

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCT 24, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- **The Centre - has sanctioned ₹1,950 crore to Tamil Nadu for setting up 6 new medical colleges under the Phase III of the ongoing centrally-sponsored scheme, adding 900 more MBBS seats to the state matrix**
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has given its final approval to Tamil Nadu's proposal to establish six medical colleges with 150 seats in each
- ✓ With this, the total number of government-owned medical colleges in the state will become 29, excluding three government-run colleges
- ✓ The state would be allocating Rs 780 crore to start colleges in the districts of Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Tirupur, Namakkal and The Nilgiris.
- ✓ Each medical college was sanctioned ₹325 crore— ₹195 crore from the Centre (60%) and ₹130 crore from the state. (40%)
- ✓ With the proposed addition, the total number of seats in government colleges will become 4,150.
- ✓ Last week, Medical Council of India, the apex body that regulates medical education in the country, cleared the approval through its technical committee and the empowered committee
- ✓ On August 28, 2019, the cabinet committee on economic affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister, had approved setting up of 75 government medical colleges by 2021-22.

- **The Tamil Nadu government - has sanctioned ₹1,147.43 crore to upgrade roads falling under panchayats and panchayat unions, which forms the backbone for rural economy**
- ✓ The upgrade will be done under the category of 'other district roads'
- ✓ The 'other district roads' are either single lane or intermediate lane based on traffic density

- ✓ It includes roads that connect major industries, agricultural marketing centres, tourism centres, religious places, taluk headquarters and other significant routes in the neighbourhood.
 - ✓ The rural development and panchayat raj department has identified 2,596 panchayat union roads and panchayat roads covering 7,965km for upgradation.
 - ✓ The approval has been granted to take up upgradation of 434.93km under phase II of last fiscal and another 1267.9km of phase I of this year.
 - ✓ Around 76km of panchayat and panchayat union roads will be upgraded in Pudukottai, which tops the list, under phase II of last fiscal, followed by Ariyalur (60km).
 - ✓ In the phase I programme for this financial year, Ramanathapuram (88.9km) and Salem (79.03kms) remains as the top priority districts
- **Tamil Nadu government - has won 12 awards from the Centre for effective Local body administration**



- ✓ The state has received the e-Panchayat Puraskar award for adopting IT practices and tools in local bodies and also for bringing the rural local body accounts under the public fund management system.
- ✓ Salem, Perundurai union in Erode and Pallipalayam union in Namakkal, and 6 village panchayats in Salem, Namakkal, Erode, Madurai and Tiruvannamalai districts have been awarded the Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Pruskar award for allotting additional fund and appointing adequate manpower to enhance performance of local bodies.
- ✓ Ravanapuram village panchayat in Tirupur district is conferred with the Centre's Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Puraskar award for implementing various schemes through strong and vibrant grama sabha.
- ✓ Patteswaram panchayat in Thanjavur district has received the child-friendly village panchayat award.
- ✓ Union minister of rural development Narendra Singh Tomar gave away the awards to the state minister for rural development and panchayat raj department, S P Velumani in New Delhi
- ✓ The state government had spent ₹17,199 crore for laying 78,190 km-long roads in rural area, allocating ₹6,329 crore for drinking water projects, ₹875 crore for

- installing 20.87 lakh street lights, ₹807 crore for constructing 543 bridges and ₹654 crore to implement solid waste management in the state
- ✓ Last year, the state received five awards.

