

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - visited UK's IP Switch Smart grid factory in Suffolk county to assess the working of the smart grid system**



- ✓ The smart grid makes best use of power from thermal and renewable sources, using the technological assistance
- ✓ The visit is expected to help officials implement a pilot smart grid project in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The government has already sanctioned ₹7 crore from the Tamil Nadu Innovation Fund to Tangedco for setting up a pilot project
- ✓ A smart grid utilizes digital communications and control systems to monitor and control power flow for making the power grid more resilient, efficient and cost effective
- ✓ Tamil Nadu, with more than 8,000MW of wind power and around 2,500MW of solar power, is one the few states that can employ a smart grid for optimization of power and minimizing transmission losses.
- ✓ The smart grid also helps forecast sources of power, especially renewable sources like wind and solar which cannot be predicted
- ✓ The CM is currently on a three-nation tour to the U.S., U.K., and Dubai to bring foreign direct investment to the State.

STATES

◆ The final version of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam - was released by the government on August 31

- ✓ A total of 3.29 crore people had applied for the NRC, of which 3.11 crore made it to the final list.



- ✓ A total of 3,11,21,004 people have been found eligible for inclusion in the final version of the NRC.
- ✓ This leaves out a total of 19,06,657 people, including those who did not submit their claims.
- ✓ The NRC is aimed at identifying illegal immigrants who entered and settled in Assam, primarily from Bangladesh, after March 25, 1971 and deport them to their native country
- ✓ Earlier on July 30, 2018, the Assam government had released the second draft of the NRC, leaving out around 40 lakh people from the draft list
- ✓ Any person who is not satisfied with the outcome of the NRC can file appeal before the Foreigners' Tribunals within 120 days
- ✓ A total of 200 foreigners tribunals will be set up to hear the appeals of those who failed to make it to the final NRC.
- ✓ The foreigners tribunals have the authority to either declare a person a foreigner or overrule the NRC findings and declare him or her Indian
- ✓ However, those who are declared as illegal migrants by the Foreigners' Tribunals, will be taken to detention camps and locked therein until their deportation to their native country.
- ✓ The NRC was first prepared in Assam in 1951, based on the Census data
- ✓ At present, Assam is the only state to have an NRC in India
- ✓ It is being updated to honour the promises made in the Assam Accord of 1985, signed between the All Assam Students Union (AASU), and All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP), the State and the Centre in the presence of then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on August 15, 1985



- ✓ Supreme Court had directed the state to begin the process for updating NRC in 2013, followed by the release of first draft NRC on the midnight of December 31, 2017
- ✓ The SC-monitored exercise lasted 5 years at the cost of Rs 1,220 crore
- ✓ Two other states in the north-east region Manipur and Tripura also declared their NRC

◆ Bihar Government - has imposed a ban on wearing of T-shirts and jeans by the employees in the state secretariat.

- ✓ The government has ordered the employees to wear decent, simple, sober and comfortable clothes in the office.
- ✓ Previously in 2015, Goa government's art and culture department had banned its staff from wearing jeans and sleeveless clothes
- ✓ The Rajasthan Labour department had also banned its employees from wearing jeans and t-shirts in June 2018.
- ✓ Recently Tamil Nadu Government has banned the casual wear in its offices in June 2019

NATIONAL

◆ The new Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act along with stiff penalty provisions – comes into effect from September 1

BRACE UP FOR STEEPER FINES FOR TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS			
VIOLATION	NEW PENALTY	OLD PENALTY	
Offences by juveniles Guardian/vehicle owner deemed guilty	₹25,000 with 3 years imprisonment (Vehicle registration cancelled). Juvenile to be tried under JJ Act	-	
Drunken driving	₹10,000	₹2,000	
Not providing way to emergency vehicle	₹10,000	-	
Driving despite disqualification	₹10,000	₹500	
Driving without license	₹5,000	₹500	
Dangerous driving	₹5,000	₹1,000	
Racing	₹5,000	₹500	
Driving without insurance	₹2,000	₹1,000	
Overloading two-wheeler	₹2,000 License disqualification for 3 months	₹100	
Over speeding	₹1,000 (light motor vehicle) ₹2,000 (medium passenger vehicle)	₹400	
Overloading	₹1,000 per extra passenger	-	
No seatbelt	₹1,000	₹100	
No helmet	₹1,000 License disqualification for 3 months	₹100	
Offences committed by enforcing agencies	Double of applicable penalty	-	

