

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 31, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- Chennai collector A Shanmuga Sundram - appoints 8 'Rent authority officers' in the rank of deputy collectors for the 16 taluks in the city (each handling 2 taluks) - to hear disputes between landlords and tenants over domestic and commercial properties

ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITY	
➤ District Backward Classes & Minorities Welfare Officer, Chennai Collectorate Perumbur & Ayanavaram	➤ District Inspection Cell Officer, Chennai Collectorate Egmore and Aminjikarai
➤ Revenue Divisional Officer/ Sub Collector, Chennai North Division, Tondiarpet Puraswalkkam & Tondiarpet	➤ Special Deputy Collector (Social Security Scheme), Chennai Collectorate Alandur & Sholinganallur
➤ Personal Assistant (General) to District Collector, Chennai Mylapore & Velachery	➤ Revenue Divisional Officer/ Sub Collector, Chennai West Division, Thirumangalam Ambattur & Madhuravoyal
➤ Revenue Divisional Officer/ Sub Collector, Chennai South Division, Guindy Mambalam and Guindy	➤ Additional Personal Assistant to Collector, Chennai Madhavaram & Tiruvottiyur

- ✓ After the mandatory registration of rental or lease agreements, the parties can upload copies of the documents on the online portal set up under the Tamil Nadu Regulations of Rights and Responsibilities of Landlords and Tenants Act 2017
- ✓ The act provides provisions for rental courts and tribunals, where the parties can appeal
- ✓ The act came into force on February 22 when the state government notified the rule
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Regulations of Rights and Responsibilities of Landlords and Tenants Act, 2019, has replaced the Tamil Nadu Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Act, 1960, which was popularly known as the Rent Control Act

- **State-owned BSNL - launched 4G services in the rural pockets of Kancheepuram, about 80 km south of Chennai on March 30**
 - ✓ The move follows almost seven years after private telecom service providers launched 4G services in the country
 - ✓ According to BSNL, its 4G services are being offered using 3G spectrum
 - ✓ The new facility will, however, not be available in Chennai since it would cause disruptions to existing 3G connections
 - ✓ As per BSNL, 4G services would be available in Deviriambakkam, Karunguzhi, P V Kalathur, Rajakulam, Govindavadi, Magaral, Pakkam and Pularmbakkam villages
 - ✓ In all these areas, currently BSNL offers only 2G services
 - ✓ BSNL is planning to extend the 4G services to about 200 places in other rural areas of Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Tiruthani and Chengalpet in a month's time
 - ✓ In Chennai circle of BSNL, which includes Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur districts as well, the telecom operator has a 11% subscriber base among mobile phone users

- **Integral Coach Factory (ICF), the rail coach manufacturing factory at Chennai - has become the single largest rail coach manufacturer in the world surpassing top Chinese manufacturers**



- ✓ ICF has set a target to manufacture 3,200 coaches in this financial year 2019
- ✓ It had crossed 300 coaches per month mark twice in the last fiscal and stayed bigger than the remaining five coach factory's of India put together.
- ✓ The ultra-modern, engine-less 'Train 18' (renamed as Vande Bharat Express) with self-propelled coaches like metro was indigenously developed at Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai

- ✓ Indian Railways has placed an order for 44 more Vande Bharat Express train sets with ICF within the next three production years in phases
- ✓ Integral Coach Factory in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, was established in 1952 and is owned and operated by the Indian Railways.

STATES

- **Nizamabad district in Telangana - to vote through Ballot Papers in the Lok Sabha elections 2019**
 - ✓ There are 185 candidates in contention at this Lok Sabha seat
 - ✓ As one EVM can accommodate only 16 candidates and a maximum of 4 EVMs can be used in one polling booth, EVM's cannot be used in this district
 - ✓ Of the 185 candidates in contention 178 are farmers who cultivate Turmeric and Jowar
 - ✓ They are contesting polls to highlight their demand for the remunerative price for their crops
 - ✓ K Kavitha who is also the daughter of Telangana Chief Minister, Chandrashekhar Rao is the sitting MP from the Nizamabad seat
- **For the first time in the country, Uttar Pradesh - is taking a census of Otters in its protected areas**



