Tamil Nadu Government – bans manufacture, sale and possession of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) or e-Cigarettes with immediate effect

✦ So far, Punjab, Karnataka, Kerala, Mizoram, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar already have banned the e-Cigarettes in their states
✦ The Tamil Nadu government has already banned chewable tobacco products
✦ ENDS are devices that heat solution to create aerosol, usually dissolved into propylene glycol or/and glycerin
✦ Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) are most common prototype of ENDS
They do not burn tobacco leaves but instead use ‘e-liquid solution’, which user then inhales.

The main constituents of ‘e-liquid solution’ are nicotine, propylene glycol, glycerol and flavouring agents.

ENDS solutions and emissions contain harmful chemicals and toxicants such as Nicotine, Nickel and chromium.

They can cause cardiovascular diseases, lung diseases, tumours etc., and mostly pregnant women, children, adolescents are at greater health risk.

ITC is one of the major players in e-cigarettes under the brand EON.

**2nd Global Investors Meet 2019, an investment promotion campaign – to be organized by the Tamil Nadu Government in Chennai on Jan 23rd and 24th, 2019**

This was announced by M C Sampath, Industries minister of the state.

For ‘Global Investors Meet 2019’, Rs. 75 crore has been allotted.

The previous edition was held in September 2015.

It has to be recalled that CEAT Ltd has recently signed a MoU with GoTN for an investment of Rs.4000 Crores.
Arunachal Pradesh – opens its 1st Sainik school at Niglok in East Siang district

- Inaugurated by – Pema Khandu, CM of Arunachal Pradesh

- Currently it is functioning from a temporary building, with its permanent campus expected to be completed within 3 years

- The schools are expected to provide an opportunity to the youth of the state to pursue a career in the armed forces

- Earlier, the state was granted three Sainik schools by the Union Ministry of Defence

- Arunachal Pradesh has become the 3rd North Eastern State after Assam and Manipur to get a Sainik School
Karnataka – Samsung opens World’s largest Mobile experience Centre at Opera House, Bengaluru

- It boasts of variety of experiences involving Virtual reality, Artificial intelligence and Internet of Things
- It has high speed Wi-Fi and houses a service centre for phones along with a separate home appliance zone

**NATIONAL**

VC 11184 – is the name of India’s first ocean surveillance ship built by Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.,

- It is ready for sea trials by the end of Sep or 1st week of Oct 2018
- It will be handed over to Indian Navy by end of 2018 and will be named formally after its induction
- The ship is built for ‘National Technical Research organization’, a technical intelligence agency
• It is designed to accommodate 300-strong crew with hi-tech gadgets and communication systems along with a large deck, capable of helicopter landing
• It will be employed basically to track down missiles using 2 sensors ranging, possibly an X-Band AESA primary radar and S-Band AESA secondary radar
• Apart from India, only four other countries, US, Russia, China and France have such a sophisticated Ocean surveillance ship in their armoury

◆ BH205-E – India’s first indigenously designed and developed 205T Electric Drive Rear Dump Truck launched by Bharat Earth Movers Limited

◆ It is expected to address the growing demand for higher capacity equipment in the mining industry’s large scale mining operations
◆ It will be employed in the project of Northern Coalfields Limited, Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh
● It has been produced in the Mysuru plant of BEML with 2300HP capacity
● It weighs 335 tonnes when fully loaded and has several sophisticated and safety features
● Bharat Earth Movers Limited – is a PSU under Ministry of Defence, manufacturing variety of heavy equipment that are used in Mining, Transport and earth moving
● It was established in May 1964 with its headquarters at Bengaluru
● Currently, it is Asia’s second largest manufacturer of earth moving equipment

Min of Health – prohibits manufacture, sale and distribution of 328 ‘Fixed Dose combinations’ (FDC) of medicines for human use with immediate effect - under section 26A of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940

● FDC drugs are drugs having two or more active ingredients in a single dosage
● They are acceptable only when the drugs so combined have a therapeutic advantage
● Earlier, as per the recommendations of Kokate Committee, the Union Health Ministry had imposed the ban on 344 FDC drugs in March 2016 for being unsafe and not having a therapeutic justification
● The drugs are banned as they may cause anti-microbial resistance and even organ-failure because of high toxicity
● However, they reduce the number of pills taken by a person each day
● The FDCs include anti-diabetic drugs, HIV drugs, antibiotics and analgesics such as Saridon, Panderm Plus and Taxim AZ.
CABINET APPROVALS

Cabinet approves 4 new ‘National Institutes of Design’ –
* National Institute of Design, Amaravati/Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh
* National Institute of Design, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
* National Institute of Design, Jorhat, Assam
* National Institute of Design, Kurukshetra, Haryana
* National Institutes of Design (NID) Act, 2014 - was amended to bring these 4 new IID’s as ‘Institutions of National importance’ at par with NID, Ahmedabad

Cabinet approves 100% electrification of Broad gauge routes of Indian railways
* The Broad Gauge Routes comprise 108 sections covering 13675 route kilometers that will be electrified at a cost of Rs 12134.50 crore by 2021-22
* After the planned electrification, there would be reduction in the consumption of high speed diesel oil by about 2.83 billion litres per annum and a reduction in green house gas emissions
* Post electrification, Indian Railways will likely save Rs 13510 crore per annum in fuel bill alone

