

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 16, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu State Information Commission (TNSIC) – has issued recommendations to the Government to ensure greater transparency in the functioning of Government**
- ✓ According to the report, the state should implement a system where Right to Information (RTI) petitions can be filed online, similar to the process adopted by the Central Government and few other states

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

UNIVERSITIES | Norms adopted in the final selection of teaching staff such as weightage for academic background and interview must be published

➤ Publish status of recognition of distance education courses

POLICE | PIOs should mention their names on RTI replies

CMDA | Each wing/cell to have a PIO

ARASU CABLE TV | Appoint Public Information Officers (PIO) at district level

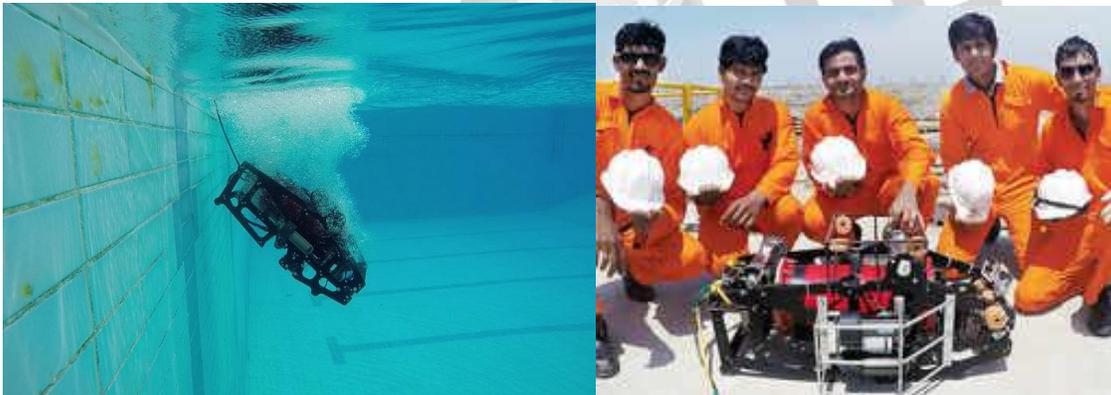
REGISTRATION | Inform RTI applicant about reason for withholding registration

RURAL DEVELOPMENT | Upload information online on work done

INQUIRY COMMISSIONS | Publish reports in the website after issuing government order

- ✓ Currently, the state implements a ‘manual’ process where one has to get a court fee stamp or demand draft and mail the hard copy to the Government agency, whereas the RTI’s with the central government agencies can be filed through ‘rtionline.gov.in’ website, along with the ‘online’ payment of the fee
- ✓ The commission has also noted that the state government has not yet framed rules for the RTI act
- ✓ It had asked the government to nominate a nodal officer in every department to update information on its website under section 4(1)(b) of the RTI Act
- ✓ It had directed the TNPSC to publish all the policies and norms in place for publishing exam results under section 4(1)(b)(v) of the RTI Act

- ✓ Universities and colleges were directed to publish details about the grants received from UGC under section 4(1)(b) of the Act on their website
 - ✓ It had also recommended that students have a fundamental right to access their answer books under the RTI
 - ✓ The commission had also recommended displaying the prescribed period of retention of records by each government department on their website
- **Chennai Metro Rail Limited – has launched a ‘Monthly pass’ scheme for passengers to take multiple rides in a day**
- ✓ Passengers will have to pay Rs 2,500 with an additional refundable fee of Rs 50 purchase the ‘tourist card’ for a month
 - ✓ At present, CMRL offers a tourist card of Rs 100+Rs 50 as refundable fee that allows unlimited rides only for a single day
 - ✓ Currently, metro service has an average ridership of 90,000 per day
- **Planys Technologies, an IIT madras incubated startup – develops ‘Mikros’, an underwater Remotely operated vehicle (ROV) for Oil & Gas industries**



