

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 9, 2019**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- ◆ **Tamil Nadu chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami – announced in the assembly that Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (Tangedco) will set up two new natural gas-based thermal units in North Chennai**
  - ✓ The units, each with a capacity of 730MW, will come up on the erstwhile GMR power plant premises in Basin Bridge.
  - ✓ The GMR units were naphtha-based, even though most thermal units of Tangedco are coal-based
  - ✓ The two new projects are expected to cost more than ₹5,000 crore
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu has only 516MW of thermal plants that are natural gas-based and much of that is in the private sector
  - ✓ The GMR units were decommissioned in 2018 due to the high cost of their fuel, naphtha and pollution related concerns
  - ✓ The government has also allocated ₹3,000 crore to replace equipment in all thermal units owned by Tangedco to prevent air and water pollution
- ◆ **Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami - informed the Assembly that desilting work would be taken up in 1,829 lakes during 2019-20 under 'Kudimaramathu' scheme**
  - ✓ A budget of Rs 499 crore had been allocated for the purpose
  - ✓ In 2017-18, 1,511 lakes were chosen for desilting, and 1,406 of them have been cleaned so far.
  - ✓ In 2016-17, the desilting of 1,519 lakes was taken up, of which work on 1,513 lakes has been completed
  - ✓ Under the Kudimaramathu scheme, the local farmers and common people were involved in cleaning up the lakes

## STATES

### ◆ **Odisha government - decided to provide Rs 10,000 per month to Padma award winners of the state facing financial issues**

- ✓ A total of 84 persons from the state have so far been honoured with Padma Sri Award of whom 45 have passed away.
- ✓ Of the remaining 39 persons, some of them are in very bad shape financially.
- ✓ Padma Shri is the fourth highest civilian award of India after Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan and Padma Bhushan awards.
- ✓ It was first conferred in the year 1954
- ✓ It is awarded to citizens of India in recognition of their contribution in various activities such as the arts, education, literature, industry, cinema, sports, medicine, social service, public affairs, and others.

## NATIONAL

### ◆ **The Parliament - passed an Aadhaar amendment bill that allows voluntary use of Aadhaar as proof of identity for opening bank accounts and getting mobile phone connections on July 8**

- ✓ The government is also framing a robust Data Protection Act after consultations with all stakeholders, according to law and information technology minister Ravi Shankar Prasad



- ✓ The Rajya Sabha passed by voice vote the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019
- ✓ It provides for a stiff ₹1 crore penalty and a jail term for private entities violating provisions on Aadhaar data
- ✓ The amendment bill, which was passed by Lok Sabha last week, provides for use of Aadhaar number for KYC authentication on voluntary basis under the Telegraph Act, 1885, and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

### ◆ **Under Operation Milap of Delhi Police, Delhi Police Crime Branch - has rescued 333 missing children from the city and handed them over to their families**



- ✓ These children were missing since January 2019 from various parts of country and were found in Delhi.
- ✓ Operation Milap was launched in December 2014 as a project under which children are rescued

- ✓ Under Operation Milap Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of Delhi Police has been set up, which was responsible for the rescuing of the children

◆ **Asia's 1st Six Sigma Institute of Mountain Medicines and High Altitude Rescue - to be established at Rudraprayag district in Uttarakhand.**

- ✓ It will be a high altitude institute of mountain medicine, training and research center, dealing with health issues related with high altitudes
- ✓ The institute would also train armed forces as well as para-military personnel in Mountain Medicines.
- ✓ It would also offer courses in mountains medicines and high altitude rescue and disaster
- ✓ Six Sigma Healthcare is a company which at present is operating hospitals in Kedarnath, Tungnath and Madhymaheshwar.
- ✓ It has proposed to set up the mega Rs.750 cr institute project in Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand

◆ **Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) - has decided to modify the format of driving licenses to smart card type driving licences for the entire country**

- ✓ The desired changes to Pan India Licence format will be implemented through MoRTH's flagship application called SARATHI (for Driving License)
- ✓ SARATHI has a common countrywide database of all driving license holders
- ✓ It has a unique feature to identify duplicate records in real time online basis and can also access information about challans if any.

