

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 29, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Tamil Nadu – ranked second in the country for enforcing the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003 (COTPA), which prohibits sale of cigarettes or any tobacco products to minors or near an educational institution.**
 - ✓ In the last year, the state has fined 6,425 people and collected over Rs 13.4 lakhs for violating these norms
 - ✓ Only Gujarat performed better, where over 8,000 people were fined and Rs 14.34 lakhs being collected.
 - ✓ Punjab came third with Rs13.14 lakh being collected from violators.
 - ✓ The details were presented by health and family welfare minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey in the Lok Sabha
 - ✓ Section-6 of COTPA prohibits sale of cigarettes or any other tobacco products to any person who is under 18 years of age and in an area within a radius of one hundred yards of any educational institution
- ◆ **The Chennai Corporation - has started colour-coding of buildings to demarcate the Rain water harvest (RWH) compliant ones from the others.**
 - ✓ After inspecting 1.4 lakh independent houses and apartment complexes, the city corporation found that 41,000 of them don't have RWH structures and 23,146 buildings have RWH structures that are poorly maintained
 - ✓ So far, corporation workers have pasted only blue stickers, outside buildings that were found to have harvesting systems.
 - ✓ Those which install the structure after the recent inspections will be given green stickers
 - ✓ Non-compliant buildings are not given any colour coded stickers as yet

◆ **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Erode district of Tamil Nadu - gets the Best Tiger Reserve Award from the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change**



- ✓ The reserve's field director and chief conservator of forest V Naganathan, received the award from Prime Minister Narendra Modi

STATES

◆ **The Kerala government - has approved an amnesty and rehabilitation scheme for Maoists who surrender**

- ✓ The scheme was proposed by state police chief Loknath Behera
- ✓ As per the scheme, the surrendering Maoists should provide details of all the persons involved in the movement, the contact details of their relatives and also the details of informers who have been helping them.
- ✓ They will also have to announce the source of arms and ammunitions and financial aid they were getting
- ✓ Apart from an open declaration of their surrender, they will have to give every detail of the crimes they have committed
- ✓ The government has announced a cash incentive between ₹3 lakh and ₹5 lakh for them depending upon their rank in the Maoist cadre.
- ✓ It has also been decided to give a maximum of ₹35,000 for the arms and ammunitions which are surrendered before the police, a maximum of ₹15,000 to continue education for the young cadres and ₹25,000 as one time help for marriage
- ✓ An annual stipend from ₹3,000 to ₹10,000 for three years has also been promised under the scheme, so that the Maoists don't take the arms again
- ✓ The rehabilitation package includes housing scheme, educational assistance, financial aid for marriage and government help for self-employment.

NATIONAL

◆ **PM Narendra Modi, in his second ‘Mann Ki Baat’ address after assuming charge as PM for a second term - said that two important lessons people can learn from Chandrayaan-2 are “faith and fearlessness”**



- ✓ He praised Jharkhand villages Aara and Keram, located 40km from Ranchi, for their water conservation efforts, which have channelled the water flowing down the mountains
- ✓ This is the second time in the past two months that the state has found a mention in Mann ki Baat.
- ✓ Last month, Modi heaped praises on Dilip Kumar Ravidas, the village mukhiya of Lapung panchayat in Hazaribag’s Katkamsandi block for his work to conserve rainwater
- ✓ Modi also praised Meghalaya for becoming the first state to frame its own water policy and the Haryana government for giving impetus to crops that consume less water.
- ✓ The PM also announced a unique Chandrayaan quiz for youth, whose details will be given on mygov website on August 1
- ✓ The Students with maximum scores from each state will be taken to Sriharikota at the government’s expense and will be able to witness the historic landing of Chandrayaan-2 on Moon

◆ **The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) - has notified that exploring rights of atomic minerals rests only with government agencies.**

- ✓ The July 27 notification is significant in the context of Tamil Nadu, where the alleged illegal mining of beach sand is rampant
- ✓ As per the notification, The Centre prohibits grant of operating rights of atomic minerals in any offshore areas in the country to any person except the government, government company or government agency owned or controlled by the government.
- ✓ Earlier, in a gazette notification dated February 20, the Centre had banned mining of beach sand by private parties.
- ✓ Another amendment in 2016 had banned private mining of sand that had monazite concentration of more than 0.75%.
- ✓ Monazite and zircon have potential applications in strategic, defence and hi-tech sectors.
- ✓ Monozite can yield thorium that is used to enrich uranium

- ✓ Zircon contains an important strategic element called hafnium, which has an important application in atomic energy.