- ✓ The changes were based on the recommendations of transport ministers from 18 states, which were vetted by the Standing Committee of Parliament
- ✓ Also, for the first time, traffic police or transport department personnel caught violating rules would face 200% fines.
- ✓ Penalties for drunk driving, not wearing a helmet or not using the seatbelt have also been increased.
- ✓ As per the new Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, an individual can apply for renewal of driving licence any time between one year before its expiry and up to one after its expiry

◆ **The government – to start receiving details of Indians holding bank accounts in Switzerland from this month**

BLACK & WHITE TREATY



► India would start receiving information on accounts held by Indian residents in Switzerland from September 2019 for the year 2018 and subsequent years on an automatic basis

► Both sides discussed information exchange issues and decided to expedite execution of tax information sharing requests by India in specific cases

- ✓ This follows the first automatic exchange of financial information under the common reporting standards between the two countries coming into effect from September 1
- ✓ India will receive information of the calendar year 2018 regarding all financial accounts held by Indian residents in Switzerland.
- ✓ Switzerland and India had signed a joint declaration on the introduction of automatic exchange of information issues on November 22, 2016
- ✓ Both sides had also agreed on confidentiality rules and data safeguards in line with global standards
- ✓ This will be a major boost to the government's fight against black money and comes after several rounds of negotiations

◆ **Google - had signed a statement of intent with the Ministry of Electronics and IT for rolling out 'Build for Digital India' programme.**

- ✓ The programme will offer a platform to engineering students to develop technology-based solutions for tackling key social issues.



- ✓ As part of the programme, students will also take part in online and offline learning opportunities on key technologies

◆ **'Angikaar', a campaign for change management – was launched by Hardeep Puri, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs**



- ✓ The campaign has been launched in line with the vision of PM Narendra Modi
- ✓ The objective of Angikaar is to bring social behaviour change with special focus on waste management, water and energy conservation, tree plantation, sanitation, health and hygiene
- ✓ The beneficiaries of different government schemes under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - PMAY (Urban) will be covered through community mobilization and other activities
- ✓ The door-to-door campaign would also focus on beneficiaries of Ujjwala for gas connection and Ayushman Bharat for health insurance
- ✓ This newly announced scheme will be launched in all target cities on October 2, 2019 during the 150th year of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary celebrations
- ✓ On the occasion, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs also launched the e-course on Vulnerability Atlas in collaboration with the School of Planning & Architecture (SPA), New Delhi.
- ✓ The atlas is a tool to understand natural hazards, helps identify regions with high vulnerability with respect to various hazards (cyclones, floods, earthquakes, landslides etc.) and specifies the district-wise level of damage risks

◆ **India's highest sky cycling track - has been built and tested at an altitude of 9,000 feet at Gulaba, a tourist destination at Manali**



- ✓ This track has been made by Atal Bihari Vajpayee Mountaineering Sports Institute under the supervision of Colonel Neeraj Rana.
- ✓ It will be opened to the general public in the first week of October.

◆ **Union Cabinet – approves the setting up of the International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) in the country, with its Secretariat Office in New Delhi.**

- ✓ PM Modi had earlier given his approval to the project on August 13, 2019.

- ✓ The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure is proposed to be launched at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York, US on September 23, 2019
- ✓ In India, the north-eastern and Himalayan regions are highly prone to earthquakes, coastal areas to cyclones and tsunamis and central peninsular region to droughts
- ✓ The focus on disaster resilient infrastructure would simultaneously address the loss reduction targets under the Sendai Framework, address several SDGs and also contribute to climate change adaptation

COMMITTEES

◆ **The UGC - has set up a five-member committee to look into the allegations of sale of fake degrees by certain universities**

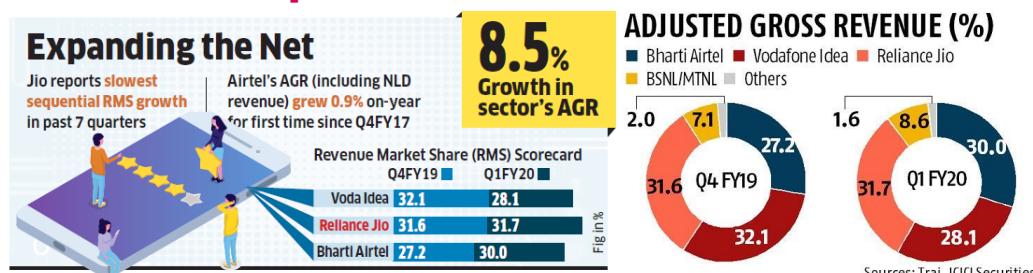
- ✓ It will be headed by Chairman DP Singh and assisted by UGC Joint Secretary (Private Universities) Surender Singh
- ✓ The committee was directed to complete its enquiry within three weeks

◆ **The Union Government - has constituted a 5-member Group of Ministers (GoM) to look into issues concerning the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.**

- ✓ It comprises Union Ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad, Jitendra Singh, Thawar Chand Gehlot, Narendra Singh Tomar and Dharmendra Pradhan.
- ✓ The GoM will look into the development, economic and social issues of the two UTs and suggest ways to improve the situation
- ✓ According to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019, the two new Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh will come into existence from October 31, 2019.

