

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 12, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Tamil Nadu chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami – announced that the rivers in Chennai will be restored at an estimated ₹ 2,371 crore between 2019 and 2023**
 - ✓ Eco-restoration of Adyar and Cooum rivers has been going on under the Chennai River Restoration Trust.
 - ✓ Apart from creating new sewerage infrastructure, existing ones are also to be refurbished
 - ✓ The Government will prepare a detailed project report to increase the groundwater table and find long-term solutions to augment water sources
 - ✓ Besides, it also plans to reuse around 260 million litres of sewage after a thorough tertiary treatment

STATES

- ◆ **Kerala Government - decided to form a Non-Resident Keralites Investment company with 74% stake to be held by expatriates and the rest by the Government**
 - ✓ It aims to channelize investments from overseas Keralites for major infrastructure development in the state
 - ✓ The main aim of this shareholding is to utilise NRI investments for implementing various projects.
 - ✓ Kerala cabinet also decided to appoint a NORKA (Non-Resident Keralites Affairs) Chief Executive officer (CEO) as special officer of company.
 - ✓ The creation of NRK Investment company was one of the major recommendations submitted by standing committees of Loka Kerala Sabha (World Kerala Assembly).
 - ✓ The Loka Kerala Sabha is an event hosted by state government to bring Keralites living across the world under one platform to utilise their expertise

NATIONAL

- ◆ **The Supreme Court – had asked the Ayodhya mediation panel to submit a report by July 18 on the “progress of mediation till date and the stage at which the said process is presently at”**

CHALLENGE TO 2010 HC JUDGMENT

- Appeals filed by Hindu and Muslim parties challenge the 2010 judgment of Allahabad HC, which gave ownership of one part each of 2.77-acre disputed land to Ram Lalla, Nirmohi Akhara and Sunni waqf board
- This March, SC set up a mediation panel led by SC ex-judge FMI Kalifulla for negotiated solution; he will submit report to SC by July 18

- ✓ A bench of CJI Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazir said that if the panel’s search for a negotiated solution may not be fruitful, it will begin day-to-day hearing tentatively from July 25
- ✓ The order came after Hindu parties joined hands to demand an end to the mediation process which has been favoured by the Muslim side
- ✓ The SC appointed a mediation panel in March, headed by SC ex-judge FMI Kalifulla and comprising of renowned mediator and senior advocate Sriram Panchu, and spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravishankar, to settle ownership of the 2.77-acre Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi land in Ayodhya
- ✓ The mediation committee had been granted time till August 15 to engage in talks.
- ◆ **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi - has approved 3rd phase of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)**
 - ✓ The third phase aims to consolidate around 1,25,000 km of roads in the states connecting habitations to Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), hospitals as well as Higher Secondary Schools
 - ✓ An estimated cost of PMGSY-III would be Rs 80,250 crore over next five years out of which Central Share-Rs 53800 crore and State Share- Rs 26450 crore
 - ✓ The project target period is from 2019-20 to 2024-25
 - ✓ PMGSY-III scheme was announced by Union Finance Minister in Budget Speech for year 2018-19
 - ✓ Under the PMGSY scheme, a total of 5,99,090 Km road length has been constructed since inception till April, 2019

◆ **Railway Protection Force (RPF) - recently launched 'Operation Thirst' to stop selling of unauthorised Packaged Drinking Water (PDW) in Delhi**



- ✓ The operation was carried out on July 8 and 9, leading to the arrest and fine of many persons
- ✓ Under it as many as 1,371 people were arrested and over 69,294 bottles were seized by RPF, under section 144 and section 153 of Indian Railway Act
- ✓ During the operation, a total fine amount of Rs. 6,80,855 has been realised from offenders

◆ **New Delhi's Connaught Place - is 9th most expensive office location in the world with an annual rent of nearly \$144 per sq. ft.**

