


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 19, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Avadi in Tiruvallur district - has become the 15th municipal corporation in Tamil Nadu with the government promulgating an ordinance on June 17**

GAINS AND LOSSES	
HERE IS HOW THE CORPORATION STATUS WILL AFFECT AVADI	
<p>PROS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Better technical know-how for planning, designing and execution of basic amenities, such as water supply, underground sewerage system, liquid and solid waste management > More manpower to address civic amenities > Planned development of constructing buildings > Real estate prices will increase > Improved transportation > Municipal schools become corporation schools 	<p>CONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Water tax is applicable > Rise in professional tax 

- ✓ The 4.8 lakh population in the existing 48 wards of the Avadi municipality has become part of corporation
- ✓ Till now, it was a special grade municipality
- ✓ Avadi, Poonamallee and Tiruverkadu municipalities, besides many town and village panchayats, will comprise the Avadi Municipal Corporation.
- ✓ In effect, Avadi will have a Mayor, a Council, a Standing Committee, a Wards Committee and a Commissioner.
- ✓ Members of Parliament and Legislative Assembly representing areas within Avadi will become members of the Council.
- ✓ Governor Banwarilal Purohit had signed the order on March 9, on the eve of the election commission notifying the general elections
- ✓ The provisions of the Avadi Corporation will be in line with the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation Act, 1981

- ✓ The provisions of the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920, will not be applicable to Avadi anymore.
- ✓ Existing municipal corporations in the state are - Chennai, Coimbatore, Dindigul, Erode, Madurai, Salem, Thanjavur, Tiruchi, Tirunelveli, Tiruppur, Thoothukudi and Vellore
- ✓ The State government had announced earlier this year that Hosur and Nagercoil would also be converted into corporations.
- ✓ The state government is planning a third TIDEL park at Pattabiram in Avadi, which is to come up in 18 months at a cost of Rs 300 crore
- ✓ Chief minister E K Palaniswami will also inaugurate an eco-park at Paruthipattu lake in Avadi on the lines of the eco-park at Chetpet

◆ **The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board - has conferred Green Awards 2018 on Ramco Cements Limited and Ramco Vidyalaya**

- ✓ The award is given to recognise contributions from industries towards protection of environment.
- ✓ Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami presented the award recently to Ramco for their Ramasamy Raja Nagar unit which has more than three lakh trees and to the school located in the same premises.

◆ **Tamil Nadu chief secretary's office - has issued a circular dated June 17, asking all secretaries as well as department heads to be in their office at 10am sharp**

- ✓ The directive comes a few days after the Narendra Modi led government told all ministers to be in office by 9.30am and introduced a biometric attendance system for government employees.

STATES

◆ **Himachal Pradesh (HP) government - has made it compulsory for trekkers to carry a GPS (Global Positioning System) device to tackle any emergency**

- ✓ Being a disaster-prone state, it is important to restrict trekking and other yatras during adverse weather in the state
- ✓ Early Warning Systems will soon be installed in Kullu district and Dalhousie town of state.
- ✓ Towns of Rampur and Mandi have been zeroed in for setting up of relief and rescue base of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)

◆ **Uttar Pradesh government - will now issue press releases in Sanskrit along with Hindi, English and Urdu**

- ✓ The move seeks to promote the usage of Sanskrit in the state
- ✓ The first press note in Sanskrit was issued by the UP government's information department on June 17.

- ✓ The important speeches of chief minister Yogi Adityanath and government information will be released also in Sanskrit, along with Hindi, English and Urdu.
- ✓ The state's information department has decided to take help of Lucknow-based Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan for translating the chief minister's speeches for public release
- ✓ At present, there are 25 periodicals that are printed in the ancient language in the state, however, none of them is printed daily
- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government in February gave a major boost to the language by allocating Rs. 242 crores for grants to Sanskrit Pathshalas in the state

◆ **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath - has banned the use of mobile phones during all government meetings, including the state cabinet meetings**

- ✓ Now, UP government ministers and senior officials will have to deposit their phones at a designated counter and a token would be issued which could later be exchanged for their mobile phones.
- ✓ Even the office assistants, who come to collect the laptops of their seniors, were also instructed not to enter the conference rooms with their mobile phones.

