

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 18, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- **Chennai – to get the country’s biggest All India Reporters (AIR) Café soon**
- ✓ The café, likely to be inaugurated on February 2, will help students from Tamil Nadu Dr Ambedkar Law University (TNDALU) - to refer laws, Acts, legal articles and judgement briefs
- ✓ AIR, a legal research firm founded in 1914, is constructing the facility at School of Excellence in Law (SOEL) campus, Taramani - at a cost of Rs 14 crore
- ✓ The TNDALU had recently tied up with AIR to setup a cafe on SOEL premises on a no-loss-no-profit basis

EQUIPPING STUDENTS FOR THE FIELD



AIR Cafe under construction on SOEL premises in Taramani

FACILITIES

Legal education research suite | Computer hub | E-book corner | Reading room stocked with books

RESOURCES

AIR comprehensive case laws (Supreme Court and all high courts) | Legal articles | Bare Acts | Law Lexicon | Judgement Brief

BENEFITS

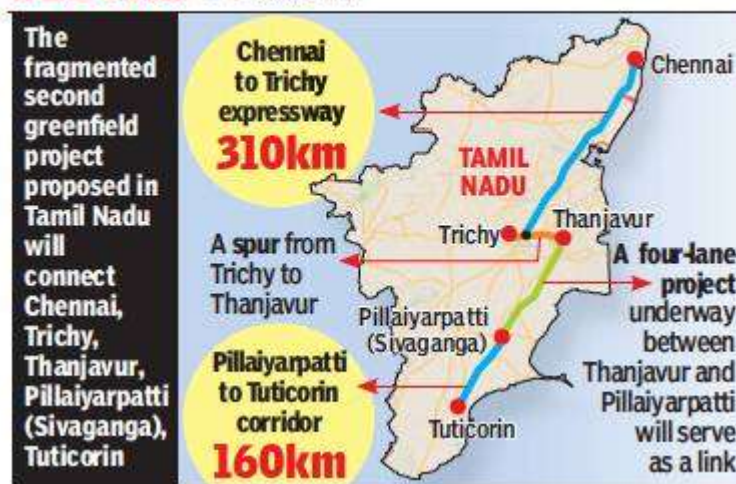
Law subjects made simple | Costs around ₹600 to ₹3,000/year whereas private firms charge ₹30,000 or more | Mock trial courts | Seminars and presentations by top legal experts | Summer internships

- ✓ AIR had previously set up similar cafes in top institutions including National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru, Bar Council of India, Delhi and high courts in Jaipur and Lucknow
 - ✓ The one under construction in Chennai will be the largest in terms of space (4,000 sqft) and content
 - ✓ It will be mandatory for all 3,700 students of SOEL to enroll in the cafe from the forthcoming academic year
 - ✓ First year students will be charged Rs 600 (introductory package) while senior students will have to pay Rs 3,000 (premium package)
 - ✓ The registered users can access digital content in the cafe equipped with legal education research suite, computer hub and reading rooms
 - ✓ They can also access content 24/7 from their personal laptops or mobile phones using their unique login ID
- **Tamil Nadu Government - releases commemorative coins in the denomination of Rs 5 and Rs 100 to mark the birth centenary of former chief minister and AIADMK founder, M G Ramachandran**



- ✓ A commemorative arch was also opened on Kamarajar Salai, near the PWD headquarters in Chepauk, to mark the occasion
 - ✓ The Rs 2.52 crore arch was unveiled without any ceremony following a high court directive restraining the state from inaugurating it
 - ✓ The 52 ft-high and 66 ft wide rectangular structure is a fusion of traditional and modern architecture on the lines of a diamond jubilee commemorative arch of the TN legislative assembly
- **Union road transport ministry - has proposed a second greenfield corridor connecting Chennai and Trichy under the ambitious Bharatmala Pariyojana phase II scheme**
- ✓ Subsequently, the corridor will link Pillaiyarpatti and Tuticorin

SECOND FOR TN



- ✓ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) recently invited consultants for preparation of detailed project reports for the same
- ✓ The proposed Chennai-Salem corridor was the first Greenfield corridor planned in the state
- **Tamil Nadu Agricultural University – releases a list of 14 new crop varieties for this Pongal**
- ✓ It includes Short duration paddy crops, year-long flowering Star Jasmine and a wilt-resistant banana apart from other varieties of rice, millet, castor, garlic and groundnut
- ✓ Rice
- ✓ Of the 14 crops, two are rice varieties
 - ✓ Rice ADT 53
 - ✓ It is a short duration variety, producing yield in 105 days
 - ✓ It is suitable for cultivation as transplanted rice
 - ✓ It would give an average yield of 6,340 kg per hectare
 - ✓ It is moderately resistant to blast, sheath rot, stem borer and leaf folder
 - ✓ Rice VGD 1
 - ✓ It is semi-dwarf with 130 days duration.
 - ✓ It is similar to Seeragasamba and can be used to make briyani.
 - ✓ The mean yield of the crop was 5,850 kg per hectare
- ✓ Millet
 - ✓ Little Millet ATL 1, a rainfed samai variety, is recommended for cultivation in Dharmapuri, Tiruvannamalai, Vellore, Salem and Krishnagiri
- ✓ Oilseeds
 - ✓ A new variety each in groundnut and castor have been released
 - ✓ Groundnut BSR 2 has an oil content of 46.5%, and is moderately resistant to late leaf spot and rust diseases
 - ✓ Castor YTP 1 is suitable for annual and perennial cultivation

