

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 16, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- **Greater Chennai Corporation – plans to demarcate the vending and non-vending zones in the city by the end of this month**
- ✓ It is planning to allow hawkers only on four streets in each of the 200 corporation wards.
- ✓ Only streets with a minimum width of 40 feet will be chosen as vending zones, which will be on bus routes and near temples and other public spaces
- **G Subramanian and C Sivachandran from Tamilnadu - were among the 42 CPRF personnel killed in the Pulwama terror attack**

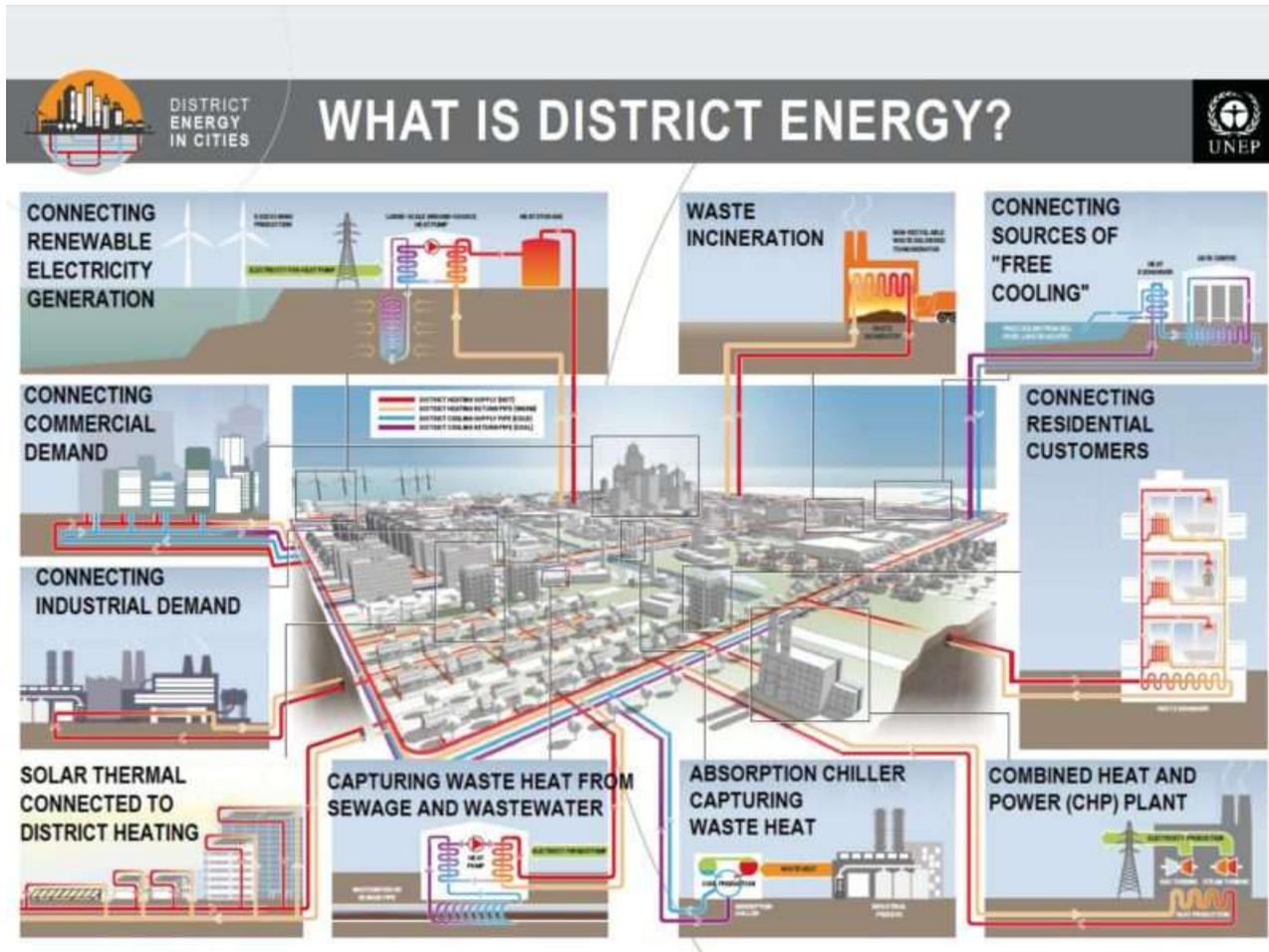


- ✓ Subramanian is from Savalaperi village near Kovilpatti in Tuticorin district and Sivachandran belongs to Karugudi village in Ariyalur district.
- ✓ Subramanian had joined CRPF in 2014 and was moved to Jammu and Kashmir after being posted in Chennai and Uttar Pradesh

