



September – 30

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Facebook has selected three Indian women among five global leaders for \$1 million award as part of its Community Leadership Programme. They are Adhunikha Prakash, Chetana Misra and Tamanna Dhamija.
- ❖ Northern states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Union Territories of Delhi and Chandigarh have agreed to fix uniform tax rates on petroleum products, amid rising fuel prices.
 - Besides, these states and UTs also have agreed to bring uniformity in taxes on liquor and registration of vehicles and transport permit.
- ❖ United States and India have formed 'USAID-India End TB Alliance comprising leading experts in public and private sectors to combat the menace of tuberculosis.
- ❖ Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide US \$150 million loan for establishing first multi-skills park in central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh.
 - This new flagship Global Skills Park campus will be established in state capital Bhopal.
- ❖ Union Government has enhanced its contribution in State Disaster Response fund (SDRF) from 75% to 90%. Now, Central government will contribute 90% and all States will contribute 10% to the SDRF.
- ❖ NITI Aayog and United Nations in India signed Sustainable Development Framework for 2018-2022. The NITI Aayog is the national counterpart for the UN in India for the operationalization of the UNSDF.

NATIONAL

Section 497 of IPC declared unconstitutional

- ❖ Supreme Court, on 27 September 2018, has unanimously struck down Section 497 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860 that makes adultery punishable offence for men.
- ❖ The judgment was given by 5-judge bench of the Supreme Court on a petition filed by non-resident Keralite Joseph Shine.
- ❖ Justice Indu Malhotra was lone woman judge on this bench.



- ❖ The apex court also declared section 198(1) and 198(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) as unconstitutional.
- ❖ These sections of CrPC allows husband to bring charges against man with whom his wife committed adultery.
- ❖ Supreme Court ruled that
 - The adultery law violates Article 21 - Right to life - and Article 14 - Right to equality.
 - Section 497 deprives women of dignity, equality, and treats women as the property of men after marriage.
- ❖ It also ruled that It can't be considered as a crime unless it attracts the scope of Section 306 (abetment to suicide) of the IPC.

**SUPREME COURT
DECLARES
SECTION 497 AS
UNCONSTITUTIONAL**

WHO SAID WHAT


<p>"Adultery can be ground for civil issues including dissolution of marriage but it cannot be a criminal offence"</p> <p>Chief Justice, Dipak Misra</p>	<p>"Section 497 is violative of right to equality and right to equal opportunity to women. It is archaic law and violates Articles 14 and 21 of the Indian Constitution"</p> <p>Justice R F Nariman</p>
<p>"Woman cannot be asked to think how a man or society desires"</p> <p>CJI Misra and Justice Khanwilkar</p>	<p>"No justification for section 497 to remain on statute book"</p> <p>Justice Indu Malhotra</p>
<p>"Section 497 offends sexual freedom of women. Law deprives married women the agency of consent"</p> <p>Justice Chandrachud</p>	



Sabarimala temple verdict

- ❖ A 5-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, **in its 4:1 verdict**, on 28 September 2018, upheld the right of women of all ages to worship in places of their choice.
- ❖ In his judgment, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said any customs or rituals that contradict with the fundamental rights of citizens must be quashed.
- ❖ The court was ruling on a **PIL** filed in 2006 by non-profit body **Indian Young Lawyers' Association**.
- ❖ This is in contradiction with the famous **state of Bombay v. Narasu Appa Mali** case judgement (1951).
- ❖ The Rule 3 (B) of **Kerala Temple Entry Act** which excludes women between 10 and 50 violates freedom of a Hindu religion to worship.
- ❖ Supreme Court in its judgement has ruled that,
 - Rule of barring women is **violative of Art 25** and the **prohibition was a form of untouchability**.
 - Discrimination against women is violative of the right to equality and dignity of women.
 - Exclusion on grounds of biological and physiological features like menstruation was unconstitutional.
- ❖ Right to worship is equally available to men and women and cannot be a gender biased.

All eyes on SC
The chronology of the long-standing petition in the Supreme Court against the restriction on women aged between 10 and 50 from entering the Sabarimala temple in Kerala:



1991: In *S. Mahendran versus the Secretary, Travancore* case, the Kerala High Court upheld the State's ban on menstruating women from entering the temple. The HC order went unchallenged for 15 years.

2006: A PIL against the Kerala HC order was filed by the India Young Lawyers Association, contending that the ban violated constitutional rights of women.

2008: On March 7, a Bench of Justices S.B. Sinha and V.S. Sirpurkar referred the case to a three-judge Bench. The case lay in cold storage for 8 years.

2016: On April 13, a Bench of Justices Dipak Misra, V. Gopala Gowda and Kurian Joseph heard a batch of petitions.

2016: On April 25, senior advocate K.K. Venugopal, representing the Devaswom, said, "There is a reasonable classification by which certain class of women are excluded." The SC enquired if the defence was implying that menstruation was associated with purity of women.

2018 SC Allows Entry of Women into the Sabari Mala temple in Kerala

Supreme Court verdict on reservation in promotions for SC/STs


- ❖ The Supreme Court, on 26 September 2018, ruled that states don't have to collect quantifiable data on 'backwardness' for SC/ST quota in job promotions.
- ❖ The court refused to refer the pleas against its **M Nagaraj vs Union of India** (2006) judgment to a larger seven-judge bench.
- ❖ In the case of **M Nagaraj vs Union of India** (2006), the Supreme Court had laid down the criteria for granting reservation to the members of the SC/ST communities for the purpose of promotions.
- ❖ Now, the Supreme Court had reversed the earlier judgment on collecting quantifiable data to prove backwardness.
- ❖ It said that the verdict in 2006 was contrary to the decision in **Indira Sawhney case** (1992).
- ❖ In that case, it was held that once SCs and STs were part of the Presidential List under Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution, and there was no need to prove backwardness.

