

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 19, 2019

TAMIL NADU

◆ **All the 575 Sub-register offices in the state – becomes ‘cashless’ in the state from February 18, 2019**

- ✓ All the offices were installed with CCTV cameras to video record the property registrations
- ✓ The captured video grab would be handed to the buyer and seller in DVD format along with the original documents
- ✓ The move aims to avoid impersonation, which largely takes place by forging photo identity cards such as Aadhaar card or voter ID

◆ **A new ‘fish waste recycling unit’ – was inaugurated in Foreshore Estate, Chennai**



- ✓ Central Institute of Brackish Water Aquaculture (CIBA) has developed the technology to recycle fish waste into manure
- ✓ As per the new technology, around 80% of the fish waste would be converted into oil and another 10% becomes solid waste
- ✓ The oil will be used in aquaculture farms to enhance the growth of fish or shrimps, which in turn will help in reducing the consumption of feed
- ✓ The solid waste generated is used as manure for raising saplings, vegetables or other trees

◆ **Tamil Nadu – seeks Rs 1,064 crore funding under the Dam rehabilitation and improvement project (DRIP) of the World Bank**

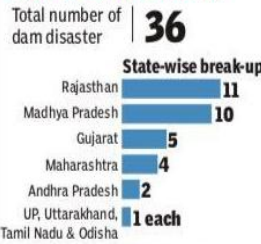


Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project mission identified Kerala, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh & Tamil Nadu in 2008 for work

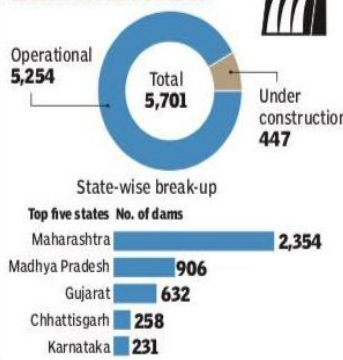
- ▶ The phase I of DRIP, which commenced in 2012, is being executed at ₹745.49cr covering 69 PWD dams and 20 Tangedco dams. Deadline is March 2020
- ▶ The phase II & III of the project estimated at ₹1,064cr, covering 37 PWD dams and 22 Tangedco dams. Duration set is 10 years
- ▶ Dam failures are caused by age, deficiency in construction, inadequate maintenance, extreme weather or seismic event, wrong operation

MAKING DAMS SAFE

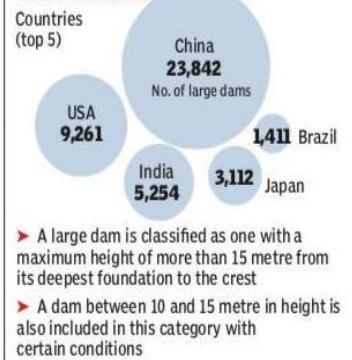
DAM DISASTER IN INDIA



LARGE DAMS IN INDIA



GLOBAL SCENE



(Source: International Commission on Large Dams, 2016 and Ministry of water resources)

- ✓ The scheme is to improve safety and operational performance of existing dams
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Public works department and Tangedco have submitted the proposals for 59 dams under phase II and phase III of DRIP
- ✓ Moyar Forebay, Parson's valley dam, Pillur dam and Sandynallah dam are among the structures to be taken up in Phase II
- ✓ Pillur dam augments the drinking water supply of Coimbatore
- ✓ The state PWD has completed strengthening of 63 dams in Phase I and work on 6 structures (Manimukthanadhi, Cholavaram and Red hills, Manimuthar and Pechiparai and Uppar) in progress
- ✓ The state has taken up 89 dams in Phase I in 2012 at a cost of RS 745 crore
- ✓ Kodaganar, an earthen dam, is the only one dam failure reported from Tamil Nadu in the last century, even though 36 dams witnessed failure across the country
- ✓ The 12.75m high dam breached because of 1977 floods, the same year it was built
- ✓ The World Bank has already given in-principal clearance for Rs 11,000 crore funding for dam safety across the country
- ✓ Over the next 10 years, 733 large dams across 18 states would be strengthened under the scheme

STATES

- ◆ **Rajasthan assembly – passes 2 new bills ‘The Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2019 and the Rajasthan Municipality (Amendment) Bill, 2019’ - to scrap ‘minimum educational qualification’ for civic and panchayat poll candidates**

✓ As per the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Amendment Bill 2015, a candidate must have passed class X for municipal elections, class VIII for panchayat polls for the post of sarpanch and class X for Zila Parishad elections.

