



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – SEP 13 & 14, 2019

### TAMIL NADU

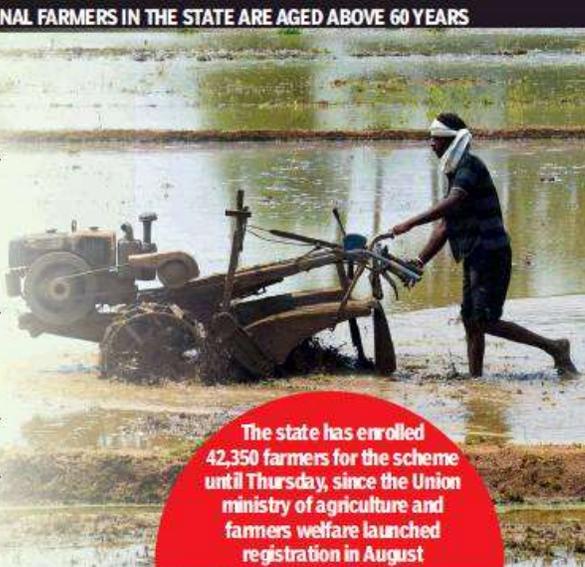
- **The Tamil Nadu government – to implement the upgraded version of STAR 3.0 (Simplified and Transparent Administration of Registration) project within a year in the Registration department**
- ✓ The STAR 3.0 protocol would be using the blockchain technology to store and transmit data in the form of blocks using high secured cryptographic principle, making copying, hacking and tampering of data impossible.
- ✓ As part of STAR 3.0 project, photographs of landowners and a copy of the registered sale deeds along with copies of encumbrance certificates (ECs) can be downloaded 'online' from anywhere in the world.
- ✓ The move is aimed at eliminating any sort of forgery in property ownership.
- ✓ Currently, ECs have details about the sale deed, owners' names, location, survey number and dimension of the property
- ✓ In the last financial year, 25,73,478 documents were registered in 575 sub-registrar offices across the state, providing a revenue of ₹11,000 crore to the Government
  
- **The state government - announced on September 13 that board exams for Classes V and VIII will be held at the end of current academic year, 2019-20**
- ✓ The directorate of government examinations is already conducting board exams for Classes X, XI and XII.
- ✓ The state had earlier reversed its no detention policy until Class VIII, as students without basic reading and writing skills were being promoted to higher classes
- ✓ As per the RTE Act, no detention up to Class VIII is mandatory for states.
- ✓ But the Centre recently amended the Act enabling states to detain students in Classes V & VIII

- **Tamil Nadu – may have around three lakh to three-and-a-half lakh small and marginal farmer beneficiaries in the PM Kisan Maandhan Yojana (PM-KMY) scheme**

**THE FINEPRINT**

**MOST OF THE SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS IN THE STATE ARE AGED ABOVE 60 YEARS**

- All small and marginal farmers having cultivable landholding of up to two hectares in the age group of 18 to 40 years are eligible
- An intensive door-to-door verification by the state government recently revealed 4.37 lakh small and marginal farmers in the age group of 18-40 years
- There are 6.78 lakh small and marginal farmers in the age group of 41-50 years, while 7.62 lakh are 51 to 60 years old
- There are 10.14 lakh small and marginal farmers above 60 years
- In all, the state has 28.93 lakh small and marginal farmers in all age groups



The state has enrolled 42,350 farmers for the scheme until Thursday, since the Union ministry of agriculture and farmers welfare launched registration in August

- ✓ The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 12
- ✓ The scheme offers a minimum pension of ₹3,000 per month to beneficiaries when they attain 60 years of age.
- ✓ 4.37 lakh eligible people were identified by the Government in the age group of 18-40 under small and marginal category.
- ✓ Vellore tops the list with 32,276 in the category, followed by Salem (27,842) and Cuddalore (26,065) districts.
- **The Tamil Nadu school education department - announced its decision to reduce one paper each for language and English exams on September 13**
- ✓ At present, the students appear for two papers each in language and English exams.
- ✓ The decision is expected to reduce the stress and evaluation work of the students, enabling the faster declaration of results

## STATES

- **Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot - inaugurated the country's first ever Information portal, Jan Soochna Portal-2019 on September 13**
- ✓ The portal provides information about various government authorities and departments suo motu to the public in the true spirit of the Right To Information, 2005 Act.