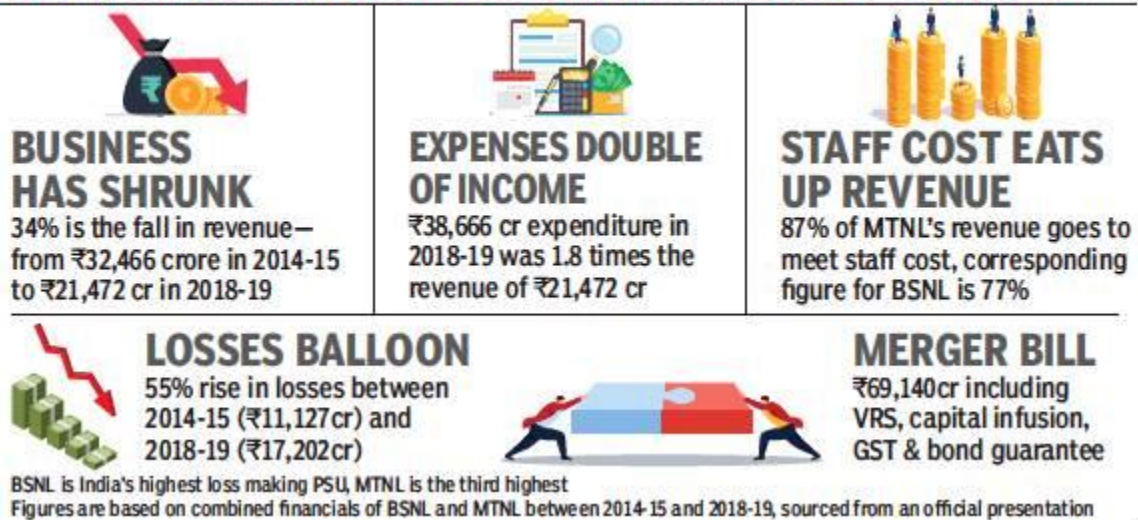
STATES

- **Nedumangad block panchayat in Kerala - has won the prestigious Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar for 2019**
- ✓ The panchayat was awarded based on its performance in various indications such as — construction of toilets, implementation of 'open-defecation free' programme, sanitation, waste management, innovation in revenue generation, implementation of schemes relating to agriculture, health and women and child development, and e-governance.
- ✓ Rural development minister, Narendra Singh Tomar gave away the award to the representatives of the panchayat from Thiruvananthapuram district at the national panchayat awards function

NATIONAL

- **The Centre - announces a package of nearly ₹70,000 crore to revive loss-making telecom PSUs, BSNL and MTNL over a period of next three to four years**
- ✓ The two companies which together holds about 14% market share in the mobile business will also be merged.

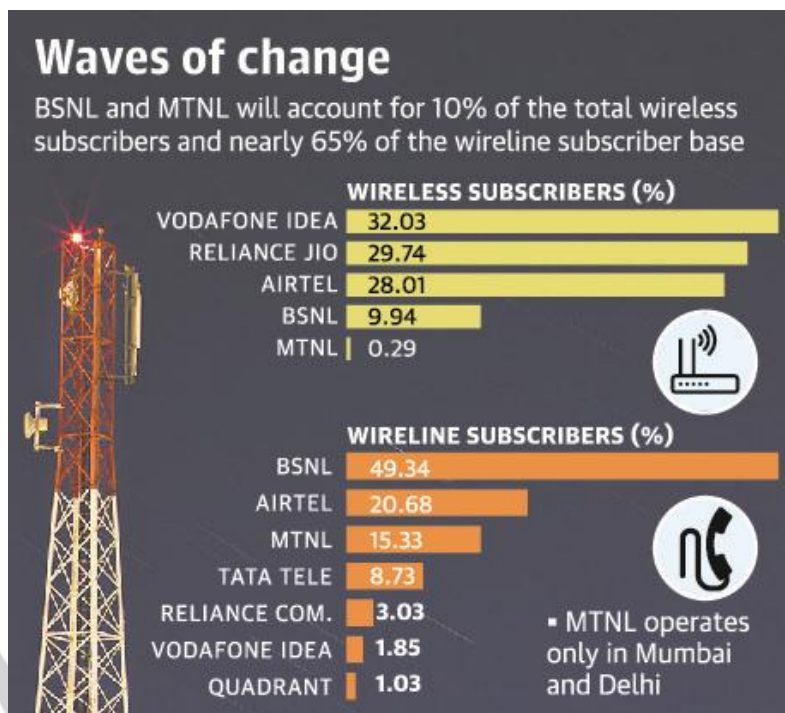
INDIA'S NO. 1 & NO. 3 LOSS-MAKING PSUs TO COMBINE



- ✓ The revival package includes Rs 30,000 crore, voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) bonanza that intends to retire those above the age of 50 by providing them nearly 10 years of salary in advance apart from pensionary benefits
- ✓ It also intends to give the ailing companies the access to 4G spectrum (at an additional cost of Rs 10,000 crore for its infrastructure) and plans to sell their

locked assets worth Rs 38,000 crore consisting of large areas of land, and telecom towers.

- ✓ BSNL, with estimated loss of ₹13,804 crore in 2018-19, has pan-India operations, except for Delhi and Mumbai.
- ✓ Delhi and Mumbai are covered by MTNL, whose losses in 2018-19 were pegged at ₹3,400 crore.



