

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-SEPTEMBER 15,2021

TAMIL NADU

- Greater Chennai Corporation – has simplified the building approval process and set 30-day timeline for processing the applications

WHAT IT WAS LIKE		CORPN'S NEW & IMPROVED PROCESS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All documents submitted online and hard copies given to executive engineer, superintendent engineer or chief engineer concerned ➤ Submission made at zone level if building has less than 5,000sqft area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No acknowledgement on receipt of documents ➤ Long wait, daily follow-ups with officials on status ➤ Applicants depended heavily on licensed surveyors ➤ No specified time period for approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All documents to be submitted online & separate counters at Ripon Bldg for hard copies of a few papers ➤ Acknowledgement of receipt mandatory ➤ Hard copies submitted to an assistant executive engineer at Ripon Building and a superin- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ tendent at zonal office ➤ Engineers must visit site within five days and upload inspection report within 48 hrs ➤ Application to be approved in 15 days ➤ Process shouldn't take more than 30 days ➤ Weekly review of application status by corpn commissioner

- ✓ In this regard, the civic body has issued a circular with a standard operating procedure (SOP) to submit applications online
- ✓ Accordingly, residents seeking to build houses need not submit hard copies of the required documents for approval.
- ✓ At present, separate counters have been set up for document submission at zonal offices and at Amma Maligai.
- ✓ There shall be no meetings with executive engineers, superintendent engineers and chief engineers.
- ✓ Applications seeking approval for residential and commercial buildings up to 12 metres tall with ground plus two floors over 10,000sqft are submitted to the corporation.
- ✓ Similarly, applications for buildings of institutions up to a height of 18.3 metres and green, orange and cottage industrial buildings up to a height of 18.3 metres are also submitted to the GCC.

STATES

- **Rajasthan government – amends law to make misbehaviour with tourists as a cognisable offence with repeated offence being non-bailable.**



- ✓ On September 13, an amendment bill was passed by a voice vote in the state assembly to introduce Section 27A in the Rajasthan Tourism Trade (Facilitation and Regulation) Act, 2010
- ✓ Tourism is a key industry in Rajasthan – the state witnessed 5.2 crore domestic and 16 lakh foreign tourists in 2019.
- ✓ However, the visitors often face problems due to touts and illegal vendors.
- ✓ According to the new section, the offence will be cognisable and bailable.
- ✓ At the same time, if the offence in sub-section 3 of section 13 is repeated, it will be non-bailable in subsection 4 of section 13.
- ✓ The legislation was brought in 2010 to boost tourism and prevent misbehaviour with tourists.

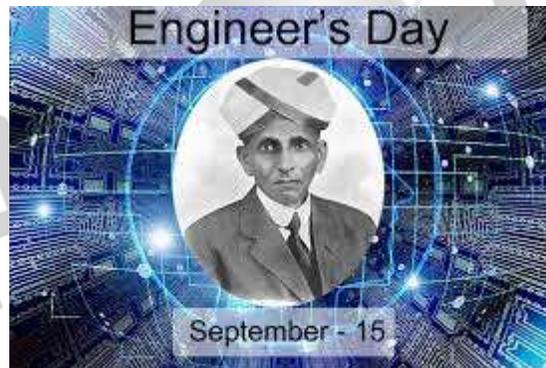
HIGH COURT VERDICT

- **The Madras High Court - has quashed Centre's notification on fixing the maximum speed limit of vehicles on expressways at 120 kmph**
- ✓ A division bench of Justices N Kirubakaran (since retired) and Justice TV Thamilselvi, which quashed the notification dated April 6, 2018, also directed the Centre and the State to issue fresh notifications with decreased speed limit of 80kmph
- ✓ The speed limit fixed as per the 2018 notification was 120 km/hr on expressways, 100 km/hr on national highways and for M1 category of vehicles at 60 km/hr
- ✓ According to the Union government, the speed limit had been fixed by an expert committee considering improvement in infrastructure and better engine technology of vehicles.
- ✓ A report published by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in 2020 states that six two-wheeler riders die every hour.

- **On September 14, the Madras High Court - withdrew its order mandating five-year bumper-to-bumper insurance cover for all new vehicles registered from September 1**
- ✓ Justice S Vaidyanathan recalled the orders after Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) submitted that it would consider better and complete insurance coverage to all
- ✓ The interim orders passed on August 4 made it mandatory for all vehicles sold after September 1 to have bumper-to-bumper insurance cover for five years.
- ✓ Justice Vaidyanathan passed the order in a bid to ensure that all people who travel in a vehicle, including the driver, are covered under insurance.
- ✓ It was further brought to the notice of the court that the issue of long-term third-party insurance coverage had been mandated by the Supreme Court as early as in September 2018

NATIONAL DAY

- **Engineers Day - September 15**



- ✓ Engineer's Day is celebrated on September 15 every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of the greatest Indian Engineer, Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya
- ✓ A prolific civic engineer, educationist, economist and scholar, Visvesvaraya was regarded as the 'Father of Modern Mysore'.
- ✓ Engineer's Day is observed to acknowledge the efforts of various engineers who have made contributions to make our lives comfortable.
- ✓ Born in Karnataka in 1861, Visvesvaraya started his career as an assistant engineer in the Public Works Department of the Government of Bombay
- ✓ During his public service, Visvesvaraya has made significant contributions to many technical projects in Mysore, Hyderabad, Odisha and Maharashtra.
- ✓ Later, Visvesvaraya served as the Diwan of Mysore from 1912 till 1918 and as a chief engineer, during which he constructed the famous Krishna Raja Sagar Dam in Mysore.

