



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 8 & 9, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu Medical counseling – to go ‘online’ from the 2019-20 academic year**
 - ✓ The ‘online’ facility will be available for the counselling to the postgraduate and undergraduate medical courses, including choice selection and seat allotment
 - ✓ The facility will be launched during postgraduate counselling in April 2019
 - ✓ With the advent of new facility, the medical aspirants will be saved from the hassle of visiting the counselling centre in Chennai from different parts of the state, and the agony of staring at the disappearing number of seats on digital boards
 - ✓ Compared to last year, government has hiked the number of PG seats in the state by nearly 40% to 1,758.
 - ✓ Until now, counselling for PG and UG medical courses in the state was being conducted at counselling centres such as the government multi-speciality hospital at the Omandurar estate, Chennai
 - ✓ Online counselling is being offered by the Directorate General of Health Services in Delhi for allotment of seats in government colleges across the country under the all India quota and for central and deemed universities

- **New textbooks for state board students of four Classes -II, VII, X and XII - will be available from April 2019**
 - ✓ The State Council for Educational Research and Technology (SCERT) is the nodal agency responsible for preparing new textbooks based on the revised syllabus

- **Tamil Nadu – to unveil its ‘Electric vehicle policy’ soon**
 - ✓ The new policy is expected to bring in a change in the development regulations of installing charging points in buildings and public charging stations (PCS)
 - ✓ Hyundai, a private automobile manufacturer, is planning to launch their electric vehicle in the state soon

- ✓ The Government is holding talks with a UK delegation to explore potential areas of partnership (including fleet transition programmes, vehicle to grid system, pilots and charging infrastructure development in three cities) with Tamil Nadu on e-mobility.
 - ✓ The Government plans to buy 2,000 new electric buses with German assistance.
 - ✓ In the first phase, 500 of them will ply in Chennai, Coimbatore and Madurai.
 - ✓ Government has already signed a 'Clean Bus Declaration' with C40 Cities, a climate leadership group for the e-buses
 - ✓ Metropolitan Transport Corporation is already in talks with Tangedco to set-up charging points in bus depots.
 - ✓ The Centre has released guidelines recently for e-vehicle charging infrastructure which is to be implemented in nine cities, including Chennai.TN to make its public transportation greener.
- **IIT, Madras – enters into agreement with Teertha, a private technology firm – to produce 'drinking' water from air**



- ✓ Nero, a low cost device, can produce four to five litres of potable water from atmospheric air using solar power in a day – without the necessity of electricity and any sort of maintenance
 - ✓ Atmospheric air, a major source of fresh water, has it in the form of vapour, which has to be converted into liquid
 - ✓ The proposed solar still, based on desiccant technology, traps water molecules from the atmospheric air during the night and yields water during the day – with a technology called as 'Atmospheric Moisture Extraction'
 - ✓ Teertha has developed the first Indian built atmospheric water generator in India 14 years ago
- **Chennai-based developer Arun Excello - has bagged the 'National Winner PMAY – Empowering India Awards 2019'**