- ✓ With these revival measures, the government is confident that the two companies will be operationally profitable over the next two years, and may become fully profitable by the year 2023
 - ✓ The PSUs were onto the loss-making mode due to several factors, which includes poor management, high staff cost, government meddling and very poor customer service
 - ✓ The shrinking land line numbers apart from the stiff competition in the telecom sector especially after the launch of Reliance Jio in September 2016 led to their gradual collapse
 - ✓ About 22,000 employees are working in MTNL while about 163,000 people are working with BSNL
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh – inaugurated Colonel Chewang Rinchen Setu in Eastern Ladakh, the country’s all-weather highest altitude bridge**



- ✓ The 400 metre long bridge was built at an altitude of about 15,000 feet using micro piling technology
 - ✓ It connects the Karakoram and Chang Chenmo mountain ranges
 - ✓ The bridge was built by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on River Shyok connecting Durbuk and Daulat Beg Oldie areas at about 45km away from Indo-China border
 - ✓ Col Chewang Rinchen, known as Lion of Ladakh, was one of the six soldiers of the Armed Forces who was awarded the Mahavir Chakra twice.
 - ✓ Rinchen served in 1962's India-China war and also in the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971
- **The Ministry of Information Technology – announces the launch of BHIM 2.0 on October 21**



- ✓ The new version of BHIM 2.0 mobile app includes the addition of new languages, new functionalities and increased transaction limits among other features.

- ✓ BHIM 2.0 is a payments interface developed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- ✓ Established in 2016, it allows real-time fund transfer
- ✓ It is already available in 13 languages and now three additional languages – Haryanvi, Bhojpuri and Konkani - were also added to it
- **Air India - has become the first airlines in the world to use a Taxibot on an A-320 aircraft with passengers on board**



- ✓ Taxibot is basically a robotic service for taxiing an aircraft from parking bay to runway and vice-versa.
- ✓ The usage of Taxibot will reduce the fuel consumption by 85% besides bringing down the engine wear and tear.
- **Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare - launched Food Safety Mitra Scheme, in which youths will be engaged with the food safety ecosystem at ground level.**



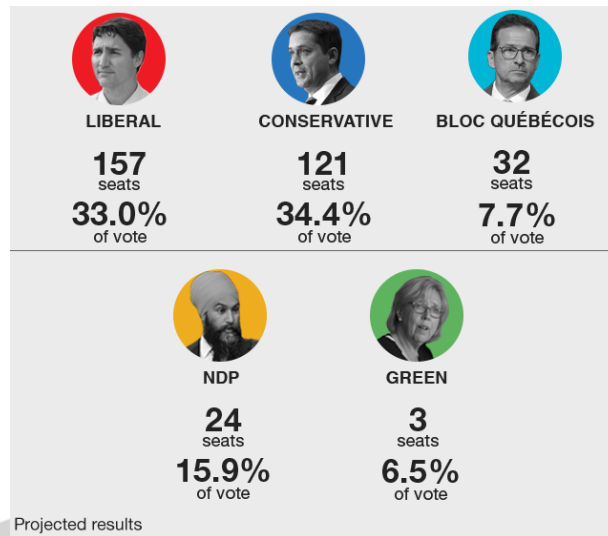
- ✓ The Union Minister also launched two other initiatives - Eat Right Jhola and Eat Right Jacket on the occasion of World Food Day

- ✓ Eat Right Jhola is a reusable and bio-degradable bag while Eat Right Smart Jacket is a uniform for FSSAI staff.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Justin Trudeau's Liberal party - has retained power in the Canadian general election 2019 as a 'minority' government with narrow margin**

Canadian election results



- ✓ He will form the government with the support of other smaller parties to get to the majority number of 170 out of the 338 seats in Canadian Parliament
- ✓ The New Democratic Party's leader Jagmeet Singh is likely to play the role of kingmaker, as his party has won 24 seats, down from their previous 44.