- ✓ The census has begun in the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR).
- ✓ Otters live on fish and spend much of its time in or close to water bodies
- ✓ A growing or healthy population of otters means the water bodies are pollution-free
- ✓ India is home to 3 of the 13 species of otters found worldwide, namely Eurasian Otter (*Lutra lutra*), Smooth-coated Otter (*Lutra perspicillata*) and Small-clawed Otter (*Aonyx cinereus*)

- **West Bengal - has the maximum number of first-time voters, around 20.1 lakh, in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, as per the Election commission**
- ✓ WB is followed by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, with around 16.7 lakh and 13.6 lakh first-time voters, respectively.
- ✓ The number of people eligible to vote has reportedly increased by 8.4 crore as compared to 2014 General Elections.
- ✓ Over 1.5 crore voters are in the age group of 18-19 years, constituting 1.66% of the total electors

NATIONAL

- **Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) - has launched smart garbage bins in the country**
- ✓ These bins integrates technology for smart waste management, providing for better cleaning and lower human intervention
- ✓ The IOT (Internet of Things) enabled 'smart garbage bins' will send signals to the garbage collection vehicle about the 'fill-up' position of the bin
- ✓ These smart garbage bins, made up of SAIL SALEM stainless steel, will be installed in underground Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) pits at the Smart Garbage Station
- ✓ There will be separate bins for recyclable and non-recyclable wastes
- ✓ Initially, these Smart Garbage Bins will be placed at one each at Kamala Nagar in North and Bhikaji Cama Place in South Delhi.
- **A shark-themed plane, an Embraer E190-E2 commercial jet - landed at the Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport for the first time**



- ✓ Last year, the shark-themed aircraft landed at Lhasa's Gonggar Airport (Tibet), one of the world's highest airport at 11,713 feet

- **Google - unveiled its on-demand video-game streaming service 'Stadia' at the 2019 Game Developers Conference in San Francisco, California.**



- ✓ The service, built for Chrome, Android and TVs, will initially be launched this year in the US, Canada, the UK and Europe.
- ✓ Stadia's 'Crowd Play' feature will let people, watching a YouTube live stream, to actually join the streamer's game
- **Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar, Gujarat – ties up with National Mental Health Program, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Gujarat - for developing a mobile application called as 'Conquer Exam, Be a Warrior'**
 - ✓ The app aims to reduce the exam pressure for the student.
 - ✓ It intends to create awareness as well as help students to analyze their weak point and overcome from the exam pressure by providing assistance
- **Microsoft – ties up with The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) - to launch 'Project Sangam' in the country**
 - ✓ The initiative is developed to accelerate Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) in India.
 - ✓ It was designed to train municipal functionaries of state sanitation missions and city managers across India on its Swachh Bharat 'e-Learning' Portal with an aim to equip, assess, measure and accredit the training of these officers
 - ✓ Through this cloud-hosted, mobile-first community learning platform, MoHUA intends to train more than 110,000 municipal functionaries on best sanitation practices across 4,000 plus cities in India



- ✓ It also provided video-based learning for users who have low-bandwidth supporting offline learning for the Swachh Bharat e-Learning Portal users.
- ✓ In the phase two of this Swachh Bharat e-learning mission, the ministry will now roll out its Citizen Training program with an aim to train the citizens of India on subjects like public toilets hygiene, waste management, household hygiene and sanitation practices
- ✓ Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) is a nation-wide campaign in India that aims to clean up the streets, roads and infrastructure of India's cities, towns, and rural areas

INTERNATIONAL

- **China's Shanghai - has become the world's first district to start using both 5G coverage and broadband gigabit network**



- ✓ 5G is the next generation of cellular technology with download speeds that are 10 to 100 times faster than 4G LTE networks
- ✓ China's state-run carrier China Mobiles officially started the service in Shanghai's Hongkou on March 30
- ✓ During a launch ceremony, Shanghai vice-mayor Wu Qing made the network's first 5G video call on an Huawei Mate X, the world's first 5G foldable, AI phone
- ✓ The 5G stations are being installed in different parts of China, including Tibet, as part of Huawei's plans to lead the 5G trials

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **16th meeting of the U.S.-India Counter terrorism Joint Working Group and the Second session of the U.S.-India Designations Dialogue - held in Washington, DC, United States**



- ✓ In this meet both the countries have decided to put efforts to address world's most pressing counter-terrorism challenges, countering the financing and operations of terrorist organizations