- ✓ The award recognizes their contribution towards developing affordable housing for the economically weaker section and low income group
 - ✓ Union minister of state for housing and urban affairs Hardeep Singh Puri presented the award to the MD of the company, P Suresh, in Delhi recently
 - ✓ The group, which was developing large integrated townships on the outskirts of Chennai, moved into the affordable housing segment in 2010
 - ✓ It has so far completed close to 2,500 affordable housing dwelling units and another 1,600 are under construction
 - ✓ One of the compact homes projects promoted by Arun Excello has been selected as the best project in the EWS category from Tamil Nadu
 - ✓ They are the only developer in the state to bag both the national and state-level awards this year
- **Chennai – may get its 2nd airport in Mamandur, 80km south of city soon**
 - ✓ The developer Gigi George, who is a realtor in KGS Developers, said the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has cleared the site in Mamandur after inspection
 - ✓ The Greenfield airport is set to come up on 3,500 acres at an investment of Rs 4,500 crore
 - ✓ Once the project kicks off after getting the approval from the state Government, the first phase could be ready to handle 20 million passengers by 2022-23
 - ✓ A Special Purpose Vehicle, Taking Off To The Future Private Ltd, has been formed to execute the project
- **Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) – rolls out new rules to boost operational safety**
 - ✓ As per the new guidelines, the maximum speed limit for MTC buses is capped at 55 km/hr
 - ✓ The MTC drivers are instructed not to overtake same category of buses
 - ✓ The orders dated February 25 and issued by the State's transport secretary, Thiru J Radhakrishnan, recommends transfer of drivers involved in fatal accidents
 - ✓ As per official data, MTC buses were involved in 1,200 accidents annually, of which 100 are fatal
 - ✓ The new action plan also suggests to form teams at 3 levels – branch, regional and corporation – to increase revenues and reduce the spending
 - ✓ These teams have to fix service-wise collection target every month, compare collections made by conductors and conduct frequent checks to avoid revenue loss
- **Chennai-based National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) – develops new 'technology' to use coolant water discharge from thermal power plants to produce fresh water**
 - ✓ It is planning to implement the project at Thoothukudi Thermal Power Station (TTPC) at a cost of Rs 40 crore

- ✓ TTPC will be the first in the country to have an in-house 2 MLD (million litres per day) desalination plant based on Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) technology
 - ✓ Out of 2 MLD, 1 MLD will be used as safe drinking water and another 1 MLD of pure distilled water will be meant for industrial use at Thoothukudi power plant.
 - ✓ In India, almost 90% of thermal power generation depends on freshwater, which is used for cooling of power plants
 - ✓ Before this, an experimental plant generating 2-3 lakh litres per day was demonstrated at North Chennai Thermal Plant
 - ✓ LTTD technology had been used successfully in the projects implemented in the Lakshadweep Islands
 - ✓ The conventional desalination processes such as reverse osmosis leave behind high concentration of membrane which again contributes to environment degradation
 - ✓ LTTD works on the principle of utilising temperature gradient between two water bodies to evaporate the warmer water at low pressure and condense the resultant vapour with the colder water to obtain freshwater
- **Greater Chennai Corporation - to replicate the 'TN mega streets programme' to make its streets smarter**

PROJECT PLAN

| | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Total number of roads for bus routes 471 > Total length of roads 389km > Number of roads with ducts for high-density polythene pipes that carry optical fibre cables and low tension lines 125 > Total area taken up for pedestrian plaza and streets under Smart City plan 32km > In Chennai, more than 75km roads redesigned since 2013 |  <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Minimum cost ₹10cr/km</p> |
|--|--|

What is a smart street?

Smart complete streets are layouts that cater to all user groups regardless of their age, gender, ability or mode of transport. They have wide and continuous footpaths, safe pedestrian crossings, separate cycle tracks (where applicable), bus stops designed to enhance convenience, designated street parking, organized street vending, and properly scaled carriageways

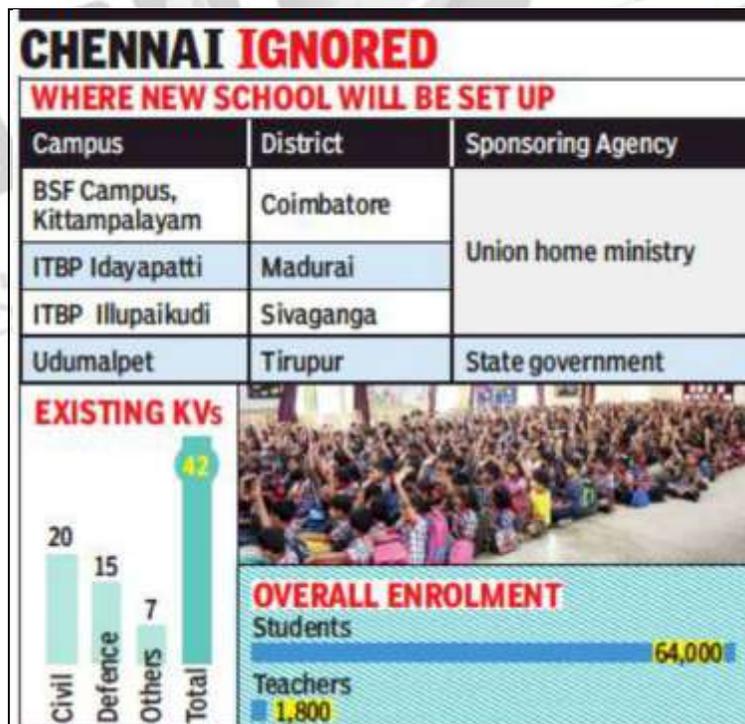
Why this project?