Offering respite

The Supreme Court has held that there is no need to collect quantifiable data of backwardness to provide reservation in promotions in government jobs for SCs/STs

The Nagaraj verdict

- The SC in the M. Nagaraj case in 2006 had said that States were bound to provide quantifiable data on the backwardness of SC/ST, the facts about their inadequate representation in government jobs and the overall administrative efficiency, before providing them quota in promotions



The Indira Sawhney verdict of 1992

- The SC had held that the "test or requirement of social and educational backwardness cannot be applied to SCs/STs, who indubitably fall within the expression 'backward class of citizens'"

The SC said that the conclusion arrived at in the Nagaraj case was "contrary" to the Indira Sawhney verdict, and held it "invalid to this extent"

What next?

The judgment will give a fillip to the govt's efforts to provide "accelerated promotion with consequential seniority" for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes members in government services

NITI Aayog - SoI with Oracle

- ❖ NITI Aayog has signed Statement of Intent (SoI) with Oracle to pilot real drug supply-chain using blockchain distributed ledger and Internet of Things (IoT) software.



- ❖ Its aim is to fight growing problem of counterfeit drugs in India. Strides Pharma Sciences and Apollo Hospitals will partner in this effort.
- ❖ Blockchain technology will help to permanently register drug's record in manufacturer's drug supply chain (serial number, scanning, labelling).

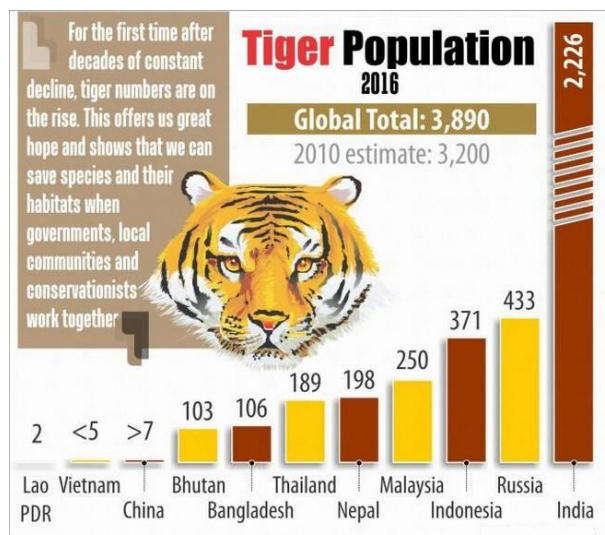
Injeti Srinivas High Level Committee

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has constituted High Level Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility – 2018 (HLC-2018) under the Chairmanship of Injeti Srinivas, Secretary, MCA.
- ❖ It will review existing framework and guide and formulate roadmap for coherent policy on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- ❖ The Companies Act mandates that
 - Firms with a net worth of at least Rs 500 crore or revenue of Rs 1,000 crore or net profit of Rs 5 crore should spend at least 2% of their net profit on CSR.

INTERNATIONAL

Nepal becomes first country to double its tiger population

- ❖ Nepal become 1st country in the world to double its tiger population in a decade as part of World Wildlife Fund for Nature's (WWF) 'Tx2' programme





- ❖ 'Tx2' programme aims to double number of tigers in the world all over the world by 2022.
- ❖ There are now estimated 235 wild tigers in Nepal in comparison to an estimated 121 back in 2009.
- ❖ Nepal was the 1st country to achieve global standards in managing tiger conservation areas, an accreditation scheme governed by Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS).
- ❖ It was launched by World Wildlife Fund for Nature's at the 2010 St Petersburg Tiger Summit held in Russia.

ECONOMY

Kerala's calamity cess demand

- ❖ GST Council has decided to set up 7-member Group of Ministers (GoM) to suggest on cess demand for Kerala flood rehabilitation.
- ❖ It was decided in 30th meeting of the GST Council held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The GoM discussed proposal from Kerala to levy **Calamity Tax**, a special tax or cess to raise additional resources aimed at meeting cost of reconstruction in Kerala in the aftermath of floods.

ENVIRONMENT

Loo Review Campaign

- ❖ Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has partnered with Google to launch Loo Review campaign on Google Map.
- ❖ The joint campaign has been launched under aegis of Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM-U).
- ❖ It will run throughout October and November 2018 in an effort to increase awareness and ease of locating public toilets across India.



STATES

Indian Culinary Institute

- ❖ Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated Indian Culinary Institute (ICI) in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ It is promoted by Union Ministry of Tourism. The ICI building was designed by National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC).
- ❖ The main objective of ICI is to institutionalize mechanism to support efforts intended to preserve, document, promote and disseminate Indian Cuisine.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Rabies Day – 28 September

- ❖ The World Rabies Day is observed every year on 28 September across the world to raise awareness about rabies disease and its preventable measures.
 - ❖ The 2018 theme was 'Rabies: Share the message. Save a life'.
 - ❖ Observance of the day seeks to raise awareness about the impact of rabies on animals and human beings.
 - ❖ World Rabies Day is initiative of Global Alliance for Rabies Control. And it was initiated in 2007.
 - ❖ The day, 28 September, is to mark death anniversary of Louis Pasteur, a French chemist and microbiologist who had developed the first rabies vaccine.
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