- ✓ The indigenous ROV can navigate through narrow areas like pipelines under extreme sea conditions that are difficult for commercial divers to reach
- ✓ It will be useful for scanning shipwrecks and underwater inspections for the process industries like desal plants, nuclear plants, petrochemical refineries without shutting down the plant
- ✓ The vehicle was developed under the Bharat Petroleum corporation Ltd’s startup scheme project ‘Ankur’
- ✓ Built on a sturdy aluminium frame, the 39 kg weighing Mikros can perform specific tasks under rough sea conditions
- ✓ This is the third underwater vehicle developed by the IIT-M startup, with one of its earlier versions used in the rescue operations at the mining accident in Meghalaya last year
- ✓ The new ROV can travel nearly one kilometer distance from the ship it is deployed and up to a depth of 120 m.

- Chennai's 13-year old, AR Rahman-mentored musical prodigy 'Lydian Nadhaswaram' – wins \$1 million CBS American reality show 'The World's Best'



- ✓ The show, hosted by James Corden, had Faith Hill, RuPaul Charles and Drew Barrymore as the frontline judges and 50 other judges to help them decide the winner
- ✓ Nadhaswaram played two piano medleys in the finals and scored 84 points
- ✓ The runners-up were South Korea's Kukkiwon group, better known as the Flying Taekwondo Masters, who scored 63 points.
- ✓ Earlier on the show, Nadhaswaram had stunned everyone by playing Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's 'The Flight of the Bumblebee' at unimaginably high speeds.
- ✓ The young prodigy also made his debut on 'The Ellen DeGeneres Show', where Lydian stuns the audience by playing the piano blindfolded with his rendition of Mozart's 'Turkish March'
- ✓ During his chat with DeGeneres, the host of the show, Nadhaswaram said he could play two pianos at the same time – and different tunes at that



- ✓ Lydian is also a student of the Chennai-based KM Music Conservatory, run by AR Rahman

NATIONAL

- **Ministry of HRD – signs MoU with Afghanistan Government at IIT, Madras on several IIT-developed digital education initiatives**
 - ✓ The agreement will facilitate use of massive open online courses (MOOCs) available on SWAYAM platform by students and faculties of educational institutions in Afghanistan
 - ✓ Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), developed by the Government of India, was launched in 2017
- **Geographical Indications Registry - granted the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag to Coorg Arabica Coffee, Wayanad Robusta Coffee, Chikmagalur Arabica Coffee, Araku Valley Arabica Coffee and Bababudangiris Arabica Coffee**



- ✓ The Coorg Arabica Coffee is grown exclusively in Kodagu district of Karnataka
 - ✓ The Wayanad Robusta Coffee is characteristic of the Western Ghats and the plantation crop is grown in the cool climate of Wayanad, Kerala
 - ✓ Chikmagalur Arabica Coffee and Bababudangiris Arabica Coffee are grown in Chikmagalur district of Karnataka
 - ✓ The Chikmagalur district is generally referred as the birthplace of coffee in the country
 - ✓ Araku Valley Arabica Coffee is grown around the Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh and in the Koraput district of Odisha
 - ✓ A Geographical Indication (GI) tag is a name or sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation of that origin
- **Vastradan Campaign - has set the Guinness World Record for the largest collection of clothes for donation**
 - ✓ Through the Vastradan Campaign initiated by the erstwhile royal family of Udaipur, over 3,29,250 pieces of clothing from over 76,000 donors were collected and distributed to the poor



- ✓ The certificate for the Guinness World Record was handed over to Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar, a descendant of Rajput ruler Maharana Pratap
- Consumer product companies in India – are phasing out the controversial anti-bacterial ‘Triclosan’ from soap and toothpaste products

Check these products for the recently banned ingredient Triclosan



toothpaste



antibacterial soap



mouthwash



cosmetics



first aid products



mouthwash

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size	
Serving per Container	
BIOFRESH	●
MICROBAN	●
IRGASAN	●
LEXO	●
STER-ZAC	●
CLOXIFENOLUM	●

