

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 15, 2019**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **Registration department of Tamil Nadu Government – earns a record Rs 10,000 crore within 11 months, the highest revenue generated ever through registration of land across the state**
- ✓ Chennai zone contributed 42% of the total revenue, mostly due to the regularization of unapproved plots scheme of the Government
- ✓ As per the Government records, property registrations recorded a revenue of Rs 9,907 crore between April 2018 and February 2019 through the registration of around 23.10 lakh documents
- ✓ While the number of documents registered was up by 15% compared to the previous 11-month period, April 2017 and February 2018, the revenue jumped by nearly 22%
- ✓ The Government had earned Rs 9,121 crore in the last fiscal year due to property registrations
- ✓ STAR 2.0 (Simplified and Transparent administration of registration), an information technology-enabled service was launched last year for the online registration of all property transactions

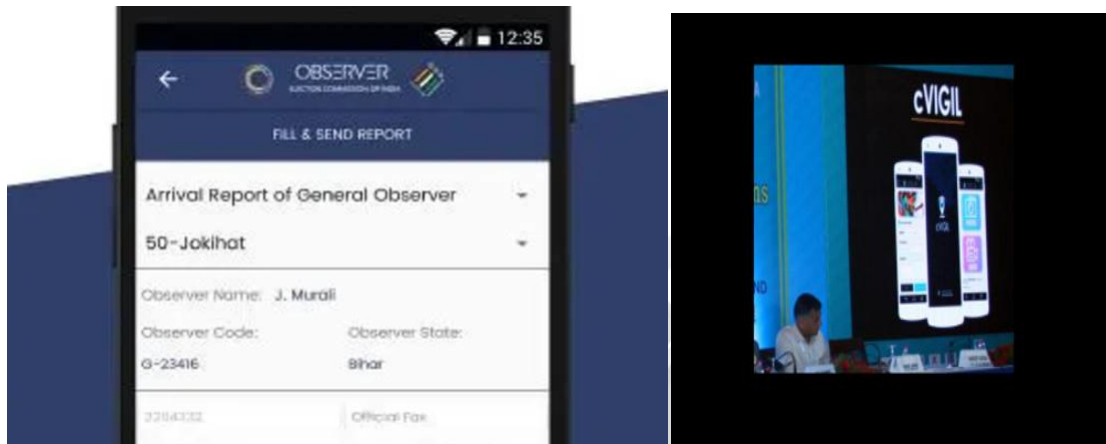
### **STATES**

- **Government of Karnataka - is planning for cloud seeding project to influence the upcoming monsoon and get maximum rains in the state**
- ✓ The government of Karnataka has called the tenders for cloud seeding operations to enhance rainfall during the monsoons of 2019 and 2020
- ✓ The cost is expected to be Rs 50 crores per year
- ✓ Cloud Seeding is a process of spraying 'chemical agents' like iodides of silver or potassium, dry ice (solid carbon dioxide), or liquid propane using planes, to induce precipitation rain or snow from clouds

- ✓ Rain occurs when moisture in the air reaches levels at which it can no longer be held
- ✓ Karnataka had undertaken a similar exercise through 'Project Varshadhare' in 2017, which was a success as the rainfall increased by 27.9% that year

## NATIONAL

- **Election Commission - launched a new mobile application "Observer App", that will help poll observers to submit reports timely**



- ✓ It will help them get their deployment status, download their ID card and update their profile
- ✓ They will be closely involved in real-time disposal of Model Code of Conduct and expenditure violation cases received through another mobile application "cVIGIL"
- **IIT Kharagpur - has signed an MoU with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) to set up a 1.3 Petaflop high-performance computing facility and Data center, funded under the National Supercomputing Mission**



- ✓ The new supercomputing system will deal in domains such as cryptography, chemistry, molecular dynamics, drug discovery, artificial intelligence and data sciences
  - ✓ PetaFlop is the measurement of computing power based on the frequency of mathematical calculations that can be done per second
  - ✓ National Supercomputing Mission was initiated in 2015 at an estimated cost of Rs.4500 crore over a period of seven years
  - ✓ It is steered jointly by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY)
  - ✓ The mission aims to install a supercomputing grid in the country with more than 70 high-performance computing facilities
- **The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi - has approved the setting up of 'National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage'**
  - ✓ Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant will be the head of its steering committee
  - ✓ The mission will recommend the strategies for Phased Manufacturing programmes for electric vehicles and its components and batteries
- **Facebook - has launched 'Facebook Hubs' to encourage innovation and offer support for budding entrepreneurs**
  - ✓ Facebook Hubs will provide support for start-up community by hosting mentor hours and conducting trainings, workshops, discussions across 20 locations in Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune, Navi Mumbai and in Goa
  - ✓ Facebook has collaborated with 91springboard, an office space rental firm, for a year-long programme to help start-ups

