

March -29

TAMIL NADU

Bar Council poll

- ❖ The election to the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry (BCTNP) was held after seven years.
- ❖ Elections to the BCTNP were held last in March 2011.
- ❖ The election was overseen by Bar Council of India (BCI) appointed Returning Officers and former Madras High Court judges, Justices G.M. Akbar Ali and T. Mathivanan.
- ❖ Advocates practising for a continuous period of 10 years would be qualified to contest the elections.
- ❖ A total of 192 candidates were in the fray for the 25 seats of the BCTNP. The total number of voters is 53,620.
- ❖ The BCTNP has been under the temporary administration of a BCI-appointed Special Committee chaired by Advocate General Vijay Narayan since the last council's five-year term expired.

NATIONAL

SAUBHAGYA – Skill Training

- ❖ Ministry of Power has partnered with the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship to train the manpower in six states for speedy implementation of its SAUBHAGYA scheme.
- ❖ These six states are Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Under this partnership, around 47,000 Distribution Lineman-Multi Skills and 8,500 Technical Helpers will be trained to meet the requirement of power sector projects under Saubhagya scheme.

SAUBHAGYA (Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojna)

- ❖ “Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana” (SAUBHAGYA) to provide last mile electricity connectivity to all rural and urban households.
- ❖ It will provide subsidy on equipment like transformers, meters and wires.

- ❖ The government has set the target of providing 24X7 power for all by 2019.

Atal Innovation Mission

- ❖ NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has signed Statement of Intent (SOI) with German tech company SAP to promote culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across 100 Atal Tinkering Labs across India.
- ❖ SAP will adopt 100 Atal Tinkering Laboratories in 2018 for five years to nurture science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning among secondary school children across India.

About Atal Innovation Mission

- ❖ NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission is among one of flagship programs of Government to promote innovation and entrepreneurship culture in country.
- ❖ Its mandate is to create umbrella structure to oversee innovation ecosystem of country and revolutionize innovation eco-system.
- ❖ For this Atal Tinkering Labs are established across the country.
- ❖ AIM targets to have at least one Atal Tinkering Lab in every district and proposed Smart City of India.
- ❖ It aims to give substantial boost to the innovation ecosystem and to catalyse the entrepreneurial spirit in the country.

Study in India programme

- ❖ The Ministry of Human Resources Development (HRD) has approved 'Study in India' programme to attract foreign students to pursue higher education in India.
- ❖ The 'Study in India' programme's primary objective is to
 - Target foreign students by branding India as an attractive education destination.
 - To reduce the export – Import imbalance in the number of International students
- ❖ In Times Higher Education Ranking 2018, top spot has gone to University of Oxford where 38% population is of Indian students.
- ❖ On contrary, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru has only 1% population of International students.

- ❖ The All India Survey on Higher Education 2016-17, released recently, says that there are just 47,575 students of foreign nationalities studying in Indian universities.

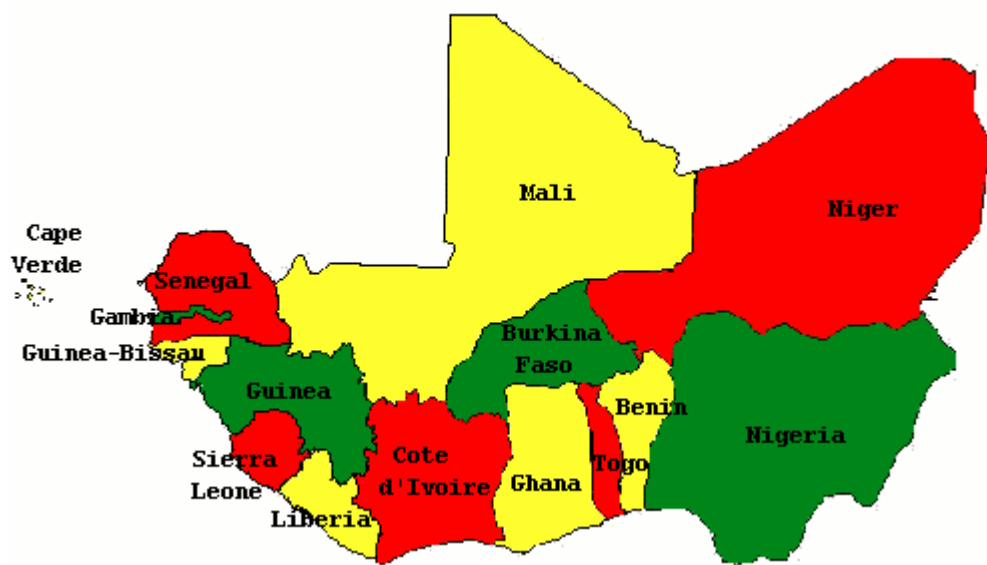
ECONOMY

Loan facility

- ❖ The Export-Import Bank (Exim Bank) said it will provide a USD 500 million credit facility to ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) to fund various development projects in the western-south Africa.
- ❖ With the signing of this line of credit (LoC) agreement, Exim Bank till date has extended four LoCs to EBID, with the support of the government, taking the total value of LOCs to \$1,000 million.

