


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 22, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu Government – puts on hold the Rs 2000 ‘special cash assistance’ scheme for 60 lakh poor families due to the kicking in of Model code of conduct in the state**
- ✓ The Government had earlier announced on February 13 that a one-time financial assistance would be given to poor households in both rural and urban areas, including agricultural workers and families of poor labourers of various trades
- **Tamil Nadu Government – had relaxed norms on minimum ‘Open Space Reservation’ (OSR) land to be handed over to local authorities to obtain approvals for layouts and building plans**

| WHAT HAS CHANGED | |
|--|---|
| New building rules for open space reservation | |
| Extent of layout | Reservation |
| For first 3,000sqm | Nil |
| 3,000sqm - 10,000sqm | 10% of area or pay guideline of equivalent land |
| Above 10,000sqm | 10% of area excluding roads |



OLD RULES

- 10% reservation mandatory if plot is 2,500sqm or more
- Every year, 300 acres of OSR land area given to local bodies to obtain building permissions

- ✓ OSR land is reserved for developing parks, playgrounds or recreational facilities for public use
- ✓ The new rules under ‘TN Combined Building Rules 2019’ were notified through a Government order by the state Municipal Administration and Water Supply department in February

- **Chennai Port - handles record number of containers – 10 days ahead in the current financial year ending March 31**
- ✓ It had surpassed its own record in container handling by crossing 1,566,346 twenty-foot equivalent (TEUs) on March 21 against 1,565,130 TEUs handled from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016

- **Tamil Nadu – to launch its first 24x7 educational TV channel from the next academic year**
- ✓ The channel will telecast 17 types of programmes highlights achievements of government schools, regular classes by teachers on the new syllabus and NEET training
- ✓ The channel will have its head office on the Anna Centenary Library premises in Kotturpuram, built at a cost of Rs 1 crore
- ✓ The first programme to be broadcast at 5am is likely to be 'Kuralin Kural', in which experts will take 1-2 Thirukural couplets every day and explain the meaning in detail with stories
- ✓ A programme on important news and education related developments of the day will run for half an hour
- ✓ Tips for students to stay mentally and physically fit will be provided in a 30-minutes programme
- ✓ Plays, songs and speeches will be telecast throughout the day to improve student's skill sets
- ✓ The channel named 'Kalvi Tholaikatchi' was announced by the Chief Minister in January
- ✓ It will be available on TN Arasu Cable TV network (Channel No. 200)

- **Ashok Leyland's corporate office in Chennai - has received the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system (LEED v4.1) award, instituted by the US Green Building Council**



- ✓ With the prestigious honour, it becomes the first in the country and fourth in the world to receive a platinum certification award

INTERNATIONAL

- **New Zealand - to ban military-style 'semiautomatic' and 'assault' rifles under tough new gun laws to be in place by April 11**

GUN CONTROL IN MIDDLE EARTH

A closer look at the weapons ban rules of New Zealand

WHAT'S BEING BANNED?
The ban includes any "military-style" semi-automatic guns or shotguns that are capable of being used with a detachable magazine that holds more than five rounds

WHAT'S NOT BANNED?
The ban does not include semi-automatic .22 caliber or smaller guns that hold up to 10 rounds or semi-automatic and pump-action shotguns with non-detachable magazines that hold up to five rounds

WHAT ABOUT BANNED GUNS?
Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said people could hand over



their guns under an amnesty while officials develop a formal buyback scheme. New Zealand police said on their website that the "transitional period" would allow people to arrange to hand over their unlawful firearms without penalties

DO NEW ZEALANDERS SUPPORT IT?
The ban is widely supported and puts New Zealand "almost exactly in line" with Australia, the United Kingdom and "somewhat with Canada,"

according to Professor Kevin Clements, chairman of Peace and Conflicts studies at the University of Otago and a firearms expert

WHAT'S NEXT?
Sydney University gun policy expert Philip Alpers noted that although New Zealand requires handgun registration, "it is still the only country apart from the United States and to some degree Canada that doesn't have (firearm) registration as its third pillar of gun control"

- ✓ The move follows the killing of 50 people on March 15 in shootings at two mosques in the city of Christchurch
 - ✓ The Government is launching a buyback scheme costing up to NZ\$200 million (\$138 million) for banned weapons.
 - ✓ Under existing gun laws, a standard A-category gun license allows semi-automatics limited to seven shots
 - ✓ Australia banned semi-automatic weapons and launched a gun buy-back after the Port Arthur massacre in 1996 in which 35 people were killed.
 - ✓ The law would allow for strictly enforced exemptions for farmers for pest control and animal welfare, with most farmers owning guns for hunting deer, pigs and goats
- **European Union - has agreed to postpone Brexit beyond its designated deadline of March 29**
 - ✓ The United Kingdom will be offered a delay until May 22
 - ✓ In case the British MPs fail to approve the deal yet again, the European Union will back a shorter delay until April 12
 - ✓ UK Parliament on March 12, 2019 had overwhelmingly rejected Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit deal for a second time
 - ✓ The British Legislators on March 14, 2019 voted to seek an extension of the March 29 deadline for Britain's exit from the European Union
 - ✓ May will now make a third attempt to get her withdrawal deal pass through next week
 - ✓ The United Kingdom is set to leave the European Union on March 29, 2019, two years after the Brexit referendum in June 2016 that triggered Article 50, the exit clause in the EU's constitution

