

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 18, 2019

NATIONAL

- **National Green Tribunal - has directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to prepare a noise pollution map along with a remedial action plan within 3 months to solve the issue**
 - ✓ The green bench headed by National Green Tribunal Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel directed the CPCB to identify noise pollution hotspots and categorise cities with specified hotspots
 - ✓ The pollution control board has already established noise monitoring mechanisms in seven cities, where the noise level is beyond the permissible limits
 - ✓ The green tribunal also stated that the police departments of all the states and union territories may obtain noise monitoring devices within a period of 3 months and train its personnel to handle them
 - ✓ It had also wanted to develop a public address system along with these devices to alert the public, when the noise level exceeds the permissible limits

- **The Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Council (PM-STIAC) - has identified 9 national missions – to solve complex issues for the country's sustainable development**
 - ✓ The 9 Missions
 1. Natural Language Translation – Access to teaching and research materials in English and one's native Indian language
 2. Quantum Frontier – Research on quantum mechanical systems with a large number of degrees of freedom
 3. Artificial Intelligence – Application in areas like healthcare, education, agriculture, smart cities and infrastructure, including smart mobility and transportation
 4. National Biodiversity Mission - Comprehensive documentation and assessment of India's biodiversity

5. Electric Vehicles – To reduce the country's fossil fuel emissions through sustained research of electric vehicles
6. BioScience for Human Health – To construct comprehensive reference maps of genomes and understand the impact of environments onto our bodies
7. Waste To Wealth – To develop new technologies to treat waste to generate energy
8. Deep Ocean Exploration – To address issues in ocean due to climate change
9. Agnii - To boost the innovation ecosystem

➤ **World Bank - to provide a \$250-million loan for the National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP)**

- ✓ NRETP is a new sub-component under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development
- ✓ NRETP supports enterprise development programmes for rural poor women and youth

➤ **India piloted 2 resolutions - at the fourth session of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), held in Nairobi from March 11-15, 2019**

- ✓ The UN adopted India's two resolutions to address key global environmental issues, 'single-use plastics and sustainable nitrogen management'
- ✓ The theme of the organisation this year is 'innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable production and consumption'

INTERNATIONAL

➤ **Malaysia – joins as the 124th country to the International Criminal Court (ICC) ratifying the Rome Statute**

- ✓ Even though Malaysia had helped to negotiate the Rome Statute, it has been long been reluctant to ratify it
- ✓ International Criminal Court established by Rome Statute is a permanent international court with jurisdiction over the serious human rights crimes like genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression

COMMITTEES

➤ **The Ministry of Social justice – forms an expert panel headed by retired GOI secretary B P Sharma - to study 'creamy layer' criteria and eligibility**

