



APPLO STUDY CENTRE

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu government - has appointed the managing director of Electronic Corporation of India (Elcot) as grievance redressal officer for telecom related issues and Right of Way (RoW) portal issues in the state.**
- ✓ The officer will resolve grievances of telecom/internet service providers and the public on installation and removal of mobile towers and telecom infrastructure.
- ✓ Till now, the Information Technology and Digital Services department had handled the grievances regarding the telecom infrastructure.
- ✓ The state government has recently unveiled its own Telecom Infrastructure policy in 2022, after the Union government notified Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016
- ✓ The grievance redressal officer will look into all matters relating to the issue of Right of Way for telecom infrastructure underground (cables)/overhead (towers).
- ✓ He will also address issues like modification/integration/ increasing server space/ speed of single window RoW portal, integrating popular payment gateways, integrating with Gati Shakti Sanchar portal of department of telecommunication through Application Programming Interface (API) and enabling 5G applications
- ✓ The officer will also look into issues relating to use of Call Before-U-Dig mobile application, and those relating to Right of Way, telecom infrastructure, single window clearance portal and relating to 5G roll-out

STATES

- **On March 6, State-run Kerala University - announced that women students above 18 years of age can avail maternity leave of up to six months**
- ✓ The order would be applicable to female students of all streams, including those pursuing Ph.D, in the university.
- ✓ Earlier in January, Kerala Higher Education Minister R Bindu had announced that universities must grant 60 days of maternity leave to students

- ✓ Further, she also announced that students in all state universities under the Higher Education Department can avail menstrual leave.
- ✓ This was after the Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) passed a similar provision, which was later extended to other universities.
- **On March 6, Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel - announced a scheme to provide a monthly allowance of Rs.2,500 to unemployed youth, while presenting annual budget for the financial year 2023-2024**



- ✓ Under the scheme, unemployed youth in the age group of 18 to 35 years who have passed Class XII, and with an annual family income of less than 2.50 lakh will be given an allowance of Rs 2,500 per month
- ✓ A provision of Rs 250 crore has been made in the budget for the new scheme
- ✓ Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, who holds the Finance portfolio, also announced a hike in the monthly honorariums of anganwadi workers, home guards, village kotwars and others.
- ✓ The monthly honorarium of anganwadi workers and assistants will be increased from Rs 6,500 to Rs 10,000 and from Rs 3,250 to Rs 5,000, respectively, while mini-anganwadi workers will be given an honorarium of Rs 7,500, up from the existing Rs 4,500

NATIONAL

- **On March 6, the Ministry of Home Affairs - issued a gazette notification authorising state governments to carry out Aadhaar authentication of prison inmates on a voluntary basis**
- ✓ The move is aimed at providing health care, skilling, vocational training, interview with relatives and legal aid, among other services, to the prison inmates
- ✓ The decision has been taken as the Ministry was authorised to use Aadhaar authentication under Rule 5 of the Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Rules, 2020, for the targeted delivery of financial and other subsidies, benefits and services.

- ✓ The Aadhaar authentication will involve making choice between 'Yes/No' options for delivery of various benefits or facilities to which the prison inmates are entitled, such as correctional reform measures etc.
- ✓ Last year, in November the prison authorities were asked to organise special camps to make Aadhaar available for all prisoners.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **On March 6, Foreign minister S Jaishankar - held a virtual meeting with Russia's deputy PM and minister for trade and industry Denis Manturov**
- ✓ The meeting reviewed bilateral trade and economic cooperation, including the deficit in bilateral trade and market access issues
- ✓ Later, the external affairs minister co-chaired the India-Russia Inter-governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGCTEC).



- ✓ IRIGCTEC is a mechanism for regularly monitoring bilateral progress across the sectors of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.
- ✓ It was set up by an agreement on Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation signed in May 1992.
- ✓ The first session of the IRIGC was held in September 1994.
- ✓ So far, 23 IRIGC meetings have been held with the last one held in Moscow in September 2018.

PERSONALITIES

- **Tejal Mehta, an Indian-American woman judge - has taken oath as the first justice of a district court in the US state of Massachusetts — Ayer District Court.**



- ✓ She has served as an associate justice with the same court.
- ✓ Mehta, a resident of Concord, started her career in civil work, before becoming a prosecutor with the Middlesex District Attorney's Office.
- ✓ She then commenced her own practice, becoming a public defender, before pursuing a position on the bench as a circuit judge.