- > Re-design all major bus route roads 
- > To give pedestrians a continuous pathway
- > To connect all existing pedestrian pathways
- > Organize parking on these

stretches

- > Give these stretches a theme
- > Provide ducts to avoid frequent digging up of roads
- > Similar projects have been taken up in 10 corporations in TN to re-design 500km of road at ₹2,500cr 

- ✓ The programme aims to redesign 500km of roads across ten corporations (Coimbatore, Thanjavur, Trichy, Madurai, Tirupur, Salem, Vellore, Erode, Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli) in the state
- **The Higher Education Department - to convert 14 of the 41 constituent colleges of State-run universities into government arts and science colleges**
- ✓ The move was based on the announcement made by Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami in the Assembly under Rule 110 at an estimated cost of Rs 152.20 crore in June 2018
- ✓ According to Section 3(i) of the department order, the remaining colleges would be converted over the next three years based on chronological order
- ✓ The college education directorate had estimated to adopt 14 colleges it needs a budget of Rs 167.69 crore
- ✓ The 14 colleges include four of Bharathidasan University, two each of Madurai Kamaraj University, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Bharathiar University, and Tiruvalluvar University, and one college each of Tiruvalluvar University and Mother Teresa Women's University.
- **Tamil Nadu – to get 4 new Kendriya Vidyalayas – after a gap of 4 years**



- ✓ Overall, there are 42 KVs in the state with more than 64,000 students on the rolls
- ✓ Chennai has 14 KVs and does not feature in the new list

STATES

- **Kerala's Marayoor jaggery, the traditional and handmade product from Idukki district - has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from central government**



- ✓ Produced in Marayoor, this jaggery is made from sugarcane and no chemicals are added during the manufacturing process
- ✓ Workers from Onakkallur, a village in Udumalpet in Tamil Nadu, are engaged in the production of the Marayoor jaggery.
- ✓ Prepared in Sheds located on the sugarcane farm using only traditional methods, it is dark brown in colour, high in sweetness and iron, with less sodium content and insoluble impurities.
- ✓ Over 1,000 farmers in Marayoor area engaged in sugarcane cultivation
- ✓ With the GI tag, the central government has approved the product and it will provide more marketing facility to India and abroad

NATIONAL

- **The Union Cabinet – approves 30 decisions, including several projects on March 7**
- ✓ The cabinet had extended the 'Ex-servicemen Contributory Health scheme' (ECHS) to cover around 43,000 World War II veterans, providing cashless health treatment facility
- ✓ War widows will be exempted to the one-time mandatory contribution to join ECHS
- The cabinet also approved the promulgation of 'The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' cadre) Ordinance, 2019' - to treat

University/ College as the unit of reservation roster for teaching posts instead of 'Department/ Subject'.

