



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 23, 2019

### TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu Government – notifies the new ‘Tamil Nadu Regulation of Rights and Responsibilities of Landlords and Tenants Act, 2017’ on February 22, 2019



மாண்புமிகு தமிழ்நாடு முதலமைச்சர் திரு.எடப்பாடி கே.பழனிசாமி அவர்கள் இன்று (22.2.2019) தலைமைச் செயலகத்தில், “தமிழ்நாடு சொத்து உரிமையாளர்கள் மற்றும் வாடகைதாரர்களின் உரிமைகள் மற்றும் பொறுப்புகள் முறைப்படுத்துதல் சட்டம், 2017” மற்றும் அதற்கான விதிகள் இன்றுமுதல் அறிவிக்கை செய்யப்பட்டு, அமல்படுத்தப்படுவதை தொடர்ந்து, இச்சட்டத்தினை சிறந்த முறையில் நடைமுறைப்படுத்தவும், பொதுமக்கள் எளிதாக பின்பற்றுவதற்காகவும் உருவாக்கப்பட்ட [www.tenancy.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenancy.tn.gov.in) என்ற வலைதளத்தை துவக்கி வைத்தார்கள். உடன், மாண்புமிகு துணை முதலமைச்சர் திரு.ஓ. பன்னீர்செல்வம், மாண்புமிகு ஊரக தொழில்துறை அமைச்சர் திரு.பா. பென்ஜமின், தமிழ்நாடு வீட்டுவசதி வாரியத்தின் தலைவர் திரு.பி.கே. வைரமுத்து, தலைமைச் செயலாளர் முனைவர் கிரிஜா வைத்தியநாதன், இ.ஆ.ப., மற்றும் அரசு உயர் அலுவலர்கள் உள்ளனர்.

- ✓ It seeks to replace the Tamil Nadu Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Act, 1960, which is popularly known as the Rent Control Act, been considered in favour of tenants
- ✓ The new tenancy Act aims at balancing the rights and responsibilities of tenants and owners.
- ✓ As per the new act, a registered written agreement is mandatory for renting a home, an office or any building or property in Tamil Nadu

- ✓ Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami launched an exclusive portal, [www.tenancy.tn-.gov.in](http://www.tenancy.tn-.gov.in), where people can create a tenancy registration number using which they can register their agreements with the appropriate Rent authority
  - ✓ Rent authorities (like Rent courts and tribunals) would be constituted in every district, headed by a deputy collector rank officer to resolve disputes between tenants and owners
  - ✓ Besides, even people who have already rented out places will have to register their agreements with the rent authority concerned within the next 90 days.
  - ✓ The Union government had emphasised earlier on replacing the Rent Control Act during signing of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) under the 'Housing for All' programme
  - ✓ In 2017, the state government had introduced the bill in the assembly to implement the tenancy act that will cover all the urban areas and it was passed a year later
  - ✓ Under the 2011 census, Tamil Nadu has 23.4% rental housing
- **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - inaugurated 'Freedom' fuel stations at various districts through video conferencing on February 22**



மாண்புமிகு தமிழ்நாடு முதலமைச்சர் திரு.எடப்பாடி கே. பழனிசாமி அவர்கள் 22.2.2019 அன்று தலைமைச் செயலகத்தில், தமிழ்நாடு அரசின் சிறைத்துறை, இந்தியன் ஆயில் கார்பரேஷன் நிறுவனத்துடன் இணைந்து வேலூர் மத்திய சிறைச்சாலை வளாகத்தில் அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ள பெட்ரோல் சில்லறை விற்பனை நிலையத்தை காணொலிக் காட்சி (Video Conferencing) மூலமாக திறந்து வைத்தார்கள். மேலும், கோயம்புத்தூர், பாளையங்கோட்டை மற்றும் புதுக்கோட்டை - பார்ஸ்டல் பள்ளி ஆகிய இடங்களில் உள்ள மத்திய சிறைச்சாலை வளாகங்களில் அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ள பெட்ரோல் சில்லறை விற்பனை நிலையங்களையும் திறந்து வைத்தார்கள்.

