

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 11, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **The state government - announced that it would supply fortified rice, enriched with nine nutrients, to all noon meal and anganwadi centres across five districts.**
 - ✓ The project will be implemented on a pilot basis in Dharmapuri, Madurai, Thanjavur, Tuticorin and Nilgiris.
 - ✓ A fund of ₹5.29 crore has been allotted for the project
- ◆ **Tamil Nadu government - announced construction of 10,000 small check dams in the current fiscal year at Rs 312 crore**
 - ✓ The check dams, concrete and boulder will come up massively in districts like Kancheepuram, Tiruvannamalai, Vellore, Cuddalore, Villupuram and Tirunelveli districts to store the run-off.
 - ✓ With the help of workers enrolled in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), the check dams will be built across channels and streams in the rural areas to store water for better irrigation and increase the groundwater table
 - ✓ The dams will be built based on the groundwater prospects mapping by the Union government, in partnership with the National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad, and TWAD Board.
 - ✓ Geo-tagging of the durable assets will be done at all levels as per MGNREGA guidelines.
- ◆ **Tamil Nadu Fibre-Net Corporation (TANFINET) - would implement a 55,000-km optical fibre network under BharatNet and Tamil Net Project**
 - ✓ The network will ensure at least 1 Gbps connectivity to 12,524 village panchayats, 528 town panchayats, 121 municipalities and 15 corporations

- ✓ The government has selected six villages in Tirunelveli, Dharmapuri, Villupuram, Salem, Karur and Virudhunagar districts to implement in the first phase of Amma e-Gramam project at a cost of ₹1.62 crore
- ✓ It would facilitate the villagers to benefit tele-medicine, tele-education, Wifi hotspot, skill development, digital knowledge

◆ **The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University - has decided to confer honorary doctorates in law on former Chief Justice of India and incumbent Governor of Kerala P. Sathasivam, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde and the Chief Justice of Madras High Court Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani.**



- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind will award the doctorates to the three eminent jurists at a special convocation scheduled to be held on the university campus in Chennai on July 13
- ✓ The doctorates are being conferred in recognition of their pioneering contributions to the march of law

◆ **Indian Institute of Technology - Madras faculty - launched a platform called 'AI4Bharat' to accelerate artificial intelligence (AI) innovation**



- ✓ It will be a community of AI professionals, students, domain experts, policy makers and academicians
- ✓ The platform, founded by assistant professors Pratyush Kumar and Mitesh M Khapra from the department of computer science, aims at using AI technologies to solve realworld problems in agriculture, healthcare and the government's Smart City and Digital India initiatives.
- ✓ The team's immediate goal is to create a community of 100 AI experts and 50 domain experts
- ✓ Their startup 'One Fourth Labs' will work closely with 'AI4Bharat' and offer basic and advanced courses in AI at as low as Rs 1,000 for a five-month programme

NATIONAL

◆ **The Union Cabinet - approved a bill to merge 13 central labour laws into a single “code” which will apply to all establishments employing 10 or more workers**

- ✓ The proposed Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Bill, would enhance coverage of workers benefitting about 40 crore workforce
- ✓ The rules state that workers will have to be given an offer letter besides an annual medical check-up
- ✓ The Wage Code Bill proposes ₹178 as minimum wage and states will have the liberty to increase it as well.
- ✓ If a woman works after 7 pm, security has to be provided by the company and the employer would have to take the consent of the employee for overtime.
- ✓ Maximum overtime in a month would be 125 hours.
- ✓ The code will be applicable to all business entities dealing in the port and mining sector too, even if they have a single employee
- ✓ The bill provides for a single licence regime for staffing firms, thus significantly improving their ease of doing business

◆ **The Union Cabinet - approved the Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019 to establish a single tribunal for adjudication of inter-state river water and river valley disputes within two years**

- ✓ The existing law — Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 - provides for multiple tribunals without any time-frame to resolve disputes, making it a time-consuming process.
- ✓ It provides for single tribunal in place of multiple existing tribunals
- ✓ In order to resolve water disputes amicably by negotiations, the proposed bill seeks to introduce a mechanism through disputes resolution committee (DRC) within 18 months
- ✓ It empowers the central government to set up DRC consisting of experts from relevant fields

◆ **The Centre - has proposed a model tenancy law to regulate renting of premises and seeking to balance the interests of both tenants and landlords**

- ✓ It proposes to limit advance security deposits to two months' rent and suggesting heavy penalties for tenants who overstay.
- ✓ The draft Model Tenancy Act, which the states will be free to adopt, says overstaying tenants would end up paying double the rent for two months and four times after that period
- ✓ The draft model Act proposes setting up of authorities in states to regulate renting of premises and to balance interests of both owners and tenants.

