

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 17, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu Government – orders the Police department to create a ‘special unit’ to tackle crime against Women and Children

<p>AN ARMY OF OUR OWN</p>		<p>The unit will try to curb crimes against women & children by increasing rate of conviction, awareness. The team will</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identify trends and patterns of criminal activities by studying past incidents ➤ Push for conviction in all cases filed under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act ➤ Coordinate with various state police forces, the CBI and Interpol on cases ➤ Establish a special means and collect intelligence on human trafficking networks ➤ Work with NGOs and academic institutions to create awareness about the 	<p>Pocso Act and other laws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Coordinate with social welfare department and other government departments on rehabilitation matters 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Keep a close watch on juvenile homes, orphanages and other private boarding institutions ➤ Track work of NGOs in combating crimes against women and children ➤ Develop community policing initiatives to increase safety of women, children 	

- ✓ The special unit will act as an ‘umbrella’ in law enforcement, bringing several units under one roof for effective crackdown
- ✓ The unit will be led by an additional director general of police (ADGP)
- ✓ It will work in coordination with all women police stations, anti-human trafficking units, investigative units of crime against women (IUCAW), special juvenile police units, child welfare police unit and anti-child trafficking units

- ✓ The unit will also focus on developing a database of organized criminal gangs, including human traffickers, and liaison with other police units dealing with the specific crime type
 - ✓ Crime against children including child-lifting, child abuse, child labour and issues relating to juvenile delinquents, rehabilitation of destitute and missing children will also come under the purview of the team
 - ✓ The unit was set up as per the direction issued by the Supreme Court in 2018
 - ✓ It will have a senior officer in the rank of director general of police or equivalent rank constitute a special task force (STF) to investigate and track the cases booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act
 - ✓ Following the SC orders, the Madras high court had ordered that a STF be formed in each district of the state, headed by an additional superintendent of police (Addl SP)
- **The VO Chidambaranar (VOC) Port in Tuticorin – sets a new record of container traffic handled during the current financial year 2018-19**
 - ✓ It had handled 7.03 lakh TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent unit) with a growth of 6.46% over the previous FY's container traffic of 6.97 lakh TEUs
 - ✓ With the new record, the port will reach third position in container handling among the 12 major ports in the country

SCHEMES

- **West Bengal - has unveiled a new scheme 'Yuvashree Plan II or Yuvashree Arpan' to encourage entrepreneurship among youth**



- ✓ Under the scheme, Youths who have passed out of ITI or other polytechnic institutes will be eligible to get financial support of Rs One Lakh from the state MSME department to set up their own business initiatives
- ✓ Yuvashree I, launched by the state's labour department, provided an unemployment allowance of Rs 1500 per month to 1,00,000 unemployed youth
- ✓ The Chief Minister of West Bengal has also laid the foundation stone for the state's first Hindi University at Arupara, Howrah

- **Uttarakhand - has launched the 'Mukhyamantri Anchal Amrit Yojana' to provide milk at the Anganwadi Centres**
- ✓ Under the scheme, the government would provide 100 ml milk twice a week for 2.5 lakh children (under age-6) at 20,000 Anganwadi Centres in the state
- ✓ The scheme aims to tackle the malnutrition and provide a healthy diet to the children

NATIONAL

- **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) – to soon release draft 'labelling' regulations for packaged food items**

GLOBAL TREND IN FOOD CONSUMPTION

INCREASE

- Use of calorific sweetness
- Animal-source foods
- Snacking behaviour
- Ready-to-heat and ready-to-eat food

DECREASE

- Consumption of legumes/pulses, vegetables, fruits in most countries
- Food preparation time

HOW LABELLING IS BEING REGULATED ABROAD

- Experience from tobacco control used for warning labels on all types of food
- Chilean model, with large warning logos on the front of the packet, displays high quantities of sugar/trans fat/sodium
- Countries with legally mandated warning labels: Canada, Chile, Israel, Peru, Uruguay
- Singapore and Thailand are the only two countries with statutory positive logos

WHAT INDIA IS PLANNING

- FSSAI has approved new labelling regulations; a draft to come out soon
- 100gm/ml of each product will be checked for concentration of trans fat, saturated fat, sodium and added sugar and those beyond permissible limits will get a 'red label'
- If >10% of energy is coming from sugar, it will have a red symbol
- Red label will also be mandatory if trans fat provides more than 1% of energy
- India will not use 'green' or positive logos, which allow brands to showcase positive nutrients while trying to hide harmful components

- ✓ Under the regulations, large 'red' labels will be carried if the food is high on fats, sugar or salt or if they fail to meet the specified standards
- ✓ FSSAI has recently released advertising and packaging regulations.
- ✓ Advertising regulations will come into effect on July 1 and the packaging norms were already implemented recently
- **Election commission – revises the model code of conduct on March 16**
- ✓ It restrains the political parties from releasing their manifestos during 48 hours prior to conclusion of polling, called as 'prohibitory period'
- ✓ The poll panel has added a new para 4 to the model code with two sub-paras, dealing with the 'prohibitory period' in single phase and multi phase elections