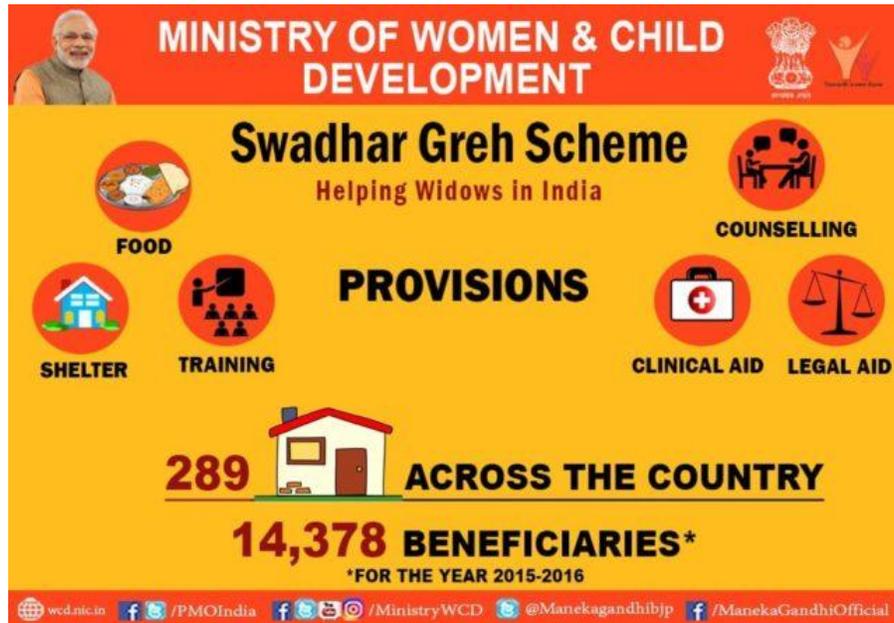
- ✓ It retained the same position last year, as per the property consultant CPRE's annual Global Prime Office Occupancy Costs Survey
- ✓ 6 of world's 10 most expensive office markets are found in Asia
- ✓ For 2nd year straight Hong Kong's central district retained top spot with its occupancy cost was valued at \$322 per sq.ft.

◆ **Ministry of Defence (MoD)- signs MoU with Intellectual Property Facilitation Cell (IPFC) and National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) to provide an headstart to Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti**



- ✓ Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti was launched last year with the aim to inculcate IP culture in Indian defence manufacturing ecosystem
- ✓ Under this mission, an Intellectual Property Facilitation Cell (IPFC) was established under the aegis of Directorate General Quality Assurance (DGQA).

- ◆ **The Ministry of Women and Child Development - is implementing the Swadhar Greh Scheme for rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances.**



- ✓ The scheme covers women who are deserted and without any social and economic support, women victims of domestic violence, family tension and natural disaster
- ✓ The ministry is also implementing Universalisation of Women Helpline Scheme which is envisaged to provide 24 hours emergency and non-emergency response to women affected by violence

INTERNATIONAL

- ◆ **France - gave final approval to a tax on big technology digital giants like Facebook, Google & Amazon on July 11**

- ✓ The 3% levy will apply to revenue from digital services earned in France by firms with more than €25 million in French revenue and €750 million (\$845 million) worldwide
- ✓ The legislation — dubbed the GAFAT tax (an acronym for Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon) — was passed by a simple show of hands in the Senate Upper House after previously being passed by the National Assembly Lower Chamber
- ✓ France became the first economy to levy the tax after EU countries failed to agree a levy valid across the bloc.
- ✓ Other EU nations, including Austria, UK and Italy, have also announced plans for their own digital taxes

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

◆ The 2nd India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue (IRSED) - was held in New Delhi



- ✓ It took place under chairmanship of Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman of NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog.
- ✓ 1st IRSED was held in St. Petersburg in Russia from 25-26 November 2018.
- ✓ The dialogue was established following the signing of MoU during 19th edition of Annual India-Russia Bilateral Summit which was held on 5 October 2018, in New Delhi
- ✓ The MoU was signed between India's NITI Aayog and Russia's Ministry of Economic Development of Russian Federation

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ The final countdown for the ₹ 978-crore Chandrayaan-2 mission - to start at 6.51AM on Sunday — 20 hours ahead of the spacecraft's liftoff on July 15

- ✓ It will be the country's first attempt at a softlanding on the Moon
- ✓ Chandrayaan-2 will be launched with GSLV-MkIII, India's heaviest rocket so far on its second operational launch
- ✓ The two big missions before this — Chandrayaan-1 and Mars Orbiter Mission — were launched with the PSLV class of launch vehicles.

