

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 8, 2019

TAMIL NADU

◆ **Government school students studying in Classes VI to XII - will get shoes instead of chappals this year, school education minister K A Sengottaiyan announced on July 7**

- ✓ Currently, the state government provides free footwear to 58 lakh students studying in Classes I to X.
- ✓ For the academic year 2019-2020, ₹81.5 crore has been allocated for the scheme.
- ✓ The department has introduced new uniforms for students studying from Classes I to VIII.



- ✓ As per the change, up till Class V, boys will be given dark green trousers with light green, checked shirts and girls will get dark green skirts and light green shirts.
 - ✓ Boys from Classes VI to VIII have sandal coloured pants and checked shirts, while girls in the class group will get checked sandal kameez with overcoats and sandal coloured pants.
 - ✓ The state government is distributing 14 free items, including free laptops which was launched in 2011-12, for students studying in government and government-aided schools
- ◆ **35 lakh farmers from Tamil Nadu – are enrolled in the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme**
- ✓ It constitutes around 45% of agriculturists in the State
 - ✓ The scheme envisages an annual payment of ₹6,000 to beneficiaries in three instalments.

- ✓ When the scheme was announced in February, it was meant for small and marginal farmers
- ✓ Recently, the Union government issued a revised set of guidelines to include all types of farmers, regardless of the size of the land they hold.
- ✓ Further, about 1.15 lakh applications from those who have inherited cultivable land from their ancestors have been accepted by the State government.
- ✓ So far, the Centre has allowed the enrolment of around 24.5 lakh farmers in the State, against the 28 lakh applications submitted by the State government.
- ✓ Employees and pensioners of the Central and State governments, Income Tax assesseees and professionals are excluded.
- ✓ Besides, only one member of a family gets covered under the scheme, even if more than one member of the family has 'patta' (land document).
- ✓ The amendment permitted those who became landowners due to succession after the cut-off date of February 1, 2019, to get covered under the scheme, even in the absence of 'pattas'.
- ✓ However, Tamil Nadu trails behind five States when it comes to enrolment of beneficiaries
- ✓ As far as the State is concerned, the PM-KISAN website puts the number of beneficiaries at 22,98,425 (around 29%) though a document of the State Agriculture Department puts the figure at 24.53 lakh.

STATES

◆ **Telangana government - has introduced the Japanese "Miyawaki" method of forestation**

ALL ABOUT MIYAWAKI METHOD



- Urban forests grown in 2 to 5 cents of land
- Native species to be surveyed to identify the best species suitable for the area
- Assessment of soil nutrition and fertility will be done
- Nutrient-rich soil to be prepared for fuelling growth of sapling

- For two years, weeds will be regularly removed and saplings will be allowed to grow swiftly
- Saplings are planted so close to each other that they compete for sunlight by growing taller
- In 10 years, the area will be transformed into a dense forest



- ✓ It aims to grow urban forests and expand the green cover as well as to meet the stipulated plantation target under the Telanganaku Haritha Haaram (TKHH)
- ✓ It is a technique pioneered by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, that helps build dense, native forests in a short time.
- ✓ This method helps to grow a forest in about 20 to 30 years, whereas, conventional methods takes generally 200 to 300 years to grow a forest.

NATIONAL

◆ **India - to train a batch of Bangladesh civil servants at the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), Mussoorie in Uttarakhand for a period between 2019-2025**



- ✓ This training is based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in February 2019 between National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) and Ministry of Public Administration, Government of Bangladesh, in this regard during 5th meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission
- ✓ This is the second instance of such a training being provided, with the first batch of 1500 civil servants trained as per the first MoU signed in 2015
- ✓ The training batch will consist of a total of 1800 Bangladeshi mid-career civil servants
- ✓ The main objective of such trainings is to create an opportunity to share experiences of administration between civil servants of two countries and help in establishing strong bilateral relations

◆ **The new commercial arm of Department of Space, New Space India Limited (NSIL) - was inaugurated**



- ✓ The newly incorporated public sector enterprise will strive to tap the benefits of the Research & Development carried out by ISRO.
- ✓ It will spearhead commercialization of various space products including production of launch vehicles, transfer to technologies and marketing of space products

◆ **The Centre - passes the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill in the Parliament**

- ✓ The Bill seeks to reduce the time period for supersession of the Medical Council of India (MCI) from three years to two years during which the government-constituted Board of Governors will exercise the powers and functions of MCI

- ✓ The Bill also increases the strength of the Board appointed by the central government, from seven members to 12 members
- ✓ The Medical Council of India (MCI) was set up under the Medical Council Act 1956, for setting standards for medical professionals, new medical colleges and revision of curriculum, among others.

