

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 9, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Food grain harvest - crossed 100 lakh tonnes last year in the state and stood at 101 lakh tonnes**

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT
Food grain production over the years*



Crop	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19**
Rice	71.15	79.49	73.75	35.54	66.38	61.19
Millet	32.73	40.79	34.25	13.45	35.18	34.21
Pulse	6.14	7.67	5.85	3.39	5.56	6.23
Total	110.02	127.95	113.85	52.38	107.13	101.65

*Lakh metric tonne **Third Advance Estimate

- ✓ The state had set a target to achieve 110 lakh tonnes of food grain production last year by formulating region-specific and crop-specific technological interventions
- ✓ The failure of both monsoons affected production, as per the third advance estimates available with the agriculture department for the last fiscal year.
- ✓ The final estimates will be slightly revised in the months of July and August, but the fact remains that production stood at 107 lakh metric tonnes in the previous financial year
- ✓ A special kuruvai package of Rs 115 crore from the state government – that came with three phase power supply for 12 hours a day, subsidies for high-yielding paddy seeds, power tiller and rotavator, solar powered pump sets, diesel engines, mechanised farming, micro-nutrients, fertilizers and PVC units – also helped raise the coverage.
- ✓ The millet production could be sustained given the assistance to rain-fed farmers under Mission on Sustainable Dry Land Agriculture and National Food Security Mission
- ✓ With the Centre declaring 2018 as National Year of Millets, the less water intensive crop cultivation was promoted among small and marginal farmers.

- ✓ Millets are commonly cultivated in districts like Villupuram, Cuddalore, Salem, Namakkal, Perambalur, Ariyalur, Theni and Dindigul.
- ✓ The situation was worse two years ago, when a foodgrain production plummeted to 52 lakh tonnes, owing to drought

◆ **Tamil Nadu – to get a Kidney exchange registry soon in Coimbatore**

- ✓ It will serve as an online platform where kidney donors and recipients, in need of a kidney transplant, can register themselves in the hope of finding another pair who are compatible with them
- ✓ Dr V Mangalakumar, Kidney and pancreas transplant specialist at Kovai Medical Centre and Hospital, is setting up a registry -- www.cstar.in, where kidney failure patients and their willing donors (near relative) can register as pair
- ✓ Many kidney patients have a relative willing to donate but can't due to mismatched blood group or incompatibility due to HLA antibodies
- ✓ While blood group incompatible transplants (ABO incompatible) and HLA antibody incompatible transplants can be done by a process called desensitization, it becomes extremely expensive and increases risk of infections, bleeding and eventually organ rejection

◆ **Coimbatore district – gets a new medical college in the private sector**

- ✓ The Kovai Medical College and Hospital got the sanction this year to admit the students
- ✓ It will offer 150 MBBS seats from this academic year
- ✓ KMCH already offers degree courses in allied and paramedical sciences like nursing and physiotherapy among others
- ✓ It will be the fifth medical college in the Coimbatore district - apart from the Coimbatore Medical College and Hospital & Employees State Insurance Corporation's medical college in the government sector and Karpagam Medical College and PSG Medical College in the private sector.

◆ **Chennai – to get water supply from 3 more lakes within the next three months**

- ✓ The ₹53-crore project aims to draw a total of 30 million litres of water a day from Ayanambakkam, Retteri and Perumbakkam lakes
- ✓ Modular water treatment plants will be constructed in these lakes from June and completed by the year end
- ✓ Each of the facilities will have the capacity to treat 10 mld.
- ✓ The project is being taken up with the support of IIT Madras for both testing the water quality and designing the plant.
- ✓ The lakes have the potential to supply water for a minimum of six months

STATES

◆ World renowned Chardham Yatra – begins in Uttarakhand



- ✓ The Gangotri and Yamunotridhams were opened for pilgrims on auspicious occasion of Akshay Tritiya
- ✓ Chardham refers to four sacred pilgrimage centres namely Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath, with each sites devoted to a specific deity
- ✓ It is located in the great Himalayas in Uttarakhand

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

◆ The Supreme Court bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice RF Nariman - ruled that the court will not extend the deadline for finalization of the Assam National Register of Citizens (NRC).