- ✓ Sivachandran had joined the CRPF in 2010
- ✓ Condemning the terror attack, Tamilnadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami announced a solatium of Rs 20 lakh each to the victims' families

STATES

- **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu - laid the foundation stone of India's biggest district cooling system in the state's capital, Amaravati on February 13**



- ✓ First of its kind in the country, the district cooling system will help save 40% of the energy currently being used
- ✓ All government, residential and commercial buildings in Amaravati will be supplied chilled water through this system's pipelines.
- ✓ The 30-year agreement between the UAE's National Central Cooling Company (Tabreed) and Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) for a contracted cooling capacity of 20,000 refrigeration tonnes was signed recently and this is the UAE Company's first plant outside its Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) market

- ✓ Tabreed's system will meet cooling requirements for the State's Assembly, High Court, Secretariat and other government buildings that are currently under construction, for which cooling services will commence from early 2021.
 - ✓ District cooling was first set up in India at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT), the first phase of which with a capacity of 10,000 RTs, has been in operation since April 2015.
 - ✓ The state plans to make all buildings in the new capital green-rated
 - ✓ In this regard, the corporation will enter into an MoU with a Zurich-based organization for construction of energy efficient residential buildings which have below 2,000 W of energy consumption.
 - ✓ Every building in Amaravati should have a Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) or Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) rating
- **Goa – declares ‘Ghumot’, an indigenous earthen drum - as the state’s heritage musical instrument**



- ✓ Ghumot is a percussion instrument widely played during Ganesh Chaturthi Aarties
- ✓ Ghumot is an indigenous earthen drum fashioned as a designed clay pot, with the skin of the ‘monitor lizard’ stretched taut across the pot’s mouth, forming a drumhead
- ✓ Since the monitor lizard was classified as an endangered wildlife species and was listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, Ghumot was banned by the Goa Forest Department
- ✓ Nowadays, the instrument is given a new lease of life by replacing the skin of Monitor lizard with the sheep-goat skin
- ✓ Portuguese Prime Minister Anotnio Costa, who is of goan origin, was presented with a Ghumot, during his visit to India in 2017

NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the country's first semi-high speed 'Vande Bharat Express' train from New Delhi station on February 15**



- ✓ Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and members of the Railway Board were present on the occasion
- ✓ In its inaugural run, Vande Bharat Express will travel from Delhi to Varanasi in nine hours and forty-five minutes
- ✓ This includes stoppage time of 40 minutes each at Kanpur and Allahabad where there will be special programmes.
- ✓ The commercial run of the train will start from February 17 between Delhi to Varanasi five days a week.
- ✓ It has 16 air-conditioned coaches of which two are executive class with the total seating capacity of 1,128 passengers
- ✓ The first locomotive-less train in the country is being seen as a successor to the Shatabdi Express, launched in 1988
- ✓ The Railways recently named the indigenously manufactured Train 18 as Vande Bharat Express in an acknowledgement of its Made-in-India status
- ✓ The semi-high speed train is set to run between New Delhi and Varanasi at a maximum speed of 160 kilometre per hour
- ✓ The fully air-conditioned train will stop at Kanpur and Allahabad
- ✓ The 16-coach train was built in 18 months at a cost of Rs 97 crore by the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai within 18 months
- ✓ All coaches are equipped with automatic doors, GPS-based audio-visual passenger information system, on-board hotspot WiFi for entertainment purposes and very comfortable seating

- ✓ All toilets are bio-vacuum type.
 - ✓ The lighting is dual mode, diffused for general illumination and personal for every seat.
Every coach has a pantry facility to serve hot meals and, hot and cold beverages.
 - ✓ The insulation is meant to keep heat and noise to very low levels for additional passenger comfort.
 - ✓ Adding up the green footprints, the train has regenerative braking system which can save up to 30% of electrical energy.
- **42 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Jawans – were killed in the deadliest suicide bomber attack on their bus along the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway in Pulwama on February 14**



- ✓ Pakistan-based militant group Jaish-e-Mohammad, formed in 2000 by Masood Azhar, claimed responsibility for the attack, injuring dozens of jawans
- ✓ The incident took place when 2,547 CRPF personnel of 76th battalion of the force were coming in a convoy of 78 vehicles from the transit camp in Jammu and headed to Srinagar
- ✓ Police identified the suicide bomber, who carried over 100 kg of explosives, as Adil Ahmed, who joined the Jaish in 2018
- ✓ This was the first suicide car bomb attack in Kashmir since the 2001 strike on the Legislative Assembly in which 41 people, including three suicide attackers, were killed
- ✓ This was the major strike by the Pakistan-backed militants since the Uri attack, killing 19 soldiers, when a group of fidayeen stormed an Army base close to the LoC in Uri in north Kashmir on September 18, 2016