- ✓ The State government has collaborated with different civil society groups to develop the portal, the first of its kind in the country, initially giving information pertaining to 13 departments on a single platform
- ✓ The State government is planning to set up information kiosks in village panchayats and self-service e-mitra centres in the towns to enable the people to access the information useful for them

## NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - launched the 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana', an ambitious pension scheme for farmers, shopkeepers and self-employed persons at Ranchi on September 12**



- ✓ The PM also launched the 'Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan Dhan Yojana', a pension scheme for shopkeepers and retail traders on the same occasion
- ✓ The 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana' scheme will help small and marginal farmers by providing a minimum pension of ₹3,000 per month, on attaining the age of 60.
- ✓ Farmers who are currently between 18 and 40 years of age can apply for the scheme.

- ✓ The Union Government has allocated a budget of Rs 10,774 crores for the scheme for the next three years.
  - ✓ Another 'Swarojgar' pension scheme was also rolled out for self-employed persons in the same event
  - ✓ The Prime Minister also launched 462 Ekalvy Model Residential Schools during his visit to Jharkhand.
  - ✓ Ekalvy schools provides free education from Class 6 to 12 to Scheduled Tribe students in tribal-dominated areas
- **The government – intends to 'redevelop' New Delhi's historic seat of power, the iconic central vista — the stretch from the gates of Rashtrapati Bhawan to India Gate — along with surrounding buildings spread over an area of approximately 4 sq.km**

## 'NEW RAJPATH' FOR NEW INDIA

<p><b>WHAT IS THE CENTRAL VISTA?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It's the 2.5km-long Rajpath, main boulevard of New Delhi, from Rashtrapati Bhawan to India Gate</li> <li>➤ 44 buildings around it, including Parliament House, South &amp; North Blocks fall in central vista zone</li> </ul> <p><b>BID OBJECTIVES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Re-plan entire 4sq km central vista zone. Draw up a new master plan that represents 'values and aspirations of a New India' and 'is rooted in Indian culture and social milieu'</li> <li>➤ Master Plan to entail concept, detailed design, demolition of existing structures</li> <li>➤ Build 'new iconic structures' that shall be 'a legacy for 150 to 200 years'</li> </ul> <p><b>GOVT LOOKING AT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Revamping Parliament House without touching the exterior structure, by July 2022</li> <li>➤ Building an additional structure in vicinity or a completely new complex</li> <li>➤ Building a common Central Secretariat to house most ministries/depts, by March 2024</li> </ul>	
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- ✓ The mega plan aims to construct a new 'Parliament' building close to the present one or 'modernize' the present one, build a common central secretariat to accommodate most departments and upgrade the central vista to make it a major tourist attraction
- ✓ The plan, with a deadline of 2024, includes upgrading public facilities, amenities, parking and green spaces.
- ✓ Iconic buildings including Rashtrapati Bhawan, Parliament House, north and south Blocks were built between 1911 and 1931 after Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker planned the central vista
- ✓ The present secretariat is spread over 47 buildings and nearly 70,000 employees work there.

- **India - has begun exporting bulletproof jackets as per its own BIS standards to over 100 countries including European nations**



