



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCT 13, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- **The Technical evaluation committee of the Medical Council of India - has approved the setting up of six new government medical colleges in the state.**
 - ✓ The state now awaits the final consent of the Empowered committee of the council
 - ✓ Once approved, Tamil Nadu will be able to add at least 900 medical seats into its matrix for admissions in 2020
 - ✓ Earlier, the state health department issued orders for allotment of land to colleges in Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Nilgiris, Dindigul, Tirupur and Namakkal on October 11
 - ✓ In August, the cabinet committee on economic affairs (CCEA) had approved setting up of 75 government medical colleges by 2021-22.
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu, which has 23 medical colleges, proposed 6 medical colleges in the unserved areas
 - ✓ The state also runs three Category B institutions – Raja Muthiah Medical College, ESIC Medical College, KK Nagar and IRT Medical College, Perundurai
 - ✓ There are 3,250 seats in 23 colleges and 350 seats in Category B institutions.

- **India and China - decided to establish “sister-state relations” between Tamil Nadu and the Fujian province of China**
 - ✓ The move follows the ideas of state’s connect with the Chinese province coming up from the Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his discussions with President Xi Jinping at the second India-China “informal summit,” now called “Chennai Connect”.
 - ✓ The two leaders have also agreed to explore the possibility of establishing an academy to study links between Mamallapuram and the Fujian province similar to the link between Ajanta and Dunhuang, apart from conducting research on maritime links.

- ✓ The year 2020 would be designated as the 'Year of India-China Cultural and People to People Exchanges'

NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will inaugurate the Kartarpur corridor, connecting Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Punjab's Gurdaspur and Darbar Sahib Gurdwara in Pakistan on November 8, the day of 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak**



- ✓ Modi will inaugurate the integrated check post on the Indian side
- ✓ Kartarpur Sahib is located in Pakistan's Narowal district across the Ravi River, about 4 kilometres from the Dera Baba Nanak shrine.
- ✓ Pakistan will issue 10,000 visas to Sikh pilgrims on the occasion of 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak in November
- ✓ In a major move undertaken in last November, both India and Pakistan had agreed to set up the Kartarpur corridor to facilitate the visa-free movement of Indian pilgrims.
- ✓ Henceforth, Indian pilgrims will have to just obtain a permit to visit Kartarpur Sahib, which was established in 1522 by Sikh faith founder Guru Nanak Dev.

INTERNATIONAL

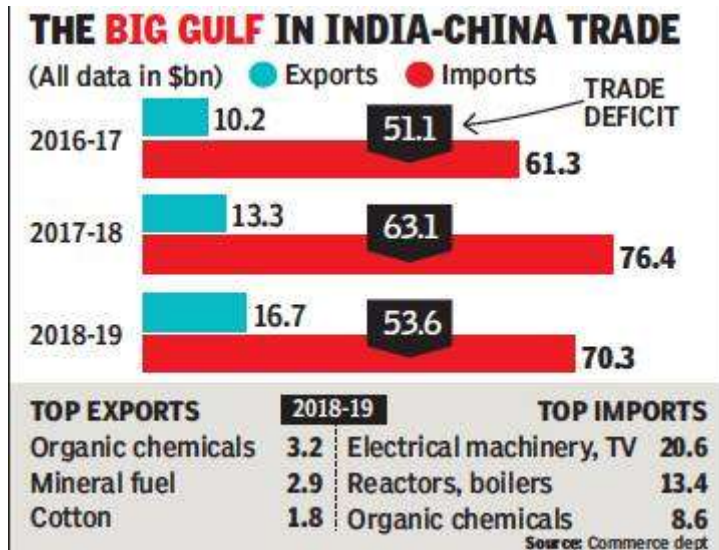
- **United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) - became the first UN organisation to do transaction in cryptocurrency**
- ✓ It will now receive and disburse donations in cryptocurrency through the newly launched UNICEF Cryptocurrency Fund
- ✓ UNICEF will be carrying out transactions on both Ether and Bitcoin platforms
- ✓ The first donation to the UNICEF Cryptocurrency Fund will be received from the Ethereum Foundation.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **Indian PM Narendra Modi and Chinese Premier Xi Jinping - concluded the second informal summit at Mamallapuram near Chennai on October 12**