OTHER NAMES

- BIOFRESH
- MICROBAN
- IRGASAN
- LEXO
- STER-ZAC
- CLOXIFENOLUM

AVOID TOOTHPASTE WITH TRICLOSAN



- ✓ The US FDA had banned ‘triclosan’ from consumer anti-bacterial soaps and body washes few years ago
- ✓ Leading dental care company, Colgate-Palmolive (India) has removed ‘triclosan’ from its ‘New Colgate Total’ toothpaste following a global move by the parent company and replaced triclosan with Zinc and arginine
- ✓ Similarly leading soap maker, Hindustan Unilever has already removed tridlosan from both its soaps/handwashes and toothpaste products
- ✓ In the 90s, triclosan was the main point for a marketing battle between Colgate and Pepsodent
- ✓ Now, both the parties have included triclosan with Colgate using it in the mid-priced Colgate Dental Cream just like Pepsodent

INTERNATIONAL

- **France – becomes the first country to freeze the assets of Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar and ban him in the country – in application of the Monetary and Financial code**



- ✓ The country also said it would ask other 27 EU member countries to include Masood Azhar on the EU list of persons, groups and entities involved in terrorist acts, based on its decree

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **China's Long March Rocket Series - has successfully completed its 300th launch**
- ✓ The 300th launch was completed by putting a new communication satellite into orbit through Long March-3B Rocket
- ✓ The Long March-1 carrier rocket launched the country's first satellite, Dongfanghong-1, into orbit on April 24, 1970
- ✓ A total of 17 types of Long March carrier rockets have been developed and put into use since then



- ✓ The rocket series built by China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation was responsible for about 96.4% of all the launch missions in China
- ✓ The Long March rockets completed 37 consecutive successful launches, ranking a global first for the highest number of successful launches in 2018

ECONOMY

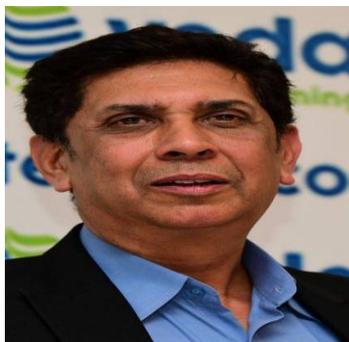
- **SBI Yono App – to allow ‘Cardless’ and ‘Cashless’ withdrawals now**
- ✓ To avoid the usage of plastic cards in payments and withdrawals, SBI has enabled cardless ATM withdrawals through its mobile App, Yono
- ✓ The bank is also facilitating payments at PoS (point of sale) terminals using the App



- ✓ Rajnish Kumar, SBI Chairman launched the YonoCash service in Mumbai on March 15
- ✓ The cardless withdrawal will currently available at 16,500 SBI ATMs in the country and would eventually be extended to all the 60,000 ATMs of the bank
- ✓ The service enables the user to generate dynamic code using the Yono app to withdraw money from any SBI ATM within 30 minutes of the code generation
- ✓ This facility can also be used by customers to send money
- ✓ Customers can start the cash withdrawal process on the YONO app and set a six-digit cash pin for the transaction

APPOINTMENTS

- **Pankaj Kumar – has been named as the new CEO of Sterlite Copper**



- ✓ He replaces P Ramnath, who retired from the company and will now support the smelter and its affairs as a senior advisor
- ✓ Sterlite’s Tuticorin plant was shut down by the Tamil Nadu Government for its pollution-related activities in last May following the protests by locals, which left 13 people dead on May 22 in a police firing

SPORTS

- **Indian Grandmasters B Adhiban and Surya Shekhar Ganguly – win Gold medals at the World Chess Championships at Astana in Kazakhstan**
- ✓ However, Indian Men's team finished without a 'medal' after a disappointing fourth by losing to Russia in the final Round