| BIG PUSH FOR INFRASTRUCTURE | |
|---|---|
|  <p>➤ ₹31,560cr for new power projects, including 1320MW plants each in Khurja (UP) and Buxar (Bihar) and ₹4,000cr for hydel plant on Chenab (J&K)</p> | <p>➤ ₹1866cr for third railway line in Narayangarh-Bhadrak section in West Bengal and Odisha</p> |
|  <p>➤ ₹4,500cr for revival and development of unserved airstrips</p> |  <p>➤ Support to sugar sector, sugarcane farmers by augmenting ethanol production capacity</p> |
| | <p>➤ Setting up of 50 new Kendriya Vidyalayas</p> |

- ✓ The Ordinance will overturn the impact of the earlier January 22 Supreme Court decision which directed that reservation in teaching posts should be applied subject-wise
- ✓ The Ordinance also exempts reservation to institutions which are notified as 'Institutions of Excellence' as per its Schedule.
- ✓ The union cabinet has also approved setting up of 50 new Kendriya Vidyalayas under Civil and Defence sectors all over the country (including 4 in Tamil Nadu)
- ✓ Currently, there are over 12,000 KVs across the country and three abroad
- **Driving licences and vehicle registration certificates – to have the same look, colour and security features starting October 1, 2019**
- ✓ Also the DL's and RC's will now be issued as plastic cards in a standard format across the country
- ✓ The road transport and highways ministry has issued a notification making it mandatory for the states to follow the same norm
- ✓ The new DLs and RCs will have the QR code that can be read by hand-held devices to access the past records of the driver or the vehicle from the central online database.
- ✓ The QR code would enable easy linking and access and validation of the information on the cards with the SARATHI or VAHAN database
- ✓ The states have the option to install extra features such as a “chip” and the near-field communication (NFC) in these cards, to hold the information regarding the driver and vehicle for 10 years
- ✓ The NFC feature is the one which is used in the smart cards and ATMs

- ✓ The new DLs will have details of a driver's declaration to donate organs and mention if he/ she is driving a specially designed vehicle meant for the physically challenged
 - ✓ States can prescribe whether it should be a chip-based smart card or a card with contact-less features such as QR code
 - ✓ States would have an option to issue the two documents in the form of cards, which would be either made of PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride) or of Poly Carbonate.
 - ✓ Recently, the ministry amended the Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989, enabling issuance and use of transport-related documents in an electronic form.
- **The Union government - released the 'India Cooling Action Plan' (ICAP) on March 8**



- ✓ It is the World's first such plan
- ✓ It aims to reduce cooling demand across sectors by 20-25% and cooling energy requirements by 25-40% in next 20 years from the 2017-18 level.
- ✓ One of the key short-term (2019-24) recommendations made in the plan is to make "minimum indoor temperature settings" (between 24-25 degree Celsius) mandatory in commercial buildings across the country to reduce cooling requirement and energy consumption
- ✓ The country's overall cooling requirement (building sector, transportation and refrigeration) will increase by 8 times by 2037-38 with room air conditioners alone consuming more 50% of the energy required for space (building sector) cooling in India by that time
- ✓ The ICAP highlighted that the building sector cooling demand would show maximum growth at nearly 11 times in next 20 years as compared to 2017-18, followed by transport sector by 5 times and coldchain and refrigeration sectors by 4 times