NATIONAL

- ◆ **Prime Minister, Narendra Modi – to flag off the world’s first ‘Diesel to Electric’ converted High Horse Power Twin Rail Engine – on February 19, 2019 at Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW), Varanasi**

DLW CREATES WORLD'S FIRST

First time in the world, DLW successfully converted two old diesel locos (WDG3A) into Electric loco (WAGC3) with indigenous technology under ‘Make In India’ initiative

➤ Two diesel locomotives of WDG3A class converted to one permanently coupled 12-axle, electric locomotive of 10,000 hp

➤ Work began in December, 2017 and completed in February 2018

➤ Engineers from Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW), DLW and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) collaborated in this project

➤ Only old diesel locos of 18-year-old due for mid life rehabilitation were converted into electric loco

➤ DLW so far manufactured 8149 locomotives till March 31

➤ DLW has won the ‘Best Production Unit Shield 2017-18’ for third consecutive year

➤ It has supplied locomotives to countries like Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Mali, Senegal, Sudan Tanzania, Angola, and Vietnam



- ✓ The twin loco engine was converted from Diesel loco to Electric loco in just 69 days
- ✓ It has the ability to pull heavy freight train, with an increase in power of electric loco up to 92%
- ✓ It is completely eco-friendly, providing a saving of Rs 1.9 crore per annum per engine in fuel expense

◆ **The Central Government – launches 3 ‘Women safety’ initiatives in New Delhi - promote the safety of women in their living spaces, working spaces and the public spaces**



- ✓ The 3 initiatives are
 - ✓ Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)
 - ✓ Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO)
 - ✓ Safe City Implementation Monitoring (SCIM) Portal
- ✓ They were launched jointly by Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh along with Women and Child Development Minister, Maneka Gandhi
- ✓ ERSS
- ✓ The ERSS was launched in 16 states and union territories including Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, UP, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Andaman, Dadar Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ Earlier, Himachal Pradesh became the first state to implement the ERSS in November 2018, followed later by Nagaland in December 2018
- ✓ The Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) is a pan-India single number (112) based response system for persons in distress.
- ✓ ITSSO
- ✓ It is an online module available to law enforcement agencies to undertake real-time monitoring and management for completion of investigation in rape cases in two months
- ✓ SCIM portal
- ✓ The Government has identified eight cities (Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow and Mumbai) for implementation of Safe City projects in the first phase at a cost of Rs 2,919 crore, in order to instill a sense of security in women in metro cities
- ✓ The projects are funded under the Nirbhaya Fund scheme

◆ **India and Argentina – signs 10 MoU’s for cooperation in several fields including Defence, Tourism, Broadcasting content, Pharmaceuticals, Antarctica research, Agriculture, ICT, Civil nuclear and to establish the India-Argentina centre for Information and Technology**



- ✓ The President of the Argentine Republic, Mauricio Macri, is on a state visit to India from February 17-19, 2019 - as part of the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Argentine Republic and the Republic of India.
- ✓ The Prime Minister fondly recalled his visit to Argentina to attend the G20 Leaders Summit in November-December 2018 and commended President Macri's leadership for successfully organising the Summit.
- ✓ India will be hosting the G20 Summit in 2022, coinciding with the 75th year of India's independence
- ✓ They also expressed satisfaction over the successful conclusion of the fifth India-Argentina Joint Commission Meeting, held in New Delhi on January 14, 2019

◆ **India’s first ‘Fulldome 3D Digital Theatre’ – inaugurated at the Science City in Kolkata, West Bengal**

- ✓ Union Culture Minister, Mahesh Sharma inaugurated the 23-metre tilted dome, capable of screening high resolution, full dome, and digital 2D/3D content by utilising 6 high-end projectors using Ulteria Seam technology