- ✓ Horticultural crops
 - ✓ One new variety each of bottle gourd, garlic, potatoes and three varieties of bananas were released
 - ✓ The banana varieties – Kaveri Kalki, Kaveri Saba and Kaveri Sugantham — were from the National Banana Research Centre, Trichy
 - ✓ In addition, Kadamba tree, suitable for pulp wood, plywood and splints production, was released.
 - ✓ Star Jasmine CO 1, a year-round flowering jasmine variety suitable to be cultivated in all jasmine-growing regions of Tamil Nadu, was also released

- **World famous Alanganallur Jallikattu – concluded on January 17 in Alanganallur, about 20 km from Madurai city**



- ✓ Revenue minister R B Udhayakumar flagged off the sport
- ✓ Collector S Natarajan administered the oath
- ✓ 729 bulls and 697 tamers from across the state participated
- ✓ Ranjith, 24, of Avaniyapuram, who tamed 15 bulls, was adjudged the best tamer and won the car sponsored by deputy chief minister, O Panneerselvam
- ✓ The Paramapatti Chelliamman temple bull was the best and bagged the first prize (car) sponsored by chief minister, Edappadi K Palaniswami

- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Edapaadi K Palaniswami – announces Chennai as the ‘the SaaS capital of India’**
 - ✓ He announced the various Government measures to give an impetus to this sector to make TN a global SaaS destination - ahead of the Global Investors Meet starting on January 23
 - ✓ The city is home to two unicorns (Freshworks and Zoho) both having SaaS as their business backbone



DECODING SAAS

Software as a Service (SaaS) is a model of distribution, where users access software over the Internet, as opposed to erstwhile techniques of getting them installed in the systems using a CD or DVD. The SaaS provider typically hosts the application at its data center and customers purchase it on a subscription basis via a web browser or cloud.

SAAS BOOMI

With the belief that the experiences of those who've been there and done that could help aspiring SaaS entrepreneurs, a like-minded group of tech business owners are coming together to organize SaaSBoomi, Asia's largest SaaS conference to be held in Chennai on Jan 18-19. Over 300 SaaS founders from across the APAC region are expected to participate in SaaSBoomi, which features product showcases, workshops, and investor-readiness sessions. Attendees will also be able to hear the hustle stories of the best minds in the Indian SaaS industry, straight from them.

- ✓ Startups such as Chargebee, Cloudcherry, Mad Street Den, and many others continue to add value to the Indian SaaS landscape, starting in Chennai
- ✓ The city, meanwhile, houses old names like Ramco Systems whose products have made a global mark
- **Scoot, low-cost arm of Singapore Airlines – to operate flights in the Coimbatore-Singapore route from October 27, 2019**



- ✓ It will replace SilkAir which operates the route currently
- ✓ Besides Coimbatore, Scoot has announced new flights to Thiruvananthapuram and Visakhapatnam from May 2019

NATIONAL

- **The University Grants Commission (UGC) – is planning to introduce an academic credit bank soon**

- ✓ It will be similar to that in some foreign countries like South Korea, where students can accumulate points and graduate with a degree before the stipulated time
 - ✓ The credit bank system will also enable students from non-science courses like arts and commerce to take up science degrees after completing a bridge programme
 - ✓ The proposed National Academic Credit Bank (NAC Bank) will help students plan their learning objectives and the pace at which they would like to learn
 - ✓ The main objective of the NAC-Bank would be to facilitate student mobility across the higher education system
 - ✓ It is also proposed to be linked with the National Academic Depository and other students' services
 - ✓ Bhushan Patwardhan, vice-chairman of the UGC, had floated the idea of the NAC at the 3rd National Teachers' Congress at the MIT World Peace University in Pune
 - ✓ UGC chairman, D P Singh has constituted a six-member expert committee to explore the innovative concept
 - ✓ The committee comprises
 - ✓ R P Tiwari, chairman (member commission) and vice-chancellor of Hari Singh Gour University, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh
 - ✓ Indu Shahani, retired principal of H R College in Mumbai
 - ✓ Raj Kumar, vice-chancellor of O P Jindal Global University, Sonipat
 - ✓ Sandeep Sancheti, president of Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and vice-chancellor of SRM University
 - ✓ C M Chitale, emeritus professor, Savitribai Phule Pune University
 - ✓ Ameeta Chatterjee, former vice-chancellor of Presidency University in Kolkata
- **National Museum of Indian Cinema - will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on January 19 in Mumbai**



