

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 5, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Tamil Nadu - scored double-digit growth rates in collection of commercial taxes and registration during 2018-19**

Road to recovery | T.N. recorded double-digit growth in the collection of commercial taxes and registrations during 2018-19

Registration: Revenue collection and documents registered					Trends in collection of commercial taxes		
Year	Revenue (in ₹ cr)	Growth rate (%)	No. of documents	Growth rate (%)	Year	Revenue (in ₹ cr)	Growth rate (%)
2014-15	8,279.64	2.78	25,73,931	-2.99	2014-15	60,314.61	6.09
2015-16	8,562.38	3.41	25,28,561	-1.76	2015-16	61,709.58	2.31
2016-17	7,007.74	-18.16	20,27,916	-19.8	2016-17	67,576.77	9.51
2017-18	9,121.53	30.16	22,10,595	9.01	2017-18	73,148.28	8.24
2018-19	11,071.03	21.37	25,73,478	16.42	2018-19	89,578.26	22.46

Break-up of commercial tax revenue since GST* (₹ in crore)							
Year	VAT	Non-VAT	SGST	IGST settlement	Advance IGST settlement	GST compensation	Total
2017-18	11,462.18	36,147.18	16,199.93	7,402.99	1,304	632	73,148.28
2018-19	593.98	42,414.96	24,476.56	12,425.94	4,842.82	4824	89,578.26

* Goods & Services Tax was launched on July 1, 2017; VAT: Value Added Tax; SGST: State GST; IGST: Integrated GST

- ✓ The growth rate in the gross collections of commercial taxes was 22.46% and in the case of registration of documents, 21.37%
- ✓ With this, the State is showing stable signs of economic recovery after demonetisation in November 2016 and introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in July 2017
- ✓ The officials attribute increase in prices of petroleum products, covered under the categories of non-VAT and non-GST items, to the growth in the gross collections of commercial taxes
- ✓ The Centre has also approved the payment of substantial amounts under the two components, GST compensation and Integrated GST settlement, for 2018-19, an arrangement that will continue for another three years
- ✓ However, if the GST compensation, IGST settlement and similar other aspects are removed from the gross collections, the effective growth rate in GST collections of the State comes to just 8%
- ✓ The compensation scheme has been worked out by assuming an annual growth rate of 14% in revenue collections and keeping 2015-16 as the base year

- ✓ With regard to registration of land documents, the State almost touched what it did in 2014-15.
- ✓ It had registered 25.73 lakh documents on both years and the figure for 2018-19 was short by 453, compared to 2014-15
- ✓ The continuance of the regularisation scheme of unapproved plots & layouts and 33% reduction in guideline value along with increase in the registration fee from 1% to 4% had contributed to the growth rate.

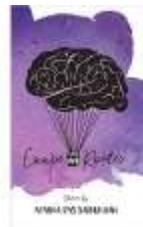
◆ **The Tamil Nadu Forest Department - to start the much-awaited 'glass bottom boats eco-tourism' in the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park during June first week**



- ✓ It had demarked the eco-tourism zone covering four of the 21 islands in the Mandapam sub-group, by installing buoys by May end
- ✓ Indian Institute of Technology Madras has been awarded the contract for installing the buoys
- ✓ The 28 buoys would be installed around Kurusadai, Poomarichan, Pullivasal and Shingle, at a distance of 500 meters between two buoys
- ✓ The department bought a passenger boat costing ₹12 lakh and two glass bottom boats, each costing ₹10 lakh.
- ✓ It has also proposed to allow only around 100 tourists a day from 6 am to 1 pm on first-come-first-served basis, so that the biosphere reserve is not disturbed

◆ **Senthilbalan Manickam, an orthopaedic surgeon based out of Sultanate of Oman – won the Amazon's 'KDP Pen to Publish' Contest for "Parangi malai rayil nilaiyam" (book two of his detective Karthick Aldo series) in the long form category in Tamil language**