- ✓ The petrol bunks will be run by convicts from various prisons across the state.
- ✓ The initiative is being done with the help of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd
- ✓ Prisoners will be recruited based on their good conduct and will be paid Rs 200 a day
- ✓ The selected prisoners have been given prior training to carry out the work and will be under the supervision of prison police at the fuel station

- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - laid the foundation stone for the construction of Chennai's second biggest bus terminal at Kilambakkam – on February 22**



மாண்புமிகு தமிழ்நாடு முதலமைச்சர் திரு.எடப்பாடி கே.பழனிசாமி அவர்கள் இன்று (22.2.2019) தலைமைச் செயலகத்தில், தமிழ்நாடு வீட்டுவசதி வாரியத்தின் சார்பில் திருவள்ளூர் மாவட்டம், அய்யப்பாக்கம் திட்டப் பகுதியில் கட்டப்பட்டுள்ள 336 குறைந்த வருவாய் பிரிவு அடுக்குமாடி குடியிருப்புகளை கானொலிக் கள்சி மூலமாக திறந்து வைத்தார்கள். மேலும், தமிழ்நாடு வீட்டுவசதி வாரியம் மற்றும் தமிழ்நாடு குடிசைப் பகுதி மாற்று வாரியத்தின் சார்பில் கட்டப்பட்டுள்ள குடியிருப்புகளை திறந்து வைத்து, காஞ்சிபுரம் மாவட்டம், வண்டலூர் அருகிலுள்ள கிளம்பாக்கத்தில் அமைக்கப்படவுள்ள புதிய புறநகர் பேருந்து நிலையத்திற்கு அடிக்கல் நாட்டினார்கள்.

- ✓ The bus terminus will come up on 44.74 acres of the 88.52-acre land at an estimated cost of Rs 417 crore
- ✓ The terminus will cater to buses bound for southern parts of Tamil Nadu and is aimed at decongesting Koyambedu in the heart of Chennai.
- ✓ The Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) had floated a tender for the construction of the new terminal which commenced eight years after being announced.
- ✓ This is because the site lies within protected and prohibited zone of Archaeological Survey of India as it contains 'Megalithic Burial Sites'
- ✓ According to an amendment to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act in January 2010, all construction is banned within 100 metres of ASI-protected areas and any construction or reconstruction or repair of a building with 200 metres of such areas requires permission from National Monuments Authority
- **Coimbatore based Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham - won a \$125,000 'Community Challenge Award' in US-based XPRIZE Adult Literacy Competition**
- ✓ The award was given for an app designed by the institute to boost adult literacy in the US using a mobile solution.
- ✓ Amrita was one of the four teams selected for demonstrating significant improvement in language skills in both native speakers (NS) and English as a second language (ESL) learners during a 12-month test period



- ✓ Overall, a total of 108 teams registered for the event
- **Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) – signs agreement with Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) – to collaborate on applying advanced analytical approaches for predicting pregnancy outcomes**



- ✓ THSTI is an autonomous institute of the Department of Biotechnology, Union ministry of science and technology in Faridabad, Haryana
- **Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy – appointed as an Additional Judge of the Madras High Court for a two-year term**
- ✓ Chief Justice VK Tahilramani administered the oath of office to Justice Ramamoorthy in the presence of the Bar and the Bench of the High Court on February 22



- ✓ Justice Ramamoorthy obtained his Bachelor's degree in law from the Madras Law College in 1990
- ✓ In 1992, he obtained his Master's law degree in Constitutional and International law from the Madras Law College
- ✓ In 1993, he joined the chambers of Senior Counsel Arvind Datar and worked with him till 1998
- ✓ In 2001, he joined Dua Associates as a Partner and headed its Chennai office until his elevation to the Bench
- ✓ With Justice Ramamoorthy's addition, the working strength of the Madras High Court presently stands at 60 judges as against a sanctioned strength of 75 judges
- ✓ However, with the Collegium reiterating the proposal to transfer Justice MV Muralidharan to the Manipur High Court, the strength may fall back to 59 judges.