- ✓ It was set up with the help of a museum advisory committee headed by veteran film maker Shyam Benegal and an innovation committee headed by Prasoon Joshi
 - ✓ The Museum, first conceived in 1997, has been built by NBCC (India) Limited and is housed in an elegant 19th century heritage bungalow, Gulshan Mahal
 - ✓ It was designed by the National Council of Science Museums and implemented by the films division under the ministry of information and technology
 - ✓ The first silent movie in India was Raja Harishchandra made by Dadasaheb Phalke in 1913 and the first film with sound was Ardeshir Irani's Alam Ara in 1931
- **A Supreme Court bench of Justices Gogoi, L N Rao and Sanjay K Kaul - requested the Search committee to complete the task of finalizing the panel of names for Lokpal by February 28, 2019**
- ✓ The search committee is headed by former SC judge, Ranjana P Desai
 - ✓ Once the panel of names is drawn up, it will go to the selection committee comprising the PM, the leader of opposition in Lok Sabha and the CJI or his nominee SC judge

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **Supreme Court – allows the Maharashtra Dance bars to open by quashing the stringent restrictions imposed by the State Government – in its order on January 17**
- ✓ The SC bench comprising of Justices A K Sikri and Ashok Bhushan, agreed with the state to restrict their timings from 6 pm to 11.30 pm and ban showering of notes and coins on the stage

WHAT IT UPHELD	
<p>1 Allowing obscene dances can invite a jail term of up to three years and fine of upto Rs 10 lakh</p>	<p>State Rule: Discotheques cannot be granted dance bar licence and vice versa SC Order: It is arbitrary</p>
<p>2 Showering of notes on stage can invite jail term of up to six months or a fine of up to Rs 50,000</p>	<p>Licence to be issued to those who possess a 'good character', without any 'criminal record' in the past ten years Struck down as vague</p> <p>No serving of liquor in area where dance is performed Totally disproportionate, unreasonable and arbitrary</p>
<p>3 Such bars can conduct dance performances only between 6pm-11.30pm</p>	<p>Installing of CCTV cameras in dance bars Totally inappropriate, amounts to invasion of privacy</p> <p>Fixed non-transparent partition between bar permit room and dance room Struck down as "unreasonable"</p> <p>Dance bars should be at least 1km away from educational & religious institutions Impractical in Mumbai</p>

- ✓ It had also quashed provisions to bring such bars under CCTV surveillance and ban serving of liquor

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

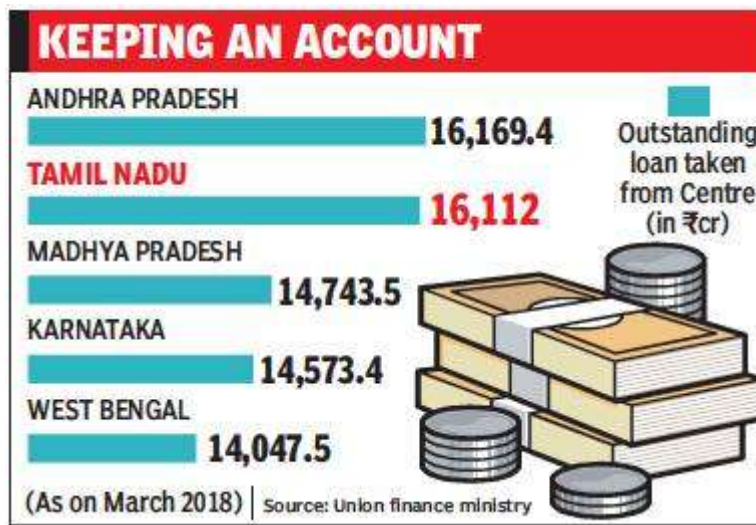
- **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) – to use a humanoid — robot resembling a human — for conducting experiments in space twice - before actually sending humans by 2022**
- ✓ It is not planning to use any animals to test systems for the Gaganyaan project
- ✓ ISRO is planning to conduct experiments in 10 areas -- ranging from testing medical equipment to microbiological experiments such as air filters and biosensors, and from life support and biomedical waste management to monitoring toxic gases
- ✓ The Centre has recently cleared Rs 10,000 crore for the project
- ✓ Space suit
- ✓ India's indigenously developed astronaut crew escape suit, bearing the 'Made in Vadodara' tag may be used for the mission
- ✓ It was designed by Sure Safety, a Vadodara-based industrial safety equipment manufacturer, after collaborating with ISRO's Space Applications Centre Ahmedabad
- ✓ The firm gave the first glimpse of the space suit at the Futuristic Technology Exhibition inaugurated on Thursday at the Science City, Ahmedabad



- ✓ The suit is 20% lighter and one hundredth of the cost of its foreign counterpart
- ✓ The last time an Indian wore a space suit was in 1984, when wing commander Rakesh Sharma flew aboard Russian Soyuz T-11

REPORT

- **Borrowers of Central Loans – A report released by Union Finance Ministry**
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have received the highest amount of loans from the Centre in the past three years
- ✓ They together accounted for 20% of the total loans disbursed, as per the data ending with March 31, 2018 when the 12th five year plan finished



- ✓ For several plan schemes, the Centre used to finance the schemes under the ratio 70:30
- ✓ The advantage of getting loans from the Centre is the low interest rate (at 3%) and more repayment time (upto 30 years)