

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOV 13, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **The Tamil Nadu government - has decided to revive the financial city project and is likely to set it up on erstwhile IDPL land, opposite the Chennai Trade Centre at Nandambakkam**
 - ✓ The government is in the last stages of giving the approval for the project, which is expected to provide investment worth several thousand crores of rupees and generate employment to about 30,000 people.
 - ✓ The government has already taken back 62 acres that had been leased to IDPL, a central government PSU that is having financial troubles.
 - ✓ The project aims to house all the financial institutions spread across the city to function under a single 'roof'
 - ✓ Chennai is already the 'home' for the World Bank and many foreign commercial banks, whose back office operations are based in the city
 - ✓ The project was initially proposed at Perumbakkam, near Sholinganallur off the OMR, by the former DMK government in September 2009.
 - ✓ The AIADMK government, headed by J Jayalithaa, rejected the Perumbakkam site and started to look out for an alternative within the city.
 - ✓ The Nandambakkam site was initially proposed in 2012.
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu government had allotted about 200 acres in Nandambakkam and Manapakkam to IDPL between 1961 and 1975 for setting up a surgical instruments factory.
 - ✓ Out of this, about 40 acres was taken back and allotted to Bharat Electronics Limited in 1985 and another 35 acres was taken back for setting up Chennai Trade Centre in 1995.

◆ **The state government - has identified locations for setting up 6 new medical colleges in 6 districts and released ₹ 600 crore (at Rs 100 crore for each) for commencing the construction work**

- ✓ The new colleges would increase the number of MBBS seats in the state by 900
- ✓ The government is likely to commence the admissions into these new colleges by 2021.
- ✓ Land has been identified and transferred for establishing the new medical colleges in the districts of Dindigul, Namakkal, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, the Nilgiris and Tiruppur.
- ✓ As per the budget estimates, each medical college would require ₹325 crore for construction, of which the state government's share would be 40% and the remaining 60% funds would be borne by the Centre.
- ✓ Each medical college will be offering 150 seats and with them, the total seats available in the state will now be increased to 4,150 seats
- ✓ The new medical colleges are based on the state government's latest policy decision of launching 'one government medical college' in each and every district of the state.

◆ **The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) department - has began the construction of 'Pilgrims shelter' (yatri nivas) for devotees in Tiruchendur, Rameswaram and Tiruvannamalai at a budget of Rs 90 crore**

- ✓ This will provide better facilities to the staying pilgrims at a lower cost than private hotels
- ✓ The project is expected to be completed within the next few months
- ✓ The department has also initiated steps to provide quality prasadam after getting Blissful Hygiene Offering to God (BHOG) quality certificate issued by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- ✓ Prasadam from more than 40 big temples including Devi Karumariamman temple (Tiruverkadu), Arunachaleswarar temple (Tiruvannamalai), Subramaniya Swamy temple (Tiruttani), Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple (Madurai) and Ranganathaswamy temple (Chennai) are expected to get quality certificates.
- ✓ Temples in Tamil Nadu are famous for their prasadam, and some of these temples have already received GI tag too for their uniqueness
- ✓ From 2018, temple prasadam and other eatables offered by temples fall under the Food Safety Act.

◆ **Greater Chennai Corporation - has introduced a simplified system of issuing trade licence for 135 trades in the city to improve the ease of doing business.**

- ✓ According to the new system, the trades such as automobile spare parts, clothing, electronic sales, electrical shop, fruits, flowers, furniture, paper, planners and builders, rice mill, tyre shop, art work, leather goods, bakery,

aquarium, perfumes and granite will be permitted within a day of submitting application to the Corporation's Revenue Department.

- ✓ The new system will be applicable for all trades in an area measuring less than 500 sq.ft.
- ✓ In the new system, the licence will be given to the businesses without any police verification or fire safety verification.
- ✓ However, the businesses have to give an undertaking to wind up the unit in cases of causing pollution to the surroundings
- ✓ The Corporation issues trade licence for cottage industries with 5 hp motor in residential areas.
- ✓ Till now, the civic body has issued trade licence for 20,548 businesses in the city

◆ **Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami – announced that the Tamil Nadu government will allocate space to construct a memorial for Guru Nanak at Rameswaram**

- ✓ The Chief Minister participated in the 550th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev at the Gurudwara Sahib in T. Nagar on November 12