◆ **The Rajasthan Government - is set to form a Vedic Sanskar and Shikshan Board (VSSB) to revive ancient practices related to education, philosophy and healthcare in the state**

- ✓ On June 17, the government has formed a committee to define the Board's aims, objectives and functioning.
- ✓ Once the committee submitted its report, the department would constitute the Board and appoint its members.
- ✓ The most concrete task of the Board would be to revive schools based on Vedic period.
- ✓ Earlier, Rajasthan Institute of Mantra Science (RIMS) was set up in the state by the previous Government to revive Sanskrit

NATIONAL

◆ **The Railways - is considering to allow private operators to run passenger trains on low congestion and tourist routes, to be identified by Railways**

- ✓ It will start inviting the bids within the next 100 days for the process
- ✓ To begin with, the railways will experiment by offering two trains to its tourism and ticketing arm, IRCTC
- ✓ The ticketing and on board services will be provided by IRCTC and the railways will receive a lumpsum amount in return

IRCTC WILL OPERATE TWO TRAINS

➤ Rlys will experiment by offering two trains to its tourism and ticketing arm, IRCTC to operate

➤ Ticketing and on-board services on these trains will be provided by IRCTC

➤ The trains will be run on routes which have "low congestion and connect important tourist spots"

➤ Custody of rakes will be transferred to IRCTC, which



will pay annual lease charges to railways financing arm

➤ Rlys will then float expression of interests to identify operators willing to participate in bidding for rights to run day/overnight trains connecting key cities

- ✓ These will run on routes like the Golden Quadrilateral and those connecting major cities.
- ✓ The railways will also launch a massive campaign urging people to give up the subsidy while booking or purchasing a rail ticket.
- ✓ The passengers will have the option to purchase ticket with or without subsidy.
- ✓ This will be on the lines of the Ujjwala campaign where people were urged to forgo the subsidy for LPG cylinders.
- ✓ According to the railways, it recovers only 53% of the cost incurred from passenger transport business.
- ✓ In 2015, a panel headed by economist Bibek Debroy in its report on the Indian Railways had suggested several sweeping changes to revive the state-run behemoth.
- ✓ It had recommended encouraging private players to run trains and scrapping the railway budget among other ideas to revamp the transport network.
- ✓ More than a decade ago, a panel under Rakesh Mohan had also recommended several changes in the railway network, including private participation, but the progress on this report was limited
- ✓ Among other plans, the railways also propose to corporatize units manufacturing coaches and other rolling stock.
- ✓ There are seven production units across the country
- ✓ The proposal says that the production units, including associate workshops, will be hived off into a government-owned new entity "Indian Railways Rolling Stock Company"
- ✓ The railways will immediately start consultations with unions and come up with a Cabinet note for approval for at least one production unit to begin with and it might be the Modern Coach factory in Rae Bareli.
- ✓ Each production unit with a CEO will function as an individual profit centre, report to the board or CMD of the new entity.

◆ **The Centre - has taken out the National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD) from environment ministry and made it an integral part of the 'Jal Shakti' ministry**

- ✓ The directorate is currently implementing river conservation plan in 15 states, covering polluted stretches of 33 rivers in 76 towns/cities at a sanctioned cost of over ₹4,801 crore.
- ✓ Its responsibility is to implement centrally sponsored national river conservation plan (NRCP) for all rivers across the country except the national river Ganga and its tributaries
- ✓ The cabinet secretariat brought the change by notifying the 'Government of India (Allocation of Business) 350th Amendment Rules, 2019' on June 14
- ✓ Matters relating to the river Ganga and its tributaries were taken out from the environment ministry in 2014 and made part of the then ministry of water resources for giving focused attention on its rejuvenation
- ✓ The 'Jal Shakti' ministry will now be responsible for rejuvenation of all rivers across the country.

