

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCT 6, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Banwarilal Purohit, Governor of Tamil Nadu – presented the Mahatma Gandhi Peace award to Dr Mylswamy Annadurai, vice president, Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology and former director, ISRO**

✓ The award was given at the Gandhi 150 International Peace Festival, Chennai, at Anna Centenary Library Auditorium on October 2, 2019.



- ✓ It is given for Excellence in Service to the Nation in the field of Science and Technology
- ✓ Other eminent people who received the award include Dr Santha, founder chairperson of Adyar Institute and Nalli Kuppusami, chairman, Nalli Silks.

NATIONAL

- ◆ **Defence minister Rajnath Singh – gives his ‘approval’ for increasing the monetary assistance for the families of all categories of battle casualties in the armed forces from the existing ₹ 2 lakh to ₹ 8 lakh.**

- ✓ The financial assistance will be offered under the Army battle casualties welfare fund (ABCWF)
- ✓ The fund was set up under the Department of ex-servicemen welfare in the defence ministry in July 2017
- ✓ Earlier, an assistance of Rs 2 lakh is given to battle casualties in case of death, to those sustaining over 60% disability, and those who are out of service due to

the injuries sustained apart from providing ₹1 lakh to those who sustain disability of lesser than 60%

- ✓ The ABCWF, created under the Charitable Endowments Act, 1890, was implemented retrospectively with effect from April 2016

◆ **The Centre - launches 'PRAKASH - Power Rail Koyla Availability through Supply Harmony' Portal**



- ✓ The PRAKASH portal will help to monitor the supply of coal from coal mines to transportation
- ✓ The portal is expected to ensure adequate availability of coal supply at thermal power plants through better coordination among the Indian Railways, ministries of power and coal
- ✓ The portal, developed by NTPC, will provide various reports like daily power plant status, plant exception report, coal dispatch report and periodic power plant status
- ✓ It will also provide the status of coal stocks in the mine, the quantity of coal and availability of coal in the power station for better planning

◆ **Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan - launches FSSAI 'Trans-Fat Free' logo on October 4, 2019, boosting 'Eat Right India' movement.**

- ✓ The launching of logo is part of the FSSAI's movement against the Trans-Fats, the worst among all other fats that pose high health risks.



- ✓ It was launched during the 8th International Chefs' Conference held on October 4
- ✓ Food sector manufacturers and restaurants which produce foods with less than 0.2g/100g trans-fat can use this "Trans-fat free" logo on their products and at their outlets as well.
- ✓ On the same occasion, Dr Harsh Vardhan released the logo of the Green Purple initiative, which teaches trans-fat free cooking to the Chefs by using less sodium (salt).



- ✓ The Eat Right India movement is inspired by the vision of PM Narendra Modi for a 'New India' by 2022 which is healthier with proper nutrition and sound health.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- ◆ **India and Bangladesh – signed seven MOUs for mutual cooperation in areas of water resources, youth affairs, trade, connectivity, culture, education and coastal surveillance**



- ✓ Another important agreement was regarding the implementation of standard operating procedures (SOP) on the use of Chattogram (Chittagong) and Mongla ports for movement of goods to and from India
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi held meeting with the visiting Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Hyderabad House in New Delhi
- ✓ The two sides have activated the joint River Commission (JRC) mandated to complete a framework agreement to share waters of six rivers, the Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gumti, Dharla and Dudhkumar
- ✓ Both the leaders have also jointly inaugurated 3 bilateral projects through a video conferencing.
- ✓ They are related to the setting up of Bangladesh-India Professional Skill Development Institute for MSMEs and Vivekananda Bhawan at Ramakrishna Mission in Dhaka
- ✓ India is all set to import LPG from Bangladesh for the first time while Dhaka will supply 1.82 cusecs of clean drinking water from Feni river to Tripura.
- ✓ Apart from this, India is also planning to set up a coastal surveillance radar system in Bangladesh for bilateral defence cooperation and maritime security partnership between the two countries.
- ✓ The two leaders also agreed to expedite work towards drawing upon the defence line of credit worth \$500 million, which has been offered by India to Bangladesh in April 2019
- ✓ Earlier, both leaders met during the United Nations General Assembly session in New York, USA

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ **The Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - has developed green crackers, aimed at reducing noise pollution and health risks.**



- ✓ These are intended to reduce the particulate matter due to dust and smoke by 30% apart from reducing harmful sulphur oxide and nitrous oxide emissions by 20%
- ✓ CSIR has signed around 230 MoUs and 165 non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) with firework manufacturers for the production of 'Green' crackers
- ✓ They are manufactured with new formulations, as suggested by Supreme Court, for reduced emission light and sound using Potassium Nitrate as an oxidant.
- ✓ The Government has also developed a green logo and a quick response (QR) coding system to differentiate the green crackers from the normal ones.
- ✓ The Supreme Court had earlier banned the sale, use and manufacture of crackers that weren't green in October 2018
- ✓ The Green crackers should be free from arsenic, barium and mercury and also have to be approved by the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)
- ✓ The Supreme Court had recently allowed the bulk manufacture of green crackers from May 2019, after CSIR got some samples approved by the PESO.

SPORTS

◆ Rohit Sharma – becomes the first Indian opener to score hundreds in both innings of the debut Test match

- ✓ He achieved the feat in the first test match against South Africa in Visakhapatnam

ROHIT SMASHES RECORD OF SIXES

- Opener Rohit Sharma smashed a world record 13 sixes in a Test against South Africa on Saturday
- He beat the record of Wasim Akram of Pakistan (12). The previous Indian record was held by Navjot Sidhu (8)
- India hit a world record 27 sixes, five more than the previous best of 22 by New Zealand vs Pakistan in 2014
- Rohit is the first to hit centuries in each innings in his first Test as opener

176 & 127



INDIANS WITH TWIN TONS IN A TEST

OPENING BATSMEN

Batsman	Runs	Scores		Opp	Venue	Series
		1st	2nd			
Sunil Gavaskar (three times)	344	124	220	WI	Port-of-Spain	1970-71
	289	107	182*	WI	Kolkata	1978-79
	248	111	137	Pak	Karachi	1978-79
Rohit Sharma	303	176	127	SA	Visakhapatnam	2019-20

OTHER BATTING POSITIONS

Rahul Dravid (twice)	293	190	103*	NZ	Hamilton	1998-99
	245	110	135	Paki	Kolkata	2004-05
Vijay Hazare	261	116	145	Aus	Adelaide	1947-48
Virat Kohli	256	115	141	Aus	Adelaide	2014-15
Ajinkya Rahane	227	127	100*	SA	Delhi	2015-16

- ✓ During the match, Rohit also achieved a world record of hitting 13 sixes (6 in first and 7 in second innings) during his second-innings century knock of 127.
- ✓ Rohit also made the record of scoring the maximum runs (303 runs) in his maiden test as an opener, overtaking Sri Lankan Tillakaratne Dilshan, who made 215 runs in his maiden test as an opener against New Zealand in 2009.
- ✓ He also became the first cricketer ever to score over 50 runs in seven consecutive innings in India

◆ **Ravindra Jadeja - has become the second fastest Indian to take 200 wickets in Test cricket**

- ✓ He achieved the feat during the Day 3 of India's first test against South Africa in Visakhapatnam.

QUICKEST TO 200 WICKETS IN TEST CRICKET FOR INDIA



PLAYER	MATCHES TAKEN	YEAR
R ASHWIN	37	2016
R JADEJA	44	2019
H SINGH	46	2005
A KUMBLE	47	1998
B CHANDRASEKHAR	48	1977

- ✓ Jadeja reached the feat in 44 tests, next only to R Ashwin who took 37 test matches
- ✓ In the process, Jadeja also became the fastest left-arm bowler to take 200 wickets, ahead of Sri Lanka's Rangana Herath (47)

◆ **Harmanpreet Kaur, Indian women's cricket captain - became India's first cricketer to play 100 T20 Internationals**



- ✓ She achieved the feat in the sixth and final T20 International against South Africa at Surat.
- ✓ India's Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Rohit Sharma, who have played 98 matches each, are second in the list after Harmanpreet
- ✓ Australia's Ellyse Perry and New Zealand's Suzie Bates are on the top of the list with 111 international matches
- ✓ Only Shoaib Malik of Pakistan (111) has played more than 100 T20 Internationals so far in men's T20s.

PLASTIC BAN – A REPORT

India's cutting down on plastic, and everyone's chipping in

The country has set itself an ambitious target: to go plastic-free by 2022. It's not easy. Just think of something as ubiquitous as bottled water. What do you replace the bottles with? But, there is a big move nonetheless to cut back on plastic. Some states have taken the lead, and so have corporates. Here's what they are doing

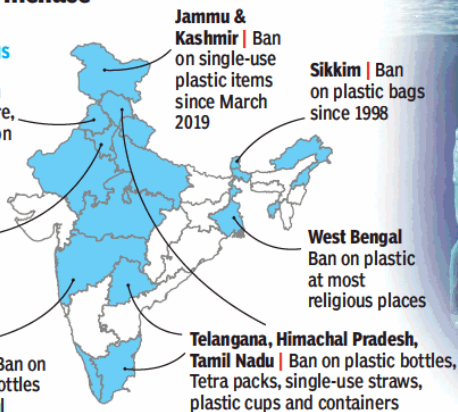
India has slowly begun to address the plastic menace

STATE WITH PLASTIC BANS

Punjab | Ban on the manufacture, sale, distribution and recycling of plastic bags since 2016

Haryana | Ban on single-use plastics since 2013

Maharashtra | Ban on plastic water bottles less than 200 ml



25,940 tonnes

Plastic waste generated in India every day, according to CPCB

The government has recently taken steps to tackle plastic pollution

- As of August 31, India has banned the import of plastic waste
- The government has also pledged to phase out single-use plastics by 2022

Some corporations, too, have already taken positive steps

- Air India is set to ban all plastic cups and cutlery on its flights
- Indian Railways will ban single-use cups and install 2,000 bottle crushing machines across its stations
- FMCGs are working towards using 100% biodegradable materials and cutting out PET bottles and multi-layered plastic
- Dabur has set March 2021 as the deadline to become a plastic waste neutral company
- Hindustan Unilever and Nestle plan to use 100% reusable or recyclable plastic packaging by 2025
- Some ITC hotels in Chennai have eliminated single-use plastic bottles, each cutting down by 6,000 plastic bottles a month
- Marriott International, the world's largest hotel chain, said it will stop using plastic containers for its room by December 2020, replacing the small shampoo and soap plastic bottles with refillable wall-mounted dispensers. Other hotel chains are following suit

But plastic industry wants govt to go slow

From October 2, the Centre had planned to ban single-use plastic items, including plastics bags, straws and small bottles, across the country

In a meeting with Union consumer affairs minister Ram Vilas Paswan, industry representatives had said PET bottles, an industry valued at Rs 7.5 lakh crore and employing about 7 crore people directly and indirectly, should not be classified as a single-use plastic and banned

Industry representatives said banning plastic bottles would have severe repercussions for those employed by the industry

The government maintains that while reducing use and recycling are options for now, the long-term goal remains eliminating plastic entirely and finding a permanent replacement

Here are 5 things you can do to cut down on plastic

Source: Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change; media reports

- 1 Use reusable cloth bags for shopping instead of plastic and keep bags in your car or on your person at all times
- 2 Stop buying bottled water and carry a refillable bottle wherever you can
- 3 Buy items sold in green packaging, like paper or glass. For example, buying a glass bottle of ketchup is better than a plastic one as it can be reused or recycled
- 4 Buy as much as you can in bulk – it helps cut down on packaging from frequent purchases
- 5 Make sure to follow your locality's rules on waste disposal – putting waste in the wrong bin can contaminate an entire load of recycling