PERSONALITIES

- **The test flights of VT-NMD (Narendra Modi Devendra), India's first experimental aircraft - will finally be carried out in December 2019**



- ✓ Amol Yadav, a former Jet Airways and now a Spicejet pilot, developed the 6-seater aircraft and displayed it at the Make in India week in 2016
- ✓ It was completely assembled on the terrace of his home in Mumbai's Charkop area.
- ✓ The aircraft, though ready in 2016, has been tested only now at the National Aeronautics Laboratory in Bengaluru

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **India - will commission its' first-ever survey to estimate the population and geographical range of the snow leopard, an endangered predator.**



- ✓ This was launched by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar on the eve of International Snow Leopard Day – to conserve and protect the elusive species
- ✓ The snow leopard is found along the upper reaches of the Himalayan range and, in India, it is found in Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh
- ✓ National Tiger Conservation Authority, which is part of the Union Environment Ministry, will play a crucial role in coordinating the survey.
- ✓ Globally, the snow leopard is found in 12 countries — India, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Mongolia, Russia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

DEFENCE

- **The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) - has approved capital procurement worth over Rs 3,300 crore of indigenously designed and developed equipment for the defence forces.**
- ✓ The approval has been given for three projects - Third-generation Anti-Tank Guided Missiles, Auxiliary Power Units for the T-72 and T-90 Tanks and Electronic Warfare systems to be developed by DRDO
- ✓ The Defence Acquisition Council, established in 2001, is chaired by the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

ECONOMY

- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) - has become the first Indian company to cross 9 lakh crore market valuation mark**
- ✓ Earlier, in August 2018, it had become the first Indian firm to cross 8 lakh crore mark of market valuation.

AWARDS

- **India – has bagged four awards in three categories at the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation**
- ✓ India's Flora Fountain (Mumbai) won the award in the 'Honourable Mention' category
- ✓ Award of Merit has been given to Keneseth Eliyahoo Synagogue and Our Lady of Glory Church, both in Mumbai
- ✓ Award of Distinction has given to Vikram Sarabhai Library, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, India.
- ✓ The UNESCO award, established in 2000, highlights the spirit and efforts of private organisations or individuals that have successfully restored and conserved structures of heritage value in their regions.

SPORTS

- **Praveen Kumar - becomes the first Indian man to win a gold medal in the 15th World Wushu Championship at Shanghai**
- ✓ He defeated Russel Diaz of the Philippines in the 48kg category in the men's sanda event, a mixed martial full contact sport.
- ✓ Praveen, who hails from Kalanaur village in Haryana's Rohtak district, was participating in his maiden World Championships



- ✓ Praveen, a jawan in the Indian Army, started playing wushu in 2014 and won the senior nationals held in Patna the next year.
 - ✓ In 2017, Pooja Kadian had become the first Indian to be crowned world champion in wushu in the women's 75kg sanda event.
 - ✓ India finished third overall in the championship in sanda with a gold, two silver and a bronze
 - ✓ Poonam (women's 75kg) and Sanathoi Devi (women's 52kg) won silver medals, while Vikrant Baliyan secured the bronze in the men's 60kg category.
 - ✓ It was the fourth consecutive silver for Manipur's Sanathoi Devi at the worlds.
- **Sourav Ganguly – took over as the 39th President of BCCI at the annual general meeting on October 23.**



- ✓ He will remain in charge of the post till July 2020, as per the provisions of the new constitutional requirements
- ✓ Union Minister Amit Shah's son, Jay shah will remain the secretary of the BCCI
- ✓ Arun Dhumal, younger brother of former BCCI president and Union Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur, has become treasurer

- ✓ Ganguly is the second cricketer to hold the coveted post, after a period of 65 years

BEFORE DADA, IT WAS THE MAHARAJA

- Sir Vizzy served as chairman of BCCI from 1954 to 1957
- He captained Indian team which toured England in 1936
- He played a key role in promoting football
- The Korukonda football tournament, which he sponsored, helped Vizag become a football powerhouse
- Sir Vizzy also played an key role in promoting Kanpur as a cricket hub, thereby promoting the game in UP



- ✓ Sir Maharajkumar Viziaram Gajapathi Raju, who was popularly known as Sir Vizzy, held this post from 1954 to 1956
- ✓ Sir Vizzy also personally financed the construction of the Feroz Shah Kotla stadium in New Delhi
- ✓ Sourav Ganguly played 113 test matches and scored 7212 runs, besides playing 311 one day international matches and scoring about 11,363 runs in his illustrious cricket career.
- ✓ Ganguly captained India in 147 ODIs and out of this he won 76 matches and under his captaincy with the average winning of 54%.
- ✓ He also won 21 out of 49 Tests and lost only 13 Tests between 2000 to 2005, when he took over as the captain of Indian test cricket team