DOME DETAILS		
<p>(Top left) The theatre with the dome screen; a trial run of the screening of a movie is on</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dome Astro-Tec Manufacturing ● Projection Christie Digital ● Sound JBL, 7.1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● surround sound ● Project Carl Zeiss AG ● Projector Resolution 6.5K (6,500 pixels) ● Pushback Seats 360 ● Movie Format 2D & 3D ● Daily Shows 8



- ✓ It is fully funded by the Ministry of Culture at a cost of Rs 20 crore

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- ◆ **The Supreme Court, on February 15 - directed all state governments to make their police personnel aware of the scrapping of Section 66A of Information Technology Act – on March 24, 2015**

- ✓ Section 66A of IT Act provided jail term for people sending offensive contents in internet
- ✓ The Act when in force will attract jail term upto 3 years.
- ✓ By citing liberty of thought and expression as 'cardinal', Supreme Court scrapped section 66A in 2015

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- ◆ **4th Agri Leadership Summit 2019 – concluded at the India International Horticulture Market (IIHM) in Ganaur, Sonipat district, Haryana**



- ✓ Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Radha Mohan Singh, had inaugurated the 3-day summit held from 15th February 2019 to 17th February 2019
- ✓ Theme - "Entrepreneurship & Agri Business; Agri Allied – A Promising Sector and Agri Service- Direct Marketing"
- ✓ Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) were the Institutional Partners at the summit
- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind, launched 'Digital Kisan Platform', while addressing the closing ceremony of the summit
- ✓ He also conferred Krishi Ratna Puraskar on Vice Chancellor, K. P. Singh for Haryana Agriculture University, Hisar and honoured 9 farmers with the Kisan Ratna Puraskar

◆ **40th International Annual Desert Festival - starts in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on February 17, 2019**



- ✓ The 3-day festival was held amidst the beautiful Sam dunes of the Thar Desert
- ✓ The festival is organised by the Rajasthan tourism and district administration.

PERSONALITIES

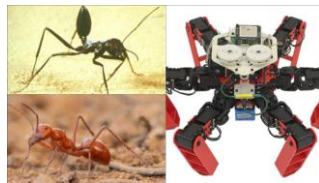
◆ **PUMA, German sports and lifestyle brand - has appointed the 6 time world champion woman M C Mary Kom as its new brand ambassador in India**



- ✓ Mary Kom will endorse brand's advertising campaign #DoYou, which aims to motivate women across the country to be strong and accomplish their goals
- ✓ Kom has been named as PUMA India's new ambassador for their women's training category and will be representing the brand in marketing campaigns.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ **AntBot, the first walking robot to have navigational capabilities without GPS or mapping – has been developed**



- ✓ It has been designed by French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and Aix-Marseille University researchers at ISM
- ✓ They are developed based on the concept employed by desert ants who use polarised lights and UV radiation to navigate exceptionally in space
- ✓ It is equipped with an optical compass used to determine its path by means of polarised light, and by an optical movement sensor directed to the Sun to measure the distance covered
- ✓ Weighing only 2.3 kg, this robot has 6 feet for increased mobility, allowing it to move in complex environments - with precision of up to 1 centimetre after having covered a total distance of 14 metres

ECONOMY

- ◆ **Reserve bank of India's Central board – approves the transfer of Rs 28,000 crore as interim dividend to the Government**



- ✓ The amount is transferred to the central Government for the half-year period ended December 31, 2018
- ✓ This is the 2nd successive year that the RBI is transferring an interim surplus
- ✓ RBI's financial year ends in July and the interim dividend will be usually transferred to the Government by March
- ✓ Even though the government was seeking Rs 40,000 crore as the interim dividend, the board opted for Rs 28,000 after considering the policies and requirements of RBI
- ✓ Last year, the RBI paid an interim dividend of Rs 10,000 crore and for the full financial year, it amounted to Rs 50,000 crore

AWARDS

- ◆ **Maharashtra State Government's Shiv Chhatrapati Awards – conferred to Mallakhamb coach, Uday Deshpande and batswoman, Smriti Mandhana among others**



- ✓ Uday Deshpande was awarded with the Shiv Chhatrapati life-time achievement award for dedicating his life to the traditional sport, Mallakhamb

