

**March – 18**

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **Tamil Nadu Tourism awards**

- ❖ Chennai International Airport has received the Tamil Nadu tourism award. This is the third time in a row that Chennai Airport has won the honour
- ❖ The awards honoured the best and friendliest services in Tamil Nadu in the tourism sector.
- ❖ The awards were conferred by Madura Welcome, a tourist guide book company, in association with the Ministry of Tourism, government of India.

### **Six-member expert committee**

- ❖ The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has constituted a six-member expert committee to explore and analyse the current educational scenario in the State in terms of examination system and challenges faced by children.
- ❖ The six member committee comprising Directors of Technical Education, School Education and Higher Education, Vice Chancellor of Karaikudi Alagappa University, C.Ramasubramanian - Psychiatrist, K.Sekar, Registrar of National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences.

## **NATIONAL**

### **TB Summit**

- ❖ Prime Minister launched Tuberculosis (TB) Free India Campaign after he inaugurated Delhi End-TB Summit in New Delhi.
- ❖ The campaign aims to take activities of National Strategic Plan (NSP) for TB elimination forward in Mission mode.
- ❖ National Strategic Plan (NSP) for TB elimination sets deadline to eradicate TB from the country by 2025.
- ❖ It is five years ahead of global target of 2030 mentioned in the Sustainable Development Goals-3 - complete eradication of TB globally.
- ❖ The summit was co-hosted by Union Health Ministry, World Health Organisation's South East Asia Regional Office and Stop TB Partnership.

- ❖ The summit would set the stage for the September 2018 United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB, where for the first time, TB would be discussed in the UN General Assembly at the Heads of State level.

### **#YesIBleed Campaign**

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched **#YesIBleed** menstrual hygiene campaign on the occasion of International Women's Day 2018.
- ❖ It is the second edition of such campaign that aims to create holistic approach to issue of menstruation.
- ❖ The "#YesIBleed" campaign has been initiated formally across all multi-media platforms, including Facebook and YouTube to spread awareness about issue.
- ❖ The United Nations has recognised menstrual hygiene as global public health and human rights issue.
- ❖ According to the results of the study, "Sanitary Protection: Every Woman's Health Right", only 12% of Indian women have access to sanitary napkins and remaining 88% have no access as they find sanitary pads unaffordable.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **World Happiness Report 2018**

- ❖ According to the recently released World Happiness Report 2018 by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) India was ranked 133rd among 156 countries.
- ❖ This year it is sixth edition of the World Happiness report since it was first published in 2012.
- ❖ India was behind majority of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) nations apart from Afghanistan, which was ranked 145th.
- ❖ While, Bhutan was ranked at 97th, Bangladesh at 115th, Nepal at 101st and Sri Lanka at 116th spot.
- ❖ Pakistan ranked 75th and China ranked 86th in this World happiness index.
- ❖ The Top 10 countries that rule the World Happiness Index are Finland, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, Netherlands, Canada, New Zealand, Sweden and Australia.

- ❖ Finland is at the top of both rankings in this report, with the happiest immigrants, and the happiest population in general.
- ❖ The index ranked 156 countries based on factors (parameters) such as inequality, life expectancy, GDP per capita, social freedom, generosity, public trust and social support.
- ❖ These parameters are used to generate a happiness score of country on a scale from 1 to 10.
- ❖ The 2018 report, for the first time ranked happiness of foreign-born immigrants in 117 countries.
- ❖ The overall ranking of a country's happiness is based on the collective results from Gallup World Poll Surveys from 2015-2017, which show both- change and stability.



### **Bidya Devi Bhandari - Nepal President**

- ❖ Nepal's first woman President Bidya Devi Bhandari was re-elected for second term in Nepal President office.

- ❖ In the recently held presidential election, she defeated Nepali Congress (NC) leader Kumari Laxmi Rai with overwhelming majority.



- ❖ President of Nepal is ceremonial head of state, under the new Republican Federal Constitution of Nepal.
- ❖ The electoral college for presidential election comprised of members of Parliament and Provincial Assemblies.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Newton-Bhabha Fund

- ❖ The joint team of India and United Kingdom has won the Newton-Bhabha Fund for the project called "Groundwater Arsenic Research in Ganga River Basin."
- ❖ The project is jointly undertaken by India's Department of Science and Technology along with the Natural Environment Research Council of UK.
- ❖ Main aim of the research is finding solutions to water challenges faced in pervasively arsenic-affected Ganga River Basin.
- ❖ The project to be conducted from three sites - Bijnor and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and Nadia in West Bengal.
- ❖ The project is aimed to assess problem of arsenic poisoning and to understand aggravation such situation in next 25 to 30 years and its influence on

groundwater management practices and suggest water remedial technologies accordingly.

- ❖ It is a fund provided by British Council.
- ❖ The scheme is part of the UK's £375 million Newton Fund to support science and innovation partnerships between the UK and emerging powers.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS**

### **2017 Kochon Prize**

- ❖ The 2017 Kochon Prize was awarded to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in New Delhi for building a tradition of excellence in Tuberculosis (TB) research and development.
- ❖ Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) was awarded for establishing India TB Research Consortium to accelerate Tuberculosis related R&D efforts in the country.

### **Kochon Prize**

- ❖ The Kochon Prize is awarded annually by Stop TB Partnership to recognize the individuals and organizations that have made significant contribution in Tuberculosis elimination efforts.
- ❖ The prize is endowed by Kochon Foundation, a non-profit foundation registered in South Korea. It consists of prize of US \$65,000 award.
- ❖ The prize was established in 2006 in honour of late Chairman Chong-Kun Lee founder of Chong Kun Dang Pharmaceutical Corporation and Kochon Foundation.

### **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**

- ❖ Indian Council of Medical Research was established in 1911 as Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA) making it one of the oldest and largest medical research bodies in the world.
- ❖ The ICMR is India's apex scientific body for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research.
- ❖ The ICMR functions under the Department of Health Research, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It is headquartered in New Delhi.
- ❖ ICMR's Governing Body is presided over by Union Health Minister.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### 33rd Inception Day of NCRB – 11 March

- ❖ The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) celebrated its 33rd Inception Day on March 11, 2018.
- ❖ On this occasion, “Citizen Services” mobile application developed in-house by NCRB was also released.
- ❖ NCRB is an Indian government agency responsible for collecting and analysing crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code
- ❖ NCRB is works under Union Home Ministry.
- ❖ It was established on 11 March 1986 as the central police organisation. It is headquartered in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is implementing and monitoring agency of Crime & Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS), a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan of Government.
- ❖ Crime & Criminal Tracking Network System is connecting around 12800 police stations to allow search for a criminal / suspect on a national data base.
- ❖ NCRB publishes 4 annual publications on Crime, Prison Statistics, Accidental Deaths & Suicides and Finger Prints.

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