## STATES

- **Madhya Pradesh Government – announces India's first 100-day urban job guarantee scheme**
- ✓ The scheme provides 40 kinds of jobs, covering a wide range of population- regardless of their educational qualification
- ✓ The government has already started accepting registrations for the scheme and around 1.68 lakh urban unemployed youths have applied and around 64,000 youths have been allotted work under the scheme so far
- ✓ Once enrolled, beneficiaries will have to work in civic bodies and undergo skills training simultaneously.



<b>EMPLOYING THE YOUTH</b>	
<b>NODAL AGENCY:</b> Urban administration & development deptt	<b>SOFTWARE:</b> MP Agency for Promotion of Information Technology
<b>HOW IT WORKS</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Youth aged 21 and 30 must register online</li> <li>➤ Choose three areas of interest from the list of options</li> <li>➤ Based on skills the respective department will allot work</li> <li>➤ Jobs may include tax collection, conducting survey, water works</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ After working for 10 days under the municipal body, training to be provided in one's area of interest</li> <li>➤ Would be entitled to a stipend of Rs 4,000 per month</li> <li><b>WORK HOURS:</b> Four hours for the municipal body, rest time they can take training for 90 days</li> <li>➤ After 90-day training would be absorbed in different works</li> </ul>

- ✓ The government's target is to cover at least six lakh youths a year in three phases, which means two lakh every four months
- ✓ Jobs offered under the scheme include cattle grazer, accountant assistant, assistant fire operator, assistant storekeeper, caretaker of shelter homes, effluent water treatment plant operator, motor mechanic, electrician, community response person, contract supervisor, courier, glass fitter, garden assistant, JCB driver, JCB helper, driver, dispatch operator, conductor, fireman, photographer, carpenter, billing assistant, mechanic, welder, repair of office electronic equipment, bill distributor, legal advisor assistant, videographer, store attendant, surveyor, cleanliness assistant and security guard
- **Chhattisgarh Government – to set up 'Cow Creche' or 'Gowthan' in every village to serve as a shelter for calves and cows**
- ✓ For the first time in the country, the state plans to turn the cow ecosystem into a profit-making venture under the Narwa-Garuwa-Ghurwa Badi (NGGB) project
- ✓ Crop stubble will be brought to Gowthans and fed to cows while cow dung will be converted into compost and returned to farmers as fertilizer
- ✓ Gowthans will also be used to market cow products
- ✓ The scheme is modeled as a big step towards promoting organic farming in the state.
- **Uttar Pradesh Government – to announce Hema Malini, actress and current BJP MP from Mathura – as the brand ambassador of UP Gau Seva Aayog, an autonomous body with an advisory role**



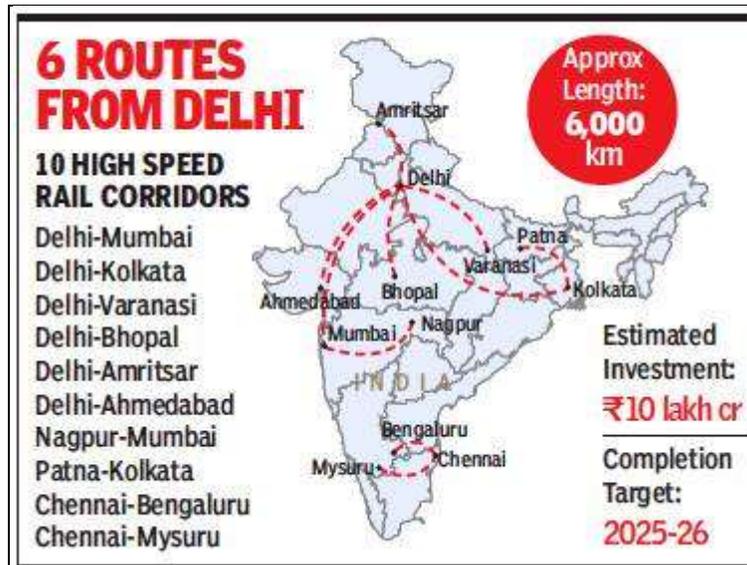
- ✓ The plan, to showcase and promote health benefits of cow products, was conceptualized in May 2018
- ✓ The UP Government had allocated a mammoth Rs 647 crore allocation for bovines in the 2019 budget
- **Kerala – hosted the world’s largest religious gathering of women on a single day ‘Attukal Pongala festival’ in Thiruvananthapuram on February 20, 2019**