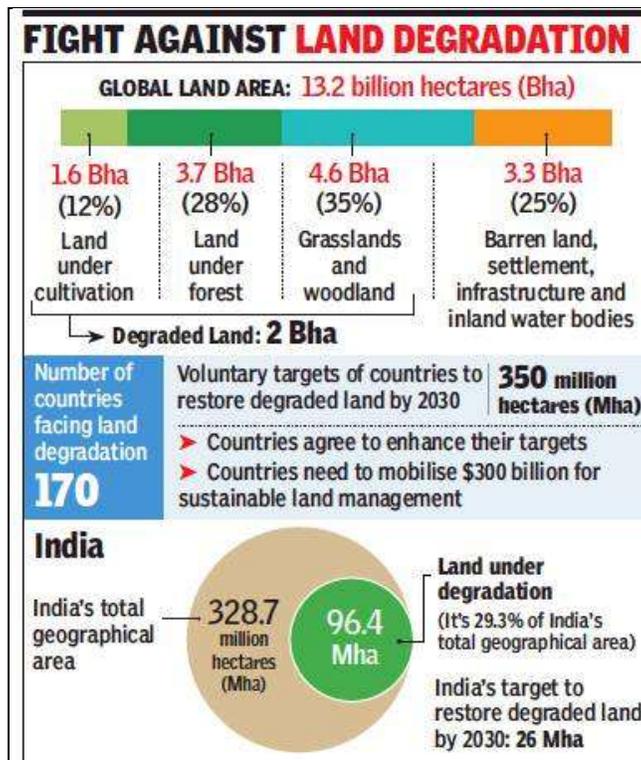
- ✓ India is the fourth country after the US, UK and Germany to have its own national standard on the bulletproof jacket which provides 360-degree protection.
- ✓ The BIS is a national body that sets quality standards for various products and services
- ✓ In December 2018, the BIS framed a national standard for bulletproof jacket following a direction from the Prime Minister's Office and the Niti Aayog
- ✓ Two PSUs Medani and Ordnance factory at Avadi, Chennai and private firms SNPP (Palwal), Starwire (Faridabad) in Haryana and MKU (Kanpur) in Uttar Pradesh are manufacturing bulletproof jackets as per the BIS norms

## INTERNATIONAL

- **US - briefly dethroned Saudi Arabia as the world's top exporter for the month of June**
- ✓ The Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) announced that US crude exports surged above 3 million barrels per day (bpd) in June
- ✓ However, Saudi Arabia reclaimed the top spot in July and August, as US production was affected by hurricane disruptions
- ✓ Opec and its allies including Russia are cutting production by 1.2 million bpd in an effort to rebalance oil markets and boost prices

