

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAR 4, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami - launched the Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Programme in Chennai on March 4, 2020.



- ✓ It will be implemented with the financial support from the World Bank.
- ✓ For the Rs 2,857-crore project, the World Bank will provide Rs 1999.902 cr and the state the remaining Rs 857.101 crores.
- ✓ The result-oriented project aims to improve public hospitals across the state besides implementing changes in seven other areas, which includes prevention of non-communicable diseases, trauma care, mental health, maternal and child care
- ✓ This was the World Bank's first Program-for-Results (PforR) project in India and the first for the State.
- ✓ During the launching ceremony, the World Bank handed over the first instalment cheque of Rs14.77 crore to the TN health department in front of chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami on March 3
- ✓ The amount would be used by the state for improving quality of services in government hospitals, besides diagnosis and treatment of diabetes, hypertension and cancer.

- ✓ The receipt of the first instalment cheque was the result of six months of hard work by the health department to get National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) certification for 7 secondary care hospitals and 21 primary health care centres
 - ✓ For the next five years, every time the state achieves milestones, it will receive funds from the World Bank
 - ✓ Under the loan agreement signed in June 2019, Tamil Nadu and the World Bank agreed to achieve certain targets set over a period of five years
 - ✓ To bring down deaths due to accidents the state has agreed to create an Accident registry, which is already launched in Vellore Medical College as a Pilot project.
- **The Chief Justice of Madras High Court Amreshwar Pratap Sahi – constituted the first-ever all-women Full Bench (comprising three judges) to decide on a reference made to the High Court by a Division bench (comprising two judges).**
- ✓ The Full Bench consisting of Justices Pushpa Sathyanarayana, Anita Sumanth and P.T. Asha shall hold their first hearing together on March 4, 2020



- ✓ They will hear the reference made by the first Division Bench led by the Chief Justice himself sitting along with Justice Subramonium Prasad on March 2
- ✓ The all-women Full Bench would decide a crucial case of law — whether unaided private educational institutions in the State could be treated to be an ‘establishment’ under Section 1(5) of the Employees State Insurance Act of 1948 so that the provisions of the legislation could be made applicable to them.
- ✓ About a year ago, the Madras High Court had the distinction of having had the highest number of 11 women judges
- ✓ The High Court had already reached the distinction of having had an all-women Division Bench during the tenure of former Chief Justice Indira Banerjee

NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**– announced on March 3 that his accounts on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube will be handled by “women who inspire us” on Women’s Day on March 8
- ✓ The accounts will run by the selected women for a day, though there could be more number of women involved
- ✓ This is the first time the Prime Minister would be giving access to his social media accounts for such a campaign.
- ✓ Earlier, the Prime Minister announced in the social media with a tweet on March 2 that, “This Sunday, thinking of giving up my social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram & YouTube. Will keep you all posted.”
- ✓ Narendra Modi is one of the most-followed world leaders on social media with 53.3 million followers on Twitter, 44 million on Facebook and 35.2 million on Instagram.
- ✓ The Twitter handle of PMO has 32 million followers.
- ✓ The Government has planned a series of events to mark Women’s Day, including commemorating Women members of India’s Constituent Assembly, telecast of 14 women-oriented films on Doordarshan, a special programme by chef Sanjeev Kapoor, and a round-table on women empowerment.
- **On March 2, 2020, the HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' - introduced the Central Sanskrit Universities Bill, 2019 in Rajya Sabha.**



- ✓ It was already passed in the Lok Sabha in December 2019.
- ✓ The bill aims to convert deemed Sanskrit universities to central Sanskrit universities.
- ✓ The institutions that will be converted includes Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi
- ✓ The Universities will work towards promoting the knowledge of Sanskrit apart from training manpower in preservation of Sanskrit and other allied subjects.

INTERNATIONAL

- **China - has assumed the Presidency of the United Nations Security Council for March 2020**
- ✓ The presidency of the UN Security Council is rotated among its members every month according to the English alphabetical order.
- ✓ Vietnam held the Presidency in January 2020, followed by Belgium in February 2020.
- ✓ After China, the Presidency of the UNSC will go to Dominican Republic in April 2020.
- ✓ The UN Security Council is one of the United Nations' six main organs.
- ✓ It was formed in 1945 and held its first session on January 17, 1946
- ✓ The main responsibility of the UN Security Council is to ensure international peace and security
- ✓ The Security Council comprises 15 members- 5 permanent members and 10 non-permanent members elected for a period of 2 years.
- ✓ The five permanent members of the UNSC include the winning side of World War II- the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia (formerly a part of Soviet Union), France and China
- ✓ These permanent members of the council have the veto power
- ✓ India has previously served as a non-permanent member of the UNSC for seven terms, overall 14 years, with the most recent term during 2011-2012
- ✓ India's bid for the permanent membership has the backing of four of the five permanent members- the US, UK, Russia and France, except China

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Government of India - declared the National Chambal Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh an eco-sensitive zone on March 2, 2020.**



- ✓ This sanctuary is famous for freshwater Ganga dolphins and critically endangered crocodiles.
- ✓ It is also home to 180 species of migratory birds and 9 species of freshwater turtles.