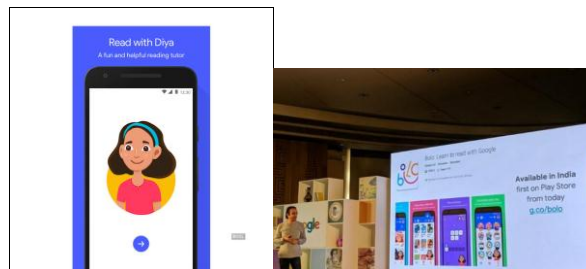
- **The Central Government – allows the state Governments to put ‘enemy properties’ into public use**
 - ✓ For the purpose, it had amended the guidelines for disposal of the ‘Enemy Property Order, 2018 ‘
 - ✓ Enemy properties are the properties of the people who migrated to Pakistan during partition and also to China after the Sino-India war in 1962
 - ✓ It is estimated that there are 9,280 such properties which were left behind by people who went to Pakistan and 126 such properties were left by the Chinese nationals
 - ✓ Out of 9,280 properties left behind by Pakistani nationals, 4,991 are located in Uttar Pradesh, the highest in the country and West Bengal has 2,735 such estates followed by Delhi with 487
 - ✓ Out of 126 properties left behind by Chinese nationals, 57 properties are located in Meghalaya, highest in the country and West Bengal has 29 such properties followed by Assam with seven
 - ✓ The estimated value of all enemy properties is approximately Rs 1 lakh crore
 - ✓ The government had enacted the Enemy Property Act in 1968
 - ✓ It was further amended through the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2017, wherein successors of those who migrated to Pakistan and China during partition will have no claim over the properties left behind in India
- **Ministry of Power - has announced that two more electrical appliances, ‘microwave ovens and washing machines’ will now be assigned star ratings based on their energy efficiency metrics**
 - ✓ The programme of star rating of Microwave Ovens and Washing Machines will be implemented on a voluntary basis and will be valid up to December 31, 2020
 - ✓ The rating of appliances in India is undertaken by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, a statutory body set up under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001
- **Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri - launched the ‘e-Dharti’ app and ‘e-Dharti’ GeoPortal**
 - ✓ They will help the general public and the government to manage its properties effectively
 - ✓ Under the e-Dharti app, all the three modules- Conversion, Substitution and Mutation related to properties have been made online
 - ✓ e-Dharti GeoPortal enables the lessee of the property to see the basic details of property along with the map showing its location
 - ✓ The portal will also benefit the government by letting it know the actual status of its vacant properties, whether there is any encroachment on the property
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - has unveiled the new series of visually impaired friendly coins in the denominations of Rs. 1, Rs. 2, Rs. 5, Rs. 10 and Rs.20**



- ✓ Rs 20 coin, the first-ever coin offering in Rs 20 denomination, has been created in the shape of a 12-edged polygon with a design of grains to denote farm dominance in the country
- ✓ Other than Rs 20 coins others are in round shape
- ✓ The coins designed by the National Institute of Design has been produced by Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited and the Finance Ministry

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Google - has unveiled a new app 'Bolo' for primary school children to learn read in English and Hindi**



- ✓ The app uses Google's speech recognition and text-to-speech technology
- ✓ Through an animated character Diya, the app encourages children to read stories aloud
- ✓ The app has access to 100 stories in Hindi and English
- ✓ Google has already piloted the Bolo App in about 200 villages in Uttar Pradesh, which showed an improvement of 64% in children's reading ability within 3 months

DEFENCE

- **Al Nagah III, a bilateral joint exercise - is scheduled between India and Oman during March 12 to March 25 at Oman**



- ✓ The 14-day exercise, to be held at Jabel Al Akhdar Mountains in Oman, will enable both the armies exchange expertise and experience in tactics, weapon handling and firing
- ✓ The Indian Army contingent is to be represented by 10th Battalion of the Garhwal Rifles
- ✓ Al Nagah I was held at Muscat, Oman in January 2015 and Al Nagah II at Himachal Pradesh, India in March 2017

ECONOMY

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - has eased business guidelines for 'white label ATMs' in the country to facilitate the increase in their revenue earnings**

- ✓ New Guidelines

- ✓ The White Label ATM Operators are now allowed to buy wholesale cash, above a threshold of 1 lakh pieces (and in multiples thereof) of any denomination, directly from the Reserve Bank or from any scheduled bank against full payment
- ✓ The White Label ATM Operators can also offer bill payment and Interoperable Cash Deposit services
- ✓ The White Label ATM Operators can also display advertisements pertaining to non-financial products or services anywhere within the WLA premises
- ✓ Banks can issue co-branded ATM cards in partnership with the authorised White Label ATM operators
- ✓ Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) set up, owned and operated by non-bank entities are called White Label ATMs
- ✓ These White Label ATM operators are entitled to receive a fee from the banks for the use of ATM resources by the bank's customers
- ✓ They are not permitted to charge bank customer directly for the use of WLAs
- ✓ At present there are 8 White Label ATM operators in the country – AGS Transact Technologies Ltd, BTI Payments Pvt Ltd, Hitachi Payment Services Pvt Ltd, Muthoot Finance Ltd, RiddiSiddhi Bullions Ltd, SREI Infrastructure Finance Ltd, Tata Communications Payment Solutions Ltd, and Vakrangee Ltd