◆ **The Road Transport ministry - will deploy mobile teams of former defence personnel armed with body cameras**

- ✓ This is the first-of-its-kind initiative to monitor violations of traffic rules on national highways
- ✓ The ministry will also install CCTV cameras on 11 highway stretches in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Bihar
- ✓ While the former servicemen will record traffic violations when patrolling designated stretches, CCTV cameras fixed at every 5km interval will capture all violations around the spot.
- ✓ The World Bank will provide financial assistance for the ₹300-crore pilot that covers about 1,550km of NH corridors — identified based on high rate of accidents
- ✓ This entire pilot project will be conducted in association with the local police and the National Informatics Centre (NIC) which has all the depository of vehicle and drivers data
- ✓ As per the plan, one team of ex-servicemen will be deployed round-the-clock at an interval of 60km
- ✓ While the fixed CCTV cameras will record violations including speeding, wrong overtaking and zig-zag driving, ex-servicemen will record other violations such as wrong parking and driving against the flow of traffic
- ✓ National Highways, owned by the Centre, contribute 33%-35% total road fatalities every year

INTERNATIONAL

◆ **World Hindu Economic Forum (WHEF) - has launched its Nepal Chapter in Nepal's capital, Kathmandu**

- ✓ It was inaugurated by Nepal's Minister of State for Health and Population Dr. Surendra Kumar Yadav
- ✓ The WHEF was founded by Swami Vigyananand
- ✓ It strives to connect the Hindu people together for sharing their business knowledge, expertise and resources for the benefit of society

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

◆ **India-Nepal Logistics Summit - was organised in Kathmandu, Nepal on 28 July 2019**



- ✓ It was inaugurated by Prime Minister of Nepal KP Sharma Oli
- ✓ The theme for Summit was 'Transforming Logistics Landscape'

- ✓ The summit is a first-of-its-kind event, bringing together the representatives of both the countries to discuss issues of cross border trade and logistical issues for enhanced investment and trade across both the countries

◆ **Conclave of Himalayan States - was held at Mussoorie in Uttarakhand**



- ✓ It intends to discuss priorities of Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) in 15th Finance Commission with special focus on water conservation
- ✓ The conclave was initiated by government of Uttarakhand with Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) as its knowledge partner
- ✓ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was the chief guest of the conclave
- ✓ The conclave saw participation of representatives from 11 hill states namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand
- ✓ These states sought Green Bonus from Centre considering their contributions to environmental conservation
- ✓ They had also asked Centre to set up a dedicated Ministry for region
- ✓ The conclave concluded with adoption of Mussoorie Resolution 2019

APPOINTMENTS

◆ **Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Vivek Johri - has been appointed as the new director-general (DG) of the Border Security Force (BSF)**



- ✓ This is the first time that an intel-officer has been elevated to DG as BSF is set to tackle drug menace from Pakistan
- ✓ The order to appoint Johri as DG had been issued by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), which is headed by Prime minister Narendra Modi
- ✓ The order had also stated that Johri has been appointed as an Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Union home ministry with 'immediate effect'
- ✓ Currently he is serving as Special Secretary in external intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), under Cabinet Secretariat
- ✓ He is going to replace Rajni Kanth Mishra who retires on 31 August this year

- ✓ He is likely to attain superannuation on September 2020
- ✓ BSF is one of 7 Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) of India
- ✓ It was raised following the 1965 war on December 1, 1965
- ✓ It controls the border of Pakistan and Bangladesh

◆ **India - approved the appointment of Pakistan's new high commissioner Moin-ul-Haque**



- ✓ Haque is expected to arrive in Delhi in the third week of August
- ✓ He was Pakistan's ambassador to France when Islamabad decided in May to send him to India
- ✓ He will take the place of Sohail Mahmood, now Pakistan's foreign secretary
- ✓ India will hope that Haque will play a positive role in implementation of the understanding the two countries have arrived at to make the Kartarpur corridor operational, bring down the incidents of harassment of diplomats and to provide Indian consular officials access to Kulbhushan Jadhav, as ordered by the ICJ this month

AWARDS

◆ **Renowned Indian sand artist and Padma Awardee Sudarsan Pattnaik - has won People's Choice Award at a prestigious sand sculpting festival in United States**



- ✓ He was among top 15 sand artists selected from all over world to participate in 2019 Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival in Boston
- ✓ Sudarsan Pattnaik was sole representative from India as well as Asia
- ✓ He bagged the 'People's Choice Award' for his sand art on plastic pollution with message 'Stop Plastic Pollution, Save Our Ocean'
- ✓ The 16th edition of the festival was attended by close to million people between July 26-28.