◆ **The 23rd edition of Sindhu Darshan Utsav 2019 - was celebrated at Sindhu Ghat Shey in Leh from 24 to 27 June**



- ✓ The "Sindhu Darshan" or Sindhu festival was first started in month of October 1997, for celebration of unity, communal harmony along with national integration
- ✓ The festival aims at projecting Indus (or Sindhu) as a symbol of India's unity, peaceful coexistence and communal harmony.
- ✓ Usually the festival begins on full moon day which is also called Guru Purnima
- ✓ On 1st day of festival participants from all religions, castes and regions are welcomed and there is a reception on banks of Sindhu at Shey (about 14 km from Leh)
- ✓ The Sindhu Darshan festival conveys a strong message of uniting different religions and faiths to share love, compassion and respect towards each other

◆ **Jaipur Foot Korea - was launched to provide assistance in prosthetic limbs sector**



- ✓ It is a collaborative initiative between South Korea (or Republic of Korea) and Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), a Jaipur-based prosthetic limb non-profit organisation
- ✓ Under the agreement, ROK will provide financial and technical assistance to further research and development (R&D) collaboration between India and Korea
- ✓ The association will cover med-tech (medical technology) sector specifically in area of prosthetic limbs, bionic arms, 3-D printing-based Flat foot solution and mobility solutions
- ✓ BMVSS is the world's largest organisation rehabilitating more than 1.78 million disabled in several countries
- ✓ It provides all its assistance, such as artificial limbs, calipers and many other aids/appliances with everything being totally free of charge.
- ✓ Jaipur foot is a rubber-based prosthetic leg for people with below-knee amputations.

## INTERNATIONAL

◆ **The United Arab Emirates (UAE) - has become 1st country in Gulf to launch new anti-money laundering software platform called 'goAML' (Anti-Money Laundering)**



- ✓ It is the new anti-money laundering platform was launched by UAE's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and is developed by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to curb organised financial crimes
- ✓ The software can be used for data collection, document management and analysis facilitating the receipt, analysis and dissemination of suspicious transactions and activity reports
- ✓ As per officials of UAE's Central Bank (in Abu Dhabi), all financial entities and Designated Non-Financial Businesses or Professions have to register on this new reporting platform system by 27 June 2019

◆ **Russian President Vladimir Putin - recently signed a decree for extending Moscow's embargo on food products being imported from the European Union (EU)**

- ✓ This decision was in continuation of Russia's s retaliation against sanctions over Ukraine.
- ✓ The ban on produce, dairy, meat and most other foods imported from EU will now stretch to December 31, 2020
- ✓ In 2014, the international sanctions were imposed by United States and other countries over Russia for its annexation of Crimea and support of east Ukraine's separatists.
- ✓ Following the sanctions, Russia announced counter sanctions on most food imports from the European Union, US and several other countries in August 2014
- ✓ Recently on 20 June 2019, EU further extended their punishing economic sanctions against Russia (over conflict in Ukraine) for a further 6 months period
- ✓ Western sanction have deprived Russian economy of \$50 billion on the other hand EU has lost \$240 billion

## PERSONALITIES

◆ **Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs - was named in 100 Most Influential in UK-India Relations: Celebrating Women List**



- ✓ The 3rd edition of the list was launched by Sajid Javid, UK Home Secretary to mark India Day in Houses of Parliament in London
- ✓ The launch of list also marked commencing of UK-India Week in Britain.

- ✓ The women mentioned in list holds influencing positions in India and UK across 11 broad sectors such as politics, technology and sustainability
- ✓ Besides Sitharaman, list included Penny Mordaunt, Britain's Secretary of State for Defence and Ruchi Ghanashyam, Indian High Commissioner to the UK
- ✓ Priti Patel and Baroness Sandy Verma (Indian-origin parliamentarians in the UK), Gurinder Chadha (filmmaker), Zia Mody and Pallavi S Shroff (Indian law firm chiefs), Suneeta Reddy (Apollo Hospitals' managing director) and Debjani Ghosh (Nasscom President) are also named in the list

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

### ◆ **Gaganyaan - will be manned by three astronauts between 28 and 38 years old in 2022**

PICK OF THREE	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The final three will go to space on Gaganyaan</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 12-14 months needed to select astronauts once process begins</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 3 months needed for evaluation (psychological and medical tests)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Key requirements: Ability to deal with isolation, handle physiological changes caused by extreme temperatures and disorientation during spaceflight, decision-making aptitude</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ After initial training in India, astronauts will be sent to Russia for advanced training</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ India will pick three sets of three astronauts for the programme</li> </ul>	

- ✓ Since test pilots will crew the spacecraft, it is improbable that a woman will be on board as India has so far not produced a woman aircraft test pilot.
- ✓ Neil Armstrong, the first man to land on the Moon, was 38 when he went on the US Apollo 11 mission, while USSR's Yuri Gagarin was 30 when he became the first human to go to space.
- ✓ Rakesh Sharma, also a former IAF test pilot, was 34 when he went to space on a Russian mission in 1984.

### ◆ **European Space Agency (ESA) - recently tested a device called Evacuation System Assembly (or LESA), which is designed to assist in astronaut rescue missions on the surface of moon**



- ✓ As per ESA, it is world's 1st device aimed to help future incapacitated astronauts
- ✓ It is a pyramid-like structure, designed in a way to be deployed just by a single astronaut in lunar gravity to rescue an incapacitated crew mate.