◆ Japan's Hayabusa2 probe - has made a perfect touchdown on a distant asteroid named Ryugu, at a distance of around 300 million kilometres from Earth



- ✓ Hayabusa2 also made history with the creation of the crater on Ryugu's surface in April 2019
- ✓ Hayabusa2's first touchdown was in February, when it landed briefly on Ryugu and fired a bullet into the surface to puff up dust for collection, before blasting back to its holding position.

- ✓ The mission intends to collect samples from beneath the surface of the asteroid, which could provide insight on the origin of solar system, around 4.6 billion years ago
- ✓ It is the successor to JAXA's (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) first asteroid explorer called Hayabusa which is Japanese word for 'falcon'
- ✓ In 2010 Hayabusa returned with dust samples from a smaller, potato-shaped asteroid after spending seven years in space
- ✓ Then Hayabusa2 Mission was launched in December 2014, with project cost around \$270 million.
- ✓ It is scheduled to return to Earth with its samples in 2020
- ✓ Ryugu, which means "Dragon Palace" in Japanese, refers to a castle at the bottom of the ocean in an ancient Japanese tale

◆ **In a first, Virgin Galactic - has successfully 'launched' a rocket from a modified Boeing 747 airplane in mid-flight in the Mojave desert**



- ✓ Virgin Orbit dropped its LauncherOne vehicle from the modified airplane Cosmic Girl, while flying at an altitude of 35,000 feet
- ✓ The test flight went without a hitch, and the rocket and aircraft separated cleanly

◆ **The Vega rocket - carrying an imaging observation satellite 'FalconEye1' for the United Arab Emirates failed about two minutes after liftoff from a base in French Guiana.**



- ✓ It was the first failure after 14 successful launches of Vega since operations began at the Guiana Space Centre in 2012.
- ✓ The satellite was developed by Airbus and the aerospace manufacturer Thales Alenia Space.
- ✓ European rocket-launch service provider Arianespace markets the satellite
- ✓ The images to be captured by FalconEye 1 were meant to be used in a number of areas, including mapping, agricultural surveillance, urban planning or surveillance of borders and coasts.

DEFENCE

- ◆ **A joint venture of a Kalyani group firm and Israel's Rafael Advanced Systems - has secured a \$100 million contract for manufacturing 1,000 Barak-8 MRSAM missile kits.**



- ✓ Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems (KRAS), the joint venture, in which the Indian partner's holding is 51% and the rest is with Rafael, will manufacture the kits at its production facility near Hyderabad and supply them to Bharat Dynamics for further integration.
 - ✓ Eventually, the product will be used by the Indian Army and the Air Force.
 - ✓ The first set of the kits, under the nearly four-year delivery schedule, is expected to begin from the fourth quarter this fiscal
 - ✓ KRAS is expected to ramp up the headcount to 300 technical experts by 2023.
 - ✓ The joint venture manufactured several products and its exports were worth \$15 million
- ◆ **Indian Army - has placed an order for procuring Israeli Anti-Tank Spike missiles from Israel under the provisions of 'emergency purchase'**



- ✓ It is known for their precision targeting with an ability to pierce even bunkers.
- ✓ Having a range of 4 kilometres, it can be deployed both in plains and hills
- ✓ It can be fired from different platforms such as- vehicles, helicopters, ships and ground launchers
- ✓ Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd. has manufactured Israeli Spike missiles.
- ✓ Australia, Netherland, England, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Singapore and South Korea are already using Spike missiles
- ✓ In April after Balakot strike, Indian Army cleared procurement of the missile and orders were placed in July 2019.

SPORTS

◆ **Tamil Nadu's Woman International Master (WIM) K Jennitha Anto - won her sixth IPCA (International Physically Disabled Chess Association) world title**

- ✓ The 32-year old from Trichy had won the world title from 2013-17
- ✓ However, she managed only bronze last year during the event in Czech Republic
- ✓ Suffering from polio from the age of three, the wheelchair-bound Jennitha took to chess at the age of 9



- ✓ Her feat helped Jennitha overtake Anand — who has five world titles
- ✓ The 19th edition of the tournament was held from June 28 to July 6 in Ruzomberok, Slovakia

◆ **Five-time World chess champion and India's first Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand - will be the mentor for the Indian edition of chesskid.com, a US-based chess platform.**



- ✓ Chesskid is a safe and accessible platform, forming the world's largest scholastic website for kids.
- ✓ It has one million kids enrolled in it, with live plays, puzzles and interaction with other players