- ✓ The two sides will set up a high-level mechanism headed by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Chinese vicepremier Hu Chunhua to look at trade, investment and services.
- ✓ It was the second informal meeting between both leaders after Wuhan summit held in 2018
- ✓ Post-Doklam stand-off, the Wuhan summit resulted in Modi and Xi issuing “strategic guidance” to respective militaries to ensure peace in the region
- ✓ This time there was a pledge to boost economic cooperation and sort out differences over trade, in order to maintain global stability and promote development.
- ✓ China agreed to discuss India’s long-pending trade concerns, including on pharma and software, to reduce the massive trade deficit through a joint mechanism
- ✓ India has a massive trade deficit with China, which topped \$53 billion during 2018-19



- ✓ The government has been seeking more Chinese investment in India, including in infrastructure and electronics, as a possible way to reduce imports and boost local manufacturing and job creation.

A LAMP, SHAWL AND MUCH MORE

Lighting up bilateral ties

- > Made of Brass (60% copper and 40% zinc). The whole lamp is gold plated
- > It's about 5ft tall and has 3 branches
- > The lamp was made by artisans of Nachiar Koil near Kumbakonam

“It took 30 days for us to complete and I explained the intricacies in carving the metals used in the making of the lamp”
— Chinnappa of Nachiar Koil

Silken touch

- > Shawl made of Chinese silk also known as soft silk with zari presented to Xi
- > Weaver A Shanmuga Sundaram and designer M Dharmaraj of Sirumugaipudur Sri Ramalinga Sowdambigai Weavers Cooperative Society Limited in Coimbatore crafted it
- > It took 1 week for designing and 15 days for weaving the shawl

SOCIETY MADE THREE SHAWLS | One in blue and two in red. Blue one was displayed at informal summit and one red shawl was handed over to Xi by Modi

Intricately crafted

- > Thanjavur painting of Saraswathi measuring 4ftX3ft was presented to Xi Jinping by Modi
- > Thanjavur paintings are created mostly in Swamimalai and Nachiar Koil areas near Kumbakonam

PERSONALITIES

- **Kerala's Mother Mariam Thresia – to be canonized by Pope Francis at an illustrious ceremony in St Peter's square, Vatican on October 13**