- ✓ Recently, Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced a model law for states in the Budget.

◆ **Of the major ports in India, Diamond Harbour in West Bengal located at the mouth of river Hooghly - has recorded the maximum sea level increase**



- ✓ While recent studies reveal that sea level rise in the country has been estimated to be 1.3 mm per year along India's coasts during the last 40-50 years, at Diamond Harbour the rise was almost five times higher at 5.16 mm per year.
- ✓ The mean sea level rise for Diamond Harbour was based on recordings over the period between 1948 to 2005
- ✓ This is followed by Kandla port in Gujarat where the sea level rise was 3.18 (1950 to 2005), followed by Haldia in West Bengal, which recorded a sea level rise of 2.89 mm a year (1972 to 2005).
- ✓ Port Blair also recorded a sea level rise of 2.20 mm per year (1916-1964).
- ✓ The sea level rise is higher in West Bengal, particularly in the Sunderbans delta because of the deltaic sediment deposition as a result of the mixing of fresh water and saline water
- ✓ Sea level rise is said to be linked with global warming
- ✓ As per the fifth assessment report of the International Panel on Climate Change, the global sea level was rising at an average rate of 1.8 mm per year over the last century.
- ✓ Four ports — Diamond Harbour, Kandla, Haldia and Port Blair — recorded a higher sea level rise than the global average
- ✓ Chennai and Mumbai recorded a sea level rise far below the global and the national averages at 0.33 mm per year (1916-2005) and 0.74 mm (1878-2005) respectively.

◆ **The Lok Sabha on Wednesday cleared the International Arbitration Centre Bill, 2019.**

- ✓ The Bill, which replaces an Ordinance promulgated in March this year, provides for the incorporation of the International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) for creating an autonomous regime for institutionalised arbitration.
- ✓ The Bill, moved by Union Law Minister Ravi Shanker Prasad, has a provision to declare the NDIAC as an Institution of National Importance

- ✓ The Centre will be headed by a chairperson, who has been a judge of the Supreme Court or a High Court or an eminent person having special knowledge and experience in the administration of arbitration.

◆ **The Centre - has banned Pro-Khalistani group 'The Sikhs for Justice' (SFJ) for its alleged anti-national activities**

- ✓ The decision to ban the group was taken by the Union Cabinet under
- ✓ Section 3 of Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA)
- ✓ The group is a US-based Pro-Khalistani group that was formed in 2007, headed by Avtar Singh Pannun and Gurpatwant Singh Pannun
- ✓ Its main aim is to establish an independent and sovereign country in Punjab.
- ✓ For this purpose it also started an online secessionist campaign, 'Sikh Referendum 2020'
- ✓ SFJ was also providing money and logistical support to local terrorists in Punjab to carry out anti-national activities
- ✓ UAPA was first framed in 1967, and since then it has been amended twice- first in 2008 and then in 2012

◆ **Union Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change (MoEFCC) panel - has recommended for 'in-principle' permission for survey and exploration of Uranium in Amrabad Tiger Reserve in Telangana**

- ✓ The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) had earlier sought permission from Environment Ministry to carry out survey and drilling of boreholes around for exploration of uranium
- ✓ The exploration will be taken up in Amrabad and Udimalla (Mahaboobnagar district) region upto 76 km besides 7 km in the adjoining Nagarjunasagar Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh
- ✓ The AMD's assessment indicates that northern part of Cuddapah basin (second largest Proterozoic sedimentary basin in India) is the most promising and potential area in India for locating high grade, large tonnage uranium deposits.
- ✓ Currently FAC has given only "in principle" permission to AMD while "full and necessary permissions" are required for the department to allow exploration as Amrabad is a tiger reserve with poor road connectivity

