

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – SEP 15, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- **The Tamil Nadu government - has set up a 16-member multi-disciplinary committee to implement the ambitious ‘Nadanthai Vaazhi Cauvery’ project**



The agenda is to have a multi-departmental approach for bio-diversity conservation, afforestation, cleaning of riverbanks, setting up sewerage treatment plant, river front development and rejuvenation of river

- ✓ The project aims to restore the Cauvery river and its tributaries on the lines of the Ganga Restoration and Rejuvenation.
- ✓ Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami had announced the project in July on the lines of Namami Gange, the flagship programme of the Centre.
- ✓ The members of the committee will be from the Ministry of water resources, municipal administration and water supply, rural development, environment and forests, TWAD Board, TN water investment company, and revenue administration and disaster management.
- ✓ At present, Asian Development Bank-assisted climate change adaptation programme is being implemented in the Cauvery delta for upgrading infrastructure and strengthening the embankment at a budget of ₹ 1,560 crore.
- ✓ Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS) of the Union Jal Shakti ministry has been entrusted with the task of preparing a detailed project report for the rejuvenation of the Cauvery river and its tributaries — Bhavani, Amaravathi and Noyyal

- ✓ The State's Chief Minister had earlier met PM in June and requested financial support to the programme, which is expected to cost ₹7,000 crore to ₹10,000 crore

STATES

- **The UP Government - has decided to scrap the law that envisages the government pay the income tax of the state's Ministers on September 13**
- ✓ With this, the UP Ministers will now have to start paying their own income tax.
- ✓ Till now, the state exchequer has been paying the income tax dues of the ministers under the Uttar Pradesh Ministers' Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Act, 1981.
- ✓ The 1981 law was enacted when Late V P Singh was the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, to reduce the burden of poor ministers
- ✓ In the last fiscal year, the UP government paid Rs 86 lakh as the ministers' tax bill
- **The Delhi Government – has decided to re-introduce 'odd and even scheme' from November 4 to 15 for the third time**
- ✓ The move is aimed to curb pollution during upcoming winter seasons, when farmers of Haryana and Punjab burn stubble
- ✓ In the odd-even scheme, cars with licence plates ending in an odd number and even number are allowed to ply on alternate days.
- ✓ It was first introduced in 2016 and later in 2017
- ✓ In 2016, it was enforced twice on January 1 to 15 and April 15 to 30.
- ✓ After that, it was reintroduced in 2017 in Delhi from November 13 to 17
- ✓ The odd-even formula was first implemented in Beijing in 2008 just before the summer Olympics

NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi – launched the Swachhta hi Seva 2019 at Mathura on September 11, 2019**
- ✓ The theme chosen this year is 'plastic waste awareness and management'
- ✓ It is a massive nationwide awareness and mobilization campaign on plastic waste management and Swachhta (cleanliness)
- ✓ The collected plastic waste will then be recycled and effectively disposed before Diwali, which is on October 27, 2019
- ✓ The campaign will end on October 2, 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, when India will become ODF under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM).



Narendra Modi @narendramodi · 14h

As we begin 'Swachhata Hi Seva' and pledge to reduce single use plastic, I sat down with those who segregate plastic waste.

I salute them for their hardwork and contribution towards fulfilling Bapu's dream.



2.3K 7.9K 43.7K

- ✓ The campaign launch was jointly organized by Animal Husbandry and Dairy and Drinking Water and Sanitation department of the central government along with the state government of Uttar Pradesh
- **India's tallest Air Traffic Control tower - was inaugurated recently at the Indira Gandhi International Airport**

ALL YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT DELHI'S NEW ATC TOWER

STATUS Parallel operations with old ATC tower being conducted by AAI to test automation and other features

- To be formally commissioned and inaugurated on September 2
- Has equipment worth ₹60 crore
- A 'tuned mass damper', weighing several tonnes, has been put at one level below the top to prevent the tower from swaying in strong winds
- Building is quake-resistant up to Richter scale 8