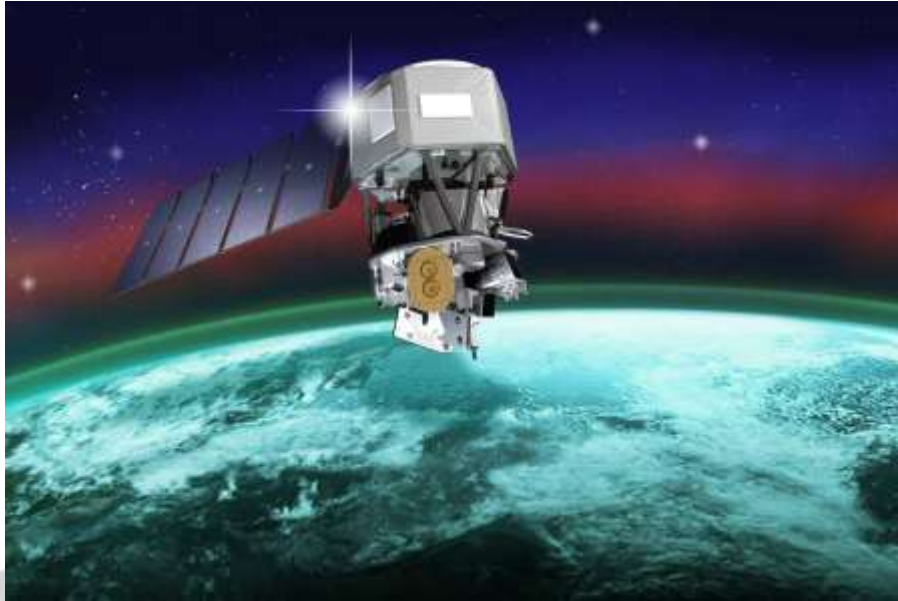


- ✓ Mother Mariam Thresia formed the congregation of holy family (CHF), an organisation dedicated to imparting Christian values to the families.
- ✓ The Congregation started in 1914 and now has 9 provinces across the country.
- ✓ Mother Thresia becomes the fourth saint to be canonized from the Catholic Church in Kerala and India's sixth.
- ✓ Her picture has already been displayed at the square, as part of the canonisation procedure.
- ✓ Born in Thrissur, Kerala, Mother Thresia (1876-1926) took up the cause of women education in the late 19th century while caring the needy and the sick
- ✓ In April 2000, St Paul John II beatified the late nun
- ✓ Thresia was granted sainthood after the submission of 'proof' that a dying child regained life after a relic of Thresia was placed on the child's heart in 2009
- ✓ Sainthood is granted only after at least one miracle attributed to the nun is checked out and sanctified by Vatican committees
- ✓ Kerala is seen as such a divine state by the Vatican that 27 other nuns and priests are also in the assembly line for sainthood
- ✓ In Kerala, Catholics constitute 60% of the population
- ✓ In his 'Mann Ki Baat' address on 29 September, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Mother Mariam Thresia, calling her the pride of India
- ✓ The first saint from the country was a Eurasian, Gonfalon Garcia, canonized in 1862
- ✓ Next, Saint Alphonsa was canonized in 2008, becoming the first Indian to be made a saint
- ✓ Later, Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, Saint Euphrasia and Mother Theresa were granted sainthood

- ✓ Ernakulam district's Sister Rani Maria, who was killed in Indore in 1995 and beatified, tops the list now

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **NASA - has launched a new satellite named as 'ICON' to detect dynamic zones of Earth's Ionosphere**



- ✓ The satellite 'Ionosphere Connection Explorer' (ICON) was launched from an aircraft over the Atlantic Ocean near the Florida coast.
- ✓ The study of Earth's Ionosphere will provide the link between space and the earth's weather
- ✓ Ionosphere includes various layers of the uppermost atmosphere where electrons flow freely, affecting Earth's magnetic field and radio communications.
- ✓ This mission is operated by the University of California
- ✓ ICON consists of 4 instruments, which will be used to measure wind speed and temperature, speed of ions and to observe light emitted from the ion by ultraviolet cameras.
- ✓ The ICON mission is the 39th successful launch and satellite deployment by Pegasus XL rocket.
- ✓ Ionosphere is an active part of the Earth's atmosphere, lying between 80 to 400 Km above the mesosphere
- ✓ As this layer contains electrically charged particles called as 'ions', it is known as the ionosphere.
- ✓ The temperature starts increasing as the height increases right from the Ionosphere.
- ✓ The Earth's atmosphere consists of 6 different layers namely Troposphere, Stratosphere, Mesosphere, Thermosphere, Ionosphere and Exosphere

SPORTS

- **Chennai's 14 year old Chess prodigy, GM Praggnanandhaa - became the World Under-18 chess champion**