- ✓ Hence, the final Assam NRC should be readied by July 31, 2019.
- ✓ The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a list containing names of Indian citizens of Assam.
- ✓ The first draft of the NRC for Assam was published on December 31, 2017 and it incorporated the names of 1.9 crore people out of the total 3.29 crore applicants.
- ✓ The second and final draft of NRC was released on July 30, 2018.
- ✓ The list incorporates names of 2.89 crore people out of 3.29 crore applicants
- ✓ Assam is the only state in the country having an NRC, first prepared in 1951

INTERNATIONAL

◆ The Parliament of Singapore - passed new laws to fight the menace of fake news

- ✓ It empowers the authorities to order the removal of any reported fake content or blocking websites deemed to be publishing fake news in order to protect national security
- ✓ The 'Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Bill' will enable the government to order social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter to put up warnings next to the reported fake posts

- ✓ The penalties for not complying with the laws include steep fines for companies up to \$735,000 and jail time up to 10 years for individuals
- ✓ Singapore, which regulates its large local media outlets, is ranked 151 out of 180 in the World Press Freedom Index released by Reporters Without Borders
- ✓ Overall, the new bill is expected to impact freedom of expression of individuals

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ **For the first time, a team of researchers at CSIR's (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) – carried out genetic study on the people of Lakshadweep Islands**

- ✓ The authors studied the DNA samples of 557 individuals from eight major islands of Kadmat, Andorth, Chetlat, Agatti, Kalpeni, Bitra, Kiltan and Minicoy of Lakshadweep
- ✓ It shows that majority of human ancestry in Island of Lakshadweep is largely derived from South Asia with minor influences from East and West Eurasia
- ✓ It found close genetic link of Lakshadweep islanders with people from Maldives, Sri Lanka and India
- ✓ Lakshadweep was formerly called Laccadive, Minicoy, and Amindivi Islands (1956-73)
- ✓ Its administrative centre (capital) is Kavaratti
- ✓ Nine Degree Channel separates Minicoy Island from rest of Lakshadweep
- ✓ Eight Degree Channel separates entire group of Lakshadweep islands from Maldives

◆ **Engineers from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) - have developed a microprocessor called AJIT**



- ✓ It is the first to be conceptualized, designed, developed and manufactured in India.
- ✓ The project was funded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and IIT Bombay
- ✓ Powai Labs, a Mumbai-based company, has invested in the venture
- ✓ It will own, market and support the product.
- ✓ AJIT is a medium-sized processor

- ✓ It can be used inside a set top box, as a control panel for automation systems, in a traffic light controller or even robotic systems
- ✓ It can also be used in WiFi routers, secure power metres or even electronic voting machines.
- ✓ It cannot be used in mobile phones or washing machines
- ✓ In the first stage, AJIT has been manufactured in the government-owned Semiconductor Laboratory, Chandigarh.
- ✓ SAMEER (Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research), an independent laboratory under MeitY, is planning to use AJIT in the receivers being developed for NAVIC or IRNSS (The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System), an indigenous navigation system for the Indian subcontinent

ECONOMY

◆ Facebook - has chosen 'London' as the centre for rolling out digital payments service WhatsApp Pay globally

- ✓ One of the reasons for choosing London over New York is because the WhatsApp is far more popular in the United Kingdom than the United States
- ✓ In 2018, the company launched the WhatsApp Pay in India on trial basis for businesses and UPI-powered payment business
- ✓ The trial phase will end by July 2019

APPOINTMENTS

◆ Justice (Retired) KS Radhakrishnan, a former Supreme Court judge - was appointed as the Member of the Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal (CSAT) of London



- ✓ He will serve a 4-year term from June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2023 as a Member of the Tribunal.
- ✓ The Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal resolves disputes of the Commonwealth organisations, international or intergovernmental
- ✓ Justice Radhakrishnan began his legal career by enrolling as an advocate in 1983 in Kerala
- ✓ He served as the Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court and Jammu and Kashmir High Court
- ✓ Radhakrishnan served as a Judge of the Supreme Court for five years from November 2009 to May 2014
- ✓ For his landmark Jallikattu ruling, he was awarded with the 'Man of the Year' award by the People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

- ✓ He was also a part of the two-judge Bench which ruled in the NALSA v Union of India case, recognising transgender as a third gender and giving them the same Constitutional rights as others.
- ✓ CSAT has a total of eight members, comprising the President and 7 Members.
- ✓ The Tribunal's Members are selected by the Commonwealth Governments

◆ **Rakesh Sharma - elected as VP (Vice President) of IMMA, International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (based in Geneva)**



- ✓ He is the Executive Director of Bajaj Auto and also a representative of SIAM (Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers)

SPORTS

◆ **India's Esha Singh and Akull Kumar - won silver in junior mixed air pistol event in the International Shooting Competition at Hannover, Germany**



- ✓ It was the second mixed medal for Esha, after the one she won recently with Anmol Jain in Plzen, Czech Republic.