◆ **Parliament - has passed Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2019 recently to allow trusts to establish units in Special Economic Zone (SEZs)**

- ✓ It was first legislation to be passed by newly-constituted 17th Lok Sabha
- ✓ It replaces Special Economic Zone (Amendment) Ordinance 2019 promulgated March 2019 and amends SEZ Act 2005.
- ✓ The new bill amends definition of “person” under Section 2(v) of the SEZ Act 2005 to include ‘trusts’ or any other entity notified by the centre

◆ **Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) - launched India’s first Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) dashboard to track the country’s progress on UN’s ‘Agenda 2030’**

- ✓ It was launched on occasion of National Statistics Day (on June 29) which marks birth anniversary of Prof. P C Mahalanobis
- ✓ It will be India’s official data repository of National Indicator Framework (NIF) on SDGs, which is India’s largest monitoring framework with 306 statistical indicators
- ✓ is developed in partnership with United Nation in India, Department for International Development (DFID) India and data intelligence firm Social Cops.
- ✓ SDGs are developed by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for action towards ending poverty, improving health and education, protecting planet, and ensuring that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030

◆ **The 2nd anniversary of implementation of tax reform of Goods & Services Tax - was observed on July 1, 2019**

- ✓ On the occasion, a book on ‘GST for MSME’ was released.
- ✓ ‘GST Commendation Certificates’ were awarded to Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) officers who worked hard in GST implementation
- ✓ Finance Ministry will be introducing new return system on a trial basis from 1 July 2019 and will make it mandatory basis from 1 October 2019
- ✓ It has also launched Sahaj and Sugam for small taxpayers
- ✓ GST was rolled out in intervening night of 30 June and July 1 2017 in a ceremony held in the Central Hall of Parliament.
- ✓ Goods & Services is an Indirect Tax levied on the supply of goods and services, replacing several such taxes
- ✓ On 29th March 2017, Goods and Service Tax Act was passed in Parliament and Act came into effect on 1st July 2017

✓ Under GST regime, tax is levied at every point of sale (PoS). In case of Intra-state sales, Central GST (CGST) and State GST (SGST) are charged and the Inter-state sales are chargeable to Integrated GST (IGST)

◆ **Indian Railways - is conducting the trials of TRI-NETRA (Terrain Imaging for Drivers Infrared, Enhanced, Optical & Radar Assisted) technology for detecting obstructions on tracks during fog conditions**

- ✓ It comprises of infrared camera, optical camera and radar assisted imaging system for assisting loco pilots in identifying obstructions on tracks in foggy conditions
- ✓ This device will be able to detect any obstruction on tracks by means of ultrasonic waves

◆ **Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India) in association with Amazon Global - has launched 'Go Tribal' campaign**



- ✓ The campaign intends to create awareness and promote tribal arts and crafts as well as help in socio-economic welfare of more than 700 Indian tribes
- ✓ Amazon, an e-commerce giant company will market 'Tribes India' collections under sections of 'Tribes of India Heritage Collection' comprising of handcrafted textiles, tribal jewellery, gifts and potteries etc.,
- ✓ TRIFED is an organization that functions under the aegis of Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- ✓ It is engaged in marketing development of tribal products including tribal art and craft under the brand name of TRIBES INDIA.

◆ **Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister Electronics and Information Technology - informs Lok Sabha that all gram panchayats will be provided high speed broadband connections under BharatNet project by March 2020**

- ✓ As per the government, as of today 128870 gram panchayats have been connected with optical fibre under BharatNet Project

- ✓ Under phase I of the project, around 1,00,000 gram panchayats were covered till December 2017 and currently the phase II is being implemented for the remaining 1,50,000 gram panchayats
- ✓ The initial deadline of March 2019 was extended to 2020 following th delays
- ✓ The project, which began in 2014, is implemented by Ministry of Communication
- ✓ It is being funded by Universal service Obligation Fund (USOF).
- ✓ It was set up to improve telecom services in rural and remote areas of country by providing high speed broadband connectivity to boost e-governance services

INTERNATIONAL

- ◆ **UNESCO World Heritage Committee - has voted to list the historic Mesopotamian metropolis of Babylon as a World Heritage Site (WHS) after 30 years of lobbying efforts by Iraq**