- ✓ The ICAP listed a number of recommendations in the form of short (2019-24), medium (2024-29) and long (2029-38) term strategies for all the sectors so that the cooling demand and energy requirement could be reduced.
 - ✓ Under the short-term recommendations, the plan also suggested “mandatory public procurement guidelines” where all public sector agencies will have to go for only highest star-rated energy-efficient ACs, fans or chillers.
 - ✓ An earlier report, Solving the Global Cooling Challenge, was released in November last year
 - ✓ It had called upon concerted efforts to reduce energy requirement for cooling demand flagging the increase in room air conditioning units from 1.2 billion in 2016 to 4.5 billion in the world by 2050
 - ✓ According to International Energy Agency (IEA), refrigeration and air-conditioning currently cause 10% of the global carbon emissions
- **The Government – clarifies that ‘promotional schemes’ will be eligible for input tax credit in the GST pay outs**
- ✓ The announcement is expected to provide some relief to the FMCG, food and pharmaceutical retail chains
 - ✓ Input Tax Credit (ITC) is the tax that a business has to pay on a purchase so as to use it to reduce its tax liability when it makes a sale.
 - ✓ Combination Products
 - ✓ Suppose a toothbrush is provided free with the toothpaste, the GST will be levied on the combined value.
 - ✓ In cases where the two products that are clubbed together but face different rates of GST, the higher tax rate among the two will be the tax rate on the product.
 - ✓ Free Pharma Samples
 - ✓ Free sample and gifts will not attract GST but no input tax credit will be granted on samples
 - ✓ Buy One Get One Offers
 - ✓ In offers like 'Buy One Get One Free' and discounts on reaching a certain amount in the bill (like 10 percent off on purchases over Rs 5,000), the tax will be charged on the invoice value.
 - ✓ GST on Tax collected at Source (TCS)
 - ✓ Reversing an earlier decision, the government said GST will not be levied on the tax collected at source (TCS) under the provisions of the I-T Act
- **Hinduja group flagship, Ashok Leyland - has bagged an order for 1,290 buses from Gujarat State Roadways Transport Corporation**
- ✓ The company has recently got order of 2,580 buses from various state transport undertakings
 - ✓ Ashok Leyland is currently the 4th largest manufacturer of buses in the world and the largest one in India.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- The Supreme Court - referred the 70-year-old Ayodhya litigation to a secret mediation process by a three-member panel, which will submit a report in eight weeks

| THE THREE WISE MEN FROM TAMIL NADU | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|
|  | Sri Sri Ravi Shankar <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Spiritual leader, founder of Art of Living Foundation <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Was involved in peace talks between Colombian govt and rebel outfit FARC; received Colombia's highest civilian award for conflict resolution |  | Justice FMI Kalifulla <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Former SC judge, played a crucial role in BCCI reforms <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ As Madras HC judge, gave a landmark ruling upholding introduction of Vedic astrology as a course of scientific studies in universities |  | Sriram Panchu <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Senior advocate; founder member and vice-president of Association of Indian Mediators <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Part of the SC-mandated mediation between Assam and Nagaland over their 50-year-old boundary dispute |

- ✓ On March 8, a five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi along with Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer said a panel led by former SC judge F M Ibrahim Kalifulla and comprising spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and well-known mediator Sriram Panchu could conduct a dialogue with the contending parties
- ✓ Faizabad has been chosen as the venue for in-camera mediation to solve the dispute for ownership of the 2.77-acre land in Ayodhya
- ✓ In its 2010 verdict, the Allahabad HC had allotted the two entities one-third each of the disputed land with the other third going to deity Ram Lalla

INTERNATIONAL

- **European Union - included Pakistan in its new list of 23 “high risk third countries” with strategic deficiencies in their antimoney laundering and counter-terrorist financing frameworks**
- ✓ It will now be submitted to the European Parliament and Council for approval within one month (with a possible one-month extension)
- ✓ The aim of the list was to protect the EU financial system (banks etc.,) by better preventing money laundering and terrorist financing risks.

PERSONALITIES

- **Krishna Kumari Kohli, Pakistan's first female senator from the Hindu Dalit community – became the first Hindu woman to chair Pakistan's senate session on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8**