- ✓ Vignesh C Selvaraj's work on Isai's poetry won the short form award in Tamil.
- ✓ In Hindi, the long and short-form awards also went to women -- Nandini Kumar for "Neeli", and Anurakti Dev Singla for "Aatman" respectively
- ✓ In English, the Hyderabad-based Aparna Das Sadhukan won in the long form category for her book, "Escape Routes"
- ✓ The award in the short form category in English was bagged by Deepika Priya from Bangalore for "Being a Mother: It's a Different Hormone Altogether"



- ✓ It was organised by Amazon India as part of their Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP) platform
- ✓ Launched in 2017, the annual contest awards writers in long form and short form categories in English, Hindi and Tamil
- ✓ To encourage authors of regional languages, this year's edition was open to entries in Tamil for the first time
- ✓ The books were shortlisted by a jury comprising of best-selling authors like Ashwin Sanghi, Rashmi Bansal, Sundari Venkatraman, Divya Prakash Dubey and Era Murugan
- ✓ The winning authors for long-form writing received a prize of Rs 5 lakh each, and those for short form received Rs 50,000 each

STATES

◆ **Mangaluru City Police - launched an all-women police patrol unit 'Rani Abbakka Force'**



- ✓ The force will patrol the malls, beaches, educational institutions, places of religious importance and the public transport system and handle issues related to eve-teasing and chain-snatching, among others.
- ✓ Queen Abbakka of Ullal near Mangaluru fought the Portuguese in the 16th century

NATIONAL

◆ **Five Indian satellites Insat-3D, Insat-3DR, Scatsat-1, Oceansat-2 and Megha Tropiques - were used to study the intensity, location and cloud cover around Fani, as per India Meteorological Department (IMD)**

- ✓ With IMD accurately forecasting the exact landfall location, officials in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal were able to evacuate more than 11.5 lakh people to safety.
- ✓ One of the main payloads from the satellites used to mark the eye of Fani was the scatterometer onboard Scatsat-1, a polar orbiting miniature satellite
- ✓ Oceansat-2 was sending data about ocean surface, wind speed and wind direction
- ✓ Images from both Insat-3D and Insat-3DR helped meteorologists measure the temperature and moisture levels at different heights, humidity, sea surface temperature, precipitation and cloud cover — key to marking the location and the intensity of cyclones

- ✓ Data from NOAA satellites belonging to the US, Himawari satellites from Japan, FengYun satellites from China and Meteosat from Europe are also used

◆ **The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) – has praised the measures taken by Odisha Government to reduce the loss of human lives during Cyclone ‘Fani’**

- ✓ It has said the government’s “effective” evacuation had “saved many lives”
- ✓ India’s zero casualty approach to managing extreme weather events is a major contribution to the implementation of the Sendai Framework, as per Mami Mizutori, head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)
- ✓ The Sendai Framework is a voluntary and non-binding agreement which recognises that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders, including the local government
- ✓ The operation involved 45,000 volunteers and 2,000 emergency workers.

◆ **The Union Health Ministry - decided to postpone the NEET examination in Odisha, which was scheduled for May 5**

- ✓ The move follows a request from the State government due to the ongoing rescue and relief operations in the aftermath of Cyclone Fani
- ✓ The decision was conveyed to the National Crisis Management Committee that reviewed the ongoing operations in the cyclone-hit areas of Odisha, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.