- ✓ Since 1983 Iraq had been trying to have Babylon site recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- ✓ Babylon, the cradle of civilisation, was the centre of ancient Babylonian empire more than 4,000 years ago
- ✓ The city straddles Iraq's Euphrates River and is about 100 kilometres south of Baghdad.
- ✓ It is internationally known for its Hanging gardens, the Ishtar Gate and Tower of Babel.
- ✓ Babylon, the largest populated city in ancient history, is a walled city of mudbrick temples and towers.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- ◆ **The first model village built with Indian assistance under the Model Villages Program - was inaugurated at Ranidugama in Gampaha in Sri Lanka**

- ✓ It is a part of housing project meant for war affected people and estate workers
- ✓ India has partnered with Sri Lankan Ministry of Housing and Construction and Cultural Affairs to build 100 model villages which will consist of a total of 2400 houses all across Sri Lanka



- ✓ This is apart from the 60000 accommodations built under Indian Housing Project meant for war affected people in north and east Sri Lanka and estate workers in plantation areas of the country
- ✓ The Indian grant for the project would be Rs.1,200 million (\$17.5 million)
- ✓ India is also constructing the largest University Auditorium in Ruhuna University in Matara in Sri Lanka.

◆ **India - has pledged to contribute \$5 Million in 2019 to United Nation Palestine refugee agency**

- ✓ Earlier in June 2019, India had increased its annual financial contribution fourfold to 'United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East' core budget from \$1.25 Million in 2016 to \$5 million in 2018 in solidarity with Palestinian refugees
- ✓ This is apart from the assistance provided to 150 Palestinian professionals under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme every year
- ✓ Also in past 5 years under India-Palestine Development Partnership, several agreements have been signed in various fields
- ✓ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is a relief and human development agency established on December 8, 1949 to support registered palestinian refugees

◆ **The United States Senate (Upper Chamber of US Congress) - has passed a legislative provision that brings India at par with America's NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) allies such as Japan, South Korea, Australia, Israel and others**

- ✓ The legislative provision called National Defense Authorisation Act (or NDAA) for fiscal year 2020 was passed by Senate in late June
- ✓ It provides for increased US-India Defence cooperation in Indian Ocean in areas of counter-piracy, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and maritime security
- ✓ In 2016 United States recognised India as a Major Defence Partner, allowing India to buy more advanced and sensitive technologies from US
- ✓ In July 2018, US President Donald Trump-led administration granted India status of Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1) country

◆ **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - increased India's Haj quota by 30,000 thus lifting the figure to 200,000 per year (from 170,000).**

- ✓ This enhanced quota means that India will send 2nd-highest number of pilgrims for Hajj after Indonesia
- ✓ In 2018, Saudi Arabia increased India's Haj quota by 5,000, while in 2017 it was increased by about 35,000
- ✓ Last year the government removed the Haj subsidy provided to pilgrims undertaking Haj following a Supreme Court order of 2012.

- ✓ In 2018, the centre had allowed Muslim women to go on Haj without Mehram (means male companion)
- ✓ Hajj pilgrimage to the Holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia is a mandatory religious duty for all Muslims to be undertaken atleast once in their lifetime

◆ **Ahmedabad and Japanese city of Kobe - have signed a Letter of intent (LoI) for a sister city partnership.**



- ✓ The LoI was exchanged in presence of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who visited Kobe to address a large Indian diaspora event
- ✓ The LoI promotes enhanced economic relationship as well as a cultural exchange between both the cities
- ✓ In November 2016, PM Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe signed a sister-state relationship Memorandum of Understanding for Gujarat and Hyogo district in Kansai region of Japan's main island, Honshu
- ✓ Kobe is capital city of Hyogo.
- ✓ India is also planning to run its 1st bullet train between Mumbai and Ahmedabad with the help of Japan by 2022
- ✓ India has signed sister city agreements with: China, Australia, United States, South Korea (RoK), Russia, Canada, Germany, Belarus, Mauritius, Hungary, Jordan, Bangladesh, Lithuania and Portugal.

COMMITTEES

◆ **The Government - has constituted Working Group for the revision of the current series of Wholesale Price Index (Base 2011-12)**

- ✓ It will be chaired by Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog.