RANKINGS

◆ **India slips to 4th place in Domestic air travel, as per the rankings of the International Air Transport Association (IATA)**

- ✓ Russia, US and Japan are the top three growing markets
- ✓ A sharp rise in airfares after Jet Airways began reducing flights from earlier this year, grounding of Spice Jet's Boeing 737 Max and the economic slowdown in India are cited as the reason for the slowdown



- ✓ India's domestic traffic rose just 3.1% in March, down from February's growth of 8.3%
- ✓ This is perhaps the sharpest fall in growth witnessed by a major market.
- ✓ In January and February this year, the domestic growth rate was 9.1% and 5.6%

- ✓ Before that, India had seen 52 straight months of double digit growth
- ✓ December 2018 was the last month of double digit growth when India had 1.3 crore domestic passengers, up 12.9% from December 2017

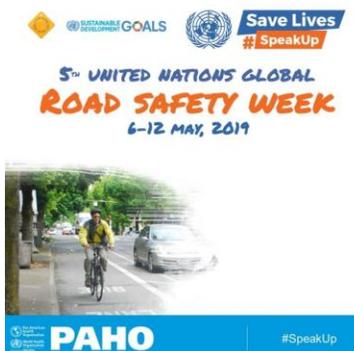
INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ World Thalassaemia Day – May 8



- ✓ The day intends to raise awareness about thalassaemia (a genetic disease), its prevention and measures to avoid its transmission among people throughout the world
- ✓ **Theme 2019 - “Universal access to quality thalassaemia healthcare services: Building bridges with and for patient”**
- ✓ Thalassaemia is an inherited blood disorder characterised by less haemoglobin (Hb) and lesser than normal blood cells
- ✓ Genetic mutation and deletion of some key gene fragments leads to thalassaemia
- ✓ Being a genetic disease its prevention is difficult but can be diagnosed by blood tests
- ✓ It is more common among people of Mediterranean (like Italian, Greek, Middle Eastern) and Southeast Asian ancestry, and in African-Americans
- ✓ It can be treated by blood transfusions and chelation therapy
- ✓ In children it can be cured by bone marrow transplant

◆ 5th Global road safety week – May 6 to 12, 2019



- ✓ The UN Global Road Safety Weeks and its' campaigns are coordinated by United Nations Road Safety Collaboration, chaired by World Health Organization
- ✓ **Theme 2019 – ‘Leadership for road safety’**
- ✓ On the occasion, the United Nations has launched action through the ongoing campaign: Save Lives #SpeakUp

- ✓ The #SpeakUp campaign runs on the philosophy of the Decade of Action for Road Safety, 2011-2020
- ✓ It aims to improve road safety within 5 pillars of activity - road safety management, safer roads and mobility, safer vehicles, safer road users, and post-crash response
- ✓ As per the World Health Organisation (WHO) report released during the occasion, the road accidents are the major cause of death among people in the age group between 5 to 29 years.
- ✓ It also indicates that 1.35 million people die each year due to road accidents worldwide.
- ✓ Africa (26.6 per 1,00,000 population) has highest death rate while Europe has lowest (9.3 per 1,00,000 population) death rate
- ✓ In India, about 1,50,000 people were killed each year due to the road accidents
- ✓ In 2015, India became a signatory to Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety, where it committed to reduce 50% of its road crash deaths by 2020
- ✓ But even then, India remains the world leading country in road accident deaths

OBITUARY

◆ **Prof N R Madhava Menon, Father of Modern Legal Education (84 years)**



- ✓ Menon was a legal luminary who was instrumental in the establishment of national law schools and the person who conceptualized the five-year integrated LLB course
- ✓ Author of several books on legal education and profession, Menon has a prestigious award in his name for best law teacher instituted to commemorate his services in the field spanning over half a century
- ✓ Menon obtained his BSc and BL degrees from Kerala University and went on to complete his LLM and PhD from Aligarh Muslim University and MA from Punjab University
- ✓ He enrolled himself as an advocate in Kerala high court in 1956.
- ✓ After joining as a faculty in Aligarh Muslim University in 1960, Menon worked as a professor at the Campus Law Centre in Delhi University.

- ✓ He also served as principal of Government Law College, Pondicherry and the secretary of the Bar Council of India Trust.
- ✓ After moving to Bangalore in 1986 under an invitation from Bar council of India, Menon had set up the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) where he launched the five-year LLB programme, which revolutionized the legal education sector in the country.
- ✓ He served as the founding vice chancellor of NLSIU for 12 years
- ✓ In 1998, he established West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS)
- ✓ Later, he took over as the founder director of National Judicial Academy (NJA), Bhopal, which he was holding till his retirement in 2006
- ✓ In 1994, he was conferred 'Living Legend of Law Award' by International Bar Association
- ✓ He was honoured by Padma Shri (India's fourth highest civilian award), in 2003 for his outstanding contribution to public services
- ✓ The journey of his life is published in the autobiographical narrative 'The Story of a Law Teacher: Turning Point'