- ✓ Lakhs of women prepared 'Pongala'- the offering in makeshift brick stoves to worship the presiding deity of Attukal Bhagavathy temple
- ✓ Attukal temple is also called 'Women's Sabarimala' as only women perform the ritual

# NATIONAL

- **Indian Railways – announces a mega expansion plan, which includes more than doubling its freight capacity and adding new high-speed bullet trains for 10 corridors with a cumulative length of about 6,000km**



- ✓ Currently, there is one high-speed train corridor —Ahmedabad-Mumbai — under implementation
  - ✓ The immediate focus is on adding 17,000km to the existing 1.2 lakh km rail network at an investment of more than Rs 5 lakh crore
  - ✓ The plan involves trebling the rail tracks along the Golden Quadrilateral and other lines
  - ✓ The National Rail Capacity Augmentation Plan, or Rail Vistaar Pariyojna, will focus on increasing the carrying capacity for both passengers and freight to 45-50% as compared to the current trend of 30%
  - ✓ To decongest major junctions, the railways have also prepared a blueprint of building “rail-on-rail” flyovers and bypasses at 222 locations.
  - ✓ After eliminating all unmanned crossings, the next big step would be eliminating the 7,000 manned crossings with rail overbridges and rail underbridges
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi – inaugurated the ‘Virtual Experiential Museum (VEM)’ at Varanasi**
  - ✓ It is located in a Centrally Protected Monument under Archeological Survey of India, Man – Mahal, situated on the bank of the Ganges at Varanasi
  - ✓ It has been established by the National Council of Science Museum (NCSM) working under the Ministry of Culture with the assistance of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage



- ✓ The museum showcases various cultural aspects, tangible and intangible, of Varanasi through the use of modern and sophisticated virtual reality technology
- **The Centre – has banned mining of coastal beach sand in 4 states - to prevent erosion of sea shores and ecosystems**
- ✓ The illegal beach sand mining is rampant in 4 coastal states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha – for the extraction of rare earth minerals which are mixed with the sand
- ✓ Garnet, ilmenite, rutile, zircon, sillimanite, leucosene and monazite are some of the rare earth minerals found in coastal sand
- ✓ Monazite is of special interest since it can be processed to yield thorium.
- ✓ Again, thorium can further be enriched into uranium, which can be used for making nuclear warheads or fuel reactors
- **The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) – to set up a ‘common facility centre’ (CFC) for Gold jewellery manufacturers in Coimbatore**
- ✓ The centre, the first for gold jewellery in the country, is being sponsored by the union ministry of commerce and industry under ‘Ratna Abhushan Suvidha Kendra’, a GJEPC project
- ✓ GJEPC has already established CFCs for Diamond jewellery in Visnagar, Palanpur, Amreli and Junagadh
- ✓ GJEPC is planning to set up CFCs in Delhi, Kolkata, Jaipur and Hyderabad during 2019-20
- **India and Saudi Arabia – signed 5 MoU’s for cooperation in the areas of investment fund, tourism, housing, investment relations and exchange of audio visual programmes**