SPORTS

◆ **Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa - won the Xtracon Chess Open in Copenhagen on July 28**



- ✓ This is Praggu's first tournament win since becoming a Grandmaster in June last year

- ✓ The 13-year-old — with 8.5 points from 10 rounds in the tournament — gained 28.5 ELO points for his efforts.
- ✓ Praggi's sister R Vaishali got her maiden GM norm and her second IM norm in the final round of the tournament
- ✓ Vaishali finished the tournament in 15th spot with 7.5 points

◆ **Caeleb Dressel, the American swimming sensation - won his record eighth medal at the world swimming championships in Gwangju, South Korea**



- ✓ He was part of the 4x100-meter medley relay team that settled with the Silver medal on July 28
- ✓ Dressel finished the championships with six golds after becoming the first swimmer to win three golds in one night at the worlds for the second time
- ✓ Two years ago in Hungary, Dressel tied Michael Phelps' record of seven golds at a single worlds, including three in one night.
- ✓ In the event, South Korea became the fourth host after Colombia (1975), Ecuador (1982) and Spain (1986) not to win a swimming medal.
- ✓ Germany's Florian Wellbrock won the 1,500m freestyle crown apart from his 10km open water gold in Gwangju, becoming the first athlete to win titles in two different sports at a single World championships.

◆ **Red Bull's Max Verstappen - won the German Formula one Grand prix in Hockenheim on July 28**



- ✓ Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel started from last place and finished second in front of his home crowd.
- ✓ Russian Daniil Kvyat was an astonishing third to hand Red Bull's sister team Toro Rosso their second-ever podium finish
- ✓ Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes, Great Britain) leads the drivers' standings with 223 points

◆ **Egan Bernal - became the first Colombian to win the Tour de France Cycling championship**



- ✓ The 22-year-old Bernal, the youngest rider to win the race in 110 years, gives Team Ineos — formerly Team Sky — its seventh title in the last eight editions.
- ✓ The 2018 edition was won by Welshman, Geraint Thomas

INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ International Tiger Day – July 29



- ✓ The day is observed to spread awareness on the conservation and promotion of the protection of the natural habitat of tigers
- ✓ The day was first established in 2010 at Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia to raise awareness about the decline of wild tigers and to work towards their conservation
- ✓ In the Summit, a declaration was made that Governments of tiger populated countries had vowed to double the tiger population by 2020
- ✓ Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bengaluru has honoured 2018 Asian Games gold medallist Hima Das and named a six-month-old tigress Hima
- ✓ Hima- the cub made its first public appearance on July 28 to mark International Tiger Day in the safari area of Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP).
- ✓ Karnataka boasts of the highest tiger population in India, 406, as per the 2014 tiger census
- ✓ On the eve of the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released results of 4th cycle of All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) in New Delhi
- ✓ The AITE is done once in every four years
- ✓ Due to planned efforts under Project Tiger, at present India has distinction of having maximum number of tigers in world
- ✓ The 2014 country level tiger assessment had shown a 30% increase of tigers i.e. from 1706 in 2010 to 2226 in 2014
- ✓ There are five subspecies of tiger existing today - Bengal, South China, Indochinese, Sumatran and Siberian
- ✓ The subspecies of Caspian, Bali and Javan are extinct in the last 100 years
- ✓ Tigers are the third-largest carnivore on land after polar bears and brown bears.
- ✓ They are the only cat species that are completely striped
- ✓ The average lifespan of a wild tiger is 10 - 15 years
- ✓ According to the World Wildlife Federation (WWF), there are only 3,900 wild tigers left in the world
- ✓ About 95% of the world's tiger population has disappeared since the beginning of the 20th century