◆ **Cyclone Vayu - weakened and crossed Gujarat's Kutch district on June 18**

- ✓ It became a well-marked low pressure area after weakening into a 'depression' before recurving towards the northern coast of Gujarat
- ✓ The cyclone was earlier predicted to make landfall in Gujarat on June 13.
- ✓ However, it later began to move away from the state, sparing the coastline of any possible damage.
- ✓ The name 'Vayu' was suggested by India
- ✓ The practice of naming these tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea began in September 2004
- ✓ India has contributed to the list of cyclones with names such as Agni, Aakash, Bijli, Jal, Lehar and Vayu
- ✓ Besides, seven other south-east Asian countries, including Bangladesh, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand, are part of the group.
- ✓ Of the 64 names suggested, 58 have already been used
- ✓ As per the existing list, the next cyclone that forms over the Indian Ocean will be named Hikaa (Maldives), followed by Kyarr (Myanmar), Maha (Oman), Bulbul (Pakistan), Pawan (Sri Lanka), and Amphan (Thailand)
- ✓ Countries generally do not repeat the names of cyclones and retire the name once the cyclone dissipates.

◆ **Revolt Intellicorp - has unveiled India's first fully electric motorcycle, the RV 400.**

- ✓ It will be manufactured at Revolt's production facility in Manesar, Haryana.



- ✓ The company, founded by co-founder of Micromax Rahul Sharma, will roll out the bike in Delhi initially, followed by the national capital region, Chennai, Pune, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Nagpur and Ahmedabad in the next four months.
- ✓ The bike, which comes enabled with artificial intelligence features, promises to give a mileage of 156 km on a single charge.
- ✓ The pre-bookings for the bike start from June 25 in the company's website as well as Amazon's.
- ✓ To give customers options for charging, the Gurugram-based firm will also set up "swapping stations," initially across Delhi where riders can swap their batteries.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

◆ India - has extended \$15 million grant assistance to Niger in support of organizing of the African Union (AU) summit scheduled from 7-8 July, 2019 in Niamey, the capital of Niger

- ✓ The support of grant assistance was in response to a specific request made by Niger
- ✓ Niger is hosting the AU Summit for the first time.
- ✓ The AU Summit in Niamey is also expected to launch the historic African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
- ✓ India sees the grant assistance as a reiteration of India's firm commitment to its developmental partnership with Africa, the resource-rich continent where it is competing for influence with China.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ Facebook - launched its own digital currency 'Libra', powered by blockchain technology, for users around the world

- ✓ The main objective behind the creation of Libra cryptocurrency is to create a simple global currency that would move around the world as easy and cheap as sending a text message
- ✓ Facebook's 'Calibra' digital wallet will let users save, send and spend Libra with a smartphone.
- ✓ Calibra will be the new subsidiary company of Facebook that will be launched to handle its crypto dealings

- ✓ The digital wallet, expected to be launched in 2020, will be available in Facebook Messenger, WhatsApp and as a standalone app.
- ✓ The Libra cryptocurrency will be accessible to anyone with an entry-level smartphone and data connectivity
- ✓ The social media giant has created an independent organisation called the Libra Association, which will govern the services of the cryptocurrency
- ✓ Libra is designed to be a currency where any user will know that the value of a Libra today will be close to its value tomorrow and in the future
- ✓ Unlike Bitcoin, Libra will be backed by a reserve of real assets, which will include bank deposits and government bonds in several international currencies
- ✓ The reserve will be administered by a non-profit associated headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ✓ The various companies including Mastercard, Uber, PayU, PayPal, Spotify, ebay, Lyft, Visa, Vodafone etc are all part of the new association
- ✓ Every Libra payment is permanently inscribed into Libra Blockchain which is a cryptographically authenticated database that acts as public online ledger and designed to handle 1000 transactions per second
- ✓ A Libra is a unit of Libra cryptocurrency which is represented by \approx (a three wavy horizontal line)
- ✓ The name Libra is a Roman unit of weight measure
- ✓ The name also tries to invoke a sense of financial freedom by using French stem "Lib," which means free

