The Tamil Nadu government announced a hike in the ceiling of income to avail the benefits of some of the social welfare department’s schemes to ₹72,000 from the existing ₹24,000 on June 1.

This includes free text books and handbooks for children of poor widows, membership to industrial cooperative institutions, admission to vocational training such as tailoring, service homes of GOs, and industrial institutes, besides trans-sexuals.

The Tamil Nadu government modified its earlier order on dress code to include dhoti as formal dress for men working in state government offices on June 1.

Now men working in government offices can wear shirts with either pants or dhoti, or any Indian traditional dress.

The Chief Secretary Girija Vaidyanathan has also modified her earlier directive to female staff, saying their dupatta should be of “sober colour.”

The female staff have been directed to wear saree or salwar kameez with dupatta.

The staff are required to wear neat, clean and formal attire appropriate to the workplace, to maintain the decorum of offices.

Schemes

The Jaganmohan Reddy-led YSRC government of Andhra Pradesh - has renamed the pension scheme for the elderly and others as YSR Pension Kanuka (gift).
The state government also increased monthly pension for the elderly, widows, weavers, toddy tappers, fishermen, single women, traditional cobblers and persons living with HIV from ₹2,000 to ₹2,250 a month, beginning June.

Jagan had promised to increase these pensions to ₹3,000 a month over a period of four years, with an increase of ₹250 every year.

He had also promised to bring down eligibility age for pension from 65 to 60 years, which has been implemented now.

That apart, the government has fixed a pension of ₹3,000 for the disabled and ₹10,000 a month for people affected by chronic kidney diseases.

**NATIONAL**

- The government has made it mandatory for 84 airports in the country to install full-body scanners to screen air travellers within a year and issued a standard operating procedure for their use.

  - The 84 airports include 26 hyper-sensitive airports and 58 sensitive airports.
  - Other airports have two years’ time to introduce these scanners.
  - This equipment will replace walk-through metal detectors and passengers will have to remove shoes, belts, jackets, thick clothing and be “divested” of all metallic items.
  - Body scanners detect both metallic and non-metallic items concealed on the body.
  - Walk-through metal detectors and hand-held metal detectors cannot detect non-metallic weapons and explosives.
  - These scanners will produce only an outline or a mannequin-like image, which is same for all genders.
  - A yellow box appears on the body image to highlight areas that may need further screening.
  - These scanners use millimetre wave technology, which means passengers will not be subjected to harmful X-ray radiation, and the machine is safe for use by all, including pregnant women.
  - These scanners will help airports improve passenger throughput as they can screen a passenger in eight seconds and 300 passengers per hour.

- The Centre has shortlisted five cities -- Delhi, Shimla, Mysore, Ahmedabad and Ranchi -- for holding the national programme of the International Yoga Day this year, to be held on June 21.

  - If national capital is selected as the venue, it would be hosting the event for the second time.
  - Delhi had hosted the main event of the Yoga Day in 2015.
  - The United Nations declared June 21 as the International Day of Yoga in 2014.
✓ Last year, the main event of the International Day of Yoga was held at the ground of Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated
✓ The first International Yoga Day celebration was organised at Rajpath in New Delhi on June 21, 2015, in which representatives of 191 countries took part. In 2016, the main function was held in Chandigarh and in 2017 it was held in Lucknow.

❖ **The Punjab Mail, one of the oldest long-distance trains in the country - completed 107 years on June 1, 2019**

✓ The day also marks the completion of 89 years of operation of the Deccan Queen, which connects Mumbai and Pune
✓ The Punjab Mail, or 'Punjab Limited' as it was then called, steamed out on June 1, 1912 from Mumbai, heading for Peshawar, now in Pakistan covering a distance of 2,496 km in 47 hours
✓ A service meant primarily for white 'sahibs' initially, it soon started catering to lower classes too
✓ It was known to be the fastest train of British India
✓ Now its northward journey ends at Firozpur Cantonment after covering 1,930 km within 34 hours and 15 minutes.
✓ The Deccan Queen was introduced on June 1, 1930 by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, forerunner of Central Railway.
✓ It was the first deluxe train connecting two important cities of the region, and was aptly named after Pune, known as the Queen of Deccan

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

❖ **The Supreme Court - has barred the execution of a person if he develop a mental illness and loses cognitive power during post conviction imprisonment**
✓ The bench of Justices N V Ramana, M M Shantanagoudar and Indira Banerjee noted that if the accused is not able to understand the impact and purpose of his execution because of his mental disability, the basic reason for the execution itself collapses
✓ This is the first time that the SC took note of the mental illness as a disability and ordered that only extreme cases of convicts being mentally ill are not executed
However, the court also ordered to keep the mentally ill accused in jail till death.