APPOINTMENTS

- **Former finance secretary, Hasmukh Adhia - appointed as the chancellor of Gujarat Central University**



- ✓ He will hold the position for a period of 5 years
- ✓ Hasmukh Adhia was a Gujarat cadre IAS officer and was appointed as the secretary in the Department of Financial Services in 2014
- ✓ Central Universities were established in India by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development under the Central Universities Act 2009 to address regional imbalances in higher educational facilities in 12 states
- ✓ The Act provided for the establishment of one new central university each in Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu
- ✓ The act also sought to convert Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyala in Chhattisgarh, Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya in Sagar (Madhya Pradesh) and Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University in Uttarakhand into Central universities
- ✓ Further, through the Central universities Amendment Act 2014 another central university was established at Bihar and another Central University was established in Andhra Pradesh in 2018

AWARDS

- **Ministry of Tourism, Government of India - has won the First Prize in the category of TV Cinema Spot at the prestigious international Golden City Gate**



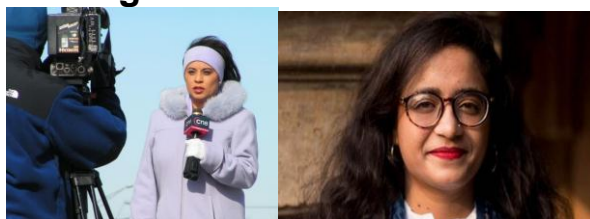
- ✓ The promotional films/television commercials produced as part of its Incredible India 2.0 Campaign by the Ministry of Tourism have received the awards

- ✓ Golden City Gate Tourism Multi-media Awards are the annual awards for the various categories related to the Tourism and Hospitality sectors
 - ✓ The patron of the award is the Federal Association of German Film and Av Producers e.V. in Wiesbaden
 - ✓ Incredible India 2.0 Campaign is a campaign of the Ministry of Tourism to promote Indian Tourism
 - ✓ It has thematic promotions including Commercials on Yoga, Wellness, Wildlife, Luxury and Cuisine
- **Raghuram Rajan, former governor of RBI -has been chosen for the ‘Yashwantrao Chavan National Award 2018’ for his contribution to economic development**



- ✓ He will be presented with the award at the 106th birth anniversary of Yashwantrao Chavan on March 12
- ✓ Raghuram Rajan is credited with steering Indian economy during turbulent times during the post-global financial crisis period
- ✓ He had also served as the chief economist of IMF and had famously predicted the 2008 financial crisis in 2005
- ✓ The award is instituted by Yashwantrao Chavan Prathisthan, to honour individuals and institutions for their outstanding contribution to national integration, and social and economic development
- ✓ Yashwantrao Chavan was the first Chief Minister of State of Maharashtra
- ✓ He has also served as Deputy Prime Minister of India in the cabinet of Prime Minister Charan Singh between 1979-1980
- ✓ He had participated in the Non-cooperation movement and Quit India movement

- **Priyanka Dubey, Journalist - has been named for the ‘Chameli Devi Jain Award’ for an Outstanding Woman Journalist for the year 2018**



- ✓ The jury honoured Priyanka Dubey, a bilingual correspondent with the BBC, for her multi-faceted, investigative and interrogative reportage
- ✓ The award is named after the freedom fighter, Chameli Devi Jain who held demonstrations against the foreign goods on the call of Gandhiji and got arrested

SPORTS

- **Diksha Dagar – wins the South African Open, becomes the second Indian woman golfer to win on Ladies European Tour (LET)**



- ✓ She follows Aditi Ashok, who was the first Indian in 2016 to win on the LET
- ✓ Aditi went on to win two more LET events and now plays on the LPGA

- **Tamil Nadu's PM Thabita – wins her second Gold at the Asian youth athletics championships in Hong Kong on March 16**



- ✓ The 17-year old clinched the Gold in the girls' long jump event with a distance of 5.86 m
- ✓ She had earlier won the girls 100m hurdles on March 15

- **Tamil Nadu's Dharun Ayyasamy – shattered his own National record in the men's 400m hurdles at the 23rd Federation cup in Patiala**



- ✓ With the win, he is now eligible to participate in the upcoming World Athletics Championships in Doha in April 2019, which has a qualification mark of 49.30 seconds for the event
- ✓ He won in a time of 48.80 seconds to erase his old national record of 48.96 registered at the Jakarta Asian Games last year