- ✓ NASA astronauts are testing LESA under sea, as the bottom of ocean floor bears much more similarity with lunar surface
- ✓ It is intended for the usage on NASA's 2024 Moon mission (Artemis Mission)

◆ **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - carried out 3 successful test firings of Nag missiles during both day and night in Pokhran firing ranges**



- ✓ With this successful trial of Nag anti-tank guided missiles is in final stages of being inducted into Army.
- ✓ In 2018 Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement of NAG Missile System (NAMIS) at the cost of Rs.524 crore.
- ✓ NAMIS is designed and developed by DRDO.
- ✓ It includes a 3rd generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile, the NAG, along with Missile Carrier Vehicle (NAMICA)
- ✓ Nag was one of 1st 5 strategic missiles planned to be developed under Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IMGDP) initiated in 1980s.
- ✓ Other missiles developed under IMGDP project include Agni, Prithvi, Trishul and Akash.
- ✓ Except the shut-down Trishul project, all three of them have been successfully developed and inducted into Indian armed forces

## ECONOMY

◆ **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board - finalised a three- year roadmap named 'Utkarsh 2022' to improve its regulatory and supervisory mechanism**

- ✓ An internal committee was formed, which was anchored by outgoing Deputy Governor Viral Acharya, to identify issues that needed to be addressed over the next three years

## SPORTS

◆ **Former Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap's – settles with the Silver medal at the Canada Open Super 100 tournament**



- ✓ Sixth seed Kashyap fell short against China's Li Shi Feng in the men's singles summit clash, losing a three setter hard-fought game

◆ **Brazil beat Peru - to win the Copa America for the ninth time at the Maracana stadium, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil**



- ✓ It was Brazil's first major title since they won the Copa America in 2007
- ✓ Peru last won the tournament in 1975

◆ **The 28-year-old Norwegian World Chess Champion, Magnus Carlsen - won the Grand Chess Tour in Croatia (Category 22, Avg rating 2782) with a commanding performance**



- ✓ He has now won eight tournament titles in last eight months
- ✓ A rating performance of 2948 is expected to give Carlsen an Elo strength of 2882 in the next rating list, the same as his own all-time high attained by any player in history in May 2014.
- ✓ Former world champion V Anand finished with 4.5 points and joint ninth spot among 12 participants.
- ✓ The Indian lost two games, drew nine and won none

◆ **Rohit Sharma - has become the first and only batsman to score 5 centuries in a single World Cup edition.**



- ✓ He has also equalled Sachin Tendulkar's record of scoring six centuries across Cricket World Cup tournaments
- ✓ He has overtook Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara and Australia's Ricky Ponting who have made five centuries in world cup matches.
- ✓ Rohit Sharma has also equalled Yuvraj Singh's 2011 World cup record of four Man of the Match awards in a single World Cup tournament
- ✓ Sachin Tendulkar is third on the list with three Man of the Match awards in a single ODI World Cup.

◆ **Jasprit Bumrah - has become the second fastest Indian to take 100 wickets in ODI cricket**



- ✓ He took his 100th ODI wicket in his 57th ODI, during India's last World Cup group stage match against Sri Lanka
- ✓ The fastest Indian to take 100 ODI wickets is Mohammed Shami, who achieved the feat in 56 matches

◆ **Coca-Cola and Chinese dairy firm Mengniu - have signed a multi-year global Olympic deal to become joint sponsors (beverages and dairy) of Olympic Games starting from 2021 to 2032**



- ✓ The agreement was unveiled in Lausanne, Switzerland ahead of opening of IOC session
- ✓ This agreement is 1st ever joint partnership under Worldwide Olympic TOP programme
- ✓ The TOP (The Olympic Partners) programme is the highest level of Olympic sponsorship which grants category-exclusive marketing rights to a selected group of global partners for Summer, Winter and Youth Olympic Games
- ✓ Now with Coca Cola's new agreement with Mengniu, China's top milk products manufacturer which will span 6 Olympic Games, makes it longest Olympic sponsor
- ✓ Beijing is scheduled to host 2022 Olympics, while 2024 Summer Games will be staged in Paris, France. Los Angeles in California has been awarded 2028 Olympics

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ **International MSME Day - June 27**



- ✓ It is dedicated towards raising awareness of need for greater investment into small and mid-sized businesses in developing countries.
- ✓ Theme 2019 - 'Big Money For Small Business: Financing the SDGs'
- ✓ United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in its 74th Plenary meeting held on 6 April 2017 declared 27 June to be observed as Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises day