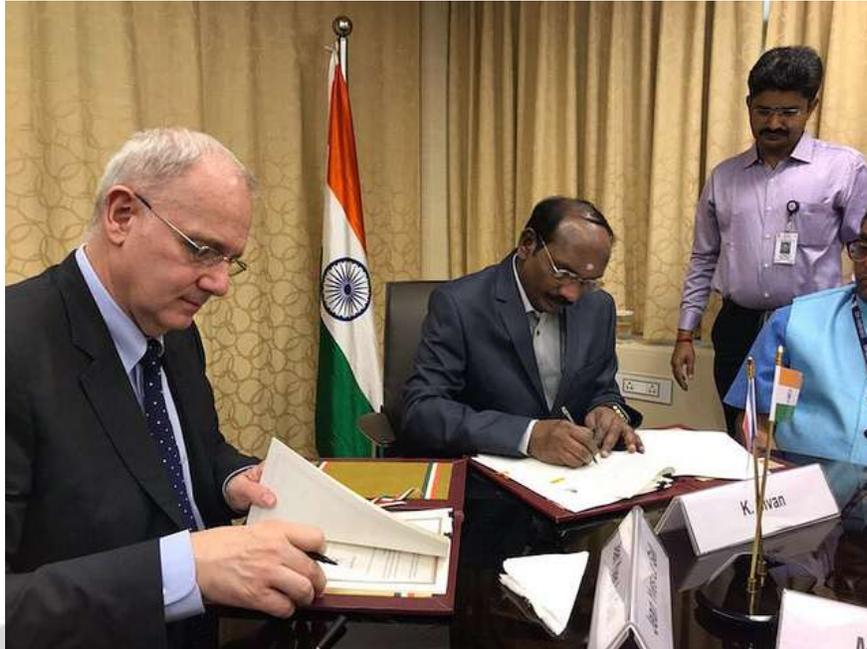
- ✓ Krishna, 40, was elected as senator in March 2018 after spending many years working for the rights of bonded labourers in Muslim-majority Pakistan.
- ✓ She is the first Thari Hindu woman to be elected to the Pakistan senate
- **A stray dog, Mera – becomes the first dog to scale a Himalayan peak Mera, who appears to be a cross between a Tibetan mastiff and a Himalayan sheepdog, scaled Baruntse, a 7000-metre high peak in the Himalayas just south of Mount Everest.**



- ✓ The dog crossed a glacier and befriended other climbers on a mountaineering expedition in Nepal led by the group's leader Don Wargowsky
- ✓ Although the team was unable to fly the dog out of Nepal, it was adopted by the expedition's base camp manager, Kaji Sherpa

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **ISRO – ties up with France’s CNES - to develop a constellation of satellites and setting up a maritime surveillance centre in Indian ocean region by May 2019**



- ✓ The CNES-ISRO agreement intends to supply an operational system for detecting, identifying and tracking ships in the Indian Ocean
 - ✓ A team of experts from ISRO will start receiving training this month for the 'Gaganyaan' project at the Toulouse Space Centre, the CADMOS centre for the development of microgravity applications and space operations and the MEDES space clinic
 - ✓ The Toulouse Space Centre is a centre for research and development relating to space travel
 - ✓ The development comes a year after French President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 'Joint Vision for Space Cooperation' during the former's visit here in March 2018
-
- **NASA – to conduct first all-women spacewalk on March 29**
 - ✓ The spacewalk will be carried out by American astronauts Anne McClain and Christina Koch at the International Space Station
 - ✓ The spacewalk titled 'Expedition 59' is being held to replace batteries that were installed last summer
 - ✓ It is expected to last for about seven hours



- ✓ NASA, which is celebrating March as the Women's History Month, has a dedicated page for information on women working in various fields such as engineering, space, mathematics, etc at the space agency
- ✓ A total of 213 spacewalks have been performed at the International Space Station since December 1998
- ✓ Last year, a total of eight spacewalks were held, with the longest lasting for eight hours and 13 minutes.
- ✓ Soviet Union's Svetlana Savitskaya became the first woman to perform a spacewalk on July 25 1984
- ✓ To recall, NASA astronaut, Sally Ride was the first American woman in space
- ✓ She was launched in space with four other crew mates on mission STS-7 in 1983.
- **A "Dusseldorf patient" – becomes the 3rd 'HIV' infected person to be cured following a bone marrow transplantation**
- ✓ He has been off the medication for 3 months, but biopsies of tissue taken from lymph nodes and the gut show no sign of infection, doctors told the 'Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections' in Seattle
- ✓ It came hours after researchers reported a "London patient", who was the second ever man to be "cured" of HIV by a bone marrow transplant — which effectively replaces and reboots the cells of the immune system where HIV persists.
- ✓ The London patient, who has decided to remain anonymous, has been off virus-suppressing drugs for 18 months and has no detectable traces of HIV, researchers reported in the journal 'Nature' last week
- ✓ Bone marrow transplants have been known as a possible "cure" for HIV since the 2007 case of American Timothy Ray Brown, known as "the Berlin patient"
- ✓ He was diagnosed with leukaemia, a cancer of the white blood cells which make up the immune system
- ✓ Later, he was given a transplant to replace his cancerous cells with donors after chemotherapy and radiotherapy
- ✓ The crucial factor for the patients cured of HIV is that their donor carried a mutation in a gene called CCR5
- ✓ CCR5 is found only in around 1% of people in Western Europe - and is even more rare elsewhere