Courts across the world, including India, have historically considered mental illness as a reason for imposition of lenient sentences as the offender, because of his mental incapacity, seldom knows the consequences of his action, which becomes a crime.

**INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES**

- **United States** - terminated India’s special market access to the United States under the generalised system of preferences (GSP) programme effective from June 5

  - The move follows after US accused India of following restrictive trade policy by not providing equitable and reasonable access to its markets.
  - As per the exporters, the impact of the action will be minimal, as out of $6.35 billion exports under the GSP scheme, net benefit was only to the tune of $260 million.
  - India was the largest beneficiary of the programme, accounting for over 25% of all the U.S.’s GSP-covered imports.
  - The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) began a review of India’s eligibility for GSP in April 2018.
  - In 2018, some $ 6.3 billion of Indian merchandise exports to the U.S. were covered by GSP.
  - The US trade deficit with India is less than $25 billion compared to the $420 billion with China and even the $75 billion with Mexico.
  - In recent years, India has been forced to open its markets to California almonds, Washington apples, and chicken legs from Middle America, but in the Trump view, India has to buy more to bridge the nearly $25 billion in trade deficit.
The US president announced on May 31 imposition of graduated tariffs on neighbouring Mexico due to Mexico’s unhelpful attitude in stanching the flow of illegal migrants across the southern borders.

The GSP is a programme that seeks to aid developing countries by giving some of their products non-reciprocal, duty-free access to U.S. markets.

**Pakistan – to open its airspace from June 2, following India’s decision to lift the airspace ban**
- Entry points for aircraft crossing over between the Pakistan and Indian airspace will finally start reopening—94 days after all 11 of these points were closed on February 27 post the Balakot strike.
- This means a London-Delhi flight can overfly via this point.
- Telem (near Ahmedabad) will be the first entry point over land to reopen and then gradually rest of the 10 points will allow access in phases in both directions—east to west and west to east.
- Resuming the direct route of pre-February 27 will mean changing course in airspace of all these countries from the path being followed during closure days.
- India has informed the UN’s International Civil Aviation Organisation of its Air Force’s Friday decision of removing all temporary restrictions in our airspace since February 27.

**PERSONALITIES**

**Flight Lieutenant Mohana Singh - became the first woman fighter pilot to become fully operational by day on a Hawk aircraft**

- She was one of the three women pilots inducted in the fighter stream of the IAF in 2016.
- Singh landed after a four-aircraft combat sortie at Air Force station in Kalaikunda, West Bengal on May 30.
- Singh undertook the sortie after receiving both air to air combat and air to ground training.
On May 22, Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth became the first woman to qualify for combat missions on a fighter jet.
She had completed the operational syllabus for carrying out combat missions on MiG-21 Bison aircraft during the daytime.
Singh, Kanth and Avani Chaturvedi were the first three women to be commissioned into the IAF in 2016.
In February last year, Chaturvedi became the first Indian woman to fly a fighter aircraft solo – a MiG-21 Bison.

**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **Apple - to pull out iTunes on June 3, bringing an end to one of the most popular apps in history**

  - The company is expected to announce its plans at the 2019 Apple Worldwide Developers' Conference (WWDC), where it will reveal a new software that will take the place of iTunes.
  - Apple will kill the traditional version of iTunes to embrace the new streaming future with an app built to allow users to listen to music.
  - Apple is also expected to release separate apps for videos and podcasts, which have also been a part of the iTunes app.
  - Songs bought through the iTunes Store will also almost certainly stick around, probably being present in the new version of the music app too.
  - Released in 2001, iTunes has been the primary way for people to buy, organise and listen to music.

**ECONOMY**

- **Goods and services tax (GST) collection for the month of May 2019 stood at ₹1,00,289 crore, 6.7% higher than the ₹94,016 crore collected a year ago**

  - However, it was 12% lower than previous month as companies rushed to meet the sales target at the end of the financial year.
  - Revenue for April is reflected as collections in May in accounts.
  - Of the over ₹1 lakh crore collected in May, Central GST was estimated at ₹17,811 crore, while state GST was ₹24,462 crore and integrated GST collections were estimated at ₹49,891 crore, including ₹24,875 crore collected on imports.
In addition, cess of ₹8,125 crore, including ₹953 crore on imports, was generated on luxury and sin goods.