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Isro – to launch PSLV-C45 from the second launch pad at Sriharikota on April 1**
- ✓ It will be the first time that Isro scientists will restart the final and the fourth stage of the rocket four times to help it reach three different orbits in a single mission
- ✓ Isro will use 'multiple-burn technology' to shut down and restart the engines multiple times within a short period of time to propel the payload through the pre-fixed orbits
- ✓ Isro has already demonstrated multiple-burn technology in at least four previous PSLV launches – PSLVC35 in September 2016, PSLVC34 in June 2016, PSLV-C29 in December 2015 and PSLV-C40 in January 2018.
- ✓ PSLV-C45, which is the 47th flight of PSLV, will place EMISAT, an electronic intelligence satellite by DRDO, and 28 international customer satellites onto their orbits

- ✓ After placing the satellites, the fourth stage or PS4 changes from an elliptical orbit to a circular orbit, carrying three different scientific instruments, made by three labs, to conduct experiments for the next six months.
- ✓ To achieve this entire sequence during the launch, PS4 will be restarted four times
- ✓ Satellite launch procedure
 - ✓ After the fourth stage engine is cut off for the first time, EMISAT satellite will be placed into a 753 km orbit at about 17 minutes after lift-off.
 - ✓ In the next nearly 43 minutes, the fourth-stage liquid engines will be restarted and cut off twice, as the rocket manoeuvres to a lower 504 km orbit to begin placing the 28 foreign satellites in a planned sequence into the orbit
 - ✓ In the next one hour, stage four thrusters will be fired and cut off twice, again, as the rocket manoeuvres from a 520 km orbit to a circular orbit of 485 km.
 - ✓ At this orbital platform, 3 scientific instruments developed by three laboratories will be placed to collect data and relay it to the ground station for the next six months
 - ✓ This stage will be powered by solar panels to stay alive
- ✓ 3 Payloads
 - ✓ Automatic identification system (AIS) - developed by Isro - for maritime applications
 - ✓ Automatic packet repeating system (APRS) - developed by AMSAT or Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation, India - to assist amateur radio operators
 - ✓ Advanced Retarding Potential Analyser for Ionospheric Studies - developed by Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) - for atmospheric studies
- ✓ This is the second time that Isro is converting PS4 as a satellite-like orbital platform.
- ✓ On January 24, PSLVC44 carried a student-developed 'kalamsat' satellite in its PS4 which was alive with the help of batteries for several hours helping the payload conduct microgravity tests.
- **Surgeons in Baltimore, United States – have performed the world's first kidney transplant from a living donor with HIV**
- ✓ HIV-positive Nina Martinez of Atlanta travelled to Johns Hopkins University to donate a kidney to an HIV-positive stranger
- ✓ Dr. Dorry Segev, a Hopkins surgeon was instrumental in pushing for the HIV Organ Policy Equity, or HOPE, Act that lifted a 25-year US ban on transplants between people with HIV

- **Tesla - has developed its 'largest power storage system in Asia' at Osaka train station in Japan**



- ✓ It will provide emergency backup power to trains in Japan apart from reducing the energy demand
- ✓ It was launched in partnership with Kintetsu, a railway operator in Japan's Osaka.
- ✓ It has 42 powerpack units, strong enough to move the train for up to 30 minutes, in case of any power failure
- ✓ This 7 megawatt-hours (MWh) system is also the fourth largest in the greater Asia-Pacific (APAC) region.

DEFENCE

- **The second 'Joint logistics node' of tri-services - has become operational at naval base in Mumbai, Maharashtra on March 29**

- ✓ It provides logistical support to all the defence services apart from enhancing interoperability and improving maintenance of military assets
- ✓ In 2008, the first joint logistics node consisting of the three services was set up at Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ✓ The third joint logistics node will only be among Army and Air Force and is likely to set up at Guwahati, Assam
- ✓ So far, the logistics and maintenance of three forces had been done separately, but now they have been brought under one common framework at Mumbai, where Navy is the lead force.