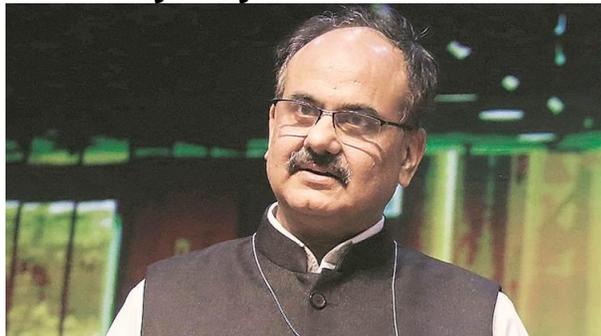
- ✓ National Chambal Sanctuary is located across the states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan
- ✓ The Sanctuary begins in the Vindhyan Ranges, extends along the Chambal river and ends in Yamuna river.
- ✓ This place is the home of Gharial (75% of critically endangered crocodile species)
- ✓ An eco-sensitive zone is a protected area that acts as a "shock absorber" against the environment degradation
- ✓ These zones are controlled by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

DEFENCE

- **The Indian Navy - postponed the 30-nation naval exercise, Milan 2020, over the fears of Covid-19 outbreak**
- ✓ It was scheduled to be held off the Visakhapatnam coast from March 18
- ✓ The decision to postpone the 10-day event comes a day after authorities confirmed a Covid-19 positive case in Hyderabad
- ✓ Apart from the infected tech employee, 7 others from Andhra Pradesh, who travelled with the infected person from Bangalore to Hyderabad in a bus were also quarantined.
- ✓ Nearly 4,000 naval personnel from the US, the UK, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Japan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, among others, were to join the event.
- ✓ The biennial event was conducted under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command since 1995
- ✓ However, Milan 2020 was scheduled to be held along the Indian coast at Visakhapatnam, for the very first time

APPOINTMENTS

- **Revenue secretary, Ajay Bhushan P Pandey- was appointed as the new finance secretary for nearly an year term on March 3**



- ✓ With the appointment, he will remain the in-charge of all budget-related work.
- ✓ The 1984-batch officer of Maharashtra cadre is the senior most secretary in the ministry.

- ✓ The vacancy was necessitated following the superannuation of Rajiv Kumar, Financial Services Secretary, last month
- ✓ Kumar, a 1984 batch IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre, was designated as the Finance Secretary in July last year.
- ✓ Pandey has introduced several innovative features during his tenure, which include faceless e-assessment, faceless e-appeal, document identification number (DIN) system, pre-filled income tax returns, quick refunds on ITRs, and the sharp reduction in corporate tax rate
- ✓ The senior-most bureaucrat among all secretaries in the Finance Ministry is designated as the Finance Secretary.

SPORTS

- **The Cricket board of India, BCCI - has announced the cancellation of the opening ceremony of the IPL from this season onwards.**
- ✓ It had sent out a circular to all the stakeholders of the IPL, including the eight franchises, on this behalf.
- ✓ The circular also added that the play-off standing fund is being reduced for the present season.

HOW IPL'S VALUATION HAS GROWN		FRANCHISE VALUATION	
2014	\$3.2bn	MI	₹809cr
2015	\$3.5bn	CSK	₹732cr
2016	\$4.2bn	KKR	₹629cr
2017	\$5.3bn	RCB	₹595cr
2018	\$6.3bn	SRH	₹483cr
2019	\$6.8bn	DC	₹374cr
		KXIP	₹358cr
		RR	₹271cr

(brand value Rs 47,500 cr as of 2019)