## INTERNATIONAL

- **United Kingdom – issues a new 50p commemorative 'Black hole coin' – to honour Professor Stephen Hawking, who passed away last year**



- ✓ The coin features Hawking's name in capital letters above a rippling drawing of concentric circles, intended to represent a black hole
  - ✓ The coin was designed by British engraver and printmaker, Edwina Ellis
  - ✓ The coin, released by UK's Royal Mint is available in gold, silver, and a double thickness silver version called a 'piedfort'
- **European Union - has expanded its tax haven blacklist by including 10 countries**
- ✓ It has 15 countries now under the blacklist, with the newly added countries
  - ✓ Seven countries Aruba, Belize, Bermuda, Fiji, Oman, Vanuatu and Dominica were moved from greylist to blacklist due to their inability towards reform commitments
  - ✓ Three other countries added into the list are Barbados, the United Arab Emirates and the Marshall Islands
  - ✓ The list was first drawn up by EU in 2017 to fight tax evasion by the rich

## PERSONALITIES

- **Young Global Leaders 2019 List – Released by The Forum of Young Global Leaders, the World Economic Forum's foundation for remarkable leaders under 40**
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh IT minister Nara Lokesh, BJP MP Poonam Mahajan, Xiaomi India head Manu Kumar Jain, Telangana government's Chief Innovation Officer Phanindra Sama, SaveLife Foundation's Piyush Tewari and Kaleidofin's co-Founder Sucharita Mukherjee featured from India in this year's list
  - ✓ Young Global Leaders participate in the Annual Meeting of the New Champions, established in 2007 and known informally as "Summer Davos", alongside Global growth companies and other delegations to the World Economic Forum

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Emma Haruka Iwao, an employee of Google – entered into the Guinness Book of World Records for calculating the value of 'Pi' to the most number of digits**





- ✓ On the eve of Pi day observed on March 14, Iwao computed the famous number to 31.4 trillion decimal places using Google's cloud computing infrastructure
  - ✓ Earlier the record was held with 9 trillion digits of the value of 'Pi'
  - ✓ Pi is the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter
  - ✓ It's an irrational number, meaning there's no end to how many digits can be calculated
- **DRDO - has developed a range of combat drugs that can extend the golden hour till the trooper is shifted to hospital**
  - ✓ This range of drugs can bring down the death toll during instances like the recent Pulwama Terrorist Attack
  - ✓ The spectrum includes bleeding wound sealants, super absorptive dressings and glycerinated salines, ensuring soldiers do not suffer from unwanted blood loss while being taken to better healthcare from war zones
  - ✓ Glycerated saline, a battlefield intravenous fluid that does not freeze till -18 degrees Celsius and is useful in handling trauma cases in high altitude areas

## DEFENCE

- **DRDO - has successfully test-fired indigenously designed and developed 'Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile' (MPATGM) in the deserts of Pokhran in Rajasthan**



- ✓ This is the fourth such trial in the overall development of the MPATGM
- ✓ MPATGM is a third-generation anti-tank guided missile (ATGM), developed by DRDO in association with VEM Technologies Ltd
- ✓ MPATGM has a top attack capability, being fitted with high-explosive anti-tank warhead
- ✓ It has a maximum engagement range of about 2.5 kilometres
- ✓ MPATGM are being developed to replace the French origin anti-tank guided missile 'Milan' and Soviet semi-automatic wire-guided missile 'Konkur' in service with the Indian army

- **AFINDEX-19, Africa-India Joint Field Training Exercise - between the Indian Army and 16 African nations will be conducted in Pune from March 18 to 27**