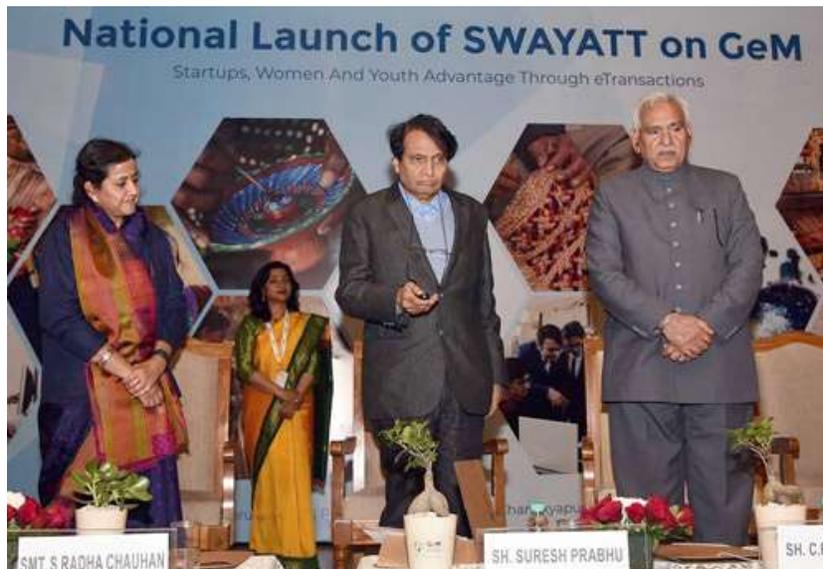
- ✓ Apart from these, another agreement was signed to join Saudi Arabia in International Solar Alliance, launched by PM Narendra Modi
- ✓ The Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, who is also the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Saudi Arabia, visited India on February 19-20, 2019
- ✓ The visit follows the earlier official visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in April 2016 at the invitation of King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud; the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques (Head of State & Government).
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi held delegation level talks with Royal Highness Crown Prince and released the India-Saudi Arabia Joint Statement
- **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) - released the second edition of Startup Ranking for 2019**
- ✓ The ranking exercise aims to evaluate measures taken by states and union territories during the assessment period from May 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019
- ✓ The startup ranking framework aims to rank the states/UTs for establishing a robust ecosystem for supporting startups
- ✓ The Ranking Framework 2019 comprises 7 pillars and 30 action points
- ✓ 7 Pillars
  - ✓ Institutional support
  - ✓ Simplifying regulations
  - ✓ Easing public procurement
  - ✓ Incubation support
  - ✓ Seed funding support
  - ✓ Venture funding support
  - ✓ Awareness and outreach related activities
- ✓ The states and UTs are to submit their reforms on the State Startup Ranking dashboard hosted on [www.startupindia.gov.in](http://www.startupindia.gov.in).
- ✓ 2018 Ranking framework for Startups

- ✓ The launch of the ranking framework in 2018 gave impetus to the Startup movement across the country
  - ✓ It focused on 7 pillars with 38 pointers
  - ✓ Results were announced in January 2019 under 6 categories — Beginners, Emerging States, Aspiring Leaders, Leaders, Top Performers and Best Performers
  - ✓ Gujarat was rated the 'best-performing state', Karnataka, Rajasthan, Odisha and Kerala came in the next ranking as 'top-performing states.'
  - ✓ Till date, 25 States and UTs have launched their dedicated Startup policies
- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs - approved the launch of 'Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan' (KUSUM Yojana)**



- ✓ Objective – to provide financial and water security to farmers
- ✓ Outlay – Rs 34,422 crore
- ✓ Goal - to add a solar capacity of 25,750 MW by 2022
- ✓ 3 Components of the KUSUM Yojana
  - ✓ Component-A : 10,000 MW of Decentralised Ground Mounted Grid Connected Renewable Power Plants (Pilot mode)
  - ✓ Component-B : Installation of 17.50 lakh standalone Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps (Full-fledged mode)
  - ✓ Component-C : Solarisation of 10 Lakh Grid-connected Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps (Pilot mode)
- ✓ Benefits
  - ✓ Substantial environmental impact with reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
  - ✓ Standalone solar pumps may result in saving of 1.2 billion liters of diesel per annum and the related reduction in imports
  - ✓ Direct employment opportunity

