

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOV 15, 2019**

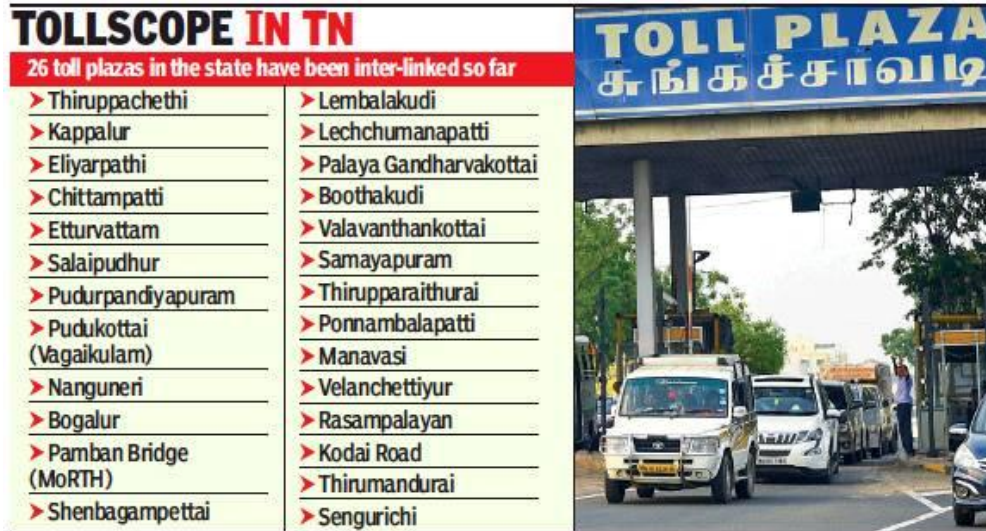
### **TAMIL NADU**

- ◆ **Chennai Port Trust has acquired a new vessel, 'Marutham' – to handle Oil spill issues along the Chennai coast**



- ✓ The new vessel was flagged off by minister of state for shipping Mansukh L Mandaviya on November 14
- ✓ This oil recovery vessel was designed to tackle first-line oil spill and suited to provide immediate assistance in combating oil spills
- ✓ The vessel was bought at a budget of ₹ 14 crore.
- ✓ The shipping ministry provided 50% of the fund for purchasing the vessel and the balance amount was sourced from Indian Oil Corporation, Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited.
- ✓ These companies are operating in the port and have agreed to provide the cost for buying the vessel.
- ✓ The vessel has two tanks which will be able to collect spilled oil from water.
- ✓ The two storage tanks have a capacity of 7,500 litre each.
- ✓ At any given time, the vessel can collect 15,000 litres of spilled oil.
- ✓ The officials decided to commission oil spill recovery vehicle after Chennai beaches were polluted in 2017 following a collision of two ships off Ennore.

◆ **The Tamil Nadu state police - have inaugurated a pilot project, 'Tollscope', to link all toll plazas to monitor live movements of vehicles**



- ✓ Sivaganga superintendent of police Rohit Nathan R has developed the project and it will be inaugurated at an event at the SP's office in Sivaganga on November 15.
- ✓ Through the project, the police have interlinked at least 26 toll plazas and connected to the control centre in Sivaganga district
- ✓ The project was approved by Tamil Nadu DGP J K Tripathy and the technical know-how was provided by WBC software firm in Karaikudi.
- ✓ As part of the pilot project, 20% of state's toll plazas have been mapped and the vehicle data is crosschecked live with the police criminal database (CCTNS, crime and criminal tracking system)
- ✓ If a vehicle involved in any crime crosses a toll booth, the control room will be alerted immediately.
- ✓ This project is a first step in using live analytics in crime prevention and detection
- ✓ It also assists in handling sensitive cases like terrorists attacks, kidnapping, sand smuggling, organized crime etc

◆ **The Tamil Nadu schools - will soon have breaks for children to drink water.**

- ✓ The state School education minister K A Sengottaiyan announced, on the sidelines of the Children's Day celebrations, that a 10-minute breaks at regular intervals will be given for children to drink water
- ✓ Kerala already has a system of ringing a 'water bell', which serves as a reminder for students to drink water.
- ✓ Such a system is also prevalent in Karnataka

◆ **The Tamil Nadu government - appointed an IAS officer, Sigy Thomas Vaidhyan, as commissioner of school education**

- ✓ The 2002-batch officer will be based at the DPI campus and look after directorates of school, elementary education and matriculation schools.
- ✓ The directorates are so far headed by officials promoted from the school education department.
- ✓ The appointment seeks to ensure better monitoring and improve the quality of education, considering number of reforms being introduced, including the introduction of new syllabus in the state

## SUPREME COURT VERDICT

◆ **The Supreme Court – ruled out a CBI inquiry into the Rafale deal on November 14 and dismissed review petitions of its December 14, 2018 order**