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

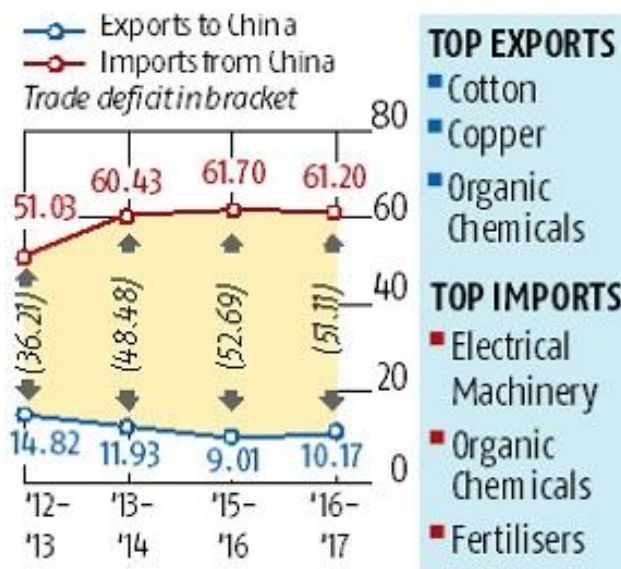
- ❖ The ECOWAS is regional group of 15 West African countries. It was founded in May 1975, with the signing of the Treaty of Lagos.
- ❖ Its mandate is to promote economic integration in all fields of activity of the constituting countries.
- ❖ Its 15-member countries are Benin, Cape Verde, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.



Trade Imbalance

- ❖ The eleventh session of the China-India joint-group on Economic Relations, Trade, Science & Technology was held recently in New Delhi.
- ❖ The session was co-chaired by the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Suresh Prabhu and the Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Zhong Shan.
- ❖ Both countries agreed to continue to take forward initiatives identified in 5 Year Development Programme for Economic and Trade Cooperation (DPETC) signed in September 2014.
- ❖ India has emerged as the seventh largest export destination for Chinese products, and the 24th largest exporter to China.
- ❖ India and China are the largest emerging economies of world with 35% of the world's population and around 20% of the world's GDP
- ❖ But the relative volume of bilateral trade is less than 1% of global trade.

STATE OF TRADE: CHINA



All figures in \$ bn

Source: Commerce and Industry Ministry

ENVIRONMENT

National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) 2017-18

- ❖ According to National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) 2017-18, over 93% households in villages who have access to toilets are using them and about 77% homes in rural areas have got toilets.
- ❖ The survey was conducted by Independent Verification Agency (IVA) under World Bank support project to Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G).

NATIONAL ANNUAL RURAL SANITATION SURVEY (NARSS) 2017-18

UNDERTAKEN BY AN INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION AGENCY



- ❖ The survey was conducted between mid-November 2017 and mid-March 2018 and covered 92,040 households in 6,136 villages across India.
- ❖ It used the PPS (Probability Proportion to Size) sampling methodology and its data was collected using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) platform.

STATES

AAI – Assam

- ❖ The Airport Authority of India (AAI) has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Assam government for sustainable development of human settlements at villages in Kamrup district.
- ❖ As per terms of MoU, AAI will provide financial assistance of Rs.4.58 crore for Kamrup district under its Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) initiative.

- ❖ The estimates of the financial assistance have been prepared by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to improve resilience of communities around Guwahati Airport.
- ❖ AAI is statutory body under aegis of Ministry of Civil Aviation. It was founded in April 1995 and is headquartered in New Delhi.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

J.C. Daniel Award

- ❖ Lyricist and director Sreekumaran Thampi has been selected for the J.C. Daniel Award, the Kerala government's highest honour for lifetime contribution to Malayalam cinema.
- ❖ The award, comprising Rs.5 lakhs and a citation, would be presented to Thampi at the Kerala State Film Award distribution function in Kollam.
- ❖ Thampi made his debut in 1966 with Kattumallika and has written over 1,000-odd.
- ❖ He wrote the songs for Bhayanakam movie. Its music director M.K. Arjunan won the State award for the best music director earlier this month.
- ❖ Thampi had won the Kerala Sangeeta Nataka Akademi award for lifetime contribution to light music and drama songs in 2015.

