

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCT 23, 2019**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- ◆ **The Tamil Nadu Directorate of Government Examinations – announced the extension of the duration of Classes X, XI and XII board exams by 30 minutes.**
  - ✓ Henceforth, the students will get three hours to write the exam instead of two-and-half hours
  - ✓ In the earlier pattern, Class XI and Class XII exams were three-hour long and the duration was brought down after reducing the subject marks from 200 to 100.
  - ✓ Consequently, the total marks was also reduced from 1,200 to 600 marks.
  - ✓ Students of Classes 10 and 12 will be taking the board exams under the new curriculum for the first time in 2020
  - ✓ The students of Class 11 had already wrote the board exam under the revamped curriculum for the first time in 2019

### **STATES**

- ◆ **The Uttar Pradesh government - has granted the status of ‘State fair’ to the Deepotsav Mela to be held in Ayodhya during the festival of Deepavali.**



- ✓ The festival, in which over 5.5 lakh lamps will be lit on October 26, will be held at an estimated cost of ₹133 crore
- ✓ Last year, the festival highlighted the Korean connection to the town, and South Korea’s first lady Kim Jung-sook was the chief guest at the event.
- ◆ **Assam Cabinet - decided to not to give government jobs for people with more than two children.**
  - ✓ The policy will come into effect from January 1, 2021.

## NATIONAL

### ◆ Vice-President Venkaiah Nadu - will represent India at the 18th Non-Aligned Movement summit on October 25-26 in Azerbaijan's Baku

- ✓ This is the second successive instance that PM Narendra Modi will skip the summit, indicating India's transformation from a non-aligned country to one which is supposedly multi-aligned
- ✓ Earlier, in 2016, the PM became the first Indian PM to skip the meeting of heads of states and governments of NAM nations during its 17<sup>th</sup> summit in Venezuela
- ✓ India was one of the founding nations of NAM, helping to deal with challenges like apartheid and colonialism

### ◆ Southern Railway - launched a new app called Rail Dhandora



- ✓ It will be useful to view commercial circulars regarding ticketing, catering and other amenities like freight and parcel bookings
- ✓ The app, which can be downloaded from Google Play, will be useful for TTEs as passenger fare tables can be viewed in offline mode too
- ✓ Forms for passengers like concessions as well as for employees such as leave application forms, PF forms, travelling allowance forms, NOC for passport and others are also available on the app
- ✓ The commercial manual and commercial code also feature in the app
- ✓ It was developed by the IT cell of Southern Railway commercial department

## DEFENCE

### ◆ The Indian Air Force - has successfully carried out the test-firing of two BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles at Trak Island in the Andaman Nicobar islands.



- ✓ The targets were kept at a distance of 300 km, which were successfully hit.
- ✓ These missiles were produced by BrahMos Aerospace, which was established as a joint venture between India and Russia
- ✓ The first BrahMos surface-to-surface variant was test-fired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur in June 2001
- ✓ Later, BrahMos created a new world record in September 2010 by becoming the first cruise missile to be tested at supersonic speeds in a steep-dive mode.

## APPOINTMENTS

### ◆ **Sukhbir Singh Sandhu – is appointed as the new Chairman of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)**

- ✓ His appointment was cleared by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- ✓ Sandhu replaces NN Sinha, who was appointed as the secretary, department for border management
- ✓ Sandhu is 1988 batch IAS officer from the Uttarakhand Cadre and was the additional secretary at the department of education
- ✓ He is the eighth chairman of NHAI within a span of four and half years
- ✓ R P Singh was the last chairman who had served a full three year term till June 2015.
- ✓ In another important appointment, Arving Singh has been appointed as the Chairman of Airports Authority of India (AAI)
- ✓ He replaces board member Anuj Aggarwal, who was appointed as Chairman in August
- ✓ NHAI is the main highway construction agency of central government and it has been tasked to develop highway networks under the Bharatmala programme

## SPORTS

### ◆ **GM D Harika - won the women's title at the FIDE Chess.com Grand Swiss event, which concluded in Isle of Man**



- ✓ Following the victory, Harika's rankings too will see a leap — from 13th currently to 9th in the world.
- ✓ Her excellent performance in the tournament earned Harika 23 points and took her overall ELO rating to 2518
- ✓ Harika finished with 5.5 points on par with Kazakhstan's Dinara Saduakassova, but Harika was declared the winner of the category on better tiebreak scores.
- ✓ Harika was the three-time World championship bronze medallist
- ✓ The 28-year-old was conferred the prestigious Padma Shri this year

### ◆ **Para athlete Anandan Gunasekaran - opened India's medal tally at the 7<sup>th</sup> CISM Military World Games with a gold in the disabled men's 100m IT1 event at Wuhan, China**



- ✓ The 32-year-old hailing from Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu won the event in 12 seconds.
- ✓ He followed it up with another gold medal win in the disabled men's 400m IT1 event with a timing of 53.32 seconds.
- ✓ Anandan — serving as subedar with the Indian army — lost his left leg when a live mine went off during his routine search at the LOC in Jammu & Kashmir's Kupwara district back in June 2008
- ✓ In 2015, Anandan, called India's Blade runner, won the 200m gold at the World Military Games in South Korea.
- ✓ He followed that up with 400m gold at Asia Oceania championships in 2016
- ✓ In 2017, Anandan won silver in the 400m event of World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Dubai.
- ✓ Anandan bagged a silver and bronze in the 400m and 200m events respectively in the Asian Para Games in Jakarta last year