- ✓ People with a CCR5 mutation on both their chromosomes are naturally resistant to HIV and when used in a bone marrow transplant it effectively means the virus cannot return

DEFENCE

- **India – signs a \$3 billion deal with Russia - for leasing of a nuclear-powered attack submarine for the Indian Navy for a period of 10 years**



- ✓ Under the pact, Russia will have to deliver the Akula class submarine, to be known as Chakra III, to the Indian Navy by 2025. It will be the third Russian submarine to be leased to the Indian Navy to strengthen its presence in the Indian Ocean region
- ✓ The first Russian nuclear-powered submarine -- christened INS Chakra -- was taken in 1988 under a three year lease
- ✓ A second INS Chakra was taken on lease in 2012 for a period of 10 years.
- ✓ On March 3, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Indo-Russian joint production facility to manufacture AK-203 Kalashnikov assault rifles for the Indian Army in Amethi in Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ In October, India signed a multi-billion dollar deal with Russia to procure a batch of S-400 air defence missile system
- **Captain Anuradha Shukla and co-pilot Shirin Chandran - became the first women team to run a hovercraft**



- ✓ The hovercraft H-197, with the two women officers, took off from the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Mandapam station — off the Rameswaram coast — and reached Chennai on March 8, the International Women’s Day
- ✓ Anuradha Shukla, captain of the hovercraft, has been in service for nine years and is from Lucknow
- ✓ Her co-pilot was deputy commandant Shirin Chandran, who is from Kerala
- ✓ Apart from the two women officers, there were 10 male sailors on board
- ✓ Anuradha and Shirin were among the first four women officers to be trained to operate air-cushion vehicles (ACVs) in 2017
- ✓ Anuradha has become the first woman captain of craft in the eastern region of the ICG
- ✓ The hovercraft is capable of travelling on water, sand, marshy area, ice, mud, and uneven surfaces - by creating a cushion of high-pressure air between the hull of the vessel and the surface underneath.
- ✓ For the past two years, women squadrons have been copilots of the hovercraft and this is the first instance of a woman being helming the role of a pilot

AWARDS

- **President of India, Ram Nath Kovind - honoured 41 women achievers and three institutions - at the Nari Shakti Puraskar function on International Women’s day at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi**
- ✓ Nari Shakti Puraskar 2018, the highest civilian honour for women, recognized the efforts of 44 awardees out of around 1,000 nominations received by the Women and Child Development Ministry



- ✓ The awardees includes scientists A Seema and Ipsita Biswas, Doordarshan News anchor Neelum Sharma, acid attack survivor Pragma Prasun, radio music composer Madhuri Barthwal and activist Manju Manikuttan
- ✓ Other awardees included spiritual leader Sister Shivani, commando trainer Seema Rao and the only woman marine pilot in India, Reshma Nilofar Naha
- **Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu - conferred an honorary doctorate by Costa Rica's University of Peace on March 8**



- ✓ The doctoral honour is for his contribution “to the rule of law, democracy and sustainable development in India”
- ✓ Naidu is the first Indian to receive an honorary doctorate from this University

