

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

### TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu's fiscal deficit – was estimated at ₹19,228.14 crore in the first quarter of 2020-21**
- ✓ This was revealed by the provisional figures released by the CAG for the state.
- ✓ The deficit accounts for 32.4% of the ₹59,346 crore projected in the budget estimates for 2020-21.
- ✓ The fiscal deficit is the difference between total revenue and expenditure excluding borrowings
- ✓ The State's total receipts, excluding borrowings, in the first quarter stood at ₹29,322.25 crore

#### Money matters

A look at Tamil Nadu's financial status in the first quarter of 2020-21

■ State's own tax revenue  
**11,755.24**

■ State's share of Central taxes **4,446.35**

■ Other taxes and duties  
**491.54**

■ Non-tax revenue **1,602.71**

■ Grants-in-aid and contributions **10,918.67**

■ Total revenue receipts  
**29,214.51**

- Add: Capital Receipts  
**107.74**

**TOTAL RECEIPTS**  
**29,322.25**

■ Revenue expenditure  
**46,486.76**

■ Capital expenditure  
**1,874.64**

■ Loans and advances disbursed  
**188.99**

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE**  
**48,550.39**

**Revenue deficit**  
(Total revenue receipts minus revenue expenditure)  
**17,272.75**

**Fiscal deficit** (Total receipts minus total expenditure)  
**19,228.14**



All figures in ₹ crore

SOURCE: COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL

- ✓ This is about 13.04% of the estimated ₹2,24,739 crore as per the budget for the 2020-21.
- ✓ The total revenue receipts stood at ₹29,214.51 crore, indicating a drop of about 23.2% from ₹38,053.01 crore in the same period last year.
- ✓ The revenue deficit for the first quarter stood at ₹17,272.75 crore.
- ✓ The State's Own Tax Revenue, which comprises the State GST, Stamp Duty and Registration Fees, liquor revenues and the VAT on sale of petrol and diesel, was ₹11,755.24 crore
- ✓ It also showed a decline of about 49% from ₹23,000.22 crore realized in the same period last year.
- ✓ The Centre's grants-in-aid increased to ₹10,918.67 crore in the first quarter of 2020-21 from ₹4,186.58 crore in the same period last year
- ✓ Further, the capital expenditure in the first quarter of 2020-21 also declined nearly 37% to ₹1,874.64 crore from ₹2,964.55 crore in the same period last year.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has been the biggest borrower from the market so far during 2020-21.
- ✓ The borrowings have increased by 117% to ₹46,000 crore from ₹21,190 crore in the same period last year.

➤ **The serving of court notices and summons - is all set to go digital across Tamil Nadu and Puducherry**

- ✓ The move follows the extension of the facility to all subordinate courts by the Madras High Court.
- ✓ To facilitate the process, the High Court has procured smartphones to be distributed to bailiffs and process servers
- ✓ They will be using a mobile app to capture photographs of people on whom notices are served upon, going forward.
- ✓ The bailiffs will be using the National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP), an Android-based application
- ✓ It was developed at the insistence of the Supreme Court for delivery of processes.
- ✓ The app will be connected to Case Information System (CIS), a software used by courts across the country for digitalisation of judicial services.
- ✓ The CIS provides facility to generate electronic processes in PDF format

➤ **On September 13, Tamil Nadu – reported 5,693 Covid-19 cases and 74 deaths, taking the cumulative caseload over the five lakh mark to 5,02,759 and casualties to 8,381**

- ✓ The state has 47,012 active cases in various hospitals and Covid care centres
- ✓ A total of 5,717 persons were discharged after treatment from various health facilities
- ✓ Chennai reported 994 cases and 17 deaths, while the three neighbouring districts, Tiruvallur (300), Chengalpet (299), and Kancheepuram (189) together reported 788 cases and 16 deaths.
- ✓ Further, Coimbatore accounted for 490 followed by Salem (309) and Tirupur (291)

# NATIONAL

- **The monsoon session of the Parliament – will get underway on September 14 with strict protocols in place**
- ✓ The unique 18-day session will witness MPs sitting with plastic sheet separators and microphones on podiums in visitors' galleries where individual seats do not have mikes
- ✓ Further, the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha main chambers will have a "proportionate" representation of political parties including their leaders.
- ✓ This is the first time in the history of Indian Parliament that both chambers have been integrated for holding a session.
- ✓ Political parties have been allotted a certain number of seats in the main chambers and visitors' galleries and it is up to them to nominate which of their MPs sits where.
- ✓ The Rajya Sabha will see the election of a deputy chairperson, with JD(U)'s Harivansh expected to win easily as the NDA nominee against RJD's Manoj Jha, who is the candidate of Congress and some other non-NDA parties.
- ✓ The Parliament secretariat has facilitated MPs with the option to mark their attendance digitally through an app —Attendance Register — developed by the NIC.
- ✓ There will be 18 continuous sittings till October 1 during which 45 bills, two financial items and 11 ordinances are to taken up.
- ✓ There will be obituary references to the late Pranab Mukherjee, India's 13th President, after which the two Houses are expected to function.
- ✓ Both Houses will sit for four hours each every day without weekend breaks.
- ✓ The two Houses are to take up motions to allow them to run without question hour and discussion on private members' bills
- ✓ Parliament had last met for the budget session from January 31 to February 11.
- ✓ Health minister Harsh Vardhan will make a statement on the Covid-19 situation in both Houses.
- ✓ All MPs and their family members have undergone Covid-19 test before the session and they have been given kits of sanitisers, masks, gloves and other health-related material.
  