◆ **The Department of Space (DoS) - registered its second commercial entity, NewSpace India Ltd. (NSIL), in Bengaluru**

- ✓ DoS already has a commercial venture, Antrix Corporation Limited, which was set up in September 1992 to market the products and services of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- ✓ NSIL has an authorised capital of ₹10 crore and a paid up capital of ₹1 crore.
- ✓ Two senior officials of Antrix — Executive Director D.R. Suma and Director (launch services) D. Radhakrishnan — were moved to NewSpace in March to help out the new venture

◆ **LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL) - launches a skilling centre named “UDYAM” in Bangalore, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**

- ✓ The centre will provide skill development training to marginalized youth in the sectors of BFSI, Retail and IT/ITES
- ✓ Lok Bharti Education Society is the implementing partner of the centre



- ✓ Under UDYAM, Centres of Excellence (COE) has been started in Delhi and Bangalore and later on be expanded to other cities

◆ **BSNL – launches ‘Bharat Fibre’ to become the first operator to start optical fibre-based high-speed broadband service in Pulwama**

- ✓ The ‘Bharat Fibre’ service was launched on a revenue sharing basis in a business collaborative model with the local channel partner of Pulwama area
- ✓ BSNL provides the FTTH (fibre-to-the-home) service with a monthly charge of Rs 777-16,999 in around 160 telecom districts with a minimum speed of 2 megabit-per-second (Mbps)

COURT VERDICT

◆ **The Madras High Court - has refused to interfere with a decision taken by the State government to stop the practice of conducting post-mortems during night hours even in motor accident cases**

- ✓ Justices S. Manikumar and Subramonium Prasad have cited the difficulties faced by forensic experts in making accurate observations in the absence of sunlight
- ✓ A Government Order issued on June 13, 1996 permitted conduct of post-mortem during night hours in respect of motor accident cases alone.
- ✓ However, the permission was withdrawn by another GO on May 2, 2013 on the reason of non-availability of sunlight as per the recommendations of an eight-member expert committee constituted in 2010 under the chairmanship of the then Director of Medical Education
- ✓ The most crucial point highlighted by the committee was that it would be difficult to spot minor bruises under artificial light by the Forensic experts

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

◆ **Iraq - remains India’s top crude oil supplier for second year in a row**

- ✓ It is followed by Saudi Arabia, Iran, UAE and Venezuela
- ✓ India imported 207.3 MT (Metric Tons) of crude oil in 2018-19, down from 220.4 MT in 2017-18.
- ✓ India is world’s third largest importer of crude oil (7% of total crude oil imports) after China (world’s largest importer with 20.2% of total crude oil imports) and USA (13.8%)

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

◆ **The 16th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue’s (ACD) - was held in Doha, Qatar**



- ✓ The Indian delegation was led by Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd), Minister of State for External Affairs
- ✓ By putting more stress on the theme “Partners in Progress”, the minister focused on India’s desire to work collaboratively with all ACD Member States, in agreement with the Indian Government’s approach of “Collective Efforts, Inclusive Growth”
- ✓ The ACD is an inter-governmental organization founded on 18th June, 2002 with 34 member countries
- ✓ The ACD’s 1st meeting was held in Thailand in 2002 in which 18 Asian founding countries participated
- ✓ Qatar had earlier hosted the 5th meeting in 2006

PERSONALITIES

- ◆ **King Maha Vajiralongkorn - was crowned officially as the King of Thailand, after two years of rule**



- ✓ The public was granted a rare window into the halls of Thai royalty as the three-day, \$31 million coronation began in Thailand
- ✓ For most Thais, it is the first time they have witnessed a coronation — the last was on May 5, 1950 for the King’s beloved father Bhumibol Adulyadej.
- ✓ King Vajiralongkorn is the 10th monarch of the Chakri dynasty, which has reigned over the kingdom since 1782.
- ✓ Chakri dynasty rulers are traditionally called as ‘Rama’ and King Maha Vajiralongkorn is the addressed as ‘Rama X’
- ✓ He ascended the throne over two years ago following the death of his father

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ **Indian Space Research Organization (Isro) - is planning to send a probe to study the sun, Aditya-L1, early in 2020**
- ✓ It will be sent to observe the solar corona, the outer layers of the Sun, with a temperature of more than a million degree Kelvin