- **Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu - launched SWAYATT initiative – to encourage more startups to join the Government eMarketplace (GeM)**



- ✓ SWAYATT - Startups, Women and Youth Advantage Through eTransactions
- ✓ It aims to promote Start-ups, Women and Youth Advantage through eTransactions on Government e Marketplace (GeM)
- ✓ The initiative will bring together the key stakeholders within the Indian entrepreneurial ecosystem to Government e-Marketplace
- ✓ GeM currently has 801,956 products and 5,197 services, with 199,654 registered sellers, service providers and 33,536 government buyers
- ✓ Since its launch in 2016, GeM has processed 1,386,030 orders worth Rs 19,214 crore in gross merchandise value

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- **US President Donald Trump - signed an executive order to establish a separate 'Space Force' for United States**



- ✓ It will function as a new armed service within the Department of Air Force
- ✓ The Space Force will include both combat and combat support functions to enable prompt and sustained offensive and defensive space operations in all domains

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Economic Times Global Business Summit – kicks off in New Delhi on February 22, 2019**



- ✓ The 2-day event is hosting business leaders and technology entrepreneurs from companies across the globe
  - ✓ Indian policy makers led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, railway and coal minister Piyush Goyal, commerce minister Suresh Prabhu and law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad are scheduled to speak at the event
  - ✓ The global industry speakers include Nathan Blecharczyk, co-founder of Airbnb, Martin Eberhard, co-founder of Tesla, Sebastian Thrun CEO of KittyHawk and many more
- **25th edition of Medical Fair India (MFI) 2019 - held in Delhi**
  - ✓ Organised by - Messe Dusseldorf India, a fully owned subsidiary of Messe Düsseldorf GmbH.
  - ✓ During the occasion, Indu Bhushan, the CEO of Ayushman Bharat, announced that over 12 lakh people received free treatment under the Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)
  - ✓ She also said that around 2 crore beneficiary e-cards have been issued since the launch of mission in September 2018



- ✓ So far, 15,000 hospitals have been empanelled under the scheme, of which, 15% are private hospitals
  - ✓ The first Health and Wellness Centre (HWC) under Ayushman Bharat was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Jangla in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh on April 14, 2018.
  - ✓ Since then, 10,252 HWCs have been operationalised
  - ✓ The states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala have the highest number of HWCs under the Ayushman Bharat.
  - ✓ Andhra Pradesh has 1361 HWCs, Tamil Nadu has 1318, UP has 912, Karnataka has 700 and Kerala has 678 HWCs.
  - ✓ Ayushman Bharat, the health insurance scheme with 60% funding from Centre, will provide free coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year
  - ✓ The scheme is expected to benefit around 10.74 crore beneficiary families and about 50 crore people
  - ✓ The National Health Agency (NHA) is the apex body implementing the scheme with a dedicated website ([mera.pmjay.gov.in](http://mera.pmjay.gov.in))
- **4th India-ASEAN Expo and Summit - held on February 21-23, 2019 in New Delhi**
- ✓ Organised by - Department of Commerce in association with FICCI
  - ✓ Inauguration by - Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu and Trade Ministers of ASEAN countries along with ASEAN Secretary General
  - ✓ 200 plus exhibitors from India and ASEAN, and more than 100 buyers from ASEAN participated in the Expo



- ✓ ASEAN is the second largest trading partner of India, after China, with a total bilateral merchandise trade of \$81.33 billion.
- ✓ The ASEAN-India Business and Investment Meet and Expo 2018 was organised on the sidelines of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi in January 2018
- ✓ The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) comprises of Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, Myanmar, Malaysia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Cambodia and Brunei

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **Israel - launches the world's first privately funded lunar flight mission 'Beresheet' on February 22, 2019**



