

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 18, 2019

NATIONAL

- ◆ **The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi - approved the extension of President's rule under article 356(4) of Indian Constitution, in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) for a period of 6 more months, beginning from 3 July 2019**
 - ✓ The decision was based on the recommendation of the state Governor, Satya Pal Malik
 - ✓ A resolution seeking approval of parliament for extending President's Rule in J&K will be moved in both houses of parliament during the upcoming session
 - ✓ The state has been placed under the Governor's rule since June 2018, following the pulling out of BJP from the coalition government with J&K's Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)
 - ✓ President's Rule in a state can continue for a period of 6 months at a time and for a maximum period of 3 years, after extension with approval of both houses of Parliament
- ◆ **The home ministry - has started an exercise to rank the country's best police stations based on various parameters**
 - ✓ A similar exercise had been undertaken in 2017, but the current exercise is expected to be more comprehensive
 - ✓ The home ministry has suggested at least seven dimensions for assessment
 - ✓ Each police station will be assessed on crime prevention, including economic offences, and the proactive measures adopted by it.
 - ✓ Disposal of cases and community policing apart from police station infrastructure along with its maintenance and office administration are other parameters.
 - ✓ The evaluation will also look at the Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and Systems and other technology, including forensic systems.
 - ✓ But one of the most important parameters will be citizen perception and feedback

- ✓ The evaluation itself will be a two-stage process with the first one focused on objective short-listing of police stations using the crime data available with the National Crime Record Bureau
- ✓ In the second stage, a detailed evaluation will be done based on valuation across seven parameters.

◆ **The government think tank NITI Aayog - has proposed that only electric vehicles should be sold after 2030**

- ✓ Earlier, a panel headed by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant had suggested that only electric-powered three-wheelers and two-wheelers with engine capacity of up to 150 cc should be sold from 2025.
- ✓ It has also suggested that the ministry pilots an e-highways programme — with an overhead electricity network — to enable plying of trucks and buses on select National Highways.
- ✓ The proposals are part of the Government's plan to manufacture 50 Gigawatt hour (GWh) batteries by 2030
- ✓ As per NITI Aayog, the sale of EVs will help save about ₹3 lakh crore on account of the import of crude oil to meet the growing demand.

◆ **Air India's Delhi- flight, AI 865 – undertakes its final trip after 25 years of service**



- ✓ AI 865 was the last flight by Airbus 320 Classic aircraft, which will be replaced by advanced and fuel-efficient Airbus 320 Neo.
- ✓ Unlike modern aircraft, this had a set of bogey wheels.
- ✓ Bogey wheels are a set of four tyres making up one wheel, thereby distributing the load over a large area
- ✓ The first A320 Classic was rolled out of the final assembly line on February 14, 1987 and made its maiden flight on February 22
- ✓ In order to facilitate replacement of its old fleet, the national carrier commenced induction of A320 Neo planes

COMMITTEES

◆ **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) committee led by Bimal Jalan (former RBI governor) - delayed submitting its report after lack of consensus among its members on the transfer of RBI surplus funds to the Government**



- ✓ The RBI committee was appointed in December 2018 to review Economic Capital Framework (ECF) for central bank, as the Finance ministry was of the view that the 28% gross asset buffer held by RBI was above the global norm of about 14%
- ✓ It was supposed to have submitted its report in April 2019
- ✓ It has to be recalled that the former governor of RBI, Urjit Patel had differences with the government over Rs.9.6 lakh crore surplus capital that central bank keeps with itself

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

◆ For the first time, India - will be hosting the 14th session of Conference of Parties (COP-14) of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September 2019

