

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCT 17, 2018



TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu Government – increases sub-quota in recruitments for Sportspersons to 3% on Oct 16, 2018 - from the present 2% announced on Aug 15, 2018**



- ✓ Hon'ble Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Edapaadi K Palaniswami announced the decision during a function in Chennai
- **Chennai Corporation – to launch a new 'App-based' Parking project on a pilot basis in the areas of Shanti Colony, Anna Nagar, Besant Nagar, and Marina Beach over the next three weeks**

New system to regulate parking operations in the city

FEATURES	
 Geo mapping of parking block	 Provides information for customer tracking/ fare payment through mobile App
Real-time detection through sensors and subsequent dynamic pricing Enforcement and fine collection through mobile app	
AREAS WITH HEAVY DEMAND	
Parry's/George Town T Nagar Marina Adyar Anna Salai Purusaiwalkam Anna Nagar Nungambakkam Mylapore Guindy Washermentpet Royapuram Tondiarpet	

- ✓ It would eventually be extended to 471 roads across the city
- ✓ The new App will help two-wheeler and four-wheeler users to find parking spots closest to their destinations
- ✓ The system can also detect the vehicles in the no-parking zones

➤ **Tamil Nadu Government – appoints new additional advocate-general, C Emalias**



- ✓ He was holding the post of additional public prosecutor currently and becomes the 11th additional advocate-general of the state
- ✓ In Tamil Nadu, the post of additional advocate-general was first created in the year 1996
- ✓ Senior advocate, TR Rajagopalan was the first additional advocate-general appointed to assist the then advocate-general, K V Venkatapathy


➤ **Tamil Nadu Government – appoints senior advocate, A Natarajan – as the state public prosecutor**



- ✓ The post has been lying vacant for the last one year
- ✓ He was having an experience of 40 years with specialization on the criminal side

➤ **Tamil Nadu – plans to upload ‘People’s Biodiversity Register’ online**

- ✓ It will be the first state in the country to make the inventory of valuable natural resources ‘online’

<p>➤ People Biodiversity Register is a document recording details about local plants, domesticated animals, wildlife, herbs and other biological resources</p> <p>➤ Registers are prepared over a period of one year, covering all seasons</p>	 <p>➤ The register also records information about people with traditional knowledge and their association with the biodiversity</p> <p>➤ TN plans to upload the register so that any correction, addition or deletion can be done quickly</p>
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- ✓ PBR will have an inventory of local plants, herbs, medicinal plants, wildlife, domesticated animals, pests, fodder crops and weeds
 - ✓ Making an inventory of animals and plants is mandated by the National Biological Diversity Act of 2002
 - ✓ So far 21 states have prepared the register
 - ✓ In the south, Karnataka tops the list with the preparation of 1,777 PBRs, followed by Kerala with 892 PBRs.
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu has already began the process of preparing PBRs
- **V O Chidambaranar (VOC) Port, Tuticorin – sets a record by handling a vessel of 229m length for the first time in its history**
- ✓ The vessel, 'MV Zheng Jun', was carrying 74,962 tonnes of coal for Neyveli Thermal Power Limited (NTPL)
 - ✓ The vessel was having a draft of 14m (distance between the waterline and bottom of the hull)
 - ✓ The maximum draft handled so far by the port was 13.2m of the vessel MV Dionysus on June 20, 2018

SCHEMES

- **West Bengal – launches a new scheme, 'Khadya Sathi' – on the occasion of World food day**



- ✓ The scheme intends to ensure food security to more than 8.5 crore people of the state

NATIONAL

- **Government – launches ‘Swasth Bharath Yatra’, a national campaign on the occasion of World Food Day on October 16, 2018**