- ✓ It is one of the key initiatives of the Civil Aviation ministry, which has highlighted the achievements in the first 100 days of its office recently
 - ✓ Three Indian airports, Ahmedabad, Mangaluru and Lucknow were awarded to private firm through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) to bring efficiency in operation and to harness investments
 - ✓ The Ministry had launched a unique web-based portal called 'Aviation Jobs', bringing together prospective employers and job seekers in the civil aviation sector.
 - ✓ It had operationalised 34 routes under round one, two and three of Tourism 'Regional Connectivity Scheme'(RCS) connecting various unserved, underserved and served airports
 - ✓ The Ministry has operationalised DigiSky, which is an online portal to regulate all activities relating to governance and operation of UAVs/Drones
 - ✓ It had also launched Esahaj online portal, which will provide all security clearances pertaining to the Aviation sector.
 - ✓ The Civil Aviation Ministry has already begun the trial rollout of the DigiYatra initiative, at Bangalore and Hyderabad airports, by using biometric technologies for hassle-free passenger experience
- **India - has recently become a member of the Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Research and Development (R&D) Hub.**
- ✓ The Hub now has 16 member nations, following the inclusion of India into it
 - ✓ The hub also has the European Commission, two philanthropic foundations as members and four international organisations as observers.
 - ✓ The hub was launched in May 2018 on the sidelines of the 71st session of the World Health Assembly, following a call from the G20 member nations in 2017
 - ✓ The operations of the hub are supported through a Central Secretariat, which is established in Berlin, Germany
 - ✓ Antimicrobial resistance refers to a microbe's ability to resist the effects of drugs that could once treat it successfully
 - ✓ Such a situation requires either alternative medication or higher doses of antimicrobials, which can be expensive and toxic

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Switzerland and India - have signed three Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) to strengthen cooperation in various fields such as science & technology, people-to-people, and climate change**



- ✓ The agreements were signed following a high-delegation level meeting between Indian President Ram Nath Kovind and his Swiss counterpart Ueli Maurer
- ✓ The three agreements signed are on -
 - ✓ Technical cooperation on climate change
 - ✓ Science and technology alliance and
 - ✓ Renewal of Hindi Chair at University of Lausanne
- ✓ The President has addressed the Federal Council of Switzerland and the India-Switzerland Business Roundtable.
- ✓ Kovind is currently embarking an official three-nation visit to Switzerland, Iceland and Slovenia since September 9

COMMITTEES

- **BJP MPs Jayant Sinha and P P Choudhary - to head the Parliament's standing committees on finance and external affairs respectively in the 17th Lok Sabha**



- ✓ In the previous Lok Sabha, Congress's Veerappa Moily and Shashi Tharoor had headed the committees on finance and external affairs, respectively.
- ✓ The Congress will, however, be chairing the committees on Home Affairs, Science and Technology and Environment and Forests, and Information & Technology.
- ✓ These are to be headed by Anand Sharma, Jairam Ramesh and Mr. Tharoor, respectively

- ✓ Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, who was a member of the panel on external affairs, has now been moved to the parliamentary panel on defence, which is headed by Jual Oram.
 - ✓ TMC's Derek O'Brien, who was chairing the committee on transport, tourism and culture has been replaced by former TDP leader T G Venkatesh, who recently joined the BJP.
 - ✓ O'Brien is now a member of the panel on human resource development, which BJP's Satyanarayan Jatiya continues to head.
 - ✓ Of the 24 panels, 16 are headed by Lok Sabha members and eight by those from the Rajya Sabha
 - ✓ The BJP chairs 13 panels, with it naming many former Ministers as the chairmen.
- **A three-member Committee - has been formed by the Union Government to oversee the implementation of bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories.**
- ✓ It will be headed by former defence secretary Sanjay Mitra



- ✓ Its members include retired IAS officer Arun Goyal and retired Indian Civil Accounts Service officer Giriraj Prasad.
- ✓ The Union Territory status will come into effect from October 31.
- ✓ The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Bill 2019 was passed by the Indian Parliament in August 2019, bifurcating the State into 2 UTs

PERSONALITIES

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi – became the third most followed world leader in Twitter after Barack Obama and Donald Trump**
- ✓ He has recently crossed the mark of 50 million followers on his twitter account
 - ✓ Among the incumbent world leaders, Modi is close behind US President Donald Trump, who has 64 million followers.