- ✓ The exercise aims to train the participating contingents in Humanitarian Mine Assistance and Peace Keeping Operations under the United Nations Charter
- ✓ Personnel of Maratha Light Infantry of the Indian Army will participate in the joint exercise along with 10 personnel each from the participating African nations
- ✓ Contingents from Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, South Africa, Tanzania, Namibia, Mozambique, Uganda, Niger & Zambia are part of the joint exercise together with officers from Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar as Observers
- ✓ AFINDEX-19 is expected to greatly facilitate sharing of Indian Armed Forces experiences in United Nations Peace Keeping operations with countries in Africa

## **ECONOMY**

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - categorised the IDBI Bank Limited as a 'Private Sector Bank' for regulatory purposes with effect from January 21, 2019**
- ✓ The move follows the acquisition of the 51% of the total paid-up equity share capital of the IDBI bank by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in January 2019, following the approval of Union Cabinet on August 1, 2018
- ✓ The IDBI Bank was categorised in the sub-group 'other public sector banks' by the RBI in April 2005
- ✓ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also named the State Bank of India (SBI), the ICICI Bank and the HDFC Bank as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)**
- ✓ The D-SIBs category, announced since 2015, generally implies for banks that are too big to fail, means that they have to set aside more capital for their continued operation

## AWARDS

- **President Ramnath Kovind - awarded 'National Grassroots Innovators' Awards at Grambharti near Gandhinagar in Gujarat**



- ✓ The first prize in Veterinary, Herbal medication for coccidiosis was presented to Periyasami Ramasami of Salem, Tamil Nadu
- ✓ Prakash Singh Raghuvanshi from Uttar Pradesh was awarded lifetime achievement award for his innovations in new varieties of agriculture crops
- ✓ The President also inaugurated the exhibition of the Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE), organised by the National Innovation Foundation in association with the department of science and technology - Government of India.

## SPORTS

- **Karnataka – lifts 'Syed Mushtaq Ali T20' trophy for the very first time**



- ✓ In the final, it had defeated Maharashtra at the Holkar stadium in Indore on March 14
- ✓ This was Karnataka's 14th consecutive T20 win, a joint Indian record along with Kolkata Knight Riders for an Indian side



- **India – finished the 38th GeeBee Boxing Tournament with one gold, four silver and three bronze medals at Helsinki, Finland**



- ✓ The lone gold medal for India was won by Kavinder Singh Bisht in the 56kg category, defeating Indian counterpart Mohammed Hussamuddin in the final
- ✓ Other Silver medals for India were won by Govind Kumar Sahani (49kg), Shiva Thapa (60kg) and Dinesh Dagar (69kg)
- ✓ Bronze Medallists were Sachin Siwach (52kg), Sumit Sangwan (91kg) and Naveen Kumar (+91kg)

## **INTERNATIONAL DAY**

- **World Consumer Rights Day - March 15**



- ✓ The observance of the day promotes and protects the basic rights of consumers
- ✓ Theme 2019 - 'Trusted Smart Products'
- ✓ This year, the Day called for access to secure internet for all and encouraging consumer protection online.
- ✓ The most popular consumer smart products specified in this year theme includes smartphones, games consoles, smart TVs, wearable health trackers, thermostats, toys and connected cars”
- ✓ On March 15, 1962, the then US President John F Kennedy formally addressed the issue of consumer rights in the US Congress, becoming the first leader to do so
- ✓ The first World Consumer Rights Day was observed in the year 1983.



➤ **World Sleep Day – March 15, 2019**



**World Sleep Day**  
HOSTED BY WORLD SLEEP SOCIETY  
MARCH 15, 2019 • HEALTHY SLEEP, HEALTHY AGING

- ✓ Theme 2019 - 'Healthy Sleep, Healthy Aging'
- ✓ The day aims to raise awareness regarding sleep disorders and promote their prevention and management.
- ✓ The day is observed annually on the Friday before the March Equinox on the Earth, when the subsolar point appears to leave the Southern Hemisphere and cross the celestial equator, heading northward as seen from Earth
- ✓ Most adults require 7 to 8 hours sleep while babies and children need even more sleep for optimal learning and play
- ✓ The observance of the day has been organised by the World Sleep Day Committee of the World Sleep Society, formerly World Association of Sleep Medicine (WASM World Sleep Society), since 2008
- ✓ The first World Sleep Day was held on March 14, 2008