OBITUARY

◆ **Lingappa N, India's oldest and most successful coach in athletics (95 years)**

- ✓ Lingappa studied at the United Mission High School and SLN High School before joining Central College as an employee in 1946.
- ✓ After winning medals in the state as a race walker, he completed the Rajkumari Amrit Kaur coaching scheme.
- ✓ Though he was selected to be part of the Indian contingent for the second Asian Games in Manila in 1954, Lingappa made his name as a coach as Karnataka produced a crop of top class athletes across disciplines.
- ✓ The nonagenarian was honoured with the prestigious Dronacharya award in 2014



- ✓ Among his famous wards were Arjuna award winners Ashwini Nachappa and Vandana Rao, Dhyanchand award winner Uday K Prabhu, internationals David Premnath, DY Biradhar, PC Ponnappa, KN Sundara Raja Shetty, AP Ramaswamy, KC Shankar, Robin Paul, Satish Pillai and Umadevi.
- ✓ While Biradhar excelled in marathon, Premnath, Ponnappa, Prabhu and Vandana emerged as top 400m runners.

SPORTS

- ◆ **Dhanush Srikanth, 16 year old hearing impaired shooter – has become the first shooter with the impairment to win a national level medal in regular category as he finished on top in the U-21 category of 10m air rifle**



- ✓ Dhanush won gold with a score that is better than the current senior and junior world records (finals) in the Kumar Surendra Singh memorial shooting tournament at the Dr Karni Singh shooting range in Pune on June 18
- ✓ He shot better than the senior world record of 251.2 by Alexander Dryagin of Russia and junior record of 252.2 by China's Yuefeng Wang
- ✓ Since the tournament is not a world event or a continental meet, the score will not be considered a record.
- ✓ Dhanush qualified for three finals— senior, junior and youth (U-18) — and after finishing 7th in the senior final, he went on to clinch the U-21 gold and silver in U-18 category
- ✓ Dhanush had earlier clinched gold in the 10m air rifle event of the U-21 category at the Khelo India Games

REPORT

- ◆ **United Nations - has released its World Population Prospects 2019 Report**

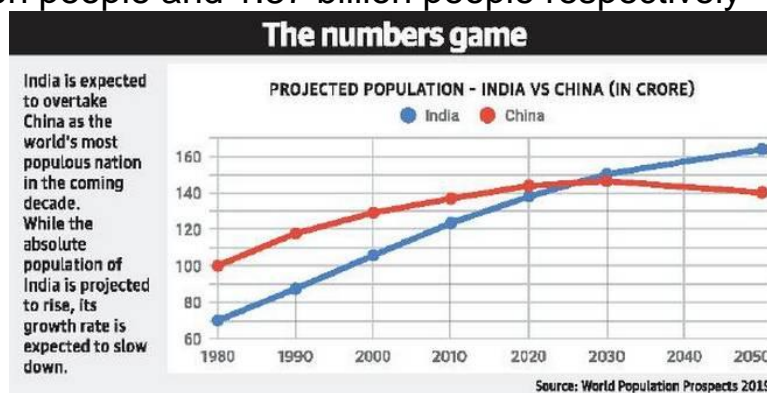


World Population Prospects 2019 describes trends in fertility, mortality and international migration that are integral to sustainable development

population.un.org/wpp · #UNPopulation



- ✓ As per the report, India will have the highest population increase between now and 2050, overtaking China as the world's most populous country, by around 2027
- ✓ India, along with eight other countries, will make up over half of the estimated population growth between now and 2050
- ✓ The nine countries expected to show the biggest increase are India, Nigeria and Pakistan, followed by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Indonesia, Egypt and the United States of America.
- ✓ The 2017 world population report, released by the UN two years ago, had estimated that the population of India will surpass that of China's by around 2024.
- ✓ China and India constitutes 19% and 18% of the global total population in 2019 with 1.43 billion people and 1.37 billion people respectively