DEFENCE

- **Indian Air Force - to participate in Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo, LIMA 2019 for the very first time**
- ✓ The expo will take place in Langkawi, Malaysia from March 26-30, 2019.
- ✓ At the expo, IAF will showcase its indigenously developed LCA fighter aircraft

APPOINTMENTS

- **Neomi Jehangir Rao, a prominent Indian-American lawyer - has been sworn in as US circuit judge for the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals**



- ✓ Thus, she becomes the second Indian-American after Sri Srinivasan to be a part of the powerful court considered next only to the US Supreme Court
- ✓ She was sworn in by US Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas in the Roosevelt Room of the White House
- ✓ US President, Trump had also participated in the swearing-in ceremony

SPORTS

- **India – finishes with 368 medals, including 85 Gold, at the Special Olympics World Summer Games, held at Abu Dhabi, UAE from March 14 to 21**



- ✓ The team had also clinched 154 silver medals and 129 bronze medals in its successful campaign

RANKINGS

- **World's Top 100 Most Influential People in Climate Policy for 2019 – Released by Apolitical, a global network for Governments to solve the challenges**



- ✓ Union Ministers, Piyush goyal and Dr Harsh Vardhan are among the eight Indians who have been named in the rankings
- ✓ Union Minister for railways and coal, Piyush Goyal has led the fast track electrification of nearly 18,000 unelectrified villages and been involved in the world's largest LED bulb distribution programme
- ✓ Union Minister for environment, forest and climate change, Dr Harsh Vardhan has focussed on motivating scientists to develop new technologies to address social and environmental issues.



- ✓ Other Indians featured in the list –
 - ✓ Mukta Tilak
 - ✓ Jyoti Kirit Parikh
 - ✓ Sunita Narain
 - ✓ Vandana Shiva
 - ✓ Upendra Tripathy
 - ✓ Varshini Prakash
- ✓ Pune mayor, Mukta Tilak, who is the wife of freedom fighter Lokamanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's great grandson Shailesh Tilak.
 - ✓ Under her guidance, Pune banned all dumping of solid waste and implemented measures to cut down on carbon and improve air quality

- ✓ Jyoti Kirit Parikh, executive director of Integrated Research and Action for Development, a research and policy analysis institute focusing on sustainable development
 - ✓ She was a member of the Prime Minister’s council on Climate Change in India
 - ✓ She has also served as energy and environment consultant to the World Bank and the United Nations Development Program
 - ✓ In 2007, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize as a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- ✓ Sunita Narain, a well-renowned environmentalist and political activist
 - ✓ She is the director of the Centre for Science and the Environment and the editor of the fortnightly magazine, Down To Earth
- ✓ Vandana Shiva, an environmental activist, who focuses on promoting fair and sustainable agriculture
- ✓ Upendra Tripathy, the director general of the International Solar Alliance, a coalition of over 100 countries dedicated to increasing the use of solar power and reducing reliance on fossil fuels
- ✓ Varshini Prakash, Co-founder and Executive Director, Sunrise Movement

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Water Day – March 22



- ✓ The day aims to underline the importance of water
- ✓ Theme 2019 - ‘Leaving no one behind’
- ✓ An International Day to celebrate freshwater was recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro
- ✓ In 1993, the United Nations General Assembly officially designated March 22 as World Water Day
- ✓ World Water Day is coordinated by UN-Water in collaboration with governments and partners
- ✓ UN’s Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of water for all by 2030
- ✓ In 2010, the UN recognized “the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights”
- ✓ An estimated 2.1 billion people live without safe water at home.

➤ **Navroz – March 21**



- ✓ Parsis celebrate Navroz, which is the Iranian New Year
- ✓ In India Parsis who follow Zoroastrianism celebrate Navroz
- ✓ March 21 which is the first day of the Iranian calendar is also marked as the day

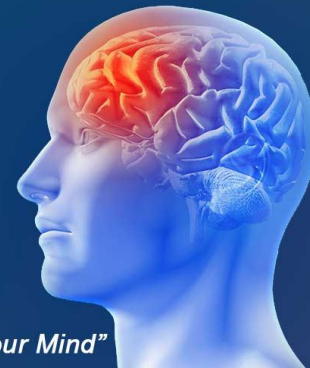
➤ **World Head Injury Awareness Day – March 20**

World Head Injury Awareness Day

- ◆ Head injury is one of the most common causes of disability and death in adults
- ◆ Every 7 minutes, someone dies of a brain injury

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Theme for 2018-2020 is "Change Your Mind"



- ✓ It is meant to raise the awareness of the number of people that suffer from head injuries and educates the public on how head injuries can be prevented
- ✓ India has the highest rate of Traumatic brain injury's (TBI) in the world, with nearly 1.5-2 million persons are injured and 1 million die every year

