

**01 MAY 2019**

## Madras HC curbs L-G role in Puducherry

### In News:

- The Madras High Court ruled that the Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) of Puducherry could not interfere with the day-to-day administration of the Union Territory when an elected government was in place.

### In Brief:

- The Central government as well as the Administrator [the term used in the Constitution to refer to the Lieutenant-Governor] should be true to the concept of democratic principles. Otherwise, the constitutional scheme of the country of being democratic and republic would be defeated.
- The judge made it clear that government secretaries were bound to take instructions from the ministers concerned and the Council of Ministers, headed by the Chief Minister, besides reporting to them on official matters. "The secretaries are not empowered to issue orders on their own or upon the instructions of the Administrator.

### Practice disapproved

- He disapproved of the alleged practice of government officials being part of social media groups through which the L-G was issuing instructions to them for redress of public grievances and reminded them that as per rules, they were bound to use only authorised medium of communication when it came to issues related to administration.
- The judge held that those communications had been issued without reference to the constitutional provisions and other laws.
- Though the Centre had primarily questioned the locus standi of the petitioner to file the case, the judge rejected the objections on the ground that such a writ petition at the instance of an MLA was maintainable.
- In his judgment, Justice Mahadevan also went on to point out the differences between the powers conferred on the legislatures of Puducherry and Delhi under Articles 239A and 239AA of the Constitution

### Article 239A

- Creation of local Legislatures or Council of Ministers or both for certain Union territories
- Parliament may by law create for the Union territory of Pondicherry –
- a body, whether elected or partly nominated and partly elected, to function as a Legislature for the Union territory, or
- a Council of Ministers, or both with such constitution, powers and functions, in each case, as may be specified in the law.
- Any such law as is referred to in clause (1) shall not be deemed to be an amendment of this Constitution for the purposes of article 368 notwithstanding that it contains any provision which amends or has the effect of amending this Constitution.

### Article 239 AA

### Special provisions with respect to Delhi

- As from the date of commencement of the Constitution (Sixty ninth Amendment) Act, 1991, the Union territory of Delhi shall be called the

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National Capital Territory of Delhi (hereafter in this Part referred to as the National Capital Territory) and the administrator thereof appointed under article 239 shall be designated as the Lieutenant Governor.

- There shall be a Legislative Assembly for the National Capital Territory and the seats in such Assembly shall be filled by members chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the National Capital Territory.
- The total number of seats in the Legislative Assembly, the number of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes, the division of the National Capital Territory into territorial constituencies (including the basis for such division) and all other matters relating to the functioning of the Legislative Assembly shall be regulated by law made by Parliament.
- The provisions of articles 324 to 327 and 329 shall apply in relation to the National Capital Territory, the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory and the members thereof as they apply, in relation to a State, the Legislative Assembly of a State and the members thereof respectively; and any reference in articles 326 and 329 to “appropriate Legislature” shall be deemed to be a reference to Parliament.
- Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Legislative Assembly shall have power to make laws for the whole or any part of the National Capital Territory with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the State List or in the Concurrent List in so far as any such matter is applicable to Union territories except matters with respect to Entries 1, 2 and 18 of the State List and Entries 64, 65 and 66 of that List in so far as they relate to the said Entries 1, 2 and 18.
- Nothing in sub-clause (a) shall derogate from the powers of Parliament under this Constitution to make laws with respect to any matter for a Union territory or any part thereof.
- If any provision of a law made by the Legislative Assembly with respect to any matter is repugnant to any provision of a law made by Parliament with respect to that matter, whether passed before or after the law made by the Legislative Assembly, or of an earlier law, other than a law made by the Legislative Assembly, then, in either case, the law made by Parliament, or, as the case may be, such earlier law, shall prevail and the law made by the Legislative Assembly shall, to the extent of the repugnancy, be void: Provided that if any such law made by the Legislative Assembly has been reserved for the consideration of the President and has received his assent, such law shall prevail in the National Capital Territory: Provided further that nothing in this sub-clause shall prevent Parliament from enacting at any time any law with respect to the same matter including a law adding to, amending, varying or repealing the law so made by the Legislative Assembly.
- There shall be a Council of Ministers consisting of not more than ten per cent of the total number of members in the Legislative Assembly, with the Chief Minister at the head to aid and advise the Lieutenant Governor in the exercise of his functions in relation to matters with respect to which the Legislative Assembly has power to make laws, except in so far as he is, by or under any law, required to act in his discretion: Provided that in the case of difference of opinion between the Lieutenant Governor and his Ministers on any matter, the Lieutenant Governor shall refer it to the President and pending such decision it shall be competent for the Lieutenant Governor in any case where the matter, in his opinion, is so urgent that it is necessary for him to take immediate action, to take such action or to give such direction in the matter as he deems necessary.
- The Chief Minister shall be appointed by the President and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Chief Minister and the Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the President.
- The Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly.
- Parliament may, by law, make provisions for giving effect to, or supplement the provisions contained in the foregoing clauses and for all matters incidental or consequential thereto.
- Any such law as is referred to in sub-clause (a) shall not be deemed to be an amendment of this constitution for the purposes of article 368 notwithstanding that it contains any provision which amends or has the effect of amending this constitution.
- The provisions of article 239B shall, so far as may be, apply in relation to the National Capital Territory, the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly, as they apply in relation to the Union territory of Pondicherry, the administrator and its Legislature, respectively; and any reference in that article to “clause (1) or article 239A” shall be deemed to be a reference to this article or article 239AB, as the case may be.