- ✓ The satellite would be in a halo orbit around the L1 (Lagrangian point 1) of the Sun-Earth system, which is 1.5 million kms from the Earth
- ✓ The advantage of being in L1 is that the satellite can continuously view the Sun without any occultation or eclipses
- ✓ Initially, Aditya-1 mission was designed as a 400kg class satellite carrying one payload, the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC), to be launched at 800 km orbit from the earth

◆ **The US Food and Drug Administration - has approved the first vaccine for dengue, Dengvaxia**

- ✓ Sanofi has been selling Dengvaxia overseas since 2015, before Philippines stopped its use and cancelled Sanofi's licence in 2017
- ✓ On May 1, the FDA limited its approval to people aged 9 to 16 who live in areas where dengue is endemic

◆ **Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi - have successfully 3D bio printed human skin models**



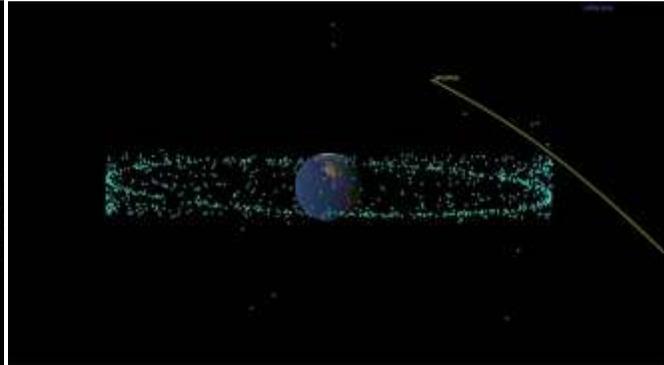
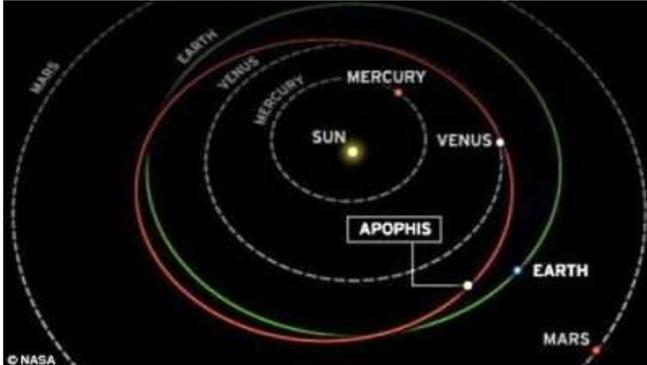
- ✓ The bioprinted skin produced in the lab by the team is already being used by ITC Ltd, which is funding the experiments
- ✓ The bioprinted skin also retained the original dimension without any shrinkage for up to three weeks
- ✓ The bioprinted skin model will have wide applications in testing cosmetics, replacing the testing on animals
- ✓ It can also be used for testing dermatology drugs on human skin

◆ **Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur - have identified and characterised a novel small protein molecule that can effectively control inflammation leading to better treatment outcomes**



- ✓ The work was done in collaboration with the University of Queensland.
- ✓ It is desirable to reduce the amount of a pro-inflammatory cytokine, interleukin-6 (IL-6), being released to overcome the inflammatory symptoms
- ✓ The small protein molecule identified by IIT Kanpur researchers binds to the C5aR1 receptor found on neutrophils and also reduces the amount of IL-6 being released

- ◆ **99942 Apophis, a giant asteroid of 340m width – will fly past earth on April 13, 2029 like a point of light or a moving star without causing any harm**



- ✓ It will fly above the earth's surface at 30,500 km
- ✓ It will first become visible with a naked eye in the night sky over the Southern Hemisphere from the east coast to the west coast of Australia
- ✓ In 2004, astronomers at the Kitt Peak National Observatory based in Arizona discovered Apophis and claimed about the chance of 2.7% that asteroid may impact Earth in 2029
- ✓ However, further observation ruled out that chance but Apophis still has a small chance of impacting Earth which is less than 1 in 10000 – but many decades from now
- ✓ 99942 Apophis has a mass of 26.99 billion kg and has an orbital period of 324 days

