

**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – SEP 10 & 11, 2019**

**TAMIL NADU**

- The Tamil Nadu government - signed six MoUs with investors from Dubai on September 9



- ✓ These agreements are expected to provide an investment of nearly Rs 3,750 crore to the state, apart from providing employment opportunities to around 10,800 people
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami was in UAE on the last leg of the CM's 14-day three-nation trip abroad to meet investors and Tamil diaspora.
- ✓ The CM had earlier met entrepreneurs in the UK and US to bring in investments to the State
- ✓ Overall, the CM had signed pacts for investments worth ₹8,830 crore that was expected to generate jobs for 37,300 people during his 13-day visit to UK, US and UAE

- **The famed Madurai Meenakshi Amman temple - has been adjudged the second best 'Swachh Iconic Place' (for cleanliness) by the ministry of Jal Shakti Abhiyan**



- ✓ The award was given to the Madurai Corporation for maintaining the upkeep of the temple surroundings
- ✓ The temple was already adjudged the best iconic place in 2017, but did not figure in the list in 2018
- ✓ It was chosen among the 10 iconic places for development under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan a few years ago
- ✓ The temple and its surroundings are being maintained with corporation social responsibility (CSR) fund from private and public sector undertaking companies
- ✓ Installation of 25 e-toilets, introduction of specially-made dumper bins to collect segregated waste, banning of plastic bags, deployment of sanitary employees round-the-clock, advanced sand cleaning machines, installation of 63 compact dumper bins, purchase of four mini compact trucks, installation of 15 automated RO water system and purchase of five battery operated vehicles to take devotees around were some of the initiatives of the Corporation

- **The renowned Srivilliputhur palkova has bagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications Registry of India**



- ✓ The 'palkova' is made in and around the municipality of Srivilliputtur in Virudhunagar district
- ✓ Srivilliputhur Co-operative Primary Milk Producers Society, established in 1945, had applied for the GI tag following which it was approved by the Central government.
- ✓ Palani panchamirtham, Dindigul locks and Kandangi sarees have recently received Geographical Indication (GI) tags.
- ✓ It is the naturally-sweet milk that the cows in this region produce that gives the quality and taste to the product.
- ✓ According to the GI application, approximately 2,000 kg of palkova is being produced every day.
- ✓ The Geographical Indication sign is used on products which correspond to a specific geographical location, indicating that the product possesses certain qualities or reputation, due to its geographical origin

## NATIONAL

- **The ticketing and catering wing of Indian Railways, IRCTC – to commence Delhi-Lucknow Tejas train by October 15, 2019**

**ROAD MAP FOR RAILWAYS**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Real Time Train Information System to cover all trains by March 2020, to help track movement &amp; speed</li> <li>➤ Elimination of all 2,568 manned level crossings on GQ &amp; major routes by 2023</li> <li>➤ Eastern &amp; Western DFC to be operational by Dec 2021, increase mail express speed on GQ &amp; other major routes to 160 kmph</li> <li>➤ Mumbai-Ahmedabad</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>bullet train to be operational by Dec 2023</li> <li>➤ 3-5 fold increase in production of rail coaches &amp; trainsets by 2024</li> <li>➤ IRCTC to run Delhi-Lucknow Tejas by Oct 15</li> <li>➤ CCTV at all stations by March 2020</li> <li>➤ 40 New Vande Bharat trains by March 2021</li> </ul>
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- ✓ Earlier, the Indian Railways have provided two Tejas rakes to IRCTC to run them between Delhi-Lucknow and Ahmedabad-Mumbai
- ✓ The Railways plans to put in place a regulator, which will deal with fare, allocation of routes and safety.
- ✓ It will introduce more private players after decongesting major train routes with the shifting of 90% freight trains to the dedicated freight corridors.

# INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- India and Nepal – jointly opened South Asia’s first cross-border oil product pipeline on September 10



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart K P Sharma Oli jointly inaugurated the pipeline through video-conference
- ✓ The 69km pipeline extends from state-run Indian Oil’s terminal in Motihari in north Bihar to Nepal Oil Corporation’s Amlekhgunj depot in Narayani zone of southern Nepal.
- ✓ The pipeline is expected to help Kathmandu to cut fuel prices by ₹2 per litre on account of reduced transportation cost.
- ✓ The PM Modi and Oli had conducted the ground-breaking ceremony for the pipeline in April 2017.
- ✓ The pipeline, with a capacity to transport two million tonnes of petroproducts annually, was completed 15 months ahead of schedule
- ✓ The ₹324-crore pipeline is part of New Delhi’s efforts to deepen engagement with Kathmandu as part of its “neighbourhood first” policy.
- ✓ India and Nepal have had a fuel supply agreement since 1974 and the pipeline was first proposed in 1996
- ✓ The pipeline was finally cleared in March 2017 at a meeting between oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Nepal’s then supply minister Deepak Bohara in Delhi.

## PERSONALITIES

- Jack Ma, the founder of Alibaba, the Chinese e-commerce giant, is stepping down as its chairman on its 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary



Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba's billionaire Co-founder, Jack Ma, stepped down from his role as Chairman on his 55th birthday on Tuesday

- ✓ The former English teacher steps down as executive chairman of China's largest company on his 55th birthday after amassing a \$41.8 billion fortune
- ✓ Ma will be replaced by CEO Daniel Zhang, who will also take on the role of chairman.
- ✓ Ma first resigned as Alibaba's chief executive officer in 2013 and was replaced by Jonathan Lu.
- ✓ In 2015, Daniel Zhang replaced Jonathan Lu
- ✓ Ma founded Alibaba in 1999 along with a group of 18 people to connect Chinese exporters to American retailers from his apartment in Hangzhou, where Alibaba is now headquartered.
- ✓ Apart from e-commerce, Alibaba also manages digital payments, online banking, cloud computing and digital media and entertainment.
- ✓ The company went public on the New York Stock Exchange in 2014 and is the world's biggest e-commerce company by total value of the merchandise sold across its various platforms, which include TMall and Taobao, China's largest online marketplace.
- ✓ Ma became Asia's richest person in 2016, overtaking Dalian Wanda Group chairman Wang Jianlin.
- ✓ The title now belongs to Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani, who's worth \$47.4 billion, according to a Bloomberg ranking of the world's 500 wealthiest individuals.
- ✓ Ma will continue to serve on Alibaba's board until the annual general shareholders' meeting in 2020.
- ✓ He will also continue to remain a lifetime partner of Alibaba Partnership
- ✓ Jack Ma also established his Foundation in 2014 and has been cited by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as an inspiration for his charitable endeavours.

## DEFENCE

- **INS Khanderi - is all set to be commissioned in Mumbai on September 28**
- ✓ It is the second of the six French-origin Scorpene diesel-electric submarines under construction at Mazagon Docks



- ✓ Defence minister Rajnath Singh will be the chief guest on the occasion
  - ✓ The 1,565-tonne submarine will follow INS Kalvari, the first Scorpene submarine that was commissioned in December 2017
  - ✓ The “launch” of the first of the seven stealth frigates slated for construction under Project-17A as well as inauguration of an aircraft carrier dry dock at the naval dockyard will also be done during the occasion
  - ✓ The Scorpene submarine programme called Project-75 is running over five years behind schedule, with the overall cost now also increasing to over ₹25,700 crore
  - ✓ The remaining four submarines will be commissioned at regular intervals between 2022-2023
  - ✓ The Navy presently has just 13 old conventional submarines, only half of them operational at any given time, apart from INS Kalvari and two nuclear-powered submarines in INS Chakra and INS Arihant.
  - ✓ The submarine, which has a speed of 20 knots, is equipped with sea-skimming SM-39 Exocet missiles and torpedoes to undertake stealthy offensive operations against enemy warships.
  - ✓ India needs at least 18 diesel-electric and six nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSNs) as well as four SSBNs (nuclear submarines armed with long range ballistic missiles) to guard the country’s border
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- **The IAF - resurrected its 17 ‘Golden Arrows’ Squadron in Ambala on September 10**