◆ **Yuwa, a Jharkhand based NGO – won the Laureus Sports for Good Award**



- ✓ Yuwa, working for girl empowerment, became the third Indian entry to receive this honour
- ✓ In 2004, Indian Cricket team along with Pakistan shared Laureus Award for the first time and later by Magic Bus in 2014.
- ✓ Yuwa prepares girls to break the cycle of poverty permanently, by using team sports and education to build character, confidence and courage among girls
- ✓ Yuwa was founded in 2009 by Americans Franz Gastler and Rose Thomson
- ✓ It runs a football program in rural Jharkhand with 450 girls
- ✓ Legendary footballer and coach, Arsene Wenger kicked football with the young Indian girls of Yuwa before the announcement

SPORTS

◆ **Railway Sports Promotion Board - won their sixth straight title as the Champions in the 9th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2019 (A Division) in Hisar, Haryana**



- ✓ In the one-sided final, RSPB defeated Hockey Madhya Pradesh by a margin of 5-0 goals
- ✓ Earlier, on Feb 10, Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) defeated defending champions Punjab to lift the 9th Senior Men's National Hockey Championship in Gwalior

- ◆ **Mukesh Kumar and Punam, a lawyer couple from Chandigarh – won silver medals in table tennis at the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation World Games in Sharjah**



- ✓ Mukesh won a silver medal in Category 7 (athletes on a wheel chair) and Punam in category 6

- ◆ **1st Mallakhamb World Championship - was held in Shivaji Park in central Mumbai**



- ✓ India emerged as the Winner in the event, which saw the participation of 14 countries including Spain, Germany, Czech Republic, Italy, USA, Iran, Norway, England, France, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, Vietnam and Bahrain
- ✓ This sport involves athletes performing various yogic and gymnastic poses while hanging from a rope or on a pole.

TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT'S CHITHIRAI TAMIL NEW AWARDS

சித்திரை தமிழ்ப் புத்தாண்டு விருதுகள்

சென்னை, பிப். 18: சித்திரைத் தமிழ்ப் புத்தாண்டு விருதுகள் திங்கள்கிழமை அறிவிக்கப்பட்டன. இதற்கான அறிவிப்பை முதல்வர் எடப்பாடி கே.பழனிசாமி வெளியிட்டார்.

இதகுறித்து, அவர் வெளியிட்ட அறிவிப்பு விவரம்:-

தமிழ்த்தாய் விருது புலனேசுவரம் தமிழ்ச் சங்கத்துக்கும், கபிலர் விருது மி.காகயானுக்கும், உ.வே.சா.விருது நடன காசிநாதனுக்கும், கம்பர் விருது க.முருகேசனுக்கும் அளிக்கப்படும்.

சிலம்பொலி செல்லப்பன்: சொல்லின் செல்வர் விருது ஆவடிக்குமாருக்கும், ஜி.யு.போப் விருது கோ.சுந்திரசேகரன் நாயருக்கும், உமறுப்புலவர் விருது நசீமாபானுவுக்கும், இளங்கோவடிகள் விருது சிலம்பொலி சு.செல்லப்பனுக்கும், அம்மா இலக்கிய விருது உலகநாயகி பழனிக்கும், சிங்காரவேலர் விருது பா.வீரமணிக்கும் அளிக்கப்படும்.

கவிஞர் வைரமுத்து மகன்: முதலமைச்சர் கனிவி தமிழ் விருது வை.ம.தன் கார்த்திக் (கார்த்தி ஆராய்ச்சி அறக்கட்டளை) அளிக்கப்படும். இந்த விருதுகளில் தமிழ்த்தாய் விருது ரூ.5 லட்சத்துடன் பாராட்டுக் கேடயம், சான்றிதழ் அடங்கியதாகும். மற்ற விருது

முதல்வர் அறிவிப்பு

கள் ரூ.1 லட்சம் விருதுத் தொகையும், ஒரு சவரன் தங்கப் பதக்கமும், பொன்னாடை மற்றும் தகுதியுரை அடங்கியதாகும்.