- ✓ The campaign, led by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), highlights the importance of eating safe food and stay healthy
 - ✓ Under it, a pan-India ‘cycle rally’ is organized to propagate a powerful message ‘Eat Right India’
 - ✓ In this rally, about 7,500 cyclists will participate in over 18,000 km travelling across six tracks through almost every state and UT over a period of 100 days
 - ✓ The cyclathon will end in New Delhi on January 27, 2019
- **Government – signs MoU with Lady Irwin College – for establishing ‘ROSHNI’-Centre of Women Collectives-led social action**
 - ✓ The MoU was signed by ‘The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana — National Rural Livelihood Mission’ (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development
 - ✓ Roshni is technically and financially supported by the UNICEF India
 - ✓ It will be located in the college’s Department of Development Communication
 - ✓ It is dedicated to spread awareness among women on aspects of health and nutrition
 - ✓ DAY-NRLM aims to reach out to 8-10 crore rural poor household in a time bound manner till they come out of Poverty
 - ✓ Roshni aims to work with women collectives for social action on Food, Health, Nutrition and WASH interventions through self-help groups
 - ✓ It will learn from Swabhimaan, a collaborative initiative of DAY- NRLM and UNICEF India, launched in 2016
 - ✓ Swabhimaan was started in 5 poorest DAY-NRLM resource blocks in 4 districts of 3 Indian states Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, catering to women’s health and nutrition
 - ✓ The ‘Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission’ was launched as the Aajeevika - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) in 2011

- **Government – sets up a hi-tech ‘Central Warehouse’ of ‘Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana’ (PMBJP) at Bilaspur, Gurugram - to facilitate distribution of Jan Aushadhi medicines**
- ✓ The warehouse was developed by the ‘Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India’ (BPPI)
- ✓ It was inaugurated by Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of State for Chemicals & Fertilizers




✓

- ✓ He had also inaugurated the ‘Digital Cash Management System’ for the healthcare scheme, which will be implemented as a partnership between BPPI and Bank of Baroda
 - ✓ The Bank of Baroda will also provide a loan to all PMBJP Kendras for purchasing medicines.
 - ✓ Besides, the Minister also released the first edition of e-magazine of PMBJP “Jan Aushadhi Samvad” (September 2018 edition)
 - ✓ Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana
 - ✓ ‘Jan Aushadhi’ is a project launched by the Union Government in 2008 to provide quality medicines at affordable prices for all
 - ✓ The first ‘Jan Aushadhi Medical Store’ was opened on November 25, 2008 at Amritsar in Punjab
 - ✓ Currently, there are more than 4200 PMBJP Kendra functional in 34 states and union territories across India
 - ✓ As a result, over 700 medicines and 154 surgical and consumables are available in the basket for sale
- Ministry of Women and Child Development – clarifies that victims of child sexual abuse can file a complaint at any time irrespective of his or her present age – through POCSO e-Box
 - ✓ The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 came into force on November 14, 2012
 - ✓ The Act was passed in the Indian Parliament in May 2012

- **New Education Policy – to be submitted by the Government before October 31, 2018**
- ✓ It intends to reduce academic load and create more focus for sports, Mathematics and Indian Languages

NEW POLICY & ITS FOCUS AREAS

NEW NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Draft under preparation by a panel led by former Isro chief K Kasturirangan ➤ Committee likely to submit final draft by October 31, 2018 ➤ Committee got four extensions since June 24, 2017 ➤ Former cabinet secretary TSR Subramanian panel 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> submitted its report to govt in May 2016 suggesting measures to strengthen education sector that caters to 300m students ➤ Govt, however, decided to have more consultations & set up Kasturirangan panel ➤ Existing policy was framed in 1986 and revised in 1992
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- ✓ A new committee under former Isro chief, K Kasturirangan was constituted for the purpose in June 2017
- ✓ The current education policy was framed in 1986 and revised in 1992.
- ✓ The policy has been framed with a 20-year-vision (2020-2040)

INTERNATIONAL

- **Canada – becomes the 2nd country in the world to legalise the usage of Cannabis**
- ✓ Medical usage of marijuana has been legal in Canada since 2001
- ✓ Cannabis, also known as Marijuana, is used as a psychoactive drug for medical or recreational purposes
- ✓ Earlier, Uruguay has legalized the use of Cannabis in 2013
- ✓ Countries that have legalized the medical use of cannabis include Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India – to set up ‘UAE Plus’, a special desk to facilitate investments from UAE**
- ✓ The desk will also resolve any business issues between the two nations
- ✓ It would be established in Invest India, the National Investment Promotion Agency of India



- ✓ This was announced at the 6th meeting of UAE-India High-Level Joint Task Force on Investments in Mumbai
- ✓ The UAE is the tenth largest investor in India, with a FDI of \$1.05 billion

APPOINTMENTS

- **Sandeep Bakshi – to be appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ICICI Bank for a period of three years**