INTERNATIONAL

European union Parliament – approves new ‘Copyright rules’ – known as ‘Article 11 and 13’
* The new rules stipulates that the internet companies must filter the ‘content’ before being posted on the internet and check for ‘copyright infringement’
* It was passed with 438 votes in favour, 226 against with 39 absentionations
China – plans ‘bullet train’ from Kolkata to Kunming city of China

- The train is expected to traverse through Myanmar and Bangladesh

- The project was mentioned earlier at the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) meet in Kunming in 2015

- The Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor project, initiated by China, is projected to run through Mandalay in Myanmar, Chittagong and Dhaka in Bangladesh, terminating in Kolkata

- This ‘Silk route’ is planned with the Chinese investment of USD 40 billion and has a trade potential of USD 132 billion
CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

♦ ASEAN World Economic forum – begins in Hanoi, Vietnam on Sep 11, 2018

- Theme - “ASEAN 4.0: Entrepreneurship and the Fourth Industrial Revolution”
- ASEAN nations participating - Vietnam, Indonesia, Singapore, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand
- Over 1,000 representatives from 43 countries are set to take part in 53 sessions and 35 discussions over the two days of the event
- ASEAN – Association of South East Asian Nations
- Headquarters – Jakarta, Indonesia

♦ United Nations – to hold ‘climate summit’ in Sep 2019
- This was announced by António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General
- António Guterres appointed Luis Alfonso de Alba, a former Mexican diplomat, as his Special Envoy to lead the preparations for the summit
34th annual convention of Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) – concludes at Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

- It was organized in collaboration with the tourism ministry of Andhra Pradesh

- Union Tourism Minister Ashok Chandra Panda took part in the convention in which more than 900 delegates participated

- Theme - ‘Mission: 20 million Tourists by 2020, challenges and possibilities’

- Objective of the convention - To explore new tourism destinations and developments to enhance global tourism opportunities in Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh government had developed some tourism projects based on the recommendations of two earlier conventions of IATO in 1997 and 2003

**ECONOMY**

BSNL – has signed MoU with ‘Unlimit’ for IoT services in India

- Unlimit is the only dedicated, end-to-end IoT business solutions provider in India, backed by the Reliance ADA Group

- It was established in 2016
Infosys – signs a 3 year partnership with ‘Australian Open’ – as its official ‘Digital Innovation partner’

* Infosys will use technologies like Big Data and Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, Virtual and Augmented Reality to offer a unique experience for fans

**APPOINTMENTS**

L K Advani – renominated as Chairman of Ethics Committee of Lok sabha – by Sumitra Mahajan, speaker of Lok sabha

* He represents Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency from Gujarat
* The Ethics Committee of Lok sabha oversees Moral and ethical conduct of its members by ensuring their adherence to the Code of Conduct
* Other appointments
  * Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank (BJP) - Chairman of Committee on Government Assurances
  * Chandrakant Khaire (Shiv Sena) - Chairman of committee on Papers laid on table
  * Dilipkumar Mansukhlal Gandhi (BJP) - Chairman of committee on Subordinate Legislation
  * P Karunakaran (CPI-M) - Chairman of committee on Absence of members from the sittings of the house
AWARDS

Manoj Jhalani – to be conferred with the prestigious UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) Award

* He is the Additional Secretary & Mission Director (NHM), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
* He was selected for his outstanding contribution towards prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and related Sustainable Development Goals

OBITUARY

Vijay Shankar Vyas, Agricultural economist (87 years)

* V S Vyas was the Director of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad, and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Jaipur
He was also a senior advisor in the agriculture and rural development department of World Bank

He was a former member of the Prime Minister’s Economic Advisory Council, having worked with former PM’s Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Dr Manmohan Singh

He was a member of the central board of directors of Reserve Bank of India

He was chairperson of the first Rajasthan State planning board.

He received Padma Bhushan in 2006

He founded the Ajit Foundation in Bikaner, along with his family members.

**SPORTS**

**Sardar Singh – Former Indian Hockey team Captain – announces retirement from International Hockey**

His illustrious career spanned 12 years

The 32-year-old made over 350 international appearances for India and captained the national team for eight long years from 2008 to 2016

He received the Arjuna award in 2012 and Padma Shri in 2015
UN report on the ‘state of food security and nutrition in the world 2018

Published by - The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Food Programme (WFP), UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO)

The number of undernourished globally increased to 821 million (10.9%) in 2017, from around 804 million in 2016, which means that one in every nine people does not have enough to eat.

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**Key facts and figures**

- Number of hungry people in the world in 2017: 821 million or 1 in every 9 people
  - in Asia: 515 million
  - in Africa: 256.5 million
  - in Latin America and the Caribbean: 39 million
- Children under 5 affected by stunting (low height-for-age): 150.8 million (22.2%)
- Children under 5 affected by wasting (low weight-for-height): 50.5 million (7.5%)
- Children under 5 who are overweight (high weight-for-height): 38.3 million (5.6%)
- Percentage of women of reproductive age affected by anaemia: 32.8%
- Percentage of infants aged below 6 months who were exclusively breastfed: 40.7%
- Adults who are obese: 672 million (13% or 1 in 8 adults)