

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – SEP 29, 2019

### STATES

◆ **Gujarat – has emerged as a leader in plastic exports from India with a big share of 45% in the national exports**

- ✓ 60% of India's total exports come from Gujarat and Maharashtra, which are followed by Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and the Union territories of Daman and Diu as well as Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

#### STATE-WISE PLASTIC EXPORTS

State	Exports (USD/bn)	Annual growth (%)
<b>Gujarat</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>33</b>
Maharashtra	1.3	8
West Bengal	0.60	39
Tamil Nadu	0.26	4

Source: Drip Capital



- ✓ Gujarat's constant domination of the country's plastic exports is driven by multiple factors — lower manufacturing costs, presence of large-scale trading hubs like the Mundra Special Economic Zone (SEZ), and high incentives, among others
- ✓ Being the 17th largest plastic exporter in the world, India exported US\$8 billion worth plastic goods in the financial year 2019.

### NATIONAL

◆ **The income tax department - extended the deadline for linking the Permanent Account Number (PAN) with Aadhaar by three months**

- ✓ The date for linking PAN and Aadhaar has now been extended from 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2019, to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019

- ✓ In March, the central board of direct taxes (CBDT) had extended the date for linking both the cards to September 30.
- ✓ The government had made linking of PAN with Aadhaar mandatory since July, 2017
- ✓ The idea behind the move was to check tax evasion and avoid the menace of individuals holding multiple PAN cards.
- ✓ Aadhaar is a biometric authentication issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) while PAN is a 10-digit alphanumeric number issued by the tax department to taxpayers.

◆ **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan - has recently launched a new 'TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign' in the country**



- ✓ The campaign has been launched with the objective of eliminating the dreaded tuberculosis from India.
- ✓ He also launched 25 National TB Prevalence Survey vans to carry out a survey across the country in the next six months
- ✓ This survey will help the government to collect a national-level data about the current situation of TB in the country.
- ✓ United Nations has marked 2030 as a global target to eliminate TB worldwide but India has made 2025 as its target to eliminate tuberculosis from the country.
- ✓ According to the 'TB India Report (2019)' released by the Minister, 21.5 lakh TB cases were reported in 2018 to the government.
- ✓ In 2017 the number of TB cases was 18 lakhs and in 2019 it has been increased to 17% in one year.

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

◆ **17<sup>th</sup> Green Building Congress - held in Hyderabad on September 26**

- ✓ India is third in the rankings, only behind the US and the UK, with a green footprint of 7 billion square feet (sft)
- ✓ India is working on a target of 10 billion sft by 2022
- ✓ India's total built-up space stands at about 40 billion sft
- ✓ Of the total green area, the largest share is occupied by homes that cover approximately 1.9 billion sft.

## SWITCH OVER FOR BETTER ENERGY

### WHAT CONSTITUTES A GREEN BUILDING

They have enhanced ventilation, better views, strong 'daylighting', improved sanitation and systems that boost occupants' productivity

➤ Such structures deploy efficient systems to save nearly 40-50% power consumption and 20-30% water consumption

#### HANDLING OF CONSUMER

**Waste** | Most waste generated is not segregated at source and ends up going to landfills. Green buildings encourage segregation at source for better recycling

#### REDUCED USE OF FOSSIL

**Fuels** | The green building rating system encourages use of alternative fuel such as battery-powered vehicles

**Reduced Dependency on Virgin Materials** | Stress is on using recycled material

**Health & Well-Being of Occupants** | The rating system ensures adequate ventilation, daylight and other such occupant wellbeing facilities

#### GREEN BUILDING TOPPERS

State	Projects	Built-up area
Maharashtra	1,595	1,729.56m sft
Uttar Pradesh	537	1,682.03m sft
Gujarat	359	973.69m sft
Karnataka	505	711.85m sft
Tamil Nadu	434	351.87m sft
Telangana	360	241.70m sft
West Bengal	357	199.24m sft

Encouragingly, many of the 200 cities that are contributing to this growing footprint are tier 2 and 3 cities and towns