- ✓ Thus, Israel becomes the fourth nation to soft land on the moon after the former Soviet Union, the US and China.
- ✓ The nearly \$100 million historic flight is made by Israel's Space IL and Israel Aerospace Industry (IAI)
- ✓ The nearly 585kg Israeli spacecraft called 'Beresheet' which in Hebrew means "in the beginning", was flown by Space X's Falcon 9 rocket
- ✓ Once it touches down on the moon, it will be the smallest spacecraft— 2m in diameter and 1.5m tall — to land ever on the lunar surface
- ✓ The achievement is a giant technological leap when the entire world celebrates the 50th year of Nasa's first manned mission 'Apollo 11'- undertaken by Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on July 20, 1969

## DEFENCE

- **Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) received the bulk production clearance (BPC) from the Indian Army and the Ministry of Defence - for production of 114 'Dhanush', the first ever indigenous 155 mm x 45 calibre artillery gun**



- ✓ Dhanush is the first long rang artillery gun to be produced in India, by OFB and the Indian Army - with contributions from DRDO, DPSUs such as BEL, PSUs such as SAIL and several private enterprises
- ✓ The gun is equipped with inertial navigation-based sighting system, auto-laying facility, on-board ballistic computation and an advanced day and night direct firing system.
- ✓ It also has self-propulsion unit to negotiate and deploy itself in mountainous terrains with ease
- ✓ Ordnance Factory Board is located in Telangana's Yeddemailaram in Medak district

# AWARDS

## ➤ 7th National Photography Awards



- ✓ Presented by - Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports, Rajyavardhan Rathore
- ✓ Presented at - National Media Centre in New Delhi
- ✓ Total awards – 13 (including one Lifetime Achievement Award and one award each in Professional Photographer of the Year category and Amateur Photographer of the Year category)
- ✓ Lifetime Achievement Award - Ashok Dilwali
- ✓ Professional Photographer of the Year - SL Shanth Kumar (Theme for the Professional category was “Women led Development”)
- ✓ Amateur Photographer of the Year - Gurdeep Dhiman (Theme for Amateur category was “Fairs and Festivals of India”)

# SPORTS

- **Pro Volleyball league 2019, Chennai**
- ✓ **Chennai Spartans defeated Calicut Heroes in the final to win the Inaugural edition of the league**



- ✓ Naveen Raja Jacob of Chennai was adjudged player-of-the-match
  - ✓ Rudy Verhoeff of Chennai emerged as the league's top scorer and best spiker
  - ✓ By virtue of this victory, Chennai Spartans have also qualified for this year's FIVB Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship, 2019
- **Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore - inaugurated the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup 2019 for rifle and pistol - on February 21, 2019**



- ✓ It will start from February 23 and end on February 27, 2019 at Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi
  - ✓ Participating Nations – 60 (without Pakistan)
  - ✓ Participating Shooters – 500 (without 2 Pakistan shooters)
  - ✓ 2020 Olympic quota available – 12 out 16 (2 already taken by Indians, Anjum Moudgil and Apurvi Chandela and 2 quotas scrapped in 25m rapid fire pistol)
  - ✓ Indian team – 35 shooters (23 shooters play for medal/Olympic quota and the rest for MQS, Minimum qualification score)
  - ✓ Medals – 30 across 10 events
  - ✓ In News
  - ✓ India refused to grant visas to two Pakistan shooters and their manager to compete in New Delhi
  - ✓ Following India's move, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) scrapped 2 olympic quota places in the event where the Pakistanis were competing (25m rapid fire pistol)
  - ✓ The International Olympic Committee (IOC) recommended to all global federations that they 'neither award nor hold' sports events in India until they receive written assurances from the Indian government that participants from all nations will be guaranteed entry
- **India's Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad and Asima Ali - were elected as the Vice-President and Executive Committee member of the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) for a four-year term in Gifu, Japan**



- ✓ Mushtaque Ahmad is currently serving as the President of Hockey India, while Ali is the Vice-President of the national federation
- **The International Cricket Council (ICC) - banned UAE-based coach Irfan Ansari for 10 years**



- ✓ The move comes after he was found guilty of making a “corrupt approach” to Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed in 2017
- ✓ Ansari worked with Sharjah Cricket Council for 30 years and was the head coach of the Sharjah Cricket Club.