DEFENCE

- ◆ **Ministry of Defence - has approved Indian Navy's proposal to acquire 10 Kamov-31 military helicopters from Russia**



- ✓ The deal is expected to strengthen Indian Navy's capability against aerial threats to its aircraft carriers and large warships, including INS Vikrant and Grigorovich-class frigates
- ✓ The deal is expected to cost Rs 3,600 crore to the Government
- ✓ Kamov-31 are Airborne Early Warning and Control helicopters based on Ka-27 (Ka-28) design
- ✓ They are manufactured by 'JSC Kamov' (a Russian rotorcraft manufacturing company) in 1987 for Soviet Navy
- ✓ They are currently in service in the navies of Russia, China and India

ECONOMY

◆ **The Netherlands - is now the third largest foreign direct investor (FDI) in India.**

- ✓ It had invested around \$2.67 billion across sectors in India during 2017-18
- ✓ The Netherlands is also the second largest destination for foreign investment by Indian companies, after Singapore, with investments worth \$12.8 billion in 2017
- ✓ Mauritius, Singapore, Japan and US are the other largest sources of FDI in the country

◆ **Huawei, Chinese electronics giant - has surpassed Apple to become the No. 2 smartphone vendor worldwide**

- ✓ Apple holds 11.7% of the worldwide market share as of the first quarter of 2019, while Huawei now claims 19%
- ✓ South Korean consumer electronics giant Samsung continues to top the list with 20.9% market share
- ✓ Huawei was the only smartphone maker in the top three that saw an increase in shipments in the first quarter of 2019
- ✓ Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi sits on the fourth position in the list, while the fifth position is captured by another Chinese smartphone maker – Oppo

APPOINTMENTS

◆ **Justice M Venugopal of the Madras high court - has been appointed as judicial member of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for a three-year term or till he attains 65 years**



- ✓ He has been appointed along with 13 other judicial members and 18 technical members for the tribunal.
- ✓ Justice Venugopal entered the TN judicial service in 1989 as a sub-judge and was made a high court judge in 2007.
- ✓ Justice Venugopal is due to retire on May 7, 2019

◆ **Dr. Krishnamurthy Subramanian, the Chief Economic Advisor to the Central Government – has been appointed as twelfth (12) member of Advisory Council of Fifteenth (15th) Finance Commission**



- ✓ The Advisor Council has noted economists like Surjit Bhalla, Arvind Virmani, Indira Rajaraman and M Govinda Rao as its members
- ✓ The Finance Commission is constituted under article 280 of Constitution by President of India
- ✓ It gives recommendations on distribution of tax revenues between Union and States and amongst states themselves
- ✓ It is appointed for a period of five years
- ✓ It comprises of five members including one chairman and four other members
- ✓ The first Finance Commission was constituted on 6th April, 1952 under the chairmanship of K C Neogy
- ✓ The 15th Finance Commission was headed by N K Singh
- ✓ Ajay Narayan Jha, Ashok Lahiri and Anoop Singh are its other full-time members and Ramesh Chand is a part-time member
- ✓ It was constituted in November 2017 for a period of 5 years from 1 April 2020- 31 March 2025

◆ **Jayshree Vyas – appointed as the first independent woman director of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**

- ✓ BSE already has two non-executive women directors namely Usha Sangwan and Rajeshree Sabnavis on its Board.
- ✓ Vyas is a professionally-qualified chartered accountant, working as the managing director of Shree Mahila Sewa Sahakari Bank, Ahmedabad, since 1986
- ✓ She helped in launching the first financial literacy programme in Sewa Bank in 2001.



