EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS
JANUARY 15, 16 & 17, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu Government – notifies setting up of ‘Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority’ (Cumta) in the State
  - The Act setting up Cumta was notified by the Government to ensure better planning of urban transport
  - The 18-member authority would be headed by the Transport Minister
  - Greater Chennai Corporation, CMDA, Southern Railway, MTC, Metro rail, Police and other departments like highways, transport will be part of Cumta

- A new Defence Industrial corridor – to be launched in the State on January 20

Five Nodal Cities of Tamil Nadu Defense Corridor

- **Chennai**
  - 60+ vendors of engine factory Avadi
  - 200+ vendors of heavy vehicles factory
  - 550+ vendors of Bharat Electronic Ltd

- **Hosur**
  - Presence of over 700 industries
  - Developed automobile industry and supporting ecosystem

- **Salem**
  - Rich in mineral deposits
  - Presence of strong power grid, Salem steel plant and JSW steel

- **Coimbatore**
  - Presence of over 45000 units in Tirupur-Erode corridor
  - 4 SEZs in the city

- **Tiruchirappalli**
  - More than 2500 fabrication/engineering units.
  - Presence of BHEL, Ordinance Factory
  (Source of the facts: MoD’s official social media account)
✓ It will connect the cities of Chennai, Hosur, Coimbatore, Salem and Trichy with major investments to be announced in the sector
✓ The country’s 2nd proposed defence corridor of the Central Government was expected to surpass the Rs 3,732 crore target set earlier for the investments
✓ A new defence innovation hub will also be set up at Coimbatore as part of the activities
✓ The first defence corridor was set up in Uttar Pradesh in August 2018

➤ Vallur Thermal power plant – to be reopened following the staying of the high court order by the Supreme Court
✓ The Madras High court had earlier ordered the stopping of operations of the power plant on January 2, 2019, regarding the issue of discharge of fly ash in the Ennore creek

➤ Rodeo, a Robo Cop – was inaugurated by the Chennai city police commissioner, A K Viswanathan in the road safety gallery at the Chennai city traffic police office at the Police commissionerate in Vepery

✓ A team comprising of 23 students from SP Robotic works have designed the robot
✓ The robot can perform multiple tasks like rotating to face the visitors and deliver road safety related messages among other activities
✓ It was operated with the help of an App through Wi-Fi

➤ The season’s 1st Jallikkattu – was held at Thatchankurichi in Pudukottai district of Tamil Nadu
A total of 453 bulls took part in the jallikattu in which 150 bull tamers tried to tame the bulls

**STATES**

- Telangana – to become the 2nd state in the country to implement 10% reservation for economically weaker sections in General category - in central government educational institutions and jobs in the state
- Earlier, Gujarat announced the implementation of EWS quota in the state
- On January 12, the President had given his assent to the Constitution (123rd amendment) Act, 2019 for the 10% reservation

**NATIONAL**

- Union Cabinet – approves ‘Integrated e-filing and Centralised processing’ project by next year

https://www.incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in/

- The new project would introduce pre-filled Income tax return form and provide refunds within a day
- The Rs 4,242 crore initiative will be implemented by Infosys as the service provider
- The project would be implemented within 15 months, in time for filing of returns in 2020
- The move is expected to reduce the return processing and refund time from the current average of 63 days, as per the Government
- The new pre-filled form will be available in the tax account of the taxpayers with the details of name, PAN and other relevant information
In addition, the columns related to salary, interest income and tax deducted at Source captured in the 26-AS forms will also feature in the tax account

- Union Government – accepts the Supreme Court collegium’s decision to appoint Karnataka high court chief Justice Dinesh Maheswari and Delhi HC’s Justice Sanjiv Khanna – as new Supreme Court Judges