INTERNATIONAL

◆ **France - to impose tax of up to €18 on plane tickets for all flights from airports in France from 2020**

- ✓ It will only be applied on outgoing flights and not those flying into country.
- ✓ The move is aimed to fund less-polluting transportation projects, including rail network
- ✓ As per the new tax system, a tax of €1.5 imposed on economy-class tickets on internal flights and those within Europe

- ✓ The highest tariff of €18 per ticket will be applied to business-class travellers flying outside bloc
- ✓ The new measure is expected to bring in about €182 million per year to the country's economy
- ✓ In April 2018, a similar tax was introduced in Sweden to lessen impact of air travel on climate, which imposed an added charge of up to €40 on every ticket

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

◆ India - handed over 250 pre-fabricated houses for use of displaced Muslim minorities, who are currently residing in Myanmar's Rakhine State



- ✓ These houses are delivered under India's 'Rakhine State Development Programme' (RSDP) for \$25 Million for a period of 5 years.
- ✓ In December 2017 a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between India and Myanmar on Rakhine State Development Programme (RSDP).
- ✓ Out of 250 pre-fabricated houses put together by India in three villages in Northern Rakhine region 148 units are in Shwe Zar village, 60 in Kyein Chaung village and 42 in Nan Thar Taung.
- ✓ These houses are rust free and water proof and designed to withstand earthquakes and cyclonic storms
- ✓ The project was undertaken by Indian companies- M/s Hindustan Prefab Limited as Project Management Consultant and M/s Eneritech Limited as contractor.

DEFENCE

◆ The Indian Air Force (IAF) - is looking to adopt a new European visual range air-to-air missile across its fighter fleet.



- ✓ The Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile (ASRAAM) of European missile-maker MBDA has been approved for Jaguar jets.
- ✓ The IAF was looking to integrate it on the Su-30 MKIs and the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft as well
- ✓ It would be the first over-the-wing-launched missile in the IAF inventory.
- ✓ All missiles are now fired from under the wing.
- ✓ ASRAAM is widely used as a Within Visual Range (WVR) air dominance missile with a range of over 25km.
- ✓ HAL had built about 145 Jaguars for the IAF, of which around 120 are in service, and 80 jets will continue till 2025 to 2030.

SPORTS

◆ India's sprinter Dutee Chand - creates history by winning first ever gold medal in 100m race at 30th World University Games in Naples, Italy.



- ✓ She has become first Indian sprinter to win 100m Gold in this race, clocking 11.32 seconds
- ✓ With the win, Dutee has become India's second Indian sprinter who won a gold medal in global event after Hima Das, who grabbed the top position in 400m in the World Junior Athletics Championships.
- ✓ Dutee Chand also won silver medal in women's 100m finals at 2018 Asian Games.
- ✓ She has also won bronze in women's 200m race in Asian Athletics Championship.

◆ Rakhi Halder and Davinder Kaur - won a gold medal each in the senior women's section on the second day of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships



- ✓ India also won five other gold medals in the junior and youth sections.
- ✓ Kaur lifted a total of 184kg (80+104) to win the women's 59kg gold while Halder clinched the Gold with a combined effort of 214kg (94+120) in the 64kg category.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ World Population Day - July 11

- ✓ The observance of the day intends to spread knowledge about population related issues across the world
- ✓ No specific theme has declared for World Population Day 2019 but this year's World Population Day calls for global attention to the unfinished business of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.
- ✓ The day was established by the then-Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989, an outgrowth of the interest generated by the Day of Five Billion, which was observed on 11 July 1987.



- ✓ The Day was first marked on 11 July 1990 in more than 90 countries
- ✓ As per the data provided by United Nations, every year approximately 83 million people are added to the world's population and by 2030, the world population is expected to reach the 8.6 billion mark
- ✓ India shares just 2% of world's land but accommodating 16% of world population.
- ✓ India's 35% population is living in three states that are Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra

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STUDY CENTRE