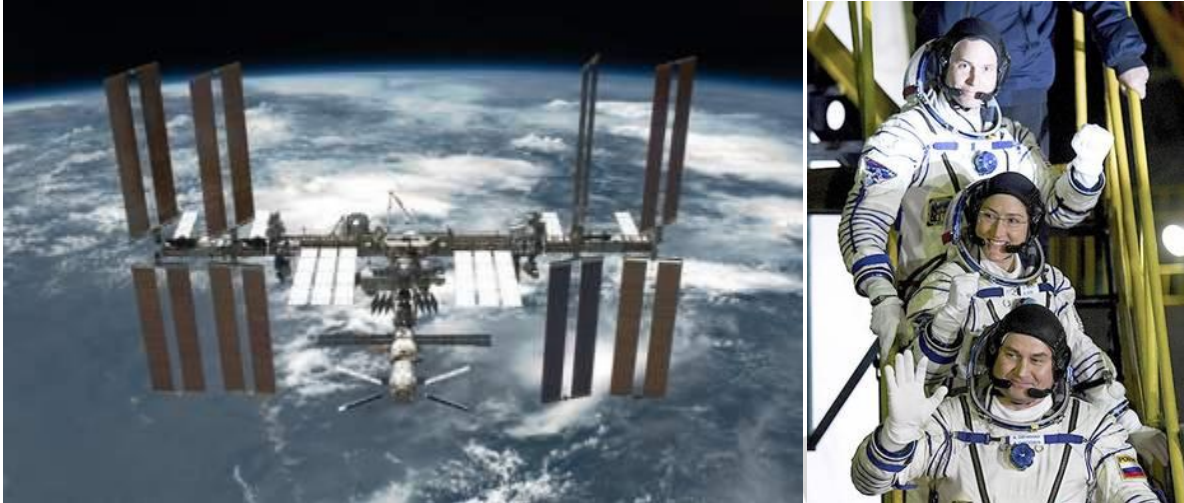
B.P. Sharma IAS
Chairman, RAC



- ✓ The norms for the creamy layer were laid down in 1993 based on the report of the Prasad committee
- ✓ The move is expected to 'simplify and streamline' the norms, keeping in view the SC's observations in Indira Sawhney case, to tackle any 'issues' arising from their implementation
- ✓ 'Creamy layer' is the section of OBCs that is economically advanced and ineligible for Mandal reservation in education and jobs
- **A Government panel formed to study E-cigarettes – submitted its report to the Government**
- ✓ It had concluded that the 'Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems' (ENDS) can cause suicidal and accidental poisoning
- ✓ They are as bad as any another tobacco product in terms of causing premature deaths and morbidity
- ✓ The committee, which included doctors from AIIMS, National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research and other public health organizations, had analyzed 251 studies and arrived at the conclusion
- ✓ The health ministry has already started issuing advisory to states asking them to ban products such as e-cigarettes, Vape, e-Sheesha and e-Hookah etc.
- ✓ ENDS are devices that heat a solution to create an 'aerosol', which frequently contains flavours, usually dissolved into propylene glycol and glycerin
- ✓ E-cigarettes are the most common prototype of ENDS, which doesn't burn or use tobacco leaves but instead vaporize a solution, which a user then inhale
- ✓ Nicotine, a major constituent of ENDS is addictive and may lead to cardiovascular diseases, lung diseases, adverse effects on the immune and gastrointestinal systems, risk of miscarriage in pregnant women etc.,

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- Russian spacecraft, Soyuz – successfully reaches International Space Station (ISS)



- ✓ It was carrying NASA Astronaut Nick Hague and Christina Koch, and Cosmonaut Alexey Ovchinin
- ✓ Soyuz spacecraft carries people and supplies to and from ISS.
- ✓ One Soyuz spacecraft is always stationed in ISS for emergency return back to earth
- ✓ ISS is a habitable artificial satellite at an altitude of between 330 and 435 km
- ✓ It circles the Earth in roughly 92 minutes and completes 15.5 orbits per day
- ✓ It is a joint project between five participating space agencies - NASA (United States), Roscosmos (Russia), JAXA (Japan), ESA (Europe), and CSA (Canada)

APPOINTMENTS

- Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose, retired Supreme Court Judge – to be named India's first Lokpal ombudsman



- ✓ Justice Ghose retired as the SC Judge on May 27, 2017
- ✓ He has been a member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) since June 29, 2017
- ✓ **Former Police officer Archana Ramasundaram is also set to be named as one of the non-judicial member of the anti-graft body**
- ✓ A bench of CJI Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S A Nazeer and Sanjiv Khanna was informed by attorney general K K Venugopal that the Lokpal search committee headed by former SC judge Ranjana Prakash Desai had recommended 3 panels of names to the 'selection committee' for the appointment of chairperson, judicial and non-judicial members
- ✓ The SC had set up a February-end deadline for the Lokpal search committee to recommend the names for the chairman and members
- ✓ A person who is or has been the CJI or a SC judge is eligible for appointment as 'Lokpal'
- ✓ As per the rules, there is provision for a chairperson and a maximum of eight members in the Lokpal with four needed to be judicial members
- **India has nominated member of Niti Ayog, Ramesh Chandra - to head Food and Agricultural Organisation**



- ✓ His candidature faces challenge from Qu Dongyu of China, Medi MOUNGUI of Cameroon, Catherine Geslain-Laneelle of France and Davit Kirvalidze of Georgia
- ✓ The candidate needs to secure a simple majority of the 194 members to get elected to the coveted post
- ✓ The only Indian to head the FAO is Binay Ranjan Sen, who was the Director-General from 1956 to 1967
- ✓ Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) was established as the specialised agency in 1945 at the first session of the United Nations
- ✓ The agency, created with an aim to fight hunger and malnutrition, has its headquarters in Rome, Italy since 1951 after moving the temporary headquarters from Washington, US

➤ **P V Ramesh - appointed as the director-general of the National Archives of India (NAI)**