- ✓ During the competition, Adhiban crossed the 2700 ELO rating, the fifth Indian to achieve this feat after Grandmasters Viswanathan Anand, Krishnan Sasikiran, P Harikrishna and Vidit Gujrathi
- **India – to host FIFA U-17 Women's Football World Cup in 2020, ahead of France**
- ✓ The country had earlier hosted the FIFA U-17 Men's World cup in 2017 at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi successfully
- ✓ Being the hosts, India gets automatically qualified to play in the World cup as well
- ✓ This is only the second time that India will play in a FIFA World Cup, after the last Men's U-17 World cup in which also India qualified being the hosts
- ✓ World football governing body, FIFA – has recommended expanding the 2022 World cup in Qatar from 32 to 48 teams
- ✓ However, a final decision on a possible expansion will be taken in a vote of its members at the FIFA's congress in Paris in June
- **Bangladesh cricket team – narrowly avoided being caught up in a Shooting attack at a mosque in Christchurch on March 15, which left 49 people dead and more than 20 injured**

- ✓ The team is on a tour visit to New Zealand and was on its way to the Masjid Al Noor mosque for Friday prayers, where the shooting attack took place
- ✓ At least one gunman was on a shooting spree during the Friday prayers at two New Zealand mosques (Al Noor Mosque in central Christchurch and another one was Linwood Islamic Centre in suburban Linwood) in the country's worst ever mass shooting
- ✓ The third test match between Bangladesh and New Zealand at nearby Hagley Oval was called off immediately after the attack



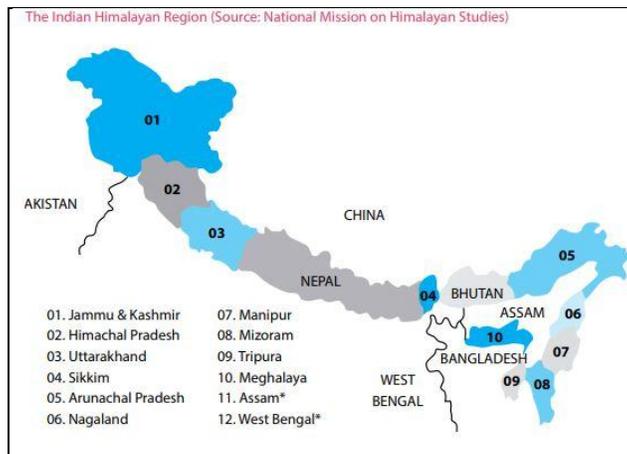
- ✓ After the attack, 9 Indians were named as 'Missing' and 2 'injured' in the attacks
- ✓ Australian citizen Brenton Tarrant has been charged with murder and will appear in Christchurch Court on March 16, 2019



- ✓ Tarrant livestreamed one of the attacks himself while attacking the Christchurch mosque in a Facebook Live video
- ✓ As per his claims, he wanted to avenge the deaths caused by foreign invaders through this attack
- ✓ In 2017 New Zealand was rated as the World's 2nd most peaceful country after Iceland

RANKINGS

➤ Climate Vulnerability Index for India



- ✓ The study was undertaken in the 12 Himalayan states viz. Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir
- ✓ The vulnerability was measured on a scale 0-1 with 1 indicating the highest possible level of vulnerability
- ✓ Rankings of states with their vulnerability scores
 - ✓ Assam – 0.72 (Most vulnerable)
 - ✓ Mizoram – 0.71
 - ✓ Jammu & Kashmir - 0.62
 - ✓ Manipur - 0.59
 - ✓ Meghalaya and West Bengal - both 0.58
 - ✓ Nagaland - 0.57
 - ✓ Himachal Pradesh and Tripura - both 0.51
 - ✓ Arunachal Pradesh - 0.47
 - ✓ Uttarakhand - 0.45
 - ✓ Sikkim – 0.42 (Least vulnerable)
- ✓ Department of Science and Technology has decided to commission a study to assess the climate risks faced by States in India, following the release of index
- ✓ The vulnerability score was calculated based on 8 parameters such as percentage of area in districts under forests, yield variability of food grain, population density, female literacy rate, infant mortality rate, percentage of population below poverty line (BPL), average man-days under MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act), and the area under slope > 30%