

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – SEP 26, 2019**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- ◆ **Kerala and Tamil Nadu – have agreed to set up a five-member committee, headed by secretaries of respective departments, to decide on various inter-state water issues between both states, including the Parambikulam Aliyar Project (PAP)**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami held a meeting with his Kerala counterpart Pinarayi Vijayan on September 25



- ✓ The chief secretaries of both states will also meet twice a year to review the progress
- ✓ Regarding the PAP, the states entered into an agreement for sharing mutual benefits of the west flowing rivers of Anamalayar, Nirar, Sholarayar, Parambikulam and its tributaries with retrospective effect from 1958
- ✓ The agreement provides for the water supply of 30.5tmcft to Tamil Nadu and 19.55tmcft to Kerala, which was not respected by both the states inspite of meeting 23 times in the last three decades
- ✓ Another committee will be set up for the implementation of Pandiyar-Punnampuzha (hydro-electric) project
- ✓ The committee on the Pandiyar-Punnampuzha project would also focus on other issues such as the Nirar-Nallar multipurpose project, diversion of water from Anamalayar and keeping water at the full level in the Siruvani dam

◆ **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - to sign MoUs for 15 new projects worth ₹5,574 crore, lay foundation stone for 5 new projects and inaugurate production in 3 other units on September 26**

- ✓ The 23 projects worth ₹7,175 crore are expected to generate 45,846 new jobs in the state
- ✓ The state will sign pacts with firms like Infosys for SEZ expansion, German-based MAHLE Electric Drives, Japanese-Nissei Electric, the Korean YoungHwa Tech, the makers of electric vehicle components
- ✓ Vestas, Shreevari Energy Systems, Ambika Cotton Mills, SHV Energy, BSH Household Appliances, MM Forgings, PKPN group of mills will also sign agreements with the state.
- ✓ The government will enter into an understanding with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a public sector undertaking under the Union ministry of defence, to revive and develop Tamil Nadu Industrial Explosives Limited unit in Katpadi.
- ✓ The Chief Minister will lay foundation stone for two projects at a cost of ₹121.12 crore – Germany-based Schwing Stetter India Private Limited, manufacturers of earth movers, and Tata Consultancy Services' SEZ project in Siruseri
- ✓ The state has signed 41 MoUs attracting investments worth ₹8,835 crore in various sectors during the recent CM's tour of the US, UK and Emirates

◆ **After Odisha and Kerala, the Tamil Nadu government - is set to go 100% electronic in its offices soon, replacing the manual files**

- ✓ The process will begin from the Secretariat, with all departments becoming 'e-offices'
- ✓ The key aim of the initiative is to eliminate the use of paper and to make most of the office communication electronic to improve efficiency, consistency and effectiveness of government responses
- ✓ It also intends to cut turnaround time and meet demands of the citizen charter as well as provide for effective resource management to improve quality of administration, among others.
- ✓ The state government has decided to implement the 'e-office' application developed by NIC with immediate effect for processing all files electronically
- ✓ All government departments/PSUs have been directed to take steps to implement the system through Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA), the nodal body for e-governance initiatives
- ✓ e-Office is a suite of applications for implementing office procedures electronically.
- ✓ e-Office also involves the use of an Integrated Financial and Human Resources Management System (IFHRMS) application, developed by WIPRO, for all Human Resources (HR)/Office Procedure (OP) activities such as payment of

bills, sanctioning of leave, increments etc., and maintenance of associated registers in electronic form.

◆ **The Greater Chennai Police - has bagged two SKOCH awards for the effective implementation of CCTV surveillance - 'Third Eye' project with public partnership and introducing digital technology for cashless payment of fine against traffic violations.**

- ✓ The SKOCH Governance Award, instituted in 2003, recognises best project and institution in the area of digital, financial and social inclusions for betterment of the nation.
- ✓ Union Minister of Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal gave away the awards in New Delhi

## NATIONAL

◆ **PM Modi - inaugurated a 50 kW capacity, \$1 million "Gandhi Solar Park" at the Headquarters of the UN in New York on September 24**



- ✓ The event was hosted to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi
- ✓ The United Nations commemorated the occasion by planting 150 trees and India installed 193 solar panels, each representing a UN member state, on the roof of conference building of UN
- ✓ With a projected annual output of 86,244 kilowatt-hours per year (kWh/year), the panels will reduce the UN's carbon dioxide emissions, now equivalent to that released by 30,246kg of burning coal

- ✓ This is the first time in the world that a UN building has installed solar panels on its rooftop
- ✓ **India also gifted a Gandhi Peace Garden made up of 150 trees on a university campus in Old Westbury in Long island**
- ✓ The Gandhi Peace Garden is a crowd-sourced project with people adopting the trees in the memory of their loved ones.
- ✓ The UN also released a stamp to commemorate the occasion and said more than 100 countries would be issuing similar stamps to honour Gandhi

◆ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - has announced a USD 150 million line of credit to the group of Pacific island nations**