The Reserve Bank of India - to inaugurate its 'financial literacy week' programme in Kerala on June 3

- With an aim to promote financial literacy at the ground level, the Reserve Bank of India is observing the first week of June as the Financial Literacy Week across the country
- The FL Week would focus on farmers as target group with the primary theme being "responsible borrowing and agricultural finance"

APPOINTMENTS

Home secretary Rajiv Gauba – set to become the next Cabinet Secretary

- He will be appointed officer on special duty in the cabinet secretariat in the next few days before taking over as the next Cabinet secretary
- Cabinet secretary P K Sinha’s four-year term ends on June 12

AWARDS

Former President Pratibha Patil - was bestowed with the highest civilian award of Mexico for foreigners on June 1

- The ambassador of Mexico to India, Melba Pria, presented "Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca" (Order of the Aztec Eagle) to Ms Patil, who had served as the first woman president of the country during 2007-12
- The award is given to the honorable foreign citizens who have strengthened humanitarian relations with Mexico
- Pratibha Patil is the first Indian woman to receive such an award.
- Earlier Dr. Nelson Mandela, Queen Elizabeth II (2nd), Dr Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, Bill Gates were honored with this award.

Mumbai based journalist and playwright Annie Zaidi – was declared the winner of the Nine Dots Prize-2019 for her essay Bread, Cement, Cactus
Annie Zaidi’s work, ‘Bread, Cement, Cactus’, includes reportage and memoir to explore concepts of home and belonging.

Her new proposed book, based on her Nine Dots Prize winning essay Bread, Cement, Cactus’, will be published by Cambridge University Press in May 2020.

The entries for the prize were judged anonymously by 11 members of the Nine Dots Prize Board which comprises academics, journalists and thinkers.

The board is chaired by Professor Simon Goldhill, a fellow of King’s College, Cambridge.

In June 2012, Elle magazine named Zaidi as one of the emerging South Asian writers “whose writing we believe will enrich South Asian literature.”

The Nine Dots Prize aims to reward original thinking in response to a question on contemporary societal issues.

Annie Zaidi’s 3,000-word response to the question ‘Is there still no place like home?’

**OBITUARY**

**Brij Mohan Khaitan, noted Industrialist and India’s Tea Man (92 years)**

Industrialist and Williamson Magor Group patriarch Brij Mohan Khaitan, passed away in Kolkata on June 1.

Khaitan was known in global tea fraternity as the “evergreen tea man of India”

The Rs 5,000 crore Williamson Magor Group consists of once the world’s largest bulk tea producer McLeod Russel, Eveready Industries, Kilburn Engineering and McNally Bharat.

Khaitan started his working life in his father’s commission agency in 1946, where he came into close contact with Pat Williamson of Williamson Magor.

Khaitan became a partner in Williamson Magor in 1962 and was appointed MD in 1964. First, he established his tea empire in Assam and later went on to extend his tea geography to Uganda, Rwanda and Vietnam.

Khaitan’s first major acquisition was Mcleod Russel from Guthrie Group in 1985.

By 1992, Khaitan’s group became the single largest producer of Assam tea and later on got the distinction of being the biggest bulk tea producer in the world.

His second major acquisition was Eveready, for around Rs 300 crore in the early 1990s.
Eveready, a brand that’s over a century old, was owned by the erstwhile Union Carbide India since 1905.

His acquisition of the Indian business of Union Carbide in the 1990s gave him a dominant position in the dry-cell battery business, which continues till today.

In 2005, Khaitan bought the Magor family stake in Borelli Tea Holdings.

As a result, the Khaitans acquired over a dozen tea estates in Assam.

Khaitan was conferred the lifetime achievement award from Indian Chamber of Commerce in 2013, which he headed in 1973.

**SPORTS**

**India's Nihal Sarin - became the world's third youngest player to cross 2600 Elo points on FIDE's rating list.**

In the latest list released by FIDE on Saturday, the 14-year-old from Kerala has 2606 points and ranked at No. 240.

He is also India's youngest ever to reach the milestone, beating the record set by Parimarjan Negi in 2009 as a 15-year-old.

Among other Indians, Five-time World champion Viswanathan Anand is ranked No. 9 in the world.

P. Harikrishna is the next-best ranked Indian at No. 25.

Three other Indians — Vidit Gujarathi, B. Adhiban and K. Sasikiran — are in the top 100.

World champion Magnus Carslen of Norway continues to be the World No. 1, followed by Fabiano Caruana (US), Ding Liren (China), Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (France) and Anish Giri (Netherlands).

India's Koneru Humpy is the World No. 4 among women.

**RANKINGS**

**India - ranks 43rd most competitive economy in the world in IMD World Competitiveness Rankings-2019**
- It has moved up by one position from the previous ranking, ranked at 44 in 2018
- India was ranked at 45 in 2017 and 41 in 2016 rankings
- Singapore has ranked as the world’s most competitive economy for the first time since 2010.
- Venezuela remained (63rd) at the bottom of the ranking due to inflation, poor access to credit and a weak economy in the country.
- IMD World Competitiveness Rankings were established in 1989
- It incorporates 235 indicators from each of the 63 ranked economies to measure how well countries manage all their resources and competencies
- It is basically a list which is compiled by the Switzerland-based International Institute for Management and Development (IMD)’s World Competitiveness Center (WCC).