ECONOMY

◆ **Reliance Jio - has topped the telecom market with a 31.7% market share in the second quarter of 2019**



- ✓ It had registered a 9% growth in adjusted gross revenue (AGR) in a mere three years after its launch
- ✓ Bharti Airtel is closely behind in second spot, followed by Vodafone Idea in the third spot

APPOINTMENTS

◆ **Sunil Gaur - has been appointed as the Chairperson of the PMLA Appellate Tribunal.**



- ✓ Gaur is the former Delhi HC Judge who had dismissed Chidambaram's anticipatory bail in the INX Media case, calling him the "kingpin or key conspirator" in the classic case of money laundering
- ✓ Sunil Gaur was elevated to the High Court in April 2008 and was designated as a permanent judge on April 11, 2012.
- ✓ He retired as a judge of the Delhi High Court on August 23, 2019
- ✓ During his decade-long career, Gaur handled several high-profile cases including the AgustaWestland chopper scam involving businessman Ratul Puri, nephew of Madhya Pradesh CM Kamal Nath, National Herald corruption case involving the Gandhi family, money laundering case involving meat exporter Moin Qureshi and the INX Media corruption case involving former Finance Minister P Chidambaram.
- ✓ The Appellate Tribunal for Forfeited Property (ATFP) was established in 1977
- ✓ It is one of the oldest and earliest tribunals of India, located in Loknayak Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ✓ The Appellate Tribunal for PMLA (AT PMLA) started operating out of the premises of ATFP from the year 2009
- ✓ It mainly hears appeals against the orders passed by Adjudicating Authority under PMLA from the year 2009.
- ✓ The PMLA or the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 has been put in place to fight money laundering.
- ✓ The PMLA 2002 and its rules came into force on July 1, 2005

AWARDS

◆ **PM Narendra Modi – conferred the National Yoga Awards 2019 for outstanding contribution for promotion and development of Yoga.**



- ✓ The names of winners were announced during the International Day of Yoga, 2019
- ✓ **Winners of Yoga Awards 2019**
 - ✓ Bihar School of Yoga, Munger (National Category)
 - ✓ Swami Rajarshi Muni of Life Mission (Individual Category)

- ✓ Japan Yoga Niketan (International Category)
- ✓ Antonietta Rozzi, Italy (Individual-International category)
- ✓ **Winners of 2018 Yoga Awards**
 - ✓ Vishwas Mandalik, Nasik (Individual- National category) and the Yoga Institute, Mumbai (Organisation – National category)

SPORTS

◆ Nadubhagam Chundan of Pallathuruthy Boat Club - finishes first in the final of annual Nehru Trophy Boat Race held in Punnamada backwaters in Alappuzha, Kerala



- ✓ This is the second win for the Nadubhagam snake boat, led by N. Narayanan Kutty
- ✓ Nadubhagam had won the first edition of the boat race held as part of the visit of the late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to Alappuzha in 1952.
- ✓ The race was later named after Nehru.
- ✓ Champakkulam Chundan, rowed by the United Boat Club, Kainakary, finished runners-up in an anti-climactic, nail-biting finish
- ✓ The final was almost a repeat of the final of the Champakkulam Moolam boat race held in July, where also Nadubhagam and Champakkulam emerged winner and runners up, respectively
- ✓ This is the maiden race of the inaugural edition of the Champions Boat League (CBL)
- ✓ Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan opened the CBL in the presence of cricketer Sachin Tendulkar
- ✓ A total of 79 boats, including 23 snakeboats, participated in the Nehru Trophy.
- ✓ Hosted by Kerala Tourism, CBL is the country's first-ever boat race on the lines of IPL.
- ✓ There will be 12 races in the CBL beginning with the Nehru Trophy and concluding with President's Trophy Boat Race in Kollam on November 23.

◆ India - defeated Nepal to clinch the SAFF Under-15 Championship at the Kalyani Stadium in Kolkata



- ✓ India becomes the first nation to emerge champions in the tournament three times after they clinched the titles in 2013 and 2017 as well