- ✓ Office of Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade will be nodal office for Working Group
- ✓ The committee will select most appropriate Base Year for preparation of new official series Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and Producer Price Index (PPI) in India
- ✓ It will also review existing price collection system for manufacturing sector and recommend roadmap for switch over from WPI to PPI.
- ✓ The current series of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with 2011-12 as base year was introduced by Government in May 2017.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ NASA - to Launch Deep Space Atomic Clock

- ✓ The Deep Space Atomic Clock is an ultra-precise device that is about 50 times more stable than your average GPS satellite clock.
- ✓ It was created in NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory
- ✓ The device, which uses mercury ions, will help spacecrafts navigate more autonomously by allowing the spacecraft to receive signals from Earth.
- ✓ Space X Falcon Heavy Rocket will take off with this deep space atomic clock.

DEFENCE

◆ Operation Sudarshan - has been launched by Border Security Force (BSF) to fortify Anti-Infiltration Grid along Pakistan border in Punjab and Jammu

- ✓ The operation was launched on 1 July and is expected to be finished within a fortnight.
- ✓ It has been named Sudarshan drawing from Sudarshan Chakra (or mythological cutting wheel) of Lord Krishna.
- ✓ It will cover entire over 1,000-km length of India-Pakistan International Border out of which Jammu shares about 485-km of border with Pakistan and about 553-km of border front is in Punjab.
- ✓ BSF was formed on 1 December 1965 in the wake of India-Pakistan 1965 War
- ✓ It is the country's primary border defence organisation and one of the 7 Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) of India.

◆ Indian Air Force - is now finalizing two long-pending mega 'Make in India' projects worth about ₹ 1.5 lakh crore

JET, SET... AND AWAITING FINAL GO-AHEAD



FIGHTER JETS IAF sought **126** medium multi-role combat aircraft (MMRCA) in Sept 2000

MMRCA tender floated in Aug 2007. But scrapped in June 2015

₹59,000 crore deal for 36 French Rafale jets inked in Sept 2016. No Make in India component

Preliminary tender for **114** jets under Make in India floated in April 2018 (₹1.25 lakh crore)

RFP to be issued by late-2019 or early-2020

TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT IAF sought **56** medium transport aircraft in June 2011

Global tender to 8 aviation majors (Embraer, Lockheed Martin, Airbus, Ilyushin, Casa, Saab & Alenia Aeronautica) in May 2013

The **₹11,929 crore** project put on hold after strong protest by PSU lobby

Only Tata-Airbus joint venture left in fray by 2014-15

MoD clears Tata-Airbus project for C-295 aircraft despite 'single vendor situation' in May 2015

Case will go to Cabinet committee on security for final clearance this year

- ✓ IAF is pushing for the RFP (request for proposal) in the 114-fighter project to be issued by late 2019 or early 2020
- ✓ It will receive the first four Rafale fighters in France in September under the ₹59,000 crore deal inked for 36 such jets in 2016
- ✓ The 36 Rafale jets, armed with deadly Meteor and Scalp missiles, are to be delivered in the September 2019-April 2022 timeframe to constitute two squadrons
- ✓ The first four Rafales will touch down at the Ambala airbase only in May next year after training of the IAF induction team of 10 pilots, 10 flight engineers and 40 technicians in France
- ✓ The Rafale is among the seven contenders for the 114-fighter project worth over ₹1.25L crore under the MoD's 'strategic partnership' model.

◆ **India - has signed Rs.200 crore deal with Russia for acquiring Strum Ataka anti-tank missile for its fleet of Mi-35 attack choppers of Indian Air Force**



- ✓ Mi-35s are set to be replaced with Apache gunships being acquired from United States (US) and slated to be delivered from August onwards.
- ✓ Under emergency provisions, IAF has also acquired Spice-2000 stand-off weapon system along with a number of spare and air to air missile deals.
- ✓ Under, emergency powers given to three services, they can procure equipment of their choice within 3 months at a cost of about Rs.300 crore per case.

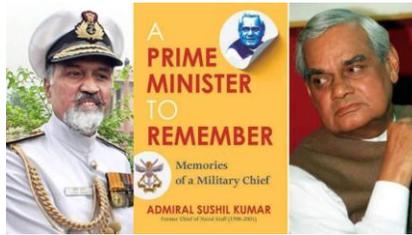
BOOKS & AUTHORS

◆ **Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu - releases a book titled 'Vivekadeepini'**



- ✓ It is a concise book of aphorisms (a memorable expression of a general truth or principle) initially written by Adi Shankaracharya, one of India's greatest spiritual scholar belonging to 8th century
- ✓ This short book is a compilation of select 36 verses drawn from 67 verses of summary of Prashnottara Ratnamalika written by Adi Shankaracharya in Question-Answer format
- ✓ The book has been translated into ten languages- English, Hindi, Bengali, Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Marathi Gujarati and Odia
- ✓ The verses in this book contain universal truths providing glimpses of wisdom

