



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-MARCH 30, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- On March 29, Tamil Nadu Transport Minister SS Sivasankar – tabled a policy note on transport department in the Assembly

MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 42 motor vehicle services can be availed online without visiting RTOs
- Four seats reserved for women in SETC buses
- 50% discount in tickets for who travel more than 4 times in SETC buses
- Developing Avadi and Padiyanallur bus terminuses at ₹15 crore
- Courier services in govt buses
- A/C rooms for employees in bus depots



- ✓ Replying to the debate on the demand for grants for the Transport and Motor Vehicle Acts - Administration department, the Minister said that measures will be taken to reduce the retirement age of transport corporation employees to 58 years, considering their health condition
- ✓ The Minister further announced that motorists need not apply for commercial badges to drive taxis, autos, minivans, and other Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs).
 - ✓ Accordingly, those who have ordinary licences (non-transport or own-use) will soon be eligible to drive these commercial vehicles.
 - ✓ The move is aimed at addressing drivers' shortage and avoiding crowds at Regional Transport Offices (RTOs).
 - ✓ At present, drivers with commercial badges should renew them once every three years at RTOs.
 - ✓ Several other states like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have already removed the renewal system and Tamil Nadu will be joining this list soon by amending the Motor Vehicle Act, 1989.
- ✓ In order to reduce crowds at RTOs further, the minister told the assembly that motorists can avail 42 different motor vehicle document-related services online.

- ✓ This includes making changes in driving licences, issue of duplicate licenses, and registration of vehicles.
- ✓ The public can either apply for these contactless services from their homes, net centres or through dealers in case of vehicle registrations.
- ✓ Further, the Minister said that all State Express Transport Corporation (SETC) buses would give a 50% concession for passengers who book tickets in advance and travel more than five times in a month.
 - ✓ The passengers would get the concession from their sixth trip onwards on the buses.
- ✓ To encourage women passengers to travel alone or in a group without any fear, the Minister said that four seats would be earmarked for women passengers in all the SETC buses.
- ✓ Online reservations would be available for women till 24 hours before the commencement of the journey.
- ✓ The minister said to ensure the safety of women passengers on state-run buses, CCTV cameras have been installed in more than 2,500 buses
- ✓ To encourage more women entrepreneurs, the government would provide priority to women self-help groups in running the canteens in government bus depots.
- ✓ To encourage the entrepreneurship of youngsters, the Minister said that they would be allowed to book parcel services on the buses by paying monthly Rs 6,000.
- ✓ The transport department would also set up air-conditioned resting rooms for employees at the depots.
- ✓ Children of the transport department workers who secure top marks in classes 10 and 12 examination would be provided cash rewards
- ✓ The transport department will also increase rewards for those who help to save lives in accidents.
 - ✓ According to the Minister, apart from the central government's Rs 5,000 grant for Good Samaritans who provide immediate assistance to accident victims and help them rush to hospital within the golden hour of the accident, the state government would provide an additional Rs 5,000.
- ✓ On the operation of private buses in Chennai, the Minister said that under the Chennai City Partnership programme supported by the World Bank, the private buses would be operated on the MTC routes.
- ✓ He also said town buses will be operated in hilly areas to enable women passengers to avail of free bus service.
- ✓ The Minister further said that the automated testing stations would be set up in 18 RTOs, including Sriperumpudur, Tambaram, Vellore, Srirangam, Dindigul, Thanjavur, Dintivanam, Virudhunagar and others, through a public-private partnership.
- ✓ He added that people who wanted to get a light motor vehicle license need not depend on the private driving schools as all the 91 RTOs and 54 motor vehicle inspector offices would have cars at Rs 6.25 crore.

NATIONAL

- **On March 29, the Election Commission - announced that the upcoming Assembly polls in Karnataka will be held in a single phase on May 10 and the results will be announced on May 13.**
 - ✓ There are 224 Assembly constituencies in the state, out of which 36 are reserved for the SCs and 15 for the STs.
 - ✓ The state has 5.21 crore registered voters including 2.62 crore males and 2.59 crore females
 - ✓ For the first time, the election commission will be providing home polling facility for 80+ senior citizens and benchmarked PwD voters.
 - ✓ Karnataka currently has 119 MLAs of the ruling BJP, while Congress has 75 and its ally JD(S) has 28 seats.
 - ✓ The current term of the assembly ends on May 24, 2023.
 - ✓ The election Model Code of conduct will be implemented from March 29.
 - ✓ The previous assembly elections in the state were held in May 2018, in which BJP emerged as the single-largest party by winning 104 seats out of 224, while the Congress won 80 seats and the Janata Dal (Secular) won 37 seats.