சிறந்த மொழி பெயர்ப்பாளர்கள்: கடந்த ஆண்டுக்கான (2018) சிறந்த மொழி பெயர்ப்பாளர் விருது யூமா வாசுகி, வட்சுமண



ராமசாமி, அரிமா மு.சீனிவாசன், குப்புசாமி, மருத்துவர் அக்பர் கவுசர், ராஜலட்சுமி சீனிவாசன், செந்தில்குமார் என்ற கிரிதாரிதாஸ், பழனி அரங்கசாமி, எஸ்.சங்கரநாராயணன், ச.நிலா ஆகியோருக்கும் அளிக்கப்பட உள்ளன. இந்த விருது ஒவ்வொன்றும் தலா ரூ.1 லட்சம் விருதுத் தொகையும், தகுதியுரை, பொன்னாடை ஆகியன அடங்கியதாகும்.

தமிழ்ச் சங்க விருதுகள்: 2018-ஆம் ஆண்டுக்கான உலகத் தமிழ்ச் சங்க விருதுகளான இலக்கிய விருது டென்மார்க் நாட்டின் ஜீவகுமாரனுக்

கும், இலக்கண விருது பிரான்ஸ் நாட்டைச் சேர்ந்த கிபாரதிதா சனுக்கும், மொழியியல் விருது பிரான்ஸ் நாட்டைச் சேர்ந்த ச.சச்சிதானந்ததற்கும் அளிக்கப்படும். இந்த விருதுகள் ஒவ்வொன்றும் தலா ரூ.1 லட்சம் விருதுத் தொகையும், தகுதியுரை, பொன்னாடை

அளிக்கப்படும்.

தமிழ்ச் செம்மல் விருது: மாவட்டங்களில் தமிழ்ப் பணி ஆற்றி வருவோருக்காக 32 மாவட்டங்களைச் சேர்ந்தோருக்கு விருதுகள் அளிக்கப்பட உள்ளன. அதன்படி, யு.எஸ்.எஸ்.ஆர்.கோ.நடராஜன் (சென்னை), அமுதா பாலகிருஷ்ணன் (திருவள்ளூர்), இதுபதீதம் ராமானுஜம் (காஞ்சிபுரம்), சிவராஜி (வேலூர்), கவிரிஷிமகேஷ் (கிருஷ்ணகிரி), சம்பந்தம் (திருவண்ணாமலை), செ.வ.மதிவாணன் (விழுப்புரம்), இரா.சஞ்சீவிராயர் (கடலூர்), பெ.ஆறுமுகம் (பெரம்

பலூர்), அ.ஆறுமுகம் (அரியலூர்), ஆ.கணபதி (சேலம்), பொ.பொன்னுரங்கன் (தருமபுரி), முனைவர் சி.தியாகராசன் (நாமக்கல்), வெ.திருமூர்த்தி (ஈரோடு), கவிமாமணி வெ.கருவை வேணு (கரூர்), முனைவர் மா.நடராசன் (கோவை), மு.தண்டபாணிசிவம் (திருப்பூர்), கோ.கந்தசாமி (நீலகிரி), வீ.கோவிந்தசாமி (திருச்சி), மு.முத்து சீனிவாசன் (புதுக்கோட்டை), முனைவர் சே.குமாரப்பன் (சிவகங்கை), த.உடையார்கோயில் (துஞ்சாவூர்), நா.சக்திமெந்தன் (திருவாரூர்), மு.மணிமேகலை (நாகப்பட்டினம்), சுப்பையா (ராமநாதபுரம்), இலக்குமணசுவாமி (மதுரை), வதிலைபிரபா (திண்டுக்கல்), சு.குப்புசாமி (தேனி), சு.அழகர் (விருதுநகர்), பே.ராஜேந்திரன் (திருநெல்வேலி), ப.ஜான்கணேஷ் (தாத்துக்குடி), கா.ஆபத்துக்காத்தபிள்ளை (கன்னியாகுமரி).

தமிழ்ச் செம்மல் விருது பெறும் ஒவ்வொரு விருதாளருக்கும் ரூ.25 ஆயிரம் விருதுத் தொகையுடன், தகுதியுரை, பொன்னாடை அளிக்கப்படும். இந்த விருதுகள் செவ்வாய்க்கிழமை (பிப்.19) தலைமைச் செயலகத்தில் அளிக்கப்படும் என்று தமிழக அரசு அறிவித்துள்ளது.