

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – SEP 4, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **The Department of social welfare – is planning to set up three special fast track courts to ‘exclusively’ handle cases booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012**
 - ✓ The courts proposed will be at Chennai, Thoothukudi and Kancheepuram districts.
 - ✓ At present, there are no courts that are exclusively dealing with POCSO cases
 - ✓ Cases under this Act are currently being tried by Mahila courts, which also handle cases pertaining to women, as they are present in most of the districts in the state
 - ✓ As per the latest amendment in the POCSO Act, the trial must be completed within six months period.
 - ✓ Keeping this in mind a three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi had recently suggested that every district in the country, where there are over 100 such cases pending, must set up a special fast track court for trial and speedy disposal.
 - ✓ He had also asked the Centre to arrange the required funds for the same and the Centre has earmarked ₹767.25 crore under the Nirbhaya Fund.
 - ✓ Currently there are over 2,000 cases pending under the Act and Chennai has over 300 cases pending since the last two years

NATIONAL

- ◆ **Kerala and Karnataka along with Rajasthan and Haryana – to join the pilot project of Ration card portability scheme from October 1**
 - ✓ With this facility, Ration card holders in these states will be able to buy subsidised food from ration shops in the neighbouring State

- ✓ Now, these two new state clusters will join the existing State pairs of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and Maharashtra and Gujarat in inter-State portability of ration cards

Easy access

Under the 'One nation, one ration card' system, beneficiaries can buy subsidised foodgrains from a ration shop in any part of the country

The scheme will be rolled out across the country on: July 1, 2020



A migrant will be allowed to buy a maximum of 50% of the family quota. This is to ensure that the individual, after shifting to another place, does not buy the entire family quota in one go

Ration card-Aadhaar linkage must to access the portability scheme

States providing portability of PDS entitlements:

- Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana and Tripura
- A person will only be eligible for the subsidies supported by the Centre, which include rice sold at ₹3/kg and wheat at ₹2/kg
- Even if a beneficiary moves to a State where grains are given for free, he/she will not be able to access those benefits

- ✓ The Centre is planning the “One nation, one ration card” system of complete nationwide portability and hopes to implement by June 2020.
- ✓ By January 1, 2020, the Centre hopes the eight States in these initial pilot clusters and Jharkhand, Punjab and Tripura can be clubbed into a single grid
- ✓ By March 2020, intra-State portability will be implemented in another 13 States and Union Territories, viz., Tamil Nadu, Goa, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

◆ **Dawood Ibrahim, Hafiz Saeed and Zakir-ur-Rahman Lakhvi and Masood Azhar - have been declared terrorists by the Union government under the new anti-terror law.**



- ✓ Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) founder Hafiz Muhammad Saeed were declared individual terrorists under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 1967.
- ✓ The move follows the recent amendment to UAPA Act by which individuals can be declared as terrorists
- ✓ The government had already issued red corner notices against all four terrorists.
- ✓ Azhar was also designated as a global terrorist by the UN on May 1, 2019, and was declared as a proclaimed offender by the special judge (POTA), New Delhi.
- ✓ Saeed, also the founder of Jamat-ud-Dawa (JuD), was designated as a global terrorist by the UN on December 10, 2008.
- ✓ Lakhvi, LeT commander, was designated by the United Nations as a global terrorist on the 10th December 2008.
- ✓ Gangster Dawood was designated as a global terrorist by the UN and he is listed in al-Qaeda sanction list on November 3, 2003 and the United Nations Security Council had also issued a special notice in his name on April 6, 2006.

INTERNATIONAL

- ◆ **Qatar's public works authority - has painted the roads in capital Doha with a blue coloured 'heat-reflecting pigment' to cool down surface temperature as part of a Pilot project**



- ✓ Painting asphalt will reflect UV rays and absorb solar radiation, thereby contributing to overall temperature reduction by 15-20 degrees, as well as increase the service life of the roads
- ✓ Currently, roads are painted only on one of the central streets of the city, where the temperature can rise to 50⁰ Celsius

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ **Ashok Leyland - has become the first Indian company to get BS-VI certification for its entire range of heavy-duty trucks with gross vehicle weight of 16.2 tonne and above**



- ✓ The company has become the first Indian original equipment manufacturer (OEM) to meet BS-VI emission norms, which come into force from April 1, 2020.
- ✓ It has received the BS-VI compliance certificate from Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI)
- ✓ ARAI is an autonomous body affiliated to the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, which offers comprehensive certification and homologation services for all kinds of vehicles.
- ✓ However, the company is not in a position to produce and sell such vehicles due to non-availability of BS VI-fuel in the country, except in some select regions like NCR-Rajasthan

DEFENCE

- ◆ **The Indian Air Force - inducted the first batch of 8 Apache helicopters at the Pathankot airbase on September 3**

- ✓ Codenamed AH-64E, the Apaches have a wide range of capabilities required for any mission.
- ✓ The new fleet of Apache helicopters will be part of 125-Helicopter squadron, popularly called "Gladiators" of the IAF.
- ✓ Apaches are expected to replace the aging Mi-35 fleet, which have been used by the IAF for more than three decades.
- ✓ Select aircrew and ground crew, supposed to handle Apaches, have already been trained at the headquarters of the US Army Aviation at Fort Rucker in Alabama.
- ✓ Apache is one of the fiercest and modern attack helicopters in the world with a capability to fire and forget and launch air-to-air missiles.
- ✓ The Apaches are presently being used by the US and 18 other armed forces of the world.