◆ **'A Prime Minister to Remember- Memories of a Military Chief'- authored by former Navy Chief Admiral Sushil Kumar**



- ✓ The book deals with the key defence related decisions taken by former Prime Minister of India Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- ✓ Admiral Kumar served as Navy Chief between 1998 and 2001 and also oversaw Kargil conflict in 1999
- ✓ During the conflict, Vajpayee instructed armed to not cross LoC (Line of Control), but drive them [Pakistan] away, telling this as his best master stroke in the book

SPORTS

◆ **Tamil Nadu's Mohammed Salahuddin won gold in the triple jump event — with a personal best of 16.64 m — at the Qosanov Memorial meet in Almaty, Kazakhstan on July 7**



- ✓ The 25-year-old, who is from Coimbatore, is targeting the World championships to be held in Doha from September 28 to October 6.
- ✓ The silver in the event was won by India's Mohammad Zuber (16.21 m).
- ✓ M. Sreeshankar won the long jump with a 7.78m effort.
- ✓ India had a one-two in men's javelin thanks to Sahil Silwal (77.40m) and Rohit Yadav (75.36).
- ✓ The two day event saw India clinch 10 medals — 5 gold, 4 silver and 1 bronze

◆ **India's top wrestler Vinesh Phogat - won her first gold medal after shifting to 53kg category while Divya Kakran claimed the Gold in the 68kg category in Madrid at the Grand Prix of Spain**



- ✓ World Championship bronze medallist Pooja Dhanda (57kg) settled with silver after losing to Russia's Veronika Chumikova

◆ **United States of America (USA) - won FIFA Women's World Cup 2019 title after beating Netherlands in final at Lyon, France.**



- ✓ USA, the current holders of the title, claimed World Cup title for 4th time (earlier 1991, 1999 and 2015) in 8 editions.

WC CHAMPIONS

1991 – United States; 1995 – Norway; 1999 – United States; 2003 – Germany; 2007 – Germany; 2011 – Japan; 2015 – United States; 2019 – United States

- ✓ US were already the 1st team to appear in 3 consecutive finals
- ✓ They were the only non-European team to make it to quarter-finals
- ✓ US team coach Jill Ellis becomes the first coach to win back-to-back World Cups in the men's or women's game since Italy's Vittorio Pozzo in the 1930s
- ✓ 34 year old, Megan Rapinoe of US, the oldest player to score in a final, won the Golden Boot after finishing with 6 goals and 3 assists, and she also took Golden Ball award for best player of tournament

◆ **Star Indian sprinter Hima Das - won her second international 200m, clocking 23.97s, at the Kutno Athletics Meet in Poland on July 7, ahead of V.K. Vismaya**

- ✓ There were gold medals for Muhammed Anas (men's 200m, 21.18s) and M.P. Jabir (men's 400m hurdles, 50.21s) also.
- ✓ Saritaben Gayakwad won the women's 400m gold in the Kutno international meet in Poland clocking a season-best 52.77s.
- ✓ Soniya Baishya (53.73) and R. Vithya (53.73) took silver and bronze

◆ **Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan - has become the third cricketer in the world after Sachin Tendulkar and Mathew Hayden to score more than 600 runs in a World Cup series**



- ✓ The record is further broken by India's Rohit Sharma and Australia's David Warner, who have followed Shakib in scoring more than 600 runs in a single world cup.
- ✓ Sachin Tendulkar had scored 673 runs during the 2003 World Cup, while Mathew Hayden had scored 659 runs during the 2007 Cricket World Cup

- ✓ Shakib ended his World Cup campaign with 606 runs in world cup group stage, which is more than Sachin's 586 runs in the group stage of 2003 World Cup, creating a record by itself
- ✓ Shakib Al Hasan with his 66 runs against Pakistan on July 5, 2019 also became the first-ever batsman to make 8 consecutive 40+ scores in World Cup history
- ✓ Shakib crossed half century in all of his 7 innings in ICC World Cup 2019
- ✓ He has also become the first-ever player to have scored more than 500 runs and taken more than 10 wickets in a single World Cup
- ✓ He also became the second player to score fifty and take a five wicket-haul in a world cup match after India's Yuvraj Singh.
- ✓ Shakib Al Hasan also created another record by taking 11 wickets in the world cup tournament, which is most by a spinner.
- ✓ He also became the second player after Sri Lanka's Sanath Jayasuriya to score 1,000-plus runs and take 25-plus wickets in World Cups