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- “Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas”, a compilation of select speeches delivered by PM Narendra Modi



- ✓ Released by - Union finance minister Arun Jaitley
- ✓ Day - March 8, International Women's Day

SPORTS

- **The BCCI - announced the latest Annual contracts for Indian cricketers on March 7**
- ✓ This year 25 cricketers were contracted in four groups of A plus (Rs 7 crore), A (Rs 5 crore), B (Rs 3 crore) and C (Rs 1 crore)
- ✓ Last year, 26 players were handed contracts
- ✓ List of contracted Male cricketers
- ✓ Grade A PLUS - Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah
- ✓ Grade A - MS Dhoni, Cheteshwar Pujara, Rishabh Pant, R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Kuldeep Yadav, Shikhar Dhawan, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Ajinkya Rahane
- ✓ Grade B - KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya, Umesh Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal.
- ✓ Grade C - Kedar Jadhav, Dinesh Karthik, Ambati Rayudu, Manish Pandey, Hanuma Vihari, Khaleel Ahmed, Wriddhiman Saha.
- ✓ Women players
- ✓ Grade A (Rs. 50 lakhs) - Mithali Raj, Harmanpreet Kaur, Poonam Yadav, Smriti Mandhana

- ✓ Grade B (Rs. 30 lakhs) - Ekta Bisht, Jhulan Goswami, Shikha Pandey, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodriguez.
- ✓ Grade C (Rs. 10 lakhs) - Radha Yadav, D. Hemalatha, Anuja Patil, Veda Krishnamoorthy, Mansi Joshi, Poonam Raut, Mona Meshram, Arundathi Reddy, Taniya Bhatia, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Pooja Vastrakar
- **Team India – sports ‘Camouflage’ caps on March 8 – during the third ODI cricket match between India and Australia - at JSCA International Stadium, Ranchi**



- ✓ The unique initiative of Indian cricket team is to show respect to the martyrs of the Pulwama terror attack
- ✓ Indian cricketers also decided to donate the match fees of the day to the National Defence Fund
- ✓ MS Dhoni, who has been bestowed with the rank of Lt.Col by the Territorial Army, handed over the specially-designed caps to teammates, including skipper Virat Kohli, and the rest of the support staff before the start of the match.
- ✓ Even former cricketers Sunil Gavaskar, Sanjay Manjrekar and L Sivaramakrishnan, who are on commentary duty at the venue, were presented with the caps later in the afternoon
- ✓ The Indian cricket team will sport camouflaged army caps in a game at home from now on to show their respect to the armed forces, like the ‘Pink Test’ in Australia and the ‘Pink ODI’ in South Africa
- **Indian test cricketer, R Ashwin – unveils the first non-electric ball thrower ‘Freebowler’ at the Centre for Sports Science in SRMC, Chennai**



- ✓ The one-of-its-kind machine doesn't require batteries, electricity ports or cords and is easily portable
- ✓ Electric bowling machines have become an integral part of every team's practice sessions these days
- ✓ Free bowler uses proper cricket balls, whereas electric bowling machine uses plastic-coated synthetic balls
- ✓ Moreover, the electric bowling machine has rotating wheels which squeeze the ball before its throw that can damage the threading of the ball, while Freebowler simulates realistic bowling actions with a throwing arm.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ International Women's Day – March 8



- ✓ The UN theme for International Women's Day 2019 was: 'Think equal, build smart, innovate for change'
- ✓ History of the Women's Day
- ✓ The first International Women's Day occurred on March 19, 1911, supported by over one million people in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland
- ✓ In 1913 Russian women observed their first International Women's Day on the last Saturday in February
- ✓ In 1914 International Women's Day was held on March 8 in Germany, possibly because that day was a Sunday, and now it is always held on March 8 in all countries
- ✓ The United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day in the International Women's Year, 1975
- ✓ In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly invited member states to proclaim March 8 as the UN Day for women's rights and world peace