- ✓ India was the 16th nation to select the Apache and the AH-64E was the most advanced variant
- ✓ The IAF has signed a contract with Boeing and the US government for 22 Apache attack helicopters in September 2015

ATTACK MACHINE

Considered most lethal survivable, deployable and maintainable multi-mission helicopter in the world



Can fly up to a speed of around **290** km/hour

625 rounds fire in a minute. Also carries one 30 mm chain gun with 1,200 rounds as part of area weapon sub-system

Equipped with target acquisition designation sight, pilot night vision sensor to locate, track, and attack targets

Can be equipped with air-to-air missiles and advanced precision kill weapon system.

Capable of delivering air-to-ground Hellfire missiles, 70 mm Hydra rockets and air-to-air Stinger missiles

Can allow missile to perform in full 'fire and forget' mode. Firing range is **8 to 12 km**

To add to the lethality, it carries fire control radar, which has 360 degree coverage and nose mounted sensor suite for target acquisition and night vision systems

► Weighs around **5,165kg** and its maximum take-off weight is **10,433kg**

► It has high agility and survivability against battle damage

► Can effect an attack in **30 seconds**

► Can climb at a rate of **889 metres** in a minute

► Its endurance is 3 hours 9 minutes

► Easily maintainable even in field conditions and capable of prolonged operations in tropical and desert regions

MEN AND THEIR BIRD OF PREY



First batch of IAF pilots who were trained in the US to fly Apache helicopters, at the Pathankot airbase on Tuesday

(Source: IAF/Boeing)

- ✓ The first 8 helicopters have been delivered on schedule, while the last batch of helicopters will be delivered to IAF by March 2020.
- ✓ The Apaches arrived at the Air Force Station, Hindon, on July 27 this year and henceforth will remain part of the 125 Helicopter Unit at Pathankot
- ✓ The government has also cleared the acquisition of six additional Apaches for the Indian Army, which has been formally approved by the U.S
- ✓ Pathankot airbase, which was targeted by terrorists in January 2016, is one of the most strategic forward airbases of the IAF considering its proximity to Pakistan during war as well as in peacetime surveillance.

APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora - assumed charge of the post of the Chairman of the Association of World Election Bodies (AWEB) on September 3**



- ✓ India took over as the chair of the organisation from Romania for 2019-21
- ✓ The general assembly of the AWEB, held in Bengaluru, was attended by delegates of 45 countries
- ✓ AWEB is a multilateral platform for election management bodies from across the world to share best electoral practices.
- ✓ It was established in October 2013 and has been involved since in empowering democratic framework of member countries

SPORTS

- ◆ **Virat Kohli - has surpassed Mahendra Singh Dhoni to become India's most successful Test skipper with the team's 28th win under his captainship in the second Test against West Indies at Kingston**

- ✓ The 28 wins have come from 48 matches for Kohli as captain.
- ✓ Former Indian skipper, Dhoni led India to 27 wins from 60 Test matches during his tenure.



✓ Overall, former South Africa skipper Graeme Smith remains the most successful captain in the world with 53 Test wins, followed by ex-Australia skipper Ricky Ponting, who recorded 48 Test wins in his captaincy tenure.

◆ **Mithali Raj, India's highest run getter in T20 Internationals - announced her retirement from the game's shortest format**



- ✓ Mithali played 89 matches in which she scored 2364 runs at an average of 37.5 and a strike rate of 36.3.
- ✓ She made her debut as captain in the first-ever T20 International played by India — against England in Derby in 2006
- ✓ Mithali also led the country in three T20I World Cups — 2012 (Sri Lanka), 2014 (Bangladesh) and 2016 (India) without lifting the cup in all the three occasions
- ✓ Mithali Raj was the first Indian cricketer to reach the landmark of 2000 T20I runs.

HISTORIAL TIES OF MAMALLAPURAM WITH CHINA – A REPORT

The second edition of the India-China informal summit between PM Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping is scheduled between October 11 and 13, and Mamallapuram is likely to host the event. The quaint town has an old relationship with China

Pic Courtesy: DIPR, TN

BEYOND THE BAY

➤ Pallavas transformed Mamallapuram into a key port

➤ They had trade links with Southeast Asian countries, including China since the 4th century AD, from Mamallapuram port

➤ A Chinese delegation designated Second Narasimhavarmam as a general for South China after it faced threat from Tibet in 8th century. It was the first defence pact between the Chinese and the Pallavas



➤ In 527AD, Bodhidharma, (pic) the third prince of a Pallava king, reached China.

Known as the father of martial arts, he monk was the 28th Patriarch of Buddhism succeeding Prajnatarata in China

➤ Trade links between rulers in Tamil Nadu and China continued till the Chola period, though the latter chose ports in central Tamil Nadu

➤ A to and fro journey through sea on the Mamallapuram-Andaman and Nicobar-Malaysia-Indonesia-China took two years



Eastern headquarters of Indian Coast Guard 50km away in Chennai

Town came under intensified security during defence expo last year

- Mamallapuram – is expected to host the proposed second edition of the India-China informal summit between PM Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping
- Mamallapuram, 50km south of Chennai, was the centre of defence and trade ties with China that are more than 1,700 years old.
- The ancient port town had a defence pact between Pallava king Narasimhavarman II and the Chinese rulers during the early 8th century that was aimed at securing Chinese territory from Tibet
- Chinese declared Pallava king Narasimhavarman II as the general of South China to fight Tibet as the latter had emerged a strong power and a threat to China
- Buddhist monk Bodhidharma, an icon in China, was the third prince of a Pallava king.
- He travelled from Kancheepuram through Mamallapuram to China in 527AD and became the 28th patriarch of Buddhism succeeding Prajnatarata
- Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang visited Kancheepuram in 7th century
- Mamallapuram also flourished as a massive business hub on the Bay of Bengal
- It remained as a major gateway for exports and imports from China to Tamil Nadu for almost eight centuries till 1,000 years ago.