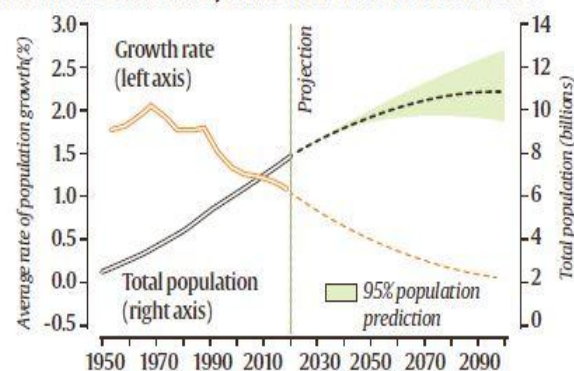


- ✓ India is expected to add 273 million people by 2050, while China is expected to become smaller, dropping from its current 1.43 billion people to approximately 1.4 billion by 2050
- ✓ The rate of population growth is the highest in sub-Saharan Africa, where the fertility rate stand at 4.6 births per woman over a lifetime.
- ✓ The region is expected to double its population by mid-century
- ✓ Nigeria is expected to add 200 million people over the next three decades and overtake the U.S. to become the third most populous nation.

THE CHANGING ORDER (POPULATIONS IN mn)

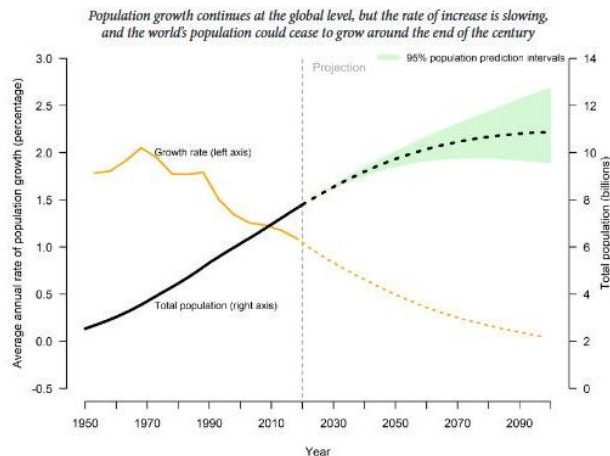
Rank	2019	2050	2100
1.	China (1,434)	India (1,639)	India (1,450)
2.	India (1,366)	China (1,402)	China (1,065)
3.	US (329)	Nigeria (401)	Nigeria (733)
4.	Indonesia (271)	US (379)	US (434)
5.	Pakistan (217)	Pakistan (338)	Pakistan (403)
6.	Brazil (211)	Indonesia (331)	Congo (362)
7.	Nigeria (201)	Brazil (229)	Indonesia (321)
8.	Bangladesh (163)	Ethiopia (205)	Ethiopia (294)
9.	Russia (146)	Congo (194)	Tanzania (286)
10.	Mexico (128)	Bangladesh (193)	Egypt (225)

RISING NUMBERS, FALLING GROWTH RATES



Source for all data: World Population Projections 2019: Highlights, released by United Nations Population Division

- ✓ Between 2019 and 2050, 55 countries or areas are expected to see their populations decrease by at least 1%



- ✓ As a proportion of the total population, the largest projected declines are for Lithuania and Bulgaria, where the projected population in 2050 will be 23% smaller than in 2019, followed by Latvia (22%), the Wallis and Futuna Islands (20%), and Ukraine (20%).
- ✓ Globally, world population is expected to increase by two billion people in the next 30 years, from 7.7 billion currently to 9.7 billion in 2050.
- ✓ By 2050, one in six people in the world will be over age 65 (16%), up from one in 11 in 2019 (9%).
- ✓ The number of people aged 80 years or over is projected to triple, from 143 million in 2019 to 426 million in 2050.
- ✓ Although overall life expectancy will increase (from 64.2 years in 1990 to 77.1 years in 2050), life expectancy in poorer countries will continue to lag behind.