- The collegium was headed by the CJI, Ranjan Gogoi and comprising Justices A K Sikri, S A Bobde, N V Ramana and Arun Mishra
- The collegium also recalled its earlier decision announced on January 12 recommending Rajasthan HC CJ Pradeep Nandrajog and Delhi HC CJ Rajendra Menon
- With these appointments, the number of judges in Supreme court remains at 26 now against the sanctioned strength of 31, including the CJI
- Earlier on November 1, 4 new judges, Justices Hemant Gupta, R Subhash Reddy, M R Shah and Ajay Rastogi were appointed to the apex court

- The 3-member selection panel – to decide on the new chief of CBI on January 24
- The panel would be headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and comprises CJI, Ranjan Gogoi and leader of opposition in Lok Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge
- M Nageswara Rao, IPS officer was heading the agency as interim director for the past three months

- Ministry of HRD – announces that all Government colleges, universities and technical institutions to increase seats by 25% - to accommodate 10% reservation for economically weaker section students of the General category
The 10% EWS quota will be implemented in the 2019-20 academic year itself without impacting the other existing quotas for OBCs, SCs, STs and general seats.

Central Government – to revamp the national awards for children as ‘Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar’

The awards, to be given by the President on January 22, will also include the bravery awards category.

The 26 awardees were short-listed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Till last year, the awards were organized by the Indian Council for Child Welfare, an NGO which was recently questioned by the Delhi High Court over the issue of ‘financial integrity’.

Except for bravery, children in other categories like innovation, sports, arts, culture and social service were earlier given National Awards on Children’s Day on November 14.

COURT VERDICT

Madras High Court – has instructed the corporation officials to disconnect water supply to all buildings constructed in violation of rules.

The move will be expected to support all the law abiding citizens as the city is expected to face severe water scarcity this year.

It had also set a maximum deadline of 15 days for the officials to decide on such matters.
PERSONALITIES

➢ Dhanya Sanal – becomes the 1st woman to scale Kerala’s Men-Only Peak, Agasthiyarkoodam peak, for the very first time – along with 99 male co-trekkers

✓ The 1868m tall peak is the second highest peak in Kerala
✓ Sanal is an Indian Information Service (IIS) officer working with the Ministry of Defence
✓ Like Sabarimala, there was an earlier ban on women to trek the peak for ‘breach of rituals’
✓ On November 30, 2018, the High Court had allowed women to be a part of the annual trekking programme organised by Agasthyarkodam Kshetra Kannikar Trust
✓ The trekking starts on Makaravilakku day at Sabarimala Temple and ends on Sivarathri

➢ A Bust statue of Colonel John Pennycuick – was unveiled at St Peter’s Church in Frimley, UK – where he was buried
✓ The white marble bust was gifted to the descendants of Pennycuick by the Chennai city police commissioner, A K Viswanathan
✓ John Pennycuick was the British Army Engineer who was instrumental in the construction of the Mullaperiyar dam
✓ The words ‘Great Achievement is usually born of great sacrifice and is never the result of selfishness – Napoleon Hill’ have been engraved on the marble
✓ Pennycuick died of bone cancer and was in poor state during his last days

**APPOINTMENTS**

- Raja Krishnamoorthi, Indian-American – was appointed as the member of US House committee handling Intelligence issues
 Krishnamoorthi from Illinois was one among the other democrats named as the member of ‘House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence’ for the 116th Congress

 ✓ He was born into a Tamil-speaking family in New Delhi and moved to Buffalo, United States when he was just three years along with his family

SPORTS

✓ D Gukesh of Tamil Nadu – becomes the youngest-ever Indian Grandmaster at 12 years, 7 months and 17 days on January 15

Gukesh was crowned as the 60th Indian Grandmaster (GM) at the Delhi International chess meet

✓ He was also the 2nd youngest in the world after Russia’s Sergey Karjakin, who became GM at 12 years and 7 months

✓ During the event, Tamil Nadu’s N R Visakh got his 3rd and final GM norm to become the country’s 59th GM

✓ Earlier, Chennai-born R Praggnanandhaa was the second youngest Grandmaster in the world at 12 years, 10 months and 13 days