- ✓ He brought major reforms in the field of banking, education, commerce, agriculture, irrigation and industrialisation and was also a well-known precursor of economic planning in India.
- ✓ The automatic water floodgates, initially installed at the Khadakwasla reservoir in Pune in 1903, were later patented and the government of India also conferred Visvesvaraya 'Bharat Ratna' in 1955 for his work.
- ✓ He also established the Government Engineering College in Bengaluru in 1917, which was later renamed as Visvesvaraya College of Engineering
- ✓ His notable contributions include the block system of irrigation in the Deccan canals in 1899 and the flood protection system in Hyderabad.
- ✓ He also authored various books, such as 'Reconstructing India' and 'Planned Economy of India'.
- ✓ He was also graced with the British Knighthood by King George V as a Knight Commander of the British Indian Empire (KCIE) for his contributions towards public good.
- ✓ In 1968, the Indian government declared Sir M Visvesvaraya's birth anniversary as Engineers' Day, which is celebrated in Sri Lanka and Tanzania apart from India
- ✓ Theme 2021 - 'Engineering for A Healthy Planet- Celebrating the UNESCO Engineering Report'
- ✓ Last year, the theme was 'Engineers for a Self-Reliant India.'
- ✓ UNESCO celebrates World Engineer's Day on March 4 annually, as designated by the World Federation of Engineering Organizations

ALL INDIA DEBT & INVESTMENT SURVEY - REPORT

- **The All India Debt & Investment Survey, 2019 - highlighted that the richest tenth of the population owns 55.7% of the total assets in urban areas and 50.8% in rural areas.**
- ✓ The survey was conducted from January to December 2019 by the National Sample Survey (NSS)

DELHI MOST SKEWED

- Rich-poor divide highest in Delhi both for rural & urban population, **lowest in J&K**
- For urban areas, **richest 10% in Delhi own 67.9%** of assets, followed by Maha (61.4%). **J&K (36%)** has lowest skew, followed by U'khand (42.7%)
- In rural areas, Delhi's richest **10% own 80.8%** assets, followed by Punjab (65.1%). In J&K, the figure is **32.1%**

- ✓ Accordingly, the richest 10% of Indians are valued with more than half of the country's physical and financial assets, while the bottom 50% own less than 10%
- ✓ The asset calculation was done by putting a monetary value on everything owned by households.
- ✓ This included physical assets like land, buildings, livestock, agricultural machinery, non-farm business equipment among others.
- ✓ It also included transport equipment as well as financial assets like receivables on loans advanced, shares in companies and cooperative societies, deposits in banks, post offices and so on.
- ✓ As per the survey, the total physical and financial assets owned by people living in the rural areas was estimated at Rs 274.6 lakh crore, of which Rs 139.6 lakh crore was owned by the richest 10%.
- ✓ In rural areas, the top 10% owned assets were worth Rs 132.5 lakh crore, out a total of Rs 238.1 lakh crore.
- ✓ The bottom 50% owned 10.2% of assets in rural areas and an even smaller 6.2% in urban areas.
- ✓ The skew or gap is even more marked in some states.
- ✓ Within rural areas, where close to two-thirds of India lives, the skew was the highest in Delhi, with the top 10% owning 80.8% of assets and the bottom 50% just 2.1%.
- ✓ Among large states, after Delhi, asset inequality in rural areas was starkest in Punjab where the richest 10% own over 65% of assets and the bottom 50% just over 5%.
- ✓ Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana also had pronounced skews in asset ownership in the rural villages.
- ✓ Among large states, the rural skew was least in Jammu and Kashmir with the top 10% owning 32% and the bottom half 18%.
- ✓ The skew was also low in Jharkhand, Telangana, Assam, Odisha and Tamil Nadu where the richest 10% had a 40% or lower share in rural assets while the share of the bottom 50% was above 10%.
- ✓ Delhi had the highest skew in urban areas too with the richest 10% owning nearly 68% of assets and the poorest half just 3.5%.
- ✓ Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh were among the states with the highest inequality in asset ownership in cities and urban areas.
- ✓ In all of them, the richest 10% owned 55% or more of total assets while the poorest half owned 5% or less.
- ✓ In urban areas too, the share of the richest 10% in total assets was lowest in Jammu and Kashmir, followed by Uttarakhand, Punjab, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh.