

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCT 2, 2019

### TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Edappadi K Palaniswami - inaugurated Metrowater's Grey water treatment plant at Kodungaiyur on October 1**



- ✓ The tertiary treatment reverse osmosis (TTRO) plant can treat 45 million litres of grey water a day
- ✓ The Rs 348 crore plant will sell the treated sewage water to industrial units in Ennore, Manali and Minjur belt
- ✓ These units were so far dependent on Chennai's drinking water sources - the Redhills reservoir and the Minjur desalination plant for their industrial needs
- ✓ At present, Chennai generates 550mld of sewage a day
- ✓ Of this, 45mld will be treated at the Kodungaiyur plant, and 45mld in the Koyambedu plant, which is expected to be inaugurated next month
- ✓ Two other plants, with a capacity of 10 mld each, were also being planned to come up in the city.
- ✓ Upon completion of all plants, a total of 110 mld of treated water will be achieved, which will be supplied to the industries
- ✓ The treated water will have a total dissolved solids (TDS) level of less than 70, while the TDS level in potable water ranges between 250 and 500
- ✓ With the commissioning of the plant, Chennai would become the first city in the country to recycle and reuse 20% of sewage it generates in a day

◆ **The Tamil Nadu government – partners with Facebook to create awareness and enable voluntary blood donations.**

- ✓ The Government has instructed all blood banks in the state to use the 'blood donation' feature on Facebook to reach out to the voluntary donors
- ✓ The directive aims to bridge the gap between blood donors and nearby blood banks.
- ✓ More than 22 million people in the country have registered as blood donors on Facebook.
- ✓ Launched in 2017, the blood donation feature on Facebook connects people willing to donate blood with the requirements nearby

## STATES

◆ **Uttar Pradesh (UP) government - has started a campaign to identify illegal Bangladeshi migrants**

- ✓ The police are advised to find out what fake records and facilities have been taken by foreign nationals to regulate their stay
- ✓ New settlements in and around the railway stations, bus stands, roadside settlements, and at the outskirts of all districts where Bangladeshi and other foreign nationals take shelter illegally were to be identified by the state police
- ✓ Assam is the first state in the country that has issued a final list under National Register of Citizen (NRC)

## NATIONAL

◆ **In a first-of-its-kind announcement, IRCTC – has decided to offer compensation to the passengers of its Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express in case of train delays**

- ✓ An amount of ₹100 will be paid in case the delay is for over an hour and ₹250 for delay of over two hours
- ✓ This offer is apart from the ₹25-lakh free insurance that will be given to passengers of the train
- ✓ It also includes a coverage of ₹1 lakh against household theft and robbery during travel period of the passengers, again a first for those travelling on-board trains
- ✓ The other offers provided by IRCTC include on-board infotainment services, doorstep baggage collection, local food and no tatkal quota



- ✓ The country's first private-operated train will be flagged off on October 4 and is scheduled to make its first commercial run on October 5
- ✓ It will run for six days a week

# SUPREME COURT VERDICT

## ◆ **The Supreme Court - recalled its earlier 2018 order that barred automatic arrest in cases registered under Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities Act), 1989.**

- ✓ A three-judge bench of Justices Arun Mishra, M R Shah and B R Gavai admitted that the court wrongly ventured into the domain of legislature by framing guidelines and recalled its verdict
- ✓ The court condemned its earlier judgment, saying it was against “basic human dignity” to treat all SC/ST community members as “a liar or crook”.
- ✓ Earlier, a two judge bench, comprising Justices A K Goyal (now retired) and U U Lalit, directed that police had to conduct a preliminary inquiry in seven days before taking any action on a complaint from dalits and tribals
- ✓ It also introduced provision of anticipatory bail for accused, overriding the section that says pre-arrest bail does not apply for offences under the anti-atrocities Act.
- ✓ The contentious verdict had held that a public servant can be arrested under the anti-atrocity law only after getting sanction from appointing authority and, in case of a non-public servant, after approval by the SSP.
- ✓ Justice Goel had reasoned that members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes use the SC/ST law to lodge false complaints, leading to the arrest of innocent persons.
- ✓ The court had also said such protective provision was required to safeguard the interests of the innocent and to prevent misuse of the Act
- ✓ The March 20, 2018 SC judgment triggered widespread protests and prompting the government to amend the Act to negate the effect of the ruling.

## DEFENCE

## ◆ **India - has kicked off a major combat exercise “Him Vijay” to test its new integrated battle groups (IBGs) for mountain warfare in Arunachal Pradesh**

- ✓ The month-long “Him Vijay” exercise is geared towards converting the new 17 “Brahmastra” Corps into 3 IBGs for “swift attacks” in a dynamic operational scenario
- ✓ The 3 IBG’s will have around 5000 soldiers each with a mix of tanks, light artillery, air defence units, signals and other elements
- ✓ They will be exercising along with IAF’s C-17 Globemaster-III, C-130 J Super Hercules and AN-32 aircraft as well as helicopters for airlift of soldiers and equipment as well as rapid inter-valley transfers
- ✓ The 17 Corps is headquartered at Panagarh under the Kolkata-based Eastern Command

- ✓ The IBGs meant for Pakistan were similarly “test-bedded” under the Chandimandir-based Western Command in April-May
- ✓ The IBGs for Pakistan will be concentrating more on tanks and heavy artillery, while the ones for China will focus more around infantry and light artillery due to the differing terrains