- ✓ He won the Gold medal in U-18 open category and bagged the World title at the World youth chess championships held in Mumbai
- ✓ He has also won the World Under-8 (2013) and Under-10 titles (2015)
- ✓ Praggi will next be featuring in the World junior chess championships (U-20) which starts in New Delhi from October 14.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu's Rakshitta won bronze in the girls under-14 category
- ✓ Rakshitta had become a Woman International Master in October last year.
- ✓ **Winners:**
 - ✓ **U18 Open** - Praggnanandhaa R (IND) 9.0; Shant Sargsyan (ARM) 8.5; Artur Davtyan (ARM) 8.0
 - ✓ **U18 Girls** - Polina Shuvalova (RUS) 8.5; Vantika Agrawal (IND) 8.0; Alexandra Obolentseva (RUS) 7.5
 - ✓ **U16 Open** - Rudik Makarian (RUS) 8.5; Stefan Pogosyan (RUS) 8.0; Aronyak Ghosh (IND) 8.0
 - ✓ **U16 Girls** - Leya Garifullina (RUS) 8.5; Nurgali Nazerke (KAZ) 8.5; Anousha Mahdian (IRI) 8.0
 - ✓ **U14 Open** - Aydin Suleymanli (AZE) 9.0; Srihari L R (IND) 8.0; Sreeshwan Maralakshikari (IND) 8.0
 - ✓ **U14 Girls** - Meruert Kamalidenova (KAZ) 8.5; Divya Deshmukh (IND) 8.0; Rakshitta Ravi (IND) 8.0.
- ✓ The Championship ended on a high note for India with the bagging of six other medals, including three silver

- **Six time champion MC Mary Kom (51kg) and Assam girls Jamuna Boro (54kg) and Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) – settled for bronze medals at the World Women’s Boxing Championships at Ulan-Ude, Russia**
- ✓ India’s Manju Rani, seeded sixth, advanced to the 48kg final where she will take on second-seeded Russian, Ekaterina Paltceva, in the fight for gold on October 13



- ✓ Earlier in May, Rani had lost to the same opponent in Thailand Open.
 - ✓ Mary Kom, seeded third, lost to second seed Cakiroglu, who is the reigning European Champion
 - ✓ Boro went down to top seed and former Asian Games bronze medallist, Huang Hsiao-Wen of Chinese Taipei.
 - ✓ Lovlina lost the bout against China’s Yang Liu
 - ✓ In January, Haryana’s Manju Rani won gold medal at the senior national boxing championship in Vijayanagar in her maiden attempt
- **Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge - made athletics history on October 12 when he became the first person to run a marathon in under two hours**



- ✓ The Olympic champion and world record holder smashed the barrier by 20 seconds, finishing in one hour 59.40 minutes.
- ✓ It was regarded as the biggest achievement in athletics since Roger Bannister broke the four-minute mile in 1954
- ✓ However, it was not recognised as a world record by the sport's governing body as it was not in open competition and used rotating team of 41 pacemakers.
- ✓ The 9.6 km run was organised and funded by the British chemical company INEOS and dubbed the INEOS 1.59 challenge
- ✓ The 34-year-old already holds the men's World record for the distance with a time of 2:01:39s, which he set in the flat Berlin marathon on September 16, 2018.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Sight day – October 10



- ✓ The day is observed annually on the second Thursday of October

- ✓ The observance of the day aims to seek attention on blindness and vision impairment
 - ✓ It was originally initiated by the 'SightFirstCampaign' of Lions Club International Foundation in 2000
 - ✓ It has since been integrated into VISION 2020 and is coordinated by IAPB in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO)
 - ✓ Theme 2019 – 'Vision First'
- **World Postal day – October 9**



- ✓ The observance of the day marks the anniversary of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), which was started in Bern, Switzerland in 1874.
- ✓ World Post Day is celebrated to create awareness of the postal sector in everyday lives of both people and businesses and its contribution to development of countries – both social and economical
- ✓ The observance of the day was first declared at the 1969 UPU Congress in Tokyo, Japan
- ✓ The proposal to celebrate the day was submitted by Shri Anand Mohan Narula, a member of the Indian delegation.
- ✓ This year's celebration is based on the theme 'Delivering Development' in line with the "Sustainable Development Goal 16" which focuses on 'Peace, Justice and strong institutions