STATES

◆ **Maharashtra - was placed under President's rule on November 12 after governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari made a recommendation to the President Ram Nath Kovind to this effect**

- ✓ Koshyari's recommendation came after he was satisfied that no party was in a position to form a stable government.
- ✓ Then, the Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, met and approved a recommendation to the President to issue a proclamation under Article 356(1) of the Constitution to place the State under Centre's direct rule
- ✓ The Governor took the decision as none of the largest parties in the state including the BJP, Shiv Sena and Sharad Pawar's NCP were able to produce the required numbers (a majority of 145 seats in 288-member assembly) to form the government after being asked by the Governor to produce proof of the same
- ✓ Even though it was the third time President's rule was imposed in the state, it was the first time due to the inability of political parties to form a government after an election.
- ✓ The newly elected legislative assembly will be kept under suspended animation for now.
- ✓ The President's rule can be imposed in a state for a minimum duration of six months and a maximum duration of 3 years but it has to be approved by the Parliament after every six months.
- ✓ The President's rule was first imposed in Maharashtra in February 1980 when the Centre under the PM Indira Gandhi dismissed the PDF government headed by Sharad Pawar

✓ It was later imposed for the second time when Prithviraj Chavan resigned as Maharashtra CM in September 2014 following the withdrawal of support by NCP to the Congress-led government.

◆ **Andhra Pradesh chief minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy – announces to shift to English-medium education in government schools in the state from the next academic year**

- ✓ Last week, the YSR Congress government had issued an order for converting all Telugu- and Urdu-medium government schools into English-medium institutions.
- ✓ The new plan will commence for Classes I to VIII from academic year 2020-21 and for Classes IX and X from 2021-22
- ✓ Telugu or Urdu would be made a compulsory subject in government schools, even though the medium of instruction would be English.
- ✓ The move is aimed at improving the employability of the students, as 'English' is a global language, which can help the poor get jobs in a competitive world.

NATIONAL

◆ **The 'Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog' (National Commission for Cows) – has proposed that the Centre and states allot 10-15 earmarked areas for 'cow hostels' in every city or urban area**

GUIDELINES SOUGHT

- National Commission for Cows has written to urban development ministry requesting it to make guidelines for 'cow hostels'
- Panel head V Kathiria says anyone can keep cows in such hostels that can be set up in 15 earmarked areas in every city
- Once municipal bodies earmark areas for cow hostels, 25-50 people can join hands to set up a hostel

- ✓ The newly constituted body has proposed the concept for city residents interested in not just consumption of fresh milk from their own indigenous breed but also to generate revenue from it
- ✓ The concept of running such hostels has already been successfully experimented in certain rural areas in Gujarat
- ✓ Such hostels can be set up on land which can be given by municipal corporations on rent or lease to private players.
- ✓ Interested people can keep cows of their choice in these hostels.
- ✓ They can even sell milk if the quantity is beyond their self consumption.

- ✓ Cow dung and urine can also be used for making organic manure and running gobar gas plants to generate money for managing such hostels

◆ **Improper or unauthorised use of photograph of Prime Minister or President for willful promotion of trade and business - may soon attract fine of ₹ 1lakh and repeat offence ₹ 5 lakh and a jail term of up to 6 months.**

ZERO TOLERANCE		
Curbing unauthorized use of emblems and names for trade/advertisement		
Offence	Current penalty	Proposed penalty
Improper use of emblems/ names for trade	1st offence ₹500	₹1 lakh
Improper use of emblems/ names for trade	2nd Offence No provision	₹5 lakh and up to 6 months in jail
Onus on proof of violation	No provision	Defendant/ violator to prove the case
Examples of emblems & names: Emblem or official of UNO, WHO, national flag, President, Rashtrapati Bhawan, Mahatma Gandhi, PM, Ashok Chakra, Dharma Chakra, Parliament, Supreme Court, High Court etc		

- ✓ Currently, the penalty for such offences including the improper use of national emblems such as the National Flag, Ashok Chakra, official seal of Parliament, Supreme Court etc is a mere ₹500 and there is no provision for higher fine for repeat offence
- ✓ The consumer affairs ministry has proposed the changes in the Emblem and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act.
- ✓ The move follows the recent Paytm and Reliance Jio advertisements, which had used PM Narendra Modi's photo.

