and Saurabh Chaudhary – received the Golden Target award from ISSF at its headquarters in Munich on December 7**



- ✓ All the three shooters finished the season as No. 1 in their respective events in rifle and pistol
- ✓ Saurabh (air pistol) and Divyansh (air rifle) had also secured the Olympic quota this season
- ✓ In women's air rifle event, Elavenil did not get a chance to win the quota as Anjum Moudgil and Apurvi Chandela had won the maximum possible quota in the World Championship last year.
- ✓ Elavenil had won the gold in the Rio World Cup and the World Cup Final in China.
- ✓ Saurabh had won the air pistol gold in two World Cups, apart from all the four golds in mixed air pistol with Manu Bhaker and Elavenil valarivan.
- ✓ Divyansh won the mixed air rifle gold as well, while Saurabh had to settle for the mixed air pistol silver in the World Cup Final in Putian, China.
- ✓ India bagged 3 of the 12 awards, while China and USA accounted for two each.

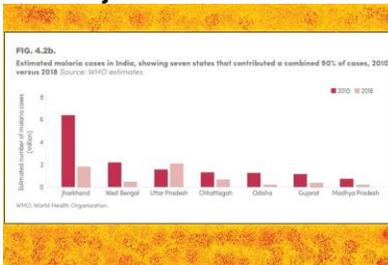
RANKINGS

- ◆ **India - was announced as one of the only two nations that achieved a sharp reduction of 28% in malaria cases between 2017 and 2018 among the 11 nations that has significant number of malaria cases across the world.**



- ✓ This was announced in World Malaria Report 2019, which was released by UN's World Health Organisation (WHO) recently.
- ✓ The only other nation that reported a reduction in malaria cases was Uganda, which witnessed a drop of about 11%

- ✓ In the 2016 and 2017 period, India had recorded a 24% reduction in malaria cases.
- ✓ Further, only seven out of 28 Indian states and 9 UTs accounted for 90% of the estimated malaria cases in 2018.
- ✓ These states included West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat



- ✓ As per the report, an estimated 228 million malaria cases were reported across the world in 2018, reduced from 251 million cases in 2010 and 231 million cases in 2017
- ✓ Also, an estimated 405 000 malaria deaths were recorded globally in 2018, reduced from 416000 estimated deaths in 2017 and 585000 deaths in 2010.
- ✓ Almost 85% of the global malaria deaths in 2018 were restricted to 20 countries from the African Region and India
- ✓ The most affected countries included Nigeria (25%), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (12%), Uganda (5%) and Côte d'Ivoire, Mozambique and Niger (4% each).
- ✓ India currently accounts for only 3% of the total malaria cases and 2% of malaria deaths across the globe.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ International Anti-Corruption Day – December 9



- ✓ The observance of the day intends to create awareness about the evils of corruption in the society
- ✓ The resolution to observe the day was passed at the United Nations Convention against Corruption on 31 October 2003
- ✓ This year's theme for International Anti-Corruption Day 2019 is – “United Against Corruption - Take action - Lead the change - Be the change”.