- **INS Vijit – becomes the first Indian coast guard ship to visit the Indonesian port of Sabang**



- ✓ Commanded by Comdt T Ashish, the ship includes a team of 15 officers and 90 men
- ✓ The visit aims to strengthen cooperation in the area of maritime security and safety between both the countries
- ✓ Indian naval ship INS Sumitra visited Sabang in July last year, highlighting the maritime proximity between India and Indonesia

- ✓ ICGS Vijit is the 2nd in the series of 90 meter Offshore Patrol Vessels and was commissioned at Goa on 11 Dec 2010
- ✓ 'Vijit' meaning "Winner or Victorious" is the testimony of India's shipbuilding capabilities to safeguard country's maritime interests
- **Sary-Arka-Antiterror 2019, the first joint anti-terror military exercise of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to be held at Sary Arka, Kazakhstan**
- ✓ This was announced at the during the 34th meeting of the RATS council held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- ✓ Chaired by Russia, the meeting also declared plans to hold the first stage of the joint border operation "Solidarity 2019-2021"
- ✓ The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a permanent organ which serves to promote cooperation of member states against three evils of terrorism, separatism, and extremism
- ✓ It was established in 2004 with its headquarters in Tashkent
- ✓ The next meeting of the Council of the RATS SCO is scheduled to be held in Russia in September 2019
- ✓ SCO, a permanent intergovernmental international organization, was created in 1996 of which the China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan were members
- ✓ Later Uzbekistan was admitted to the grouping
- ✓ In 2001 the declaration of SCO was signed
- ✓ In 2015 India and Pakistan were admitted to the grouping and they joined the it officially in 2017

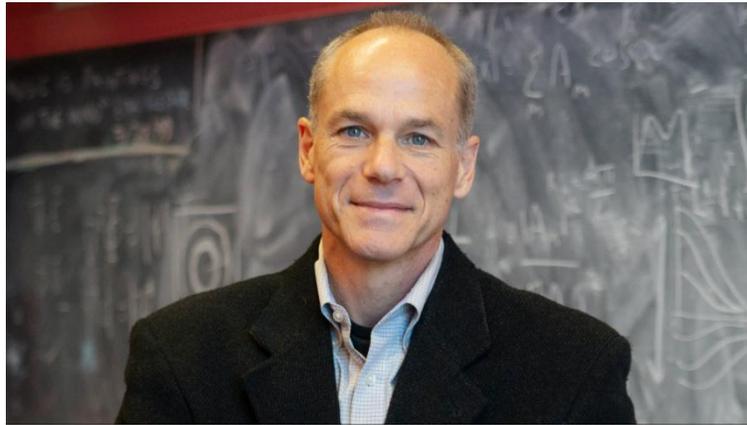
AWARDS

- **Dr. Rajendra Kumar Joshi, the founder and chairman of the RUJ Group - has been conferred with the prestigious 'Pravasi Bharatiya Samman' Award**



- ✓ He was awarded by the Embassy of India in Switzerland, on behalf of the President of India with a commendation letter and a medal
- ✓ The award honours his magnificent achievements in the field of science, education and medicine
- ✓ The award is the highest honour for the NRIs, given by the President of India, for their contributions in bringing glory to India

- **Brazilian physicist and astronomer Marcelo Gleiser (60) - was awarded 2019 Templeton Prize for his work on blending science and spirituality**



- ✓ It makes him first Latin American to win this award of \$1.4 million prize money
 - ✓ Mother Teresa was the first winner of the award in 1973
 - ✓ Some of its other recipients include Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (1975), Dalai Lama (2012) etc
 - ✓ In 2018, it was awarded to King Abdullah II of Jordan
 - ✓ Templeton Prize is awarded annually on person for outstanding his/her contributions in affirming life's spiritual dimension, whether through insight, discovery, or practical works
- **Indian Writer Raghu Karnad - has won the Windham-Campbell Prize \$165,000 under the non-fiction category for his debut book, The Farthest Field: An Indian Story Of The Second World War**



- ✓ He becomes the second Indian to receive the award after Jerry Pinto, who had won the award for his novel, Em And The Big Hoom in 2016

- ✓ Karnad is one of the eight winners chosen across four categories: fiction, non-fiction, drama, and poetry.
 - ✓ The Windham-Campbell Prize is administered by the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University in the US
 - ✓ The award was constituted with the generous gift from writer Donald Windham in memory of his partner Sandy Campbell
 - ✓ It was established in 2013
- **Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh – gave away the 2nd edition of *BusinessLine* Changemaker Awards, instituted by The Hindu ‘BusinessLine’, leading business daily in New Delhi**