### RAFALE'S FLIGHT PATH

**Jan 26, 2016:** India, France sign MoU for 36 Rafales during then Prez Francois Hollande's visit

**Nov 18, 2016:** Govt tells Parliament each Rafale to cost approximately Rs 670cr

**Dec 31, 2016:** Dassault's annual report reveals actual price paid for 36 jets about Rs 60,000cr

**Oct 10, 2018:** Hearing a PIL, SC asks Centre to detail decision-making process in sealed cover

**Oct 24, 2018:** Yashwant Sinha, Arun Shourie and Prashant Bhushan move SC seeking registration of FIR

**Oct 31, 2018:** SC asks Centre to place details of deal in sealed cover within 10 days


**Nov 12, 2018:** Centre shares price details and decision-making process with SC

**Dec 14, 2018:** SC dismisses all pleas seeking CBI FIR

**Jan 2, 2019:** Sinha, Shourie and Bhushan seek SC review

**Mar 13, 2019:** Govt tells SC documents filed by review petitioners are sensitive to national security

**Nov 14, 2019:** SC dismisses review pleas




#### THE JUDGMENTS

**REVIEW PLEA REJECTED:** CJI Gogoi and Justice Kaul reiterated the SC's earlier decision not to embark on a 'roving and fishing inquiry'. However, Justice K M Joseph said if substantial material is discovered, an FIR can be lodged as "discovery of facts by officer carrying out investigation is different from findings of facts given in judicial review by a court"

**RAHUL APOLOGY ACCEPTED, CASE CLOSED**  
It is unfortunate that without verification or perusing... the order passed, the contemnor deemed it appropriate to make statements as if this court had given an imprimatur to his allegations against the PM, which was far from the truth  
— JUSTICE KAUL

**“ A befitting reply to those leaders and parties who rely on malicious and baseless campaigns**  
AMIT SHAH | HOME MINISTER & BJP CHIEF



Justice Joseph has opened a huge door... A JPC must also be set up to probe this scam  
RAHUL GANDHI

Chor comment by Rahul Gandhi was repeated several times for political gains... Called out for what it is, irresponsible  
NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FM



- ✓ In its earlier order, it had given clean chit to the NDA government in procuring 36 fully loaded Rafale fighter jets through an intergovernmental deal with France
- ✓ A bench of Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and K M Joseph unanimously noted that the price of the basic Rafale jet negotiated by the NDA government was marginally cheaper than that considered by the UPA government
- ✓ Justice K M Joseph, however, noted that the SC's dismissal of the PILs would not prevent a preliminary investigation into the case and that a regular case (FIR) could be lodged if substantial material was discovered

◆ **The Supreme Court – refused to alter its ruling decided on September 28, 2018 allowing women of all ages to enter the Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala**

<b>'ISSUE NOT LIMITED TO SABARIMALA, MUST DO COMPLETE JUSTICE'</b>	
<p><b>April 5, 1991</b>   Kerala HC upholds custom barring entry of menstruating women into Lord Ayyappa's shrine, on plea filed by S Mahendran</p> <p><b>Aug 4, 2006</b>   Indian Young Lawyers Association petitions SC seeking entry of women into the shrine. LDF govt later files affidavit supporting plea</p> <p><b>Oct 13, 2017</b>   SC refers case to Constitution bench</p> <p><b>Sept 28, 2018</b>   In a 4:1 verdict, SC allows women of all ages to enter Sabarimala. Says ban violates rights of Hindu women</p> <p><b>Oct 2018</b>   Kerala govt seeks time to implement verdict as protests prevent women from entering shrine. BJP, Congress join agitation</p> <p><b>Jan 2, 2019</b>   2 women, Bindu Hariharan (42) and Kanakadurga (44), enter shrine. 600 arrested the next day as massive protests erupt</p> <p><b>Feb 2019</b>   SC reserves order on 56 review pleas, 4 writ petitions &amp; other pleas on its Sept 2018 verdict</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NO STAY ON EARLIER VERDICT</b></p> <p>➤ In 3:2 majority judgment, SC refers pleas seeking review of its Sabarimala verdict to 7-judge bench, along with issues of alleged discrimination against Muslim and Parsi women, and female genital mutilation among Dawoodi Bohras</p> <p>➤ Doesn't stay its Sept 2018 judgment allowing women to visit the shrine</p> <p>➤ Majority verdict by CJI Ranjan Gogoi and Justices A M Khanwilkar and Indu Malhotra</p> <p>says constitutional validity of practices barring entry of women into places of worship not limited to Sabarimala. SC must evolve judicial policy to do 'substantial and complete justice'</p> <p>➤ Minority judgment by Justices R F Nariman and D Y Chandrachud says scope of review pleas limited to entry of women into Sabarimala, directs state government to ensure compliance of 2018 verdict</p>