- ✓ The convoy norms were relaxed in 2003, aimed at not disturbing the civilian vehicle movement, during the tenure of Mufti Mohammed Sayeed as the state's chief minister
- **The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) - launched a new portal “LADIS – Least Available Depth Information System” - to aid in ensuring the optimum use of National Waterways**



- ✓ LADIS will ensure that real-time data on least available depths is provided to ship and cargo owners so that they can undertake transportation on NWs in a more planned way
- ✓ An assured depth of waterway is required for seamless movement of vessels.
- ✓ The portal being hosted on IWAI's website www.iwai.nic.in has been developed in-house.
- ✓ Initially LAD information will be available for NW-1, NW-2, Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route and NW-3, along with the date of survey

COMMITTEES

- **The Expert Committee led by Anoop Satpathy, fellow of V. V. Giri National Labour Institute – had submitted its report on “Determining the Methodology for Fixation of the National Minimum Wage” to the Government.**
- ✓ The Committee was constituted by the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment January 17, 2017 to review and recommend methodology for fixation of National Minimum Wage through an evidence-based approach.

REGION-SPECIFIC MINIMUM WAGES PROPOSED

REGION 1	REGION 2	REGION 3	REGION 4	REGION 5
₹342/day or ₹ 8,892/month	₹380/day or ₹ 9,880/month	₹414/day or ₹ 11,622/month	₹447/day or ₹ 11,622/month	₹386/day or ₹ 10,036/month
Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, MP, Odisha, UP and West Bengal	Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, J&K and Uttarakhand	Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu	Delhi, Goa, HP, Haryana and Punjab	Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Mizoram and Tripura

- ✓ It recommended the fixation of need-based National Minimum Wage for India at Rs 375 per day or Rs 9,750 per month irrespective of sectors, skills, occupations and rural-urban locations for a family
- ✓ It recommended to introduce an additional house rent allowance or city compensatory allowance of Rs 55 per day or Rs 1,430 per month for urban workers, over and above the National Minimum Wage

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The World Sustainable Development Summit 2019 - was inaugurated by the Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi**



- ✓ The 3-day summit themed 'Attaining the 2030 Agenda: delivering on our promise' has been organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) at India Habitat Centre, Delhi from February 11 to 13
- ✓ It provides a platform for global leaders to discuss climatic issues of universal importance
- ✓ The Vice President said that India was on the course to achieving 175 GW renewable energy target and 40% of India's electricity generation is set to be from non-fossil fuels, by 2022
- ✓ Teri, The Energy and Resources Institute
- ✓ It is a research institute in New Delhi that specializes in the fields of energy, environment and sustainable development.
- ✓ Established by Darbari S Seth in 1974, it was formerly known as the Tata Energy Research Institute
- ✓ Darbari S Seth was the builder of Tata Chemicals Limited

PERSONALITIES

- **Flight Lieutenant Hina Jaiswal - created history by becoming the first female flight engineer to be inducted by the Indian Air Force on February 15, 2019**



- ✓ Hina, who was commissioned in the IAF's engineering branch in 2015, completed her course at the Air Force Station in Yelahanka
- ✓ Hina, who earned her Flight Engineer's wing on February 15, 2019, would be posted at helicopter units.
- ✓ A flight engineer is part of the crew who monitors and operates aircraft systems.
- ✓ The IAF, since 1993, has commissioned women in the officers' cadre and successfully inducted them as pilots too.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Pramod Chandra Mody, a 1982-batch IRS officer - was appointed as the new Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on February 15**



- ✓ Mody succeeds Sushil Chandra, who was appointed as election commissioner on February 14
- ✓ Prior to his appointment as CBDT chief, Mody was member (administration) in the CBDT
- ✓ He will be in-charge till June this year
- ✓ The CBDT is the apex administrative authority of the income tax department

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **Unani Day – February 11**



- ✓ The observance of the day highlights the important role played by Unani Medicine in public health, especially in combating lifestyle disorders and various chronic diseases at an affordable cost
- ✓ The birth anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan is celebrated as Unani Day on February 11 every year
- ✓ Hakeem Ajmal Khan was a great scholar, social reformer, distinguished clinician and a freedom fighter.
- ✓ This year, the Government celebrated his 151th birth anniversary by hosting a two day National Conference on Unani Medicine for Public Health at New Delhi



- ✓ The objective of the said event was to pay tribute to the legendary for his wonderful contribution in the sustained development of Unani Medicine in the country
- ✓ He built 3 important institutions, the Central College in Delhi, the Hindustani Dawakhana and the Ayurvedic and Unani Tibbia College, better known as Tibbia College, Delhi
- ✓ In recognition of the contribution of Hakim Ajmal Khan, the Ministry of AYUSH adopted 11th February as Unani Day in 2017