- ✓ Earlier, market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) in compliance with the Companies Act 2013, made it compulsory to have at least one woman on the board from October 2014
- ✓ A deadline of April 1 was given to all top 500 listed companies based on their market capitalisation for appointing an independent woman director on their board

◆ **Tod D. Wolters, US Air Force General – has been appointed as North Atlantic Treaty Organisation’s (NATO) Supreme Allied Commander**



- ✓ Tod Wolters had served as commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Africa, Afghanistan and Iraq
- ✓ He succeeds U.S. Army General Curtis M. Scaparrotti for a period of two to three years
- ✓ His appointment is based at NATO’s military headquarters in Mons, southern Belgium
- ✓ He will also be a commander of U.S. forces in Europe
- ✓ NATO is an intergovernmental military and political alliance based on North Atlantic Treaty (also known as Washington Treaty) signed in 4 April 1949
- ✓ It consists of 29 independent member countries across North America and Europe

AWARDS

◆ **‘Wa Lone’ and ‘Kyaw Soe Oo’, two Jailed Myanmar journalists – were conferred the World Press Freedom Prize, also known as UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, on the eve of World Press Freedom Day on 3 May**



- ✓ The Reuters reporters are serving seven year prison sentence in Myanmar for reporting on alleged human rights violations in state of Rakhine, Myanmar
- ✓ The award, carrying a cash prize of \$25000, was established in 1997 on initiative of UNESCO’s Executive Board

SPORTS

◆ Jaipur – to host the 8th Asian Youth Women Handball Championship in August 2019

- ✓ Overall 10 teams will be participated in the event
- ✓ Previously, Delhi had hosted it in 2015 where the hosts India had finished 7th
- ✓ The last edition in 2017 was held at Jakarta in Indonesia where South Korea was the champion while Japan and China were placed second and third respectively.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ World Laughter Day – May 5



- ✓ World Laughter Day is celebrated on the first Sunday of May of every year.
- ✓ The day aims to build up a global consciousness of brotherhood and friendship through laughter
- ✓ The day was first observed on May 10, 1998, in Mumbai, India.
- ✓ The day was created in 1998 by Dr. Madan Kataria, founder of the worldwide Laughter Yoga movement.
- ✓ Its popularity has grown exponentially with over 6000 Laughter Clubs worldwide on all 5 continents
- ✓ The first World Laughter Day gathering took place in Mumbai on 11th of January 1998 with 12,000 members from local and international Laughter Clubs joining together
- ✓ HAPPY-DEMIC was the first World Laughter Day gathering outside India.
- ✓ It took place on 9th January 2000, in Copenhagen, Denmark with more than 10,000 people gathering in the Town Hall Square
- ✓ The event entered into the Guinness Book of World records

◆ International Firefighters Day – May 4



- ✓ May 4 used to be a traditional Firefighters' Day in many European countries because it is the day of Saint Florian, patron saint of firefighters
- ✓ The day symbolizes the intensive and thorough training of firefighters in order to prevent fire
- ✓ It honours the firemen who put their lives at risk to save millions of people every year
- ✓ It was instituted on January 4, 1999, due to the deaths of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a bushfire in Australia on December 2, 1998
- ✓ One of the most significant symbols of International Fire Fighters Day is the red and blue ribbon
- ✓ The red colour symbolises fire and blue colour symbolises water

◆ **Coal Miners Day – May 4**



- ✓ The observance of the day highlights the toughest profession and the people working in coal mines
- ✓ This day show appreciation for the sacrifices, honour the accomplishments and remember the tragedies of the coal miners

◆ **World Tuna Day - May 2**



- ✓ They observance of the day intends to raise awareness about importance of tuna and to promote more sustainable fishing practices across the world
- ✓ Many coastal countries depend heavily on tuna fish resources for food security and nutrition, economic development and employment
- ✓ It also aims to create awareness about possible impact of drastically declining tuna stocks
- ✓ The World Tuna Day was officially proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in December 2016
- ✓ The first internationally recognized World Tuna Day was observed on 2 May 2017