DEFENCE

◆ **The Navy - has selected its first woman officer for the post of a defence attaché abroad**

- ✓ The move comes a month after the IAF posted Wing Commander Anjali Singh as the deputy air attaché at the Indian embassy in Moscow.
- ✓ Assam's Lt-Commander (equivalent to an Army Major) Karabi Gogoi, a naval engineer currently posted at the Karwar base in coastal Karnataka, has been selected for the post of the assistant naval attaché also at the Indian embassy in Russia



- ✓ She is likely to take over the new post in Moscow in December after the completion of requisite approvals
- ✓ The appointments of Wing Commander Anjali Singh and Lt-Commander Gogoi are the first for woman officers to have been selected for defence diplomacy in the male dominated bastions of the armed forces
- ✓ Anjali is an aeronautical engineer specialised in handling fighter jets, while Gogoi has experience in warship construction and maintenance.
- ✓ Lt-Commander Gogoi, who grew up in Guwahati, was commissioned into the Navy in 2010
- ✓ India has over 100 defence attachés or advisors (DAs) posted in different countries across the world, with some countries like the US, UK and Russia having representatives from all the three Services, the Army, Navy and IAF.
- ✓ These Das act as the main interface with the host country's military authorities, apart from assisting in security and protocol tasks and monitoring the military technology available in the country.

◆ **The first tri-service exercise between India and the US, named “Tiger Triumph” - commences along the eastern coast in the Bay of Bengal on November 13.**



- ✓ The exercise will largely focus on amphibious humanitarian relief and disaster relief (HADR) operations
- ✓ It will be held off Visakhapatnam and Kakinada till November 21.
- ✓ India is fielding its amphibious warships, INS Jalashwa and INS Airavat, survey ship INS Sandhayak, Army troops from the 19 Madras and 7 Guards battalions, and MI-17 helicopters and rapid action medical teams (RAMT) from the IAF.
- ✓ The US has deployed its amphibious warship USS Germantown, along with troops from the 3rd Marine Division.
- ✓ The setting up of the ‘exercise’ was announced by US President Donald Trump during the “Howdy Modi” event at Houston last month
- ✓ This will be only the second instance that India deploys assets and manpower from all of its Armed forces (Army, Navy and IAF) together for an exercise with a foreign country after the Indra war games

APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **The government – to appoint a full-time chairman of the nine-member Cauvery water management authority soon.**
 - ✓ It will also appoint a fulltime member specialized in the agriculture sector soon
 - ✓ Former central water commission chairman S Masood Hussain was appointed chairman in-charge of the authority in the beginning.
 - ✓ He retired in June this year
 - ✓ The new chairman will hold the post for five years or till 65 years of age, whichever is earlier.
 - ✓ He will be a senior and renowned engineer with varied experience in water resource management, handling inter-state water sharing issues, construction, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects
 - ✓ As per the Cauvery scheme notified in the gazette, the Centre could also appoint an IAS officer in the rank of secretary or additional secretary to government of India for the coveted post
 - ✓ The Cauvery authority is empowered to implement the final award of the Cauvery water disputes tribunal as modified by the Supreme Court in February last year, which included, storage, apportionment, regulation and control of Cauvery waters.
 - ✓ It has the power to supervise operation of reservoirs and regulate water releases from Karnataka's reservoirs with the assistance of the regulation committee.

SPORTS

- ◆ **Telangana's teen shooting star, Dhanush Srikanth - clinched three gold medals at the ongoing Asian Shooting Championships in Doha on November 12**



- ✓ With this, sixteen year old Dhanush has become India's first shooter with hearing impairment to win medals at an open international meet.
- ✓ Dhanush secured top place in junior men's 10m air rifle individual, mixed-gender and team events.
- ✓ Dhanush, Mane and Hriday Hazarika won the team gold, while in the mixed-gender final, Dhanush paired with his Shreya Agarwal to win the gold
- ✓ Both Dhanush and Shreya train at Gagan Narang's Gun For Glory academy in Pune

MERCURY TRANSIT

MERCURY COMPLETES RARE TRANSIT

Mini Mercury skipped across the vast, glaring face of the sun on Monday in a rare celestial transit. Stargazers used solar-filtered binoculars and telescopes to spot Mercury – a tiny black dot – as it passed directly between Earth and the sun on Monday

13

No. of Mercury transits that happen in an entire century

2032

The next time the transit will occur

5hrs,
30min

The duration of the transit

South America and eastern North America were the only two places where it could be seen in its entirety

APPOLLO
STUDY CENTRE