- ✓ Currently, he is serving as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Rural Electrification Corporation
- ✓ National Archives of India functions under the Ministry of Culture
- ✓ It has a Regional Office at Bhopal and three Records Centres at Jaipur, Puducherry and Bhubaneswar
- ✓ NAI was formed from Imperial Records Department (IRD), established on 11 March 1891 in the Imperial Secretariat Building at Calcutta (Kolkata)
- ✓ In 1911 the IRD was shifted to Delhi
- ✓ After Independence, the government renamed IRD as the National Archives of India with Director of Archives as its head
- ✓ In 1990, the office of the Director of Archives was redesignated as Director General of Archives

AWARDS

- **Japanese Architect, Arata Isozaki - wins the Pritzker Prize 2019**
- ✓ He is the 46th awardee and eighth architect from Japan to win the prestigious honour, which will be given in May in France
 - ✓ Some of his major works include Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, Palau Saint Jordi indoor sporting arena in Barcelona, he Allianz Tower in Milan, Italy, Qatar's National Convention Centre, Kitakyushu's Central Library in Japan, Thessaloniki concert hall's second auditorium, M2, in Greece, Nara Centennial Hall in Japan etc



- ✓ Pritzker Prize is an annual award to honour a living architect or architects whose structures demonstrates a combination of those qualities of talent, vision and commitment
- ✓ It was constituted by Pritzker family of Chicago through their Hyatt Foundation in 1979 and is often referred to as “architecture’s Nobel”
- ✓ Earlier awardees of the coveted prize include India’s Balkrishna Doshi

SPORTS

- **Annu Rani, Javelin thrower – sets a new national record of 62.34 metres in the women’s javelin throw event in the ongoing 23rd Federation Cup in Patiala**

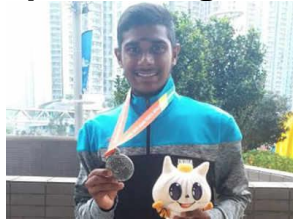


- ✓ She broke her own record of 61.86m that she recorded two years ago in the same venue
 - ✓ With the record throw, she got qualified for the Asian championship and the World championships
 - ✓ However, she fell well short of the qualifying standards for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, which is 64 m
- **Kerala’s K T Irfan – becomes the first Indian from athletics to qualify for 2020 Tokyo Olympics, after finishing fourth in the 20km event of the Asian Race Walking Championships in Nomi, Japan**



- ✓ Irfan clocked 1 hour, 20 minutes and 57 seconds to better the Olympic qualification standard of 1:21:00
- ✓ Irfan holds the national record of 1:20:21, which he clocked during his 10th place finish in the 2012 Olympics
- ✓ He also got qualified for this year’s World championships (Sep-Oct) in Doha, as he bettered the qualifying mark of 1:22:30
- ✓ Two other Indians, Devinder Singh and Ganapathi Krishnan also got qualified for the World Championships during the event

- **Tamil Nadu's B Mathesh – won silver in the 800m boys event at the 3rd youth Asian athletics championships in Hong Kong**



- ✓ 17-year old Mathesh, son of a farmer from Vadugapatti village in Theni district in Tamil Nadu, won the 800m and 1500m events at the Khelo India Youth Games in Pune in January this year

- **Finland's Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes) – won the season-opening Australian Formula 1 Grand Prix on March 17 at Melbourne**



- ✓ Britain's Lewis Hamilton, last year's championship winner, finished second for Mercedes followed by Red Bull's Max Verstappen at the third place

- **Bengaluru FC – won their maiden Indian Super League title at the Mumbai Football Arena**



- ✓ In the final, they have defeated FC Goa by a solitary goal scored by Rahul Bheke in the extra time
- ✓ By winning the ISL, Bengaluru FC will play in the AFC Asian Cup next year
- ✓ It had also become first side in history to have won the I-League and the ISL
- ✓ Sunil Chhetri is the captain of the Bengaluru FC club
- ✓ Ferran Corominas (FC Goa) claimed the Golden Boot title for the second consecutive season with 16 goals
- ✓ He also claimed a double with the award for the best player 'Hero of the League'

RANKINGS

➤ IQAir AirVisual 2018 World Air Quality Report - Released by Greenpeace in association with IQAir AirVisual

1	 Gurugram, India	11	 Delhi, India	21	 Kanpur, India
2	 Ghaziabad, India	12	 Jodhpur, India	22	 Singrauli, India
3	 Faisalabad, Pakistan	13	 Muzaffarpur, India	23	 Kolkata, India
4	 Faridabad, India	14	 Varanasi, India	24	 Pali, India
5	 Bhiwadi, India	15	 Moradabad, India	25	 Rohtak, India
6	 Noida, India	16	 Agra, India	26	 Mandi Gobindgarh, ...
7	 Patna, India	17	 Dhaka, Bangladesh	27	 Xingtai Shi, China
8	 Hotan, China	18	 Gaya, India	28	 Shijiazhuang, China
9	 Lucknow, India	19	 Kashgar, China	29	 Ahmedabad, India
10	 Lahore, Pakistan	20	 Jind, India	30	 Aksu, China