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

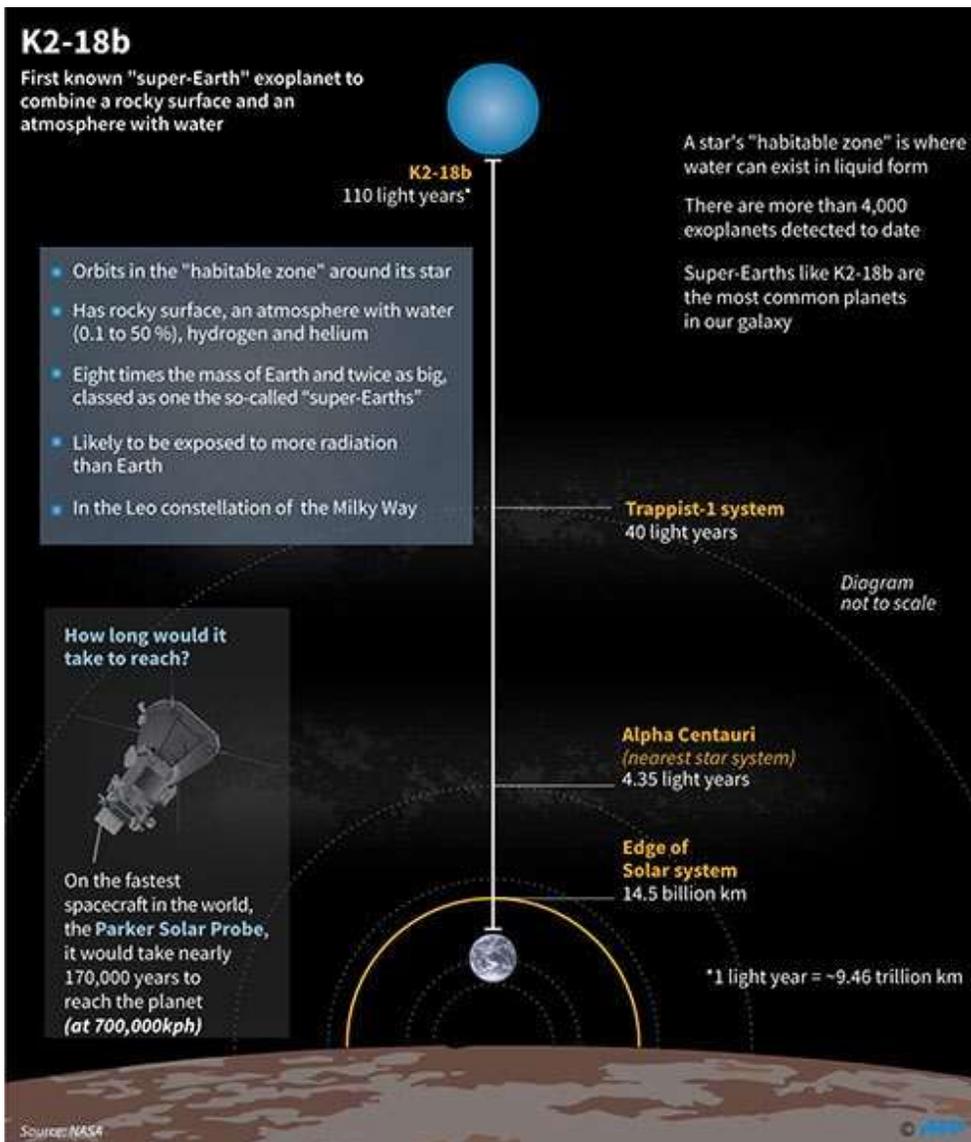
- **Over 190 countries - adopted a 'New Delhi Declaration', identifying multiple measures to restore degraded land globally, on the concluding day of the UN conference (COP14) on combating desertification in Greater Noida.**
- ✓ The participating countries agreed to achieve 'land degradation neutrality' by 2030 through a "national target for action" without affecting land tenure rights of local population, including forest dwellers and women, anywhere in the world.



- ✓ The countries will, however, have to mobilize a huge sum of \$300 billion to step up the restoration exercise for commercially viable sustainable land management.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier addressed the 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Delhi NCR on September 9
- ✓ The COP is the supreme decision-making body of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) with 197 member countries
- ✓ COP meeting is held biennially since 2001 with the last COP13 held at the Ordos, China in September 2017.
- ✓ India will take over COP presidency from China for the next two years (2019-2021).
- ✓ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was established in 1994
- ✓ UNCCD addresses semi-arid, arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems are found.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Scientists - have announced that water has been found for the first time in the atmosphere of an exoplanet, which has earth-like temperatures that could support life**



- ✓ The exoplanet, K2-18b, has eight times the mass of earth and twice as big as the Earth
- ✓ Of the more than 4,000 exoplanets discovered till date, this is the first known to combine a rocky surface and an atmosphere with water
- ✓ It is one of hundreds of so-called "super-earths" — planets that are larger than Earth but smaller than Neptune— discovered by NASA's Kepler spacecraft in 2015
- ✓ K2-18b orbits a red dwarf star, K2-18 at about 110 light years distant — a million billion kilometres — in the Leo constellation of the Milky Way.
- ✓ K2-18b is the first planet outside the solar system in the habitable zone of its star.
- ✓ The K2-18b exoplanet completes one orbit around its star every 33 days.
- ✓ K2-18 also has another super-Earth, K2-18c, but the planet is closer to the star and is not likely to be in the habitable zone.
- ✓ K2-18c was discovered by Cloutier in 2017.