@narendramodi

- January 2009: Starts Twitter journey
- October 2009: Gets Twitter handle @narendramodi from a techie
- August 2016: Emerges as most-followed person on Twitter in India

Milestones

- 1 million in Oct 2012
- 25 million in Dec 2016
- 50 million in Sept 2019

World leaders in 50 million club

- Barack Obama** (@BarackObama): 108.4 million
- Donald Trump** (@realDonaldTrump): 64.2 million
- Narendra Modi** (@narendramodi): 50 million

Others with large Twitter following

1. Shah Rukh Khan: 38.80 million
2. Amitabh Bachchan: 38.43 million
3. Salman Khan: 38 million
4. Akshay Kumar: 31.95 million

- ✓ PM Modi began using twitter in 2009 when he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat.
- ✓ Barack Obama, who served as the 44th president of the United States from 2009 to 2017, has the highest number of Twitter followers with 108.4 million followers

DEFENCE

- **India and Thailand - to organize Joint Military Exercise MAITREE-2019 at Foreign Training Node, Umroi (Meghalaya) from 16-29 Sep 2019**
- ✓ MAITREE-2019 will be the third consecutive army engagement between India and Thailand's forces
- ✓ Both the countries have conducted two such military exercises in past one month.
- ✓ MAITREE-2019 is an annual Joint Military Exercise which is being conducted alternatively in Thailand and India since 2006.
- ✓ The exercise covers company- level joint training on counter-terrorism operations in the jungle and urban phases.
- **DRDO - successfully test-fired an indigenously-developed Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) system on September 11 at Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh**
- ✓ Army would be using the system very soon as it was the third series of successful testing of MPATGM
- ✓ It can attack a target up to a range of 2.5 km and equipped with an advanced Imaging Infrared Radar (IIR) along with state-of-the-art avionics.
- ✓ The missile, based on the fire-and-forget system, was developed in association with Bharat Dynamics Limited.
- ✓ The work on the missile was started in 2005
- ✓ The first trial of the MPATGM was conducted on September 15, 2018, and Second trail was made on 16 September 2018



- ✓ After that, DRDO test-fired this missile for the first time on 13 March 2019 and the second test was conducted on 14 March 2019 in the Rajasthan desert
- ✓ The MPATGM is the latest in the list of ATGM's to be used by Indian Army, following the DRDO Anti Tank missile, Amogha missile and Nag missile

APPOINTMENTS

- **Former World cup winning captain, Kapil Dev - was announced as the first Chancellor of Haryana's Sports University in Rai town of Sonapat district**



- ✓ The Sports University of Haryana is the third such fully-fledged government sports university in India
- ✓ The other two are Swarnim Gujarat Sports University in Gandhinagar in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University in Chennai.
- ✓ The university will conduct academic and training programmes in physical education

AWARDS

- India's 'Yogi of the Racetrack' - has won 'Best Video' award for the Asia & Pacific Region in the UNWTO Tourism Video Competition 2019



- ✓ The video, produced by the Union Ministry of Tourism, is a short promotional film on Yoga
- ✓ The winners of the competition were announced during the 23rd General Assembly Session of the UNWTO in St. Petersburg, Russia on September 12, 2019.
- ✓ The 'Yogi of the Racetrack' is a short film that scripts the journey of a motorcyclist 'yogi' through India and its vast diversity, including the Ganges and the Himalayas, performing difficult 'yoga' asanas all along

SPORTS

- India - clinched the U-19 Asia Cup with a thrilling five-run win over Bangladesh in Colombo

India clinch U-19 Asia Cup



- ✓ Left-arm spinner Atharva Ankolekar returned with a five-wicket haul to help the nation win the Asia cup
- **Lakshya Sen - clinched the men's singles title at the Belgian International Challenge badminton in Leuven, Belgium**



- ✓ In the final, he stunned second seed Victor Svendsen of Denmark in straight sets to lift the title

REPORT

LANGUAGES INDIANS SPEAK

Language	% of speakers	Language	% of speakers
Hindi	43.6	Assamese	1.3
Bengali	8	Maithili	1.1
Marathi	6.9	Santali	0.6
Telugu	6.7	Kashmiri	0.6
Tamil	5.7	Nepali	0.2
Gujarati	4.6	Sindhi	0.2
Urdu	4.2	Dogri	0.2
Kannada	3.6	Konkani	0.2
Odia	3.1	Manipuri	0.1
Malayalam	2.9	Bodo	0.1
Punjabi	2.7	Sanskrit	Negligible

Source: Census 2011
 Total for 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution is around 96.7%. The remaining Indians speak other languages