### Note



## BODHISATTVA STATUE

### Why in news?

- Days just earlier a life size statue of a Bodhisattva has been excavated at Phanigiri, Telangana.
- It seems that the statue had been carved under the Ikshvaku dynasty's rule.

### About Bodhisattva:

- In Mahayana Buddhism, Bodhisattva is a person who is able to reach nirvana but delays doing so through compassion for suffering beings. There are different Bodhisattvas each with special attributes.
- There are many Bodhisattvas with unique attributes.
  1. Manjushri Bodhisattva - represents the wisdom;
  2. Maitreya - Future Buddha;
  3. Padmapani or Avalokiteswara - represents compassion;
  4. Amitabha - Buddha of heaven.



### About Ikshvaku dynasty:

- The Ikshvakus were one of the earliest dynasties of Andhra Pradesh.
- They ruled the eastern Andhra country along the Krishna river during the latter half of the second century CE.
- Their capital was Vijayapuri (Nagarjunakonda).
- Some scholars have suggested that this dynasty was related to the ancient Ikshvakus of Hindu mythology.
- Rama of Ramayana, who is considered as the incarnation of Vishnu belonged to the line of Ikshvaku.
- Archaeological evidence has suggested that the Andhra Ikshvakus immediately succeeded the Satavahanas in the Krishna river valley.
- Ikshvakus have left inscriptions at Nagarjunakonda, Jaggayyapeta, Amaravati and Bhattiprolu.

## Train 18

### In news:

A spat over protocol among officers of the Mechanical and Electrical departments in the Railways, has hit production of the semi high-speed train.

The Vigilance Directorate is contemplating an inquiry into allegations that the development team compromised on the safety of the train by not obtaining technical approval for the electrical systems from a particular officer of the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), Lucknow.

### About RDSO:

- Railway Testing and Research Centre (RTRC) and Central Standards Office

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(CSO) were integrated into a single unit named Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) in 1957, under Ministry of Railways.

- It is headquartered in Lucknow.
- It is a multi-departmental entity created to provide single window clearances for faster production.
- The RDSO is a standardisation organisation of the Indian Railways.
- It conducts tests on technical aspects of new railway projects.

### About Train 18:

- It is an Indian semi-high speed intercity electric multiple unit.
- It was designed and built by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Chennai under the Indian government's Make in India initiative.
- It was built at a cost of Rs.100 crore, about half the cost of importing such a rake, with about 80% indigenous components.
- Train 18 employs a regenerative braking system.
- Its operational speed is 160 km/hr and operational speed is 180km/hr.
- It has 16 compartments and a capacity is 1,128 passengers.
- It has a driver coach at each end of the train, allowing for faster turnaround at each end of the line.



## Yeti footprints in Himalayas

### In News:

- Army claims its climbers spotted Yeti footprints; Army source says the claim was based on physical proofs, including "on-the-spot narration, photos and videos".

### In Brief:

- The Indian Army has claimed that one of its mountaineering teams had sighted the footprints of Yeti, a legendary snow being believed to reside in the Himalayas.
- For the first time, an Indian Army mountaineering expedition team has sited mysterious footprints of mythical beast 'Yeti' measuring 32x15 inches close to Makalu base camp on 09 April 2019.
- This elusive snowman has only been sighted at Makalu-Barun National Park in the past.