# DEFENCE

- The naval variant of the indigenous Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA) - successfully conducted an “arrested landing” for the first time on a shore-based runway

## Flight path

A brief timeline of the development of the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, a 4.5 generation, light weight, multirole fighter

1983	2001	2011	2013	Feb. 2019
DRDO gets permission to build the jet	LCA performs maiden successful flight	Receives Initial Operational Clearance-I	Receives Initial Operational Clearance-II	Receives Final Operational Clearance

**Good show:** The LCA after clearing the test at a facility in Goa on Friday.  
\* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**NAVAL VARIANT**  
April 2012: Naval variant makes its maiden flight; two prototypes have been flying as part of the development  
Dec. 2014: First prototype

(NP1) makes successful first flight  
Sept. 13, 2019: Performs “arrested landing”, the ability to land on an aircraft carrier

**THE MACHINE**  
• The naval version has stronger landing gears to absorb forces exerted by the ski jump ramp during take-off, allowing it to be airborne from a much shorter runway on the carrier deck  
• In Dec. 2016, the then Navy chief Sunil Lanba said the current weight of the naval LCA, with the underpowered engine, does not allow it to fly from a carrier



- ✓ The naval Tejas prototype made a successful short landing on the Shore Based Test Facility (SBTF) at the naval base INS Hansa in Goa
  - ✓ This feature is a critical capability required for the fighter jet to eventually operate from an aircraft carrier on the high seas.
  - ✓ Only a few countries like the US, Russia, France and China have developed fighters capable of ‘arrested landing’ on aircraft carrier decks, which has limited runway length
  - ✓ The naval LCA made its maiden flight in April 2012 and two prototypes have been flying as part of the development.
  - ✓ The first prototype (NP1) made a successful first flight in 2014.
- In a first, SSS Defence, a firm in Bengaluru - has indigenously designed and developed two sniper rifle prototypes for the armed forces.



- ✓ The two rifles that SSS Defence has developed are Viper, chambered for .308/7.62x51mm cartridge, and Saber, chambered for .338 Lapua Magnum cartridge.
- ✓ While Viper has achieved an accuracy from a distance of more than 1,000 metres, Saber has proved it on a 1,500-metre range.

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Lieutenant General (Retired) Abhijit Guha – has been appointed as the head of the UN mission in Hodeidah, Yemen**



- ✓ He succeeds Danish Lieutenant General Michael Lollesgaard, who served in the post from January 31 to July 31, 2019
- ✓ The appointment of Guha has been announced by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

## AWARDS

- **United Nations - honoured five Indian women police officers for their commendable services in UN mission in South Sudan.**



- ✓ These officers are - Gopika Jahagirdar, DSP, Maharashtra Police; Reena Yadav, Inspector, Chandigarh Police; Ragini Kumari, Inspector in the Ministry of Home Affairs; Bharati Samantray, DSP in the Ministry of Home Affairs, and Kamal Shekhawat, ASP, Rajasthan Police were conferred the UN medal.
- ✓ These police officers are presented the UN medal at a parade in the United Nations Mission in Juba in South Sudan

## SPORTS

- **Australia fast bowler Megan Schutt - scripted history by becoming the first woman to claim two hat-tricks in white ball cricket**



- ✓ Schutt took three wickets off three consecutive balls in the third game of the five-match series against West Indies in Antigua
- ✓ Schutt, thus, became the first Australian women to claim a hat-trick in ODIs.
- ✓ She had earlier claimed her first hat-trick in a T20 game against India in March last year

## NATIONAL DAY

- **Hindi Divas 2019 – September 14**



- ✓ The day commemorates the adoption of Hindi as an official language of India

- ✓ The Constituent Assembly of India adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the country's official language on this day in 1949
- ✓ The day, September 14, 1949, also marks the 50<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Beohar Rajendra Simha, one of the stalwarts who lobbied for Hindi in Parliament and across the country
- ✓ On the occasion, Home Minister Amit Shah would be presenting Rajbhasha Awards to the chiefs of various Ministries, departments and offices for their outstanding performances in promoting the language.
- ✓ Hindi with 341 million native speakers is the fourth most spoken language in the world, after Mandarin, Spanish and English
- ✓ It was adopted as the official language under Article 343 of the Indian Constitution.
- ✓ The language, spoken by about 40% people in the country, is the single largest spoken language among the 22 scheduled languages in the sixth schedule of the Indian constitution.