- ✓ The award winners in different categories –
 - ✓ Changemaker — Social Transformation – Winner - Dr Achutya Samanta, Founder, KIIT and KISS (The Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences)
 - ✓ Changemaker — Digital Transformation – Winner - eNAM (Electronic National Agriculture Market)
 - ✓ Young Changemaker – Winner - Anju Verma (promoting the education of underprivileged children) and Kush and Arjun Pandey (developers of ScoutMe app for tapping football talent)
 - ✓ Iconic Changemaker – Winner - Bezwada Wilson, Founder, National convenor of Safai Karmachari Andolan for eradication of inhuman and undignified practice of Manual scavenging.
 - ✓ Changemaker of the Year – Winner - Union Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley for successful implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and Petitioners against Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which criminalised homosexuality.
- ✓ The awards were instituted last year by *BusinessLine* to commemorate its 25th year of publication

SPORTS

- **World No. 5, India – was stunned by 17th ranked Korea in the final of Azlan Shah Cup hockey held in Ipoh, Malaysia**



- ✓ Korea defeated five-time champion, India by 4-2 in the penalty shootout to lift the Cup on March 30
- ✓ Both the sides have ended at 1-1 after regulation time in the summit clash
- **Former hockey captain, Sardar Singh - appointed in Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Standing committee**



- ✓ A total of 13 Indian Olympic Association members have been named in various Standing Committees of the Olympic Council of Asia at its 38th General Assembly in Bangkok

- ✓ Singh has been elected in the athletes standing committee, while IOA secretary general Rajeev Mehta was named in the culture standing committee.
- ✓ Hockey India secretary general, Mohd. Mustaque Ahmad is in the media standing committee, while Athletics Federation of India president, Adille Sumariwala and Lalit Bhanot have been elected in the 'sports for environment and sports standing committees' respectively
- ✓ All the members have been elected for a four-year term from 2019 to 2023.
- **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) - decided to reinstate the Chess game to the Asian Games fold for the 2022 edition in Hangzhou**
- ✓ The OCA General Assembly met in Bangkok on March 3 and its president Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahad Al-Sabah officially confirmed the development to World Chess Federation (WCF) president, Arkady Dvorkovich
- ✓ Chess was a part of the Asian Games programme at the 2006 edition in Doha and 2010 in Guangzhou.
- ✓ India won two gold medals at Doha, and two bronze in the 2010 edition at Guangzhou.
- **ESPN World Fame 100 list**
- ✓ **Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo at the top spot, followed by former Basketball player Lebron James and FC Barcelona captain Lionel Messi at the 3rd place**
- ✓ Indian skipper, Virat Kohli, stands on the seventh position and is the only Indian athlete in the top 10 club, whereas Dhoni is placed on the 13th position

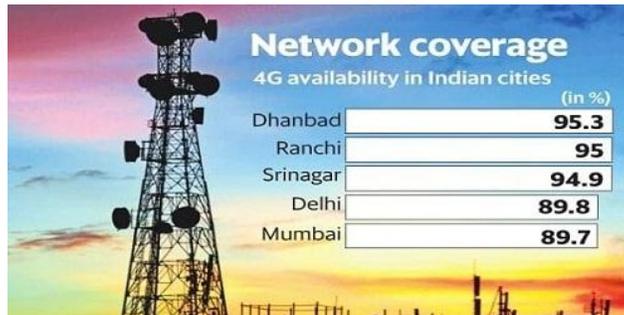


- ✓ There were only three women in the list- Serena Williams (17), Maria Sharapova (37) and Sania Mirza (93); making Sania Mirza the only Indian woman athlete to feature in the list.

RANKINGS

➤ 'OpenSignal's hottest city for 4G Availability' – A Report

- ✓ Top 5 Cities in the country in terms of highest 4G availability



➤ Mukesh Ambani - tops 'Forbes List of World's Richest Sports Team Owners'



- ✓ The chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), Mukesh Ambani tops with a net worth of around \$50 billion
- ✓ He bought the Indian Premier League (IPL) team Mumbai Indians for over \$100 million through RIL's 100% subsidiary IndiaWin Sports
- ✓ The team had won the IPL crown in 2013, 2015 and 2017.
- ✓ Former Microsoft CEO, Steve Ballmer who own the Los Angeles Clippers Basketball team placed at the second spot in the list
- ✓ Red Bull energy drink company founder Dietrich Mateschitz followed at number three spot
- ✓ He owns 'Red Bull Toro Rosso Honda', Formula One team 'Red Bull Racing' and MLS club 'New York Red Bulls'