- **On March 29, the Lok Sabha - passed The Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022 to amend The Competition Act of 2002.**
 - ✓ The Bill provides for the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to impose penalties on entities based on their global turnover instead of the current practice of considering only relevant market turnover.
 - ✓ The Bill was moved for consideration by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman
 - ✓ It stipulates that deals with a transaction value of more than Rs. 2,000 crore will require the Competition Commission of India's approval.
 - ✓ The Bill also proposes to reduce the timeline for the CCI to pass an order on such transactions from 210 days to 150 days.
 - ✓ The Bill provides a framework for settlement and commitment for faster resolution of investigations of anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominant position.
 - ✓ It also decriminalises certain offences under the Act by changing the nature of punishment from the imposition of fine to civil penalties.
 - ✓ The Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022, was introduced in Parliament on August 5 last year.
 - ✓ It was then referred to the parliamentary standing committee on finance.
 - ✓ The panel tabled its report in Parliament on December 13.
 - ✓ The Act was brought in 2002 and subsequently, it underwent amendments in 2007 and 2009.
 - ✓ In May 2009, the anti-trust provisions of the law came into force and two years later in May 2011, CCI started screening mergers and acquisitions.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **On March 29, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - addressed the US 'Summit for Democracy' at a leader-level plenary co-hosted by Joe Biden.**



- ✓ During his address, PM Modi - who was the second speaker at the summit- hailed India's democracy and the “collective efforts of the citizens of India.”
 - ✓ President Joe Biden opened his second Summit for Democracy with a pledge for the U.S. to spend \$690 million supporting democracy programmes around the globe.
 - ✓ The Summit was co-hosted by Costa Rica President Rodrigo Chaves Robles, Zambia President Hakainde Hichilema, the Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte, and South Korea President Yoon Suk Yeol.
 - ✓ Presidents and Prime Ministers from six countries — Greece, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Croatia, and Timor-Leste — will address the summit.
 - ✓ The summit focuses on three key points — strengthening democracy and defending against authoritarianism, addressing and fighting corruption, and promoting respect for human rights.
 - ✓ Over 120 global leaders were invited to participate in the two-day US Summit for Democracy.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will attend the Combined Commanders' Conference-2023 in Bhopal on April 1, 2023**
 - ✓ Later during the day, the PM will flag off the Vande Bharat Express train between Bhopal and New Delhi at Rani Kamalapati Railway Station, Bhopal.
 - ✓ This will be the eleventh Vande Bharat train in the country
 - ✓ It will provide a faster, more comfortable and more convenient travel experience for rail users, boost tourism and promote economic development in the region

- ✓ The three-day conference of Military Commanders will be held from 30th March to 1st April 2023 on the theme 'Ready, Resurgent, Relevant'.
- ✓ During the Conference, deliberations will be held over a varied spectrum of issues pertaining to national security, including jointness and theaterisation in the Armed Forces.
- ✓ The conference will witness the participation of commanders from the three armed forces and senior officers from the Ministry of Defence
- ✓ Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan will address the event on the first day, and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will address the crowd on the following day
- ✓ The innovations expected to be showcased to the Prime Minister are likely to include a machine pistol named Asmi which has been developed by Lt Col Prasad Bansod of the Indian Army.

PERSONALITIES

- **Daniel Mookhey - has become the first politician of Indian-origin to become the treasurer in any Australian state.**



- ✓ Mookhey, a Hindu, took his oath of allegiance on the holy Bhagavad Gita on March 28.
- ✓ He was sworn in along with New South Wales Premier Chris Minns and six other ministers.
- ✓ Earlier, in 2015, Mookhey was elected by the Labour to replace Steve Whan in the New South Wales upper
- ✓ This makes him the state's first politician of Indian background and the first to take the oath of allegiance on the Bhagavad Gita.
- ✓ Mookhey's parents migrated from Punjab to Australia in 1973.

DEFENCE

- **The second edition of the Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX-2023) - concluded on March 29 at the Foreign Training Node in Aundh, Pune**



- ✓ The exercise involved India and 23 African nations and had commenced on March 21
- ✓ The multinational exercise focused on promoting regional security and stability by addressing challenges related to humanitarian assistance, mine clearance, and United Nations peacekeeping operations
- ✓ The exercise also aimed to enhance cooperation and interoperability among the armed forces of the participating nations.
- ✓ The Indian Army was represented by the Sikh, Maratha, and Mahar regiments, which demonstrated their skills and expertise during the 10-day drill.
- ✓ The first edition of this exercise was held in 2019.
- ✓ The exercise concluded with an Army Chiefs' conclave addressed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

BUSINESS/ECONOMY

- **European aerospace major Airbus - has awarded a contract to Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) to manufacture cargo and bulk cargo doors of the A320neo aircraft family.**
- ✓ TASL will produce these doors at a new facility in Hyderabad, using cutting-edge robotics and automation technology.
- ✓ Each shipset will include two cargo doors and one bulk cargo door.
- ✓ Airbus presently procures components and services worth \$735 million every year from more than 100 Indian suppliers.
- ✓ Today, every Airbus commercial aircraft and every Airbus helicopter has critical technologies and systems designed, manufactured and maintained in India.
- ✓ In addition, Airbus will build the C295 military aircraft final assembly line (FAL) with TASL.