◆ **The Indian Coast Guard regional headquarters (East) - is conducting the first-ever training for personnel of the Maldives National Defence Force Coast Guard at Chennai till October 19**

- ✓ It will train eight personnel, two officers and six personnel below officer rank, as part of an international cooperation between the two countries.
- ✓ The training is being held on an indigenously built interceptor boat, to familiarize the personnel with state-of-the-art equipment and sensors
- ✓ India has earlier agreed to hand over one interceptor boat to the Maldives Coast Guard

## ECONOMY

◆ **Ford Motor – has decided to enter into a joint venture with Mahindra & Mahindra after 24 years of doing ‘independent’ business in India**

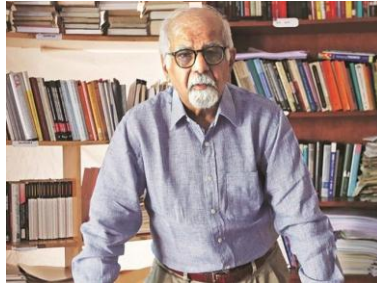
- ✓ The Michigan-based automaker, Ford was among the first global automakers to enter India in 1995, four years after the economic liberalization
- ✓ Ford will hold 49% in the new company valued at ₹1,925 crore, while Mahindra will own the remaining 51%, apart from operationally managing the JV
- ✓ The JV will house Ford’s two assembly plants in Chennai and Sanand along with employees
- ✓ However, the governance board of the JV will have equal representation by both the parties



- ✓ The JV will exclude Ford’s engine plant in Sanand, global business services unit, auto finance operations and mobility services investments.
- ✓ The joint venture is expected to be operational by mid-2020, subject to other regulatory approvals
- ✓ Of late, Ford has struggled to compete with cheap, fuel-efficient vehicles in the world’s fourth-largest automobiles market in India

## APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **Noted economist Surjit S Bhalla - was appointed as the executive director for India on the board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)**



- ✓ The 71-year old Bhalla will succeed former RBI deputy governor Subir Gokarn, who passed away recently in United States
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the appointment of Bhalla for a term of three years from the date of assumption of charge or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- ✓ Bhalla, an economist and columnist, resigned as part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) in December 2018
- ✓ He holds a doctorate in economics from Princeton University, a masters in public and international affairs from Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University, and a BSEE degree from Purdue University

## AWARDS

- ◆ **President Ram Nath Kovind - presented the GN Ramachandran Gold Medal to Prof. Amitabha Chattopadhyay of CSIR-CCMB.**



- ✓ The President gave away the Science and Technology awards on the foundation day of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) on September 26 at New Delhi
- ✓ The awards honour individuals for their outstanding contribution in the field of science and technology
- ✓ During the occasion, the winners of the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards 2019 were also announced in various science categories

## SPORTS

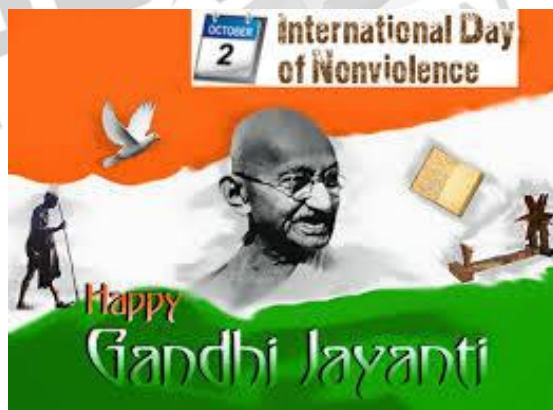
- ◆ **India's Avinash Sable - improved his national record in the 3000m steeplechase at the IAAF world athletics championship, Doha**



- ✓ The 24-year-old Army runner clocked an impressive 8:25.34 seconds, a substantial improvement on his national mark of 8:28.94.
- ✓ Sable was included in the list of finalists following an appeal by the Athletics Federation of India, even though he finished seventh in his heat due to disruptions in the race

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

- ◆ **International Day of Non-Violence – October 2**



- ✓ The day is observed on the occasion of birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi
- ✓ On 15 June 2007 the United Nations General Assembly voted to establish 2 October as the International Day of Non-Violence
- ✓ The celebration of the day honors how Gandhi's work and legacy has impacted global, non-violent protest.
- ✓ Gandhiji followed four principles - truth, non-violence, love and harmony in his life
- ✓ He started believing that truth is God after watching a play 'Satyavadi Raja Harishchandra'
- ✓ His biography is titled as 'The Story of My Experiments with Truth'
- ✓ Mahatma Gandhi fasted for 17 times during the struggle for independence and his longest fast was 21 days.

- ✓ Gandhi's commitment to India's independence and his methods have been the cornerstone of civil and human rights initiatives all over the world
- ✓ This year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi
- ✓ Rajghat is the resting place of the father of the nation
- ✓ The day also marks the birthday of former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, whose resting place is Vijayghat
- ✓ On this momentous day, Indian PM Narendra Modi will declare the country open defecation-free (ODF) in the presence of over 20,000 village heads at the Sabarmati riverfront
- ✓ The government is expected to announce a ban on single-use plastic on this day, to pave way for the country to become free of it by 2022
- ✓ A nationwide "Gandhi Sankalp Yatra" will be inaugurated, in which all the Union ministers will participate along with others, commencing the four-month drive from different parts of the country