- ✓ Modi attended the India-Pacific Islands Developing States (PSIDS) Leaders' Meeting on the sidelines of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly.
- ✓ The LoC will be utilized for undertaking solar, renewable energy and climate related projects based on the requirement of the Pacific island nations
- ✓ The PM also announced a total allocation of USD 12 million to the member states for the implementation of high impact developmental project in the area of their choice
- ✓ The meeting was attended by the Heads of delegation of Fiji, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Nauru, Republic of Palau, Independent State of Papua New Guinea, The Independent State of Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu and Republic of Vanuatu.
- ✓ Prime Minister Modi also invited Leaders of PSIDS to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
- ✓ India's relationship with Pacific Island nations has strengthened with the evolution of Act East Policy, resulting in the setting up of the action-oriented Forum for India-Pacific Island Cooperation (FIPIC).
- ✓ The first and second editions of the India-Pacific Island Cooperation (FIPIC) took place in Fiji (2015) and Jaipur (2016).
- ✓ To continue the top level engagement, Modi extended an invitation to all the leaders for the 3rd FIPIC Summit to be held in Port Moresby in first half of 2020.

◆ **Kashmir's famed saffron - has finally been granted the Geographic Indication (GI) tag**



- ✓ This was announced by Advisor to Governor, Farooq Ahmad Khan during the inauguration of Cocoon Auction Market 2019-20 in Sri Nagar
- ✓ The recognition is expected to help the Saffron marketing at international level and will subsequently benefit Saffron growers and farmers alike

## DEFENCE

◆ **Defence minister Rajnath Singh – commissioned Coast Guard offshore patrol vessel, ICGS Varaha at the Chennai Port Trust in the presence of Coast Guard director general K Natarajan**



- ✓ The vessel is designed and developed by Larsen and Toubro at Kattupalli near Ennore.
- ✓ It is fourth in the series of seven 98m offshore patrol vessels for the Indian Coast Guard
- ✓ Varaha is equipped with a 30mm gun and will be fitted with 12.7mm gun with fire control systems to enhance its fighting efficiency, besides advanced navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machineries
- ✓ The vessel, capable of achieving a maximum speed of 26 knots, is also designed to carry one twin engine helicopter (developed by HAL) and four high speed boats that could be used for various operations including maritime terrorism, drug trafficking, search and rescue and maritime patrol.
- ✓ It also has the capability of carrying pollution response equipment for oil spill response at sea.
- ✓ ICGS Varaha, manned by 14 officers and 89 men, will be based at New Mangalore and will be under the administrative and operational control of the Coast Guard Commander (West) Region.

## APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **Congress leader and Member of Parliament, Shashi Tharoor – nominated as a member of the parliamentary standing committee on external affairs**



- ✓ Tharoor had chaired the committee in the previous Lok Sabha
- ✓ Speaker, Om Birla, has changed the nomination of Deepak Bajj from committee on external affairs to committee on chemicals and fertilizers to accommodate Tharoor in the external affairs committee
- ✓ Tharoor, the Thiruvananthapuram MP, is now chairing the panel on information and technology

## AWARDS

- ◆ **Seventeen-year-old Payal Jangid from Rajasthan's Alwar district - became the first Indian to receive the 'Changemaker Award' at the Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards 2019 in New York**



- ✓ Payal was recognized with the award for her contribution to abolishing the practice of child marriage in her native Hinsla and other neighbouring villages.
- ✓ She is also the sarpanch (president) of the Bal Panchayat (children's parliament) in Hinsla, which is a Bal Mitra Gram (child-friendly village) — a concept founded by Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi.
- ✓ Payal was also one of the child activists selected to meet former US president Barrack Obama and his wife, Michelle, when they visited India in 2015
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi, too, was awarded at the same ceremony by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

## SPORTS

- ◆ **Asian Powerlifting Championship gold medallist Arthi Arun - has bagged five gold medals in the Commonwealth Powerlifting and Bench Press Championships 2019 in the 72kg category**



- ✓ Arthi is the only player from Tamil Nadu in the 28-member Indian team for the championships

- ✓ The Commonwealth championships are considered as the entry point to the World powerlifting championships
- ✓ The championships began on September 15 and concluded on September 21

◆ **The Indian duo of Pankaj Advani and Aditya Mehta - emerges world champions in the IBSF World Snooker Team event in Mandalay**



- ✓ This takes Advani's world title tally to a phenomenal 23 while Aditya claimed his maiden world title
- ✓ For Advani, this win has ensured that his name is now there on every IBSF world title on offer

## RANKINGS

◆ **Reliance Industries' Chairman Mukesh Ambani - has topped the list of richest Indians for the eighth consecutive year with a net worth of Rs 3,80,700 crore**



- ✓ London-based SP Hinduja and family have retained the second spot with assets worth Rs 1,86,500 crore, as per the IIFL Wealth Hurun Rich India List 2019
- ✓ Indians having a net worth of more than 1,000 crore has grown to 953 this year from 831 in 2018, while the number of billionaires in terms of US Dollars has, however, reduced to 138 from 141.