- ✓ His elevation from the position of Chief Operating Officer, has been approved by the RBI
- ✓ Sandeep Bakshi joined the ICICI group in the year 1986
- ✓ He was appointed as the MD and CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company on August 1, 2010
- ✓ He was appointed as the bank's COO in June 2018
- ✓ He replaces Chanda Kochhar, who had resigned on October 4, six months before her current tenure was about to end

- **Alia Bhatt, film actress – appointed as the Brand Ambassador of ‘Nokia’ in India**



- ✓ HMD Global, which designs and sells phones under the Nokia brand, announced the appointment

SPORTS

- **Youth Olympics, Buenos Aires**
- ✓ **Suraj Panwar – wins Silver** in men’s 5000m race walk event



- ✓ This is India’s first athletics medal in this edition and third overall.
- ✓ Arjun (men’s discus throw) and Durgesh Kumar (men’s 400m hurdles) had won a silver each in the inaugural edition in 2010

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **International day for the Eradication of Poverty – October 17**



- ✓ The day intends to raise people’s awareness of the need to eradicate poverty worldwide, particularly in developing countries
- ✓ The day is observed since 1993
- ✓ Theme 2018 - *‘Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity’*

- ✓ This year marks 25th anniversary of the institution of this day, by UN General Assembly in December 1992 through its resolution 47/196
- ✓ This year also marks 70th anniversary of proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (December 10, 1948)

REPORT

➤ Global Competitive Index 2018 – Released by World Economic Forum

- ✓ India has been ranked as the 58th most competitive economy in the world, with a jump of 5 places from 2017, having the largest gain among G20 economies
- ✓ On the list of 140 economies, the United States ranked at the first place, followed by Singapore and Germany at the second and the third positions respectively

Rank	Economy	Score ¹	Diff. from 2017 ²	
			Rank	Score
1	United States	85.6	—	+0.8
2	Singapore	83.5	—	+0.5
3	Germany	82.8	—	+0.2
4	Switzerland	82.6	—	+0.2
5	Japan	82.5	+3	+0.9
6	Netherlands	82.4	-1	+0.2
7	Hong Kong SAR	82.3	—	+0.3
8	United Kingdom	82.0	-2	-0.1
9	Sweden	81.7	—	+0.1
10	Denmark	80.6	+1	+0.7
11	Finland	80.3	+1	+0.5
12	Canada	79.9	-2	-0.1
13	Taiwan, China	79.3	—	+0.1
14	Australia	78.9	+1	+0.7
15	Korea, Rep.	78.8	+2	+0.8

Rank	Economy	Score ¹	Diff. from 2017 ²	
			Rank	Score
48	Hungary	64.3	—	+0.9
49	Mauritius	63.7	—	+0.8
50	Bahrain	63.6	-4	-0.2
51	Bulgaria	63.6	—	+1.2
52	Romania	63.5	—	+1.3
53	Uruguay	62.7	-3	—
54	Kuwait	62.1	+2	+0.5
55	Costa Rica	62.1	-1	+0.4
56	Philippines	62.1	+12	+2.3
57	Greece	62.1	-4	+0.3
58	India	62.0	+5	+1.2
59	Kazakhstan	61.8	—	+0.7
60	Colombia	61.6	-3	+0.1

- ✓ India ranked highest among South Asian countries with a score of 62.0
- ✓ As for the BRICS nations, China topped the list at 28th position with a score of 72.6 followed by Russian Federation, India, South Africa and Brazil respectively
- ✓ The report stated that the global economy is projected to grow nearly 4% in 2018 and 2019

- ✓ The 2018 edition of the *Global Competitiveness Report* represents a milestone in the four-decade history of the series, with the introduction of the new 'Global Competitiveness Index 4.0'
- **QA India University Rankings 2019 – Released by QS, United Kingdom**
- ✓ Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) is a UK based company which specialises in education and ranks universities



- ✓ Tamil Nadu's Anna University is ranked at 13th place in the overall list and NIT, Tiruchirapalli at 29th place followed by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University at 30th place
- ✓ QS rankings weightage
 - ✓ Academic reputation – 30%
 - ✓ Employer reputation – 20%
 - ✓ Faculty-student ratio – 20%
 - ✓ Ph.D. staff - 10%
 - ✓ Papers from faculty as per Scopus database – 10%
 - ✓ Citations per paper as per Scopus database – 5%
 - ✓ International students – 2.5%
 - ✓ International faculty – 2.5%
- ✓ The first-ever Indian edition of the rankings is designed to offer an independent analysis of the performance of Indian institutions