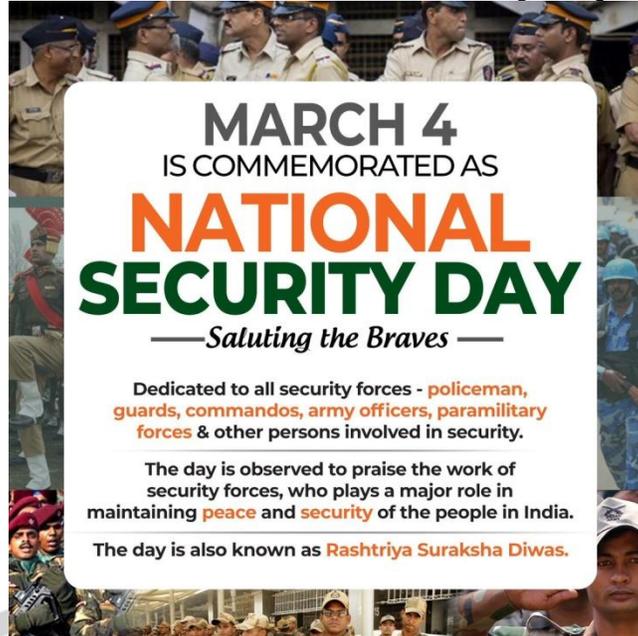
Source: IPL brand valuation report Duff & Phelps (Sep 2019)

- ✓ The board has proposed a close to 50% reduction in the playoff standing fund for 2020.
- ✓ As per the BCCI circular, the winner of the IPL 2020 final will get Rs 10 crore, the runner-up (loser of the final) will receive Rs 6.25 crore, and the third and the fourth placed teams (loser of qualifier 2 playoff match & loser of the eliminator play-off match respectively) will receive Rs. 4.375 crore each.
- ✓ The winner of the 2019 edition of IPL had earned Rs 20 crore as prize money and as per the IPL norms, the purse would get divided equally between the winning franchise and the players.
- ✓ The runner-up received Rs 12.5 crore while the sides finishing third and fourth received Rs 8.75 cr.
- ✓ As per the BCCI's venue agreement, franchises would have to pay their respective state associations Rs 30 lakh to host each IPL match.

- ✓ That fee has now been hiked by Rs 20 lakh and franchises will now have to pay Rs 50 lakh per game to the state association.

NATIONAL DAY

- **Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas or National Security Day – March 4**

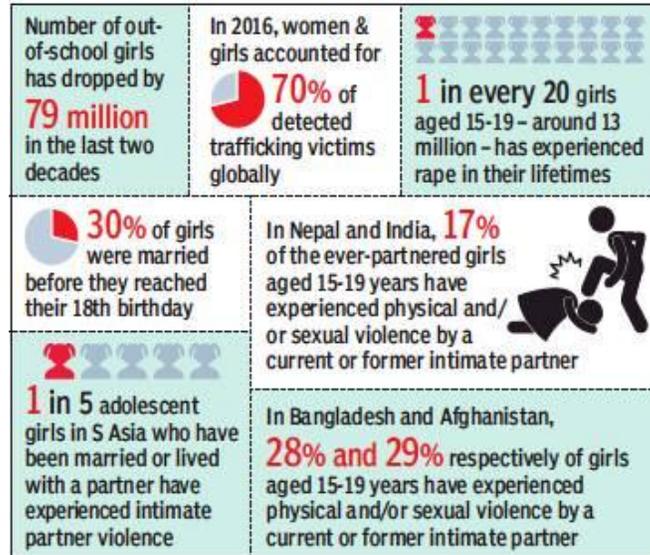


- ✓ The Day is celebrated to honour the work of Indian Security Forces, which includes every security personnel, policemen, para military forces, guards, commandos, army officers, etc.
- ✓ Above all, the day pays homage to the security jawans who lost their lives for the country
- ✓ On this Day in the year 1998, the National Security Council was established by the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- ✓ The Security Council looks into the economic, political and strategic security concerns of India

REPORT

- **UNICEF, Plan International and UN Women – releases a new report titled “A New Era for Girls: Taking stock on 25 years of progress”, ahead of the 64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women on March 4.**
- ✓ The report reaffirms that, despite gains in education, the world is still a violent, highly discriminatory place for girls
- ✓ The report underlined disturbing trends, that despite the number of out-of-school girls having dropped by 79 million in the last two decades, one in every 20 girls aged 15-19 – around 13 million – has experienced rape in their lifetime.

25 YEARS OF UNEVEN PROGRESS



- ✓ In south Asia, as per the report, the practice of child marriage has almost halved in the last 25 years, 30% of girls are still married before reaching their 18th birthday.
- ✓ The report also found prevalence of 'overweight' among girls aged 5-19 had nearly doubled touching 155 million from 75 million in 1995 due to negative trends for girls in nutrition
- ✓ It had also noted that suicide is currently the second leading cause of death among adolescent girls aged 15-19 after
- ✓ As per the report, around one in five adolescent girls aged 15 and 19 in South Asia who have been married or lived with a partner, have experienced intimate partner violence.