- ✓ A five-judge bench of CJI Ranjan Gogoi and Justices R F Nariman, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud and Indu Malhotra, by a 3-2 majority, had directed a seven-judge bench to frame guidelines to decide other cases involving a conflict between the right to equality and believer's faith in religious practices and customs
- ✓ The conflict has also involved the petitions "regarding entry of Muslim women in dargah/mosque, Parsi women married to a non-Parsi in agiyaris and the practice of female genital mutilation in the Dawoodi Bohra community"
- ✓ But in their minority opinion, Justices Nariman and Chandrachud criticised the CJI for involving other future cases of likely faith versus fundamental rights scenarios, as the present case is related only regarding the entry of women into Sabarimala temple

- ✓ The majority judgment said the seven-judge bench would also decide if the Kerala Hindu Places of Public Worship (Authorisation of Entry) Rules, 1965, allowing the entry of all Hindus into all temples, applied to Sabarimala.



- ✓ In 2018, then CJI Dipak Misra and Justices A M Khanwilkar, Nariman and Chandrachud had all pronounced that women of all ages be allowed to enter Sabarimala as the custom barring females in the 10-50 age group suggests a gender bias that violated the right to equality.
- ✓ However, Justice Malhotra had written a strong dissent, warning courts against venturing into the field of faith and customs.

◆ **The Supreme Court – to examine the scope and ambit of Article 110 of the Constitution, which defines a money bill.**

- ✓ While observing that it's not been discussed during its verdict in the Aadhaar case, the court referred the issue to a seven-judge bench for an authoritative ruling.
- ✓ A five-judge constitution bench of CJI Ranjan Gogoi and Justices N V Ramana, D Y Chandrachud, Deepak Gupta and Sanjiv Khanna observed that there should be an absolute clarity with regard to the provisions of the Money bill
- ✓ The court rejected the Centre's plea that passage of bills in Parliament was exempted from judicial scrutiny.

## **ECONOMY**

◆ **Moody's Investors Service - slashed India's economic growth forecast to 5.6% for 2019 from 7.4% in 2018 on November 14**

- ✓ Moody's had, on October 10, slashed India's economic growth forecast for 2019-20 fiscal to 5.8% from an earlier estimate of 6.2%.
- ✓ Last week, it downgraded India's outlook to negative from stable.

## **SABARIMALA TEMPLE – A REPORT**



# A TEMPLE IN TIGER TERRAIN



**Sabarimala Sri Ayyappa Temple is on Sabari hills inside Periyar Tiger Reserve in the Western Ghats**

## LEGEND HAS IT...

The temple is dedicated to Lord Ayyappa, also known as Dharma Sastha, who, according to belief, is the son of Shiva and Mohini, the feminine incarnation of Vishnu. He was brought up by the king of Pandala. After completing his mission to destroy the demon Mahishi, who could only be defeated by a son born to Shiva and Vishnu, Ayyappa revealed his true identity to his foster parents and returned to Devaloka. A temple was built on Sabari hill as suggested by Ayyappa and where he is worshipped as Dharma Sastha

## GUTTED BY A FIRE

- The Pandalam royal family was the custodian of the temple till 1821
- In 1821, the kingdom of Pandalam was added to the neighbouring kingdom of Travancore and 48 temples, including the Sabarimala temple, came under Travancore
- In May 1950, the temple was gutted in a devastating fire. The temple was rebuilt and the earlier stone idol of the deity was replaced by one made of panchaloha (five sacred elements)

**60 lakh** devotees visit the site during the annual Mandalam-Makara Vilakku season, making Sabarimala is one of the largest pilgrimages in the world



Photo: Jipson Sikerera

## A 41-DAY PENANCE

- Devotees who visit the temple must observe a 41-day 'vratham' (penance) during which they follow celibacy, avoid alcohol and non-veg food and don't cut their hair and nails. Once they start the 'vratham', they are also known as Ayyappas, after the deity of the temple
- The annual pilgrimage to the temple begins on the first day of Malayalam month Vrischikam (Nov 17 to Dec 15) and ends on the 11th day of Dhanu (Dec 26). This 41-day period is known as Mandala season

## AYYAPPA'S MUSLIM FRIEND

The pilgrims to the temple also visit the mosque of Vavaruswami at Erumely. Vavaruswami was believed to be a friend and companion of Lord Ayyappa



## ONE WOMAN'S ETERNAL WAIT

- Another important deity worshipped by Ayyappa devotees is the goddess Malikapurathamma, whose temple is situated close to the main shrine
- Legend has it that Malikapurathamma, who

was demoness Mahishi, wanted to marry Lord Ayyappa after she was released from the curse by the latter. Being a celibate, Ayyappa could not agree to the request. But he promised to marry her if no first-time devotee (kanni Ayyappa) came to Sabarimala during a Mandala season

- During Makara Vilakku festival, a procession from Malikapuram temple carrying the deity's idol goes to Sharamkutti, where the first-time pilgrims leave an arrow to announce their presence. Every year, after finding thousands of arrows, Malikapurathamma returns, doomed to wait forever