### About Yeti:

- According to Nepali folklore, the Yeti is a mythical ape-like creature that resides in the Himalayas, Central Asia and Siberia.



### Scientific debate

- There has been much scientific debate, research and expeditions over the decades to locate the elusive Yeti but there have never been any real sightings.

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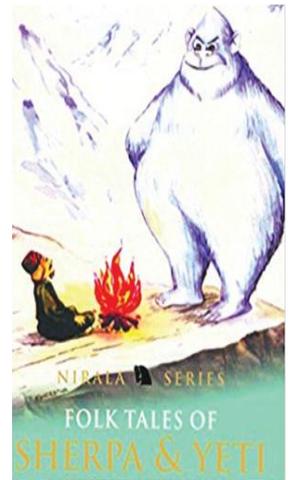


- A 2017 research paper published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B, based on a DNA analysis of the supposed Yeti samples that were recovered — including hair, teeth, fur, and faeces — concluded that the stories of the Yeti is likely of the Himalayan black and brown bears.
- One of the samples that were tested, supposedly a Yeti tooth from the Tibetan Plateau, turned out to be a dog while all other samples turned out to be from bears.

## Climate resistant genes in chickpea

### In News:

- An international team led by the Hyderabad-based International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has identified in chickpea four important genes for heat tolerance and three important genes for drought tolerance.



### In Brief:

#### About Chickpea:

- The chickpea or chick pea is an annual legume of the family Fabaceae, subfamily Faboideae.
- Its different types are variously known as gram or Bengal gram, garbanzoor, garbanzo bean and Egyptian pea
- Chickpea seeds are high in protein. In India, chickpea is generally sown in September-October and harvested in January-February.

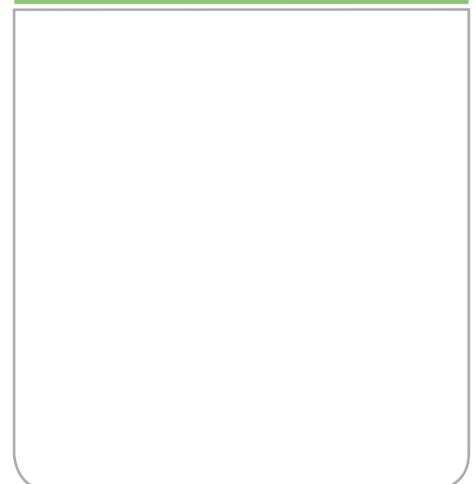
#### Background of Chickpea:

- The study has found that chickpea originated in the Mediterranean/south-west Asia and migrated to south Asia.
- It reached India about two centuries ago, apparently through Afghanistan. In parallel, it migrated from the Mediterranean to east Africa and central Asia.
- The study provides insights into chickpea's genetic diversity, domestication kAbout the Findings
- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has identified in chickpea four important genes for heat tolerance and three important genes for drought tolerance.
- The study was based on complete genome sequencing of 429 chickpea lines from 45 countries.

#### Importance of the new varieties:

- More than 90% of chickpea cultivation area is in South Asia, including India. Globally, more than 70% yield is lost due to drought and increasing temperatures. Chickpea is a cool season crop, so in general any further increase in temperature is expected to further reduce the yield.
- With rising temperatures and increasing climatic fluctuations due to climate change, the identification of these climate-resistant genes will help in developing newer chickpea varieties which can tolerate temperatures up to 38 °C.
- Identification of other genes with important agronomic traits will help in increasing the yield and providing better resistance to pests and diseases.
- With the identification of the heat- and drought-tolerant genes, it will be possible to cross a chickpea landrace carrying those genes with a variety and select only those lines (progenies) with the genetic markers that have the

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heat and drought tolerance genes. By using such genomics-assisted breeding approach, the time taken to produce a new heat- and drought-tolerant chickpea variety can be halved from about eight to four years

- Currently, in India, chickpea does not face a major threat from increasing temperature. But we are already witnessing a slight warming during the months of January and February. So a new variety with heat and drought tolerance will be highly useful to Indian farmers. When heat-tolerant chickpeas are developed in future, farmers in India may have a possibility to go in for a second round of cropping. Though the yield will be less for the second crop, farmers will still stand to gain



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