**V Suresh** |  
CHAIRMAN OF THE  
INDIAN GREEN  
BUILDING COUNCIL



- ✓ Within India, Maharashtra continues to lead the way with green buildings covering a massive 1.7 billion sft in the state
- ✓ Green buildings reduce water usage by 30% to 40% while consumption of energy per structure ranges between 40% and 55%

## DEFENCE

### ◆ Defence minister Rajnath Singh - commissioned the second Scorpene submarine, INS Khanderi, at the Naval Dock at Ballard Pier

- ✓ It was undergoing several sea trials for the last two and a half years.
- ✓ On the same occasion, the Defence Minister inducted P-17 Shivalik-class frigate Nilgiri and the aircraft carrier drydock into the Indian Navy.
- ✓ The name Khanderi is inspired by the Arabian sea-based dreaded 'Sword Tooth Fish' (Kanneri) a deadly fish known to hunt whilst swimming close to the bottom of the ocean



- ✓ INS Khanderi is fully automated and has been built at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited in Mumbai.
- ✓ The motto of INS Khanderi is 'Akhand Abhedya Adrishya' that implies unity of the crew and its stealth capabilities.
- ✓ The INS Khanderi construction began in April 2009
- ✓ The Submarine has been built under the Project 75 programme to build a total of 6 Scorpene-class submarines in collaboration with France's Transfer of Technology from Naval Group at a budget of Rs 25,000 crore
- ✓ The first Scorpene-class submarine was INS Kalvari that was commissioned into Indian Navy in December 2017.

## APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **Bulgaria's Kristalina Georgieva - was selected as the new chief and Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently**



- ✓ Kristalina Georgieva has become the second-ever woman to lead the IMF, which consists of 189 member states
- ✓ She will be required to serve at the post for the next five years, from October 1, 2019
- ✓ She formerly served as the CEO of World Bank.
- ✓ In her new role, she succeeds Christine Lagarde, who is set to take over as the new Chief of the European Central Bank (ECB).
- ✓ Kristalina Georgieva was also one of the candidates in running for the post of United Nations Secretary-General in 2016
- ✓ Kristalina Georgieva served in a number of positions in the World Bank Group from 1993 to 2010, eventually becoming its vice president and corporate secretary in March 2008

## AWARDS

- ◆ **PT Usha, India's former athlete and Olympian - has been awarded the prestigious International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) Veteran Pin Award.**



- ✓ PT Usha was honoured with this prestigious award during the 52nd Congress of the IAAF held in Qatar on 24 September
- ✓ Usha reached the final of the 400 m hurdles at the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984 but missed the bronze medal by a hundredth of a second
- ✓ PT Usha, known as Payyoli Express, won 200m, 400m, 400m hurdles at the 1986 Asian Games at Seoul
- ✓ She also won five gold medals in 1985 Asian Games in Jakarta
- ✓ She received the Arjuna Award in 1983 and later in 1985, she was also awarded the Padma Shri.
- ✓ IAAF Veteran Pin Award is given to those players who have made exemplary contributions to athletics
- ✓ It was presented by IAAF president Sebastian Coe

## RANKINGS

- ◆ **Niti Aayog – has announced the first ever ranking of school education quality across the nation**
- ✓ The report of Niti Aayog on School Education Quality Index 2019 will be released on September 30

- ✓ As per the rankings, Rajasthan, Kerala and Karnataka were announced as the top performers among large states in the overall category
- ✓ Delhi is ranked among the best in governance with regard to school education.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh was placed at the bottom of the ranking.
- ✓ The states have been divided into 20 large, eight small and seven Union Territories.
- ✓ The 28 states and seven UTs have been ranked on two broad categories – outcome and governance.
- ✓ Overall, there are 30 indicators based on which weightage has been assigned, with learning outcomes in the ‘outcome category’ being given 50% weightage.
- ✓ In the outcome indicators the states have been assessed on access (enrolment), infrastructure such as book banks and percentage of vocational courses offered, minority and rural and urban students and learning outcomes of classes III, V and VIII
- ✓ Within learning outcomes, the maximum weightage has been given to class III.
- ✓ In governance, the states and UTs were assessed on teacher and student attendance, the time taken and utilisation of funds, etc.
- ✓ The objective of this ranking is to understand how school education in different states is progressing.