- ✓ The index measures the presence of fine particulate matter PM2.5 in the air
- ✓ The five most polluted cities in the world are Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Bhiwadi (India) and Faisalabad (Pakistan)
- ✓ Seven of the top 10 and 22 of the top 30 most polluted cities in the world are in India
- ✓ Faisalabad in Pakistan, Hotan in China and Lahore were the only three non-Indian cities in the top 10
- ✓ Similarly, in the Top 30, apart from 22 Indian cities, five are in China, two is in Pakistan and one is in Bangladesh

OBITUARY

➤ Manohar Parrikar, Chief Minister of Goa and former Union Defence Minister (63 years)



- ✓ Parrikar has been battling advanced pancreatic cancer ever since he was diagnosed in February 2018 and has been taking treatments in Goa, Mumbai, Delhi and New York since then
- ✓ Despite his illness, he continued to serve in the office, mostly operating from his residence, and presented the Goa Budget 2019-20 recently
- ✓ Parrikar's wife too succumbed to cancer while he was an MLA in 2000.
- ✓ Parrikar was the first Indian Institute of Technology (IIT Bombay) alumnus to serve as Chief Minister of Goa in October 2000

- ✓ He led a simple life and avoided publicity, thereby becoming highly popular with the other leaders and masses
- ✓ He avoided using the beacon on his official car, sat next to the driver and became Goa's most accessible CM
- ✓ Parrikar was also an industrialist and owned 2 hydraulic engineering units, Goa Hydraulics and Westfield Hydraulics and Pneumatics, which manufactures hydraulic and pneumatic cylinders and supply them for larger industrial set-ups
- ✓ He became Goa Chief Minister for four times, but could not complete a single full term in office
- ✓ In 2001, he was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award by IIT Bombay
- ✓ During his tenure, he announced various popular schemes like the cyberage scheme to provide free computers to higher secondary school students, 'Griha Aadhar' and 'Laadli Laxmi'.
- ✓ He served as Defence Minister from 2014-17 on the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- ✓ As Defence minister, Parrikar oversaw 2016 surgical strikes carried out by Indian Army across LoC, after Pakistani terrorists killed 19 soldiers at Uri on September 18, 2016
- ✓ It was under Parrikar's watch that India entered into an inter-governmental agreement with France to purchase the Rafale fighter aircraft

LIFE AND TIMES OF MANOHAR PARRIKAR

Dec 13, 1955 | Born in a middle-class Gaud Saraswat Brahmin family from Mapusa in North Goa

▶ RSS pracharak D Nandkarni is a major influence on young Parrikar, who in his teens is made 'mukhya shikshak'

1973 | Joins IIT Bombay. RSS gives him charge of Sangh's Powai hostel unit

1978 | Gets B.Tech in metallurgical engg. Resumes work for RSS in Mapusa. Also sets up a business

June 2, 1979 | Marries Medha Kotnis in Mumbai

1988 | Parrikar is deputed by RSS to BJP

1991 | Contests LS polls from North Goa, loses

Nov 1994 | Wins Panaji in state polls, BJP makes debut in assembly

Oct 24, 2000 | Becomes first IITian CM

June 5, 2002 | Elected again as chief minister

2004 | Gets film fest Iffi to Goa

March 2012 | Elected chief minister after BJP gets 21 seats in 40-member state assembly

Jan 2013 | **First BJP CM to openly endorse Modi's candidature for PM.** Also hosts BJP nat'l executive in Panaji where Modi is announced PM candidate

Nov 2014 | Appointed defence minister

Mar 2017 | Back to Goa as CM for fourth term

Feb 2018 | Diagnosed with pancreatic ailment

- ✓ He was also the one who backed the light combat aircraft Tejas for the Indian Air Force, during his stint as the country's defence minister
- ✓ He represented the Panaji constituency in the Legislative Assembly of Goa since 1994



Let me tell you, I never anticipated joining politics. I was sitting by the river and someone pushed me from behind into it. But I swam successfully in that river

MANDHAR PARRIKAR

December 13, 1955 - March 17, 2019



APPLO
STUDY CENTRE