- ✓ The session intends to address the issue of land degradation and desertification
- ✓ India will be taking over the COP presidency from China for the next two years until the next COP is hosted in 2021
- ✓ At least 5,000 delegates from nearly 197 countries will be participating in the event
- ✓ It will be held from 29th August to 14th September 2019 at India Expo Mart Limited, Greater Noida.
- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in its 2016 report found that over 29% of India's land (in 2011-2013) was degraded which was 0.57% increase from year 2003-2005
- ✓ Ahead of COP-14, Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has launched a flagship project which is a part of a larger international initiative called 'Bonn Challenge'.
- ✓ It is aimed at enhancing India's capacity for Forest Landscape Restoration
- ✓ During the pilot phase of project (initial 3.5 years), it will be implemented in Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Karnataka.
- ✓ The project will be implemented by MoEFCC in partnership with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- ✓ The challenge aims to bring 150 million hectares of world's degraded and deforested land under restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030
- ✓ The United Nations has three major Conventions - the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- ✓ Established in 1994, the UNCCD is the only legally binding international agreement linking environment and development issues to the land agenda.

DEFENCE

- ◆ **The armies of India and Myanmar - to carry out a 3-week-long coordinated operation named as 'Operation Sunrise 2' in their respective border areas to remove terror camps, starting from May 16, 2019**



- ✓ The operation was targeted at militant groups operating in Manipur, Nagaland and Assam, including NSCN-K (National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang), Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO), United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) (I) and Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB)
- ✓ From Indian side besides Indian Army, troops from Assam Rifles were also part of operation.
- ✓ The 'Operation Sunrise 1' was conducted 3 months ago (February 2019) along the Indo-Myanmar border to bust north-east base military groups
- ✓ During the first phase, Indian Army targeted members of Arakan Army (Myanmar's insurgent group) who were opposed to Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, which is viewed as India's gateway to Southeast Asia.

ECONOMY

- ◆ **The Digital Communications Commission (DCC) - has approved levying of penalty on Bharti Airtel Ltd. and Vodafone Idea Ltd. for denial of interconnection to Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. in 2016 during its arrival to the market**

- ✓ Despite the approval, it had asked Telecom Regulatory authority of India (TRAI) to review penalty amount worth Rs 3,050 crore considering the financial stress in telecom sector.
- ✓ But, TRAI recommended penalty, instead of revoking operator's license so as to avoid consumer inconvenience.
- ✓ In October 2016, Airtel and Vodafone were imposed a penalty of Rs 1,050 crore each apart from Idea, which was imposed a fine of Rs 950 crore
- ✓ Post merger of Vodafone-Idea, the new entity will have to bear the combined burden.

APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **Om Birla - has been named as the new Speaker of the 17th Lok Sabha**



- ✓ He is elected Member of Parliament from Kota, Rajasthan.

- ✓ As soon as the new Speaker is appointed, the Protem speaker Virendra Kumar's role will cease to exist
- ✓ Om Birla will be replacing the erstwhile Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, who did not contest the recent elections
- ✓ Om Birla was a three time Member of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly from Kota South
- ✓ Apart from this, he was a member of the Standing Committee on Energy in Parliament, member of Committee on Petitions and Consultative Committee for Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

AWARDS

◆ **Chinese President Xi Jinping - was conferred with highest national award of Kyrgyzstan titled 'Manas Order of the First Degree' in Bishkek (capital of Kyrgyzstan)**



- ✓ Kyrgyzstan has hosted the two-day, 19th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit that started on 14 June 2019
- ✓ Sooronbay Jeenbekov, President of Kyrgyzstan appreciated Xi's special contributions to development of Kyrgyzstan-China comprehensive strategic partnership
- ✓ The founding member of SCO includes China, Russia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan
- ✓ India and Pakistan were admitted to Beijing-based regional security grouping in 2017

◆ **Actor Priyanka Chopra - will be awarded Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award by United Nations International Children's Fund's (UNICEF) American chapter at their Snowflake Ball in December 2019**



- ✓ She is a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and most recently she visited Ethiopia as part of it.
- ✓ She also has been a part of United Nation's global "Girl Up" Campaign.
- ✓ She is also associated with several NGOs in India to raise awareness about ways to improve the education, health and safety of girl child in the country
- ✓ Danny Kaye was UNICEF's first Goodwill Ambassador appointed in 1954
- ✓ He was an American actor, singer, dancer, comedian, musician, and philanthropist.