- ✓ The first four of the 36 multi-role Rafale jets will touch down in Ambala in May next year
- ✓ The first Rafale fighter jet will be formally handed over to India in the presence of defence minister Rajnath Singh in France on October 8, 2019
- ✓ In the meanwhile, the training of the 'main' induction team of around 10 pilots, 10 flight engineers and 40 technicians will commence in France.
- ✓ The first 16 Rafales will be inducted into the 17 Squadron and 'number-plated' after its old MiG-21s were retired in 2011, for the western front with Pakistan.
- ✓ The 17 Squadron was commanded by IAF chief Air chief marshal B S Dhanoa during the Kargil conflict in 1999
- ✓ The next 16 jets will be based in Hasimara (West Bengal) to oversee China
- ✓ All these jets are slated to be delivered in batches from May 2020 until April 2022
- ✓ The fighter jets were ordered under a ₹59,000 crore deal inked in September 2016
- ✓ The 17 Squadron was raised at Ambala on October 01, 1951 under the command of Flight Lieutenant D.L. Springett and was initially equipped with the Harvard-II B aircraft.
- ✓ The Indian standard Rafale, incorporating all the India Specific Enhancements (ISEs), would be operationally ready, latest by September 2021.

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Former Tamil Nadu BJP Chief Tamilisai Soundararajan - was sworn in as the Governor of Telangana on September 8 at the Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad**



- ✓ Chief Justice of Telangana high court Raghavendra Singh Chouhan administered oath of office and secrecy to Tamilisai in the presence of Telangana chief minister K Chandrababoo Naidu
  - ✓ Earlier, Tamilisai was announced to be Telangana's next Governor on September 1 along with the change of Governors in three other states — Kerala, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh
  - ✓ At 58 years old, Tamilisai is the youngest among all state governors, while Andhra Pradesh's Biswa Bhusan Harichandan is the oldest at the age of 85.
  - ✓ Tamilisai served in the Tamil Nadu BJP unit in various capacities, before being appointed as the state's first woman president in August 2014
  - ✓ A doctor by profession, Tamilisai is the daughter of Congress leader Kumari Ananthan and the niece of Congress MP H Vasanthakumar.
  - ✓ Tamilisai has unsuccessfully contested in two Assembly Elections and two Parliamentary Elections in the past.
  - ✓ Outgoing Telangana Governor ESL Narasimhan, a retired IPS officer, was the common Governor for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, after the state's bifurcation in June 2014
- **US President Donald Trump - has nominated Indian-American circuit court judge Anuraag Singhal as a federal judge in Florida**



- ✓ If approved by the Senate, Singhal would replace Judge James I Cohn on the US district court for the southern district of Florida
- ✓ Singhal is among the 17 judiciary nominations sent by the White House to the Senate
- ✓ He is the first Indian-American to be nominated to this position in Florida
- ✓ Singhal, a criminal defense exponent, currently serves as a circuit court judge for the 17th judicial circuit in Broward County

## SPORTS

- **The No. 2 seed Spaniard, Rafael Nadal – defeated the fifth seed, a first-time Russian finalist Daniil Medvedev – to lift the US Open Men’s singles title in New York**

➤ **Rafael Nadal won his 19th Grand Slam title after holding off Russian Daniil Medvedev 7-5, 6-3, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4 in a thrilling US Open final. He is now just 1 behind Roger Federer's all-time record of 20 Slam wins**

➤ **It was Nadal's 4th US Open title, and 2nd Slam of the year after the French Open**

➤ **The match lasted 4 hours and 50 minutes, just 4 minutes shorter than the longest US Open final**

➤ **Nadal, Federer and Novak Djokovic have won the past 12 Grand Slams**



- ✓ Nadal is the second-oldest US Open champion in the Open Era, since Ken Rosewall (35) in 1970.
- ✓ He has made three Slam finals this season — Melbourne, Paris (title) and New York (title).
- ✓ Nadal had earlier lifted the US open in 2010, 2013 and in 2017
- ✓ Nadal also moved one short of the Open era record of five US Open titles won by Federer, Jimmy Connors and Pete Sampras