- **The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) – has decided to restart the human trials of the Oxford University Covid-19 vaccine candidate in India in the next three days**
- ✓ This follows the clearance provided by the UK-based health safety watchdogs
- ✓ Meanwhile, the Serum Institute of India has said that it will resume trials once DCGI gives permission

- ✓ On September 12, British drugmaker AstraZeneca had announced that it was restarting advanced human trials of the vaccine candidate it developed jointly with Oxford University.
  - ✓ The late-stage trials of the vaccine were temporarily put on hold globally following an adverse and unexplained side-effect in a UK patient.
  - ✓ A total of 17 Indian medical hospitals are currently conducting human trials of the Oxford vaccine
  - ✓ The vaccine will be manufactured by Pune-headquartered Serum Institute of India under the name, Covishield.
  - ✓ The ICMR is supervising Oxford University vaccine trials in the country.
  - ✓ A total of 17 trial sites across the country are involved in conducting phase 2 and phase 3 human trials of the vaccine among 1,600 healthy adult volunteers.
  - ✓ They are currently awaiting the go-ahead to move into phase 3 testing.
  - ✓ A total of 100 volunteers have already received the trial dose of the vaccine in the phase 2 trials and none of them have reported any adverse reactions, so far.
  - ✓ According to a statement issued by AstraZeneca, an independent expert committee in the UK set up to review the issue had concluded its investigations and recommended to the Medicines Health Regulatory Authority that the trials are “safe to resume”.
  - ✓ In June, UK firm AstraZeneca had signed a pact with Serum Institute for manufacturing a billion doses of the vaccine at its Pune facility.
- **On September 13, 94,613 fresh Covid-19 cases were recorded in the country, taking the total case count to 48,43,019, as per data collated from state governments.**
- ✓ As many as 1,155 fatalities were reported on the day, with the total toll going up to 79,669.
  - ✓ Meanwhile, the number of active cases came close to the 1 million mark, at 9,95,547.
  - ✓ The recoveries from the virus rose to 37,67,803.
  - ✓ Maharashtra reported the maximum of 22,543 fresh cases and 416 deaths on the day.
  - ✓ Karnataka reported 9,894 new Covid cases, its highest single-day surge in infections while Andhra Pradesh accounted for 9,536 cases

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **The DRDO - is planning a national programme on Directed Energy Weapons (DEWs) like high-energy lasers and high-powered microwaves**
- ✓ These are increasingly being considered crucial for the contactless conflicts of the future
  - ✓ The national programme will have short, medium and long-term goals

- ✓ The final aim of the project is to develop different DEW variants of up to 100 kilowatt power, in collaboration with the domestic industry
- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has been working on several DEW projects for long, even though they are not in 'operational' condition
- ✓ These projects range from 'chemical oxygen iodine' and 'high-power fibre' lasers to a secretive 'Kali' particle beam weapon for 'soft-kills' against incoming missiles and aircraft.
- ✓ The work on DEWs has now gained urgency amid the ongoing military confrontation with China in eastern Ladakh.

### SILENT & STEALTHY GAME-CHANGERS

<b>DIRECTED ENERGY WEAPONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ They can be high-energy/ solid-state lasers, high-power microwaves &amp; charged-particle beams</li> <li>➤ DEWs have 2 major subsystems: laser source &amp; beam control system</li> <li>➤ Militarily, a laser weapon would require a 500-kilowatt beam to destroy an incoming missile.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Conventional weapons use kinetic/chemical energy in missiles or other projectiles to destroy targets</li> <li>➤ DEWs are beams of concentrated electronic magnetic energy or subatomic particles to hit targets</li> </ul>		
<b>Operational Advantages:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Pinpoint accuracy at speed of light</li> <li>➤ Low cost per shot &amp; flexible compared to missiles</li> <li>➤ Can engage multiple targets, with rapid re-targeting</li> <li>➤ Can be used endlessly if power supply adequate, minimal collateral damage</li> </ul>	<b>Status:</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Use of lasers in industry/medicine widely prevalent</li> <li>➤ Lasers used in everyday life, from CD/DVD players to printers &amp; barcode scanners</li> <li>➤ US, Russia, China, Germany &amp; Israel have developed DEWs to destroy drones, vehicles, boats etc</li> <li>➤ High-power lasers for use as deadly long-range weapons still being developed</li> </ul>	

- ✓ DRDO has so far developed two anti-drone DEW systems, which will now be manufactured in large numbers with the help of the private players.
- ✓ Of these, one is a trailer-mounted DEW, with a 10 kilowatt laser to engage aerial targets at 2km range, while the other is a compact tripod-mounted one with a 2 kilowatt laser for a 1km range.
- ✓ These anti-drone systems were successfully demonstrated to the armed forces, intelligence agencies and police forces in field operations
- ✓ They can target micro drones by either jamming their command and control links or damaging their electronics through the laser-based DEW
- ✓ These indigenous systems, however, are extremely modest compared to the much more powerful DEWs developed by countries like the US, Russia, China, Germany and Israel to destroy multiple drones, vehicles and boats.
- ✓ The US, for instance, tested a 33 kilowatt laser weapon from a warship to shoot down drones several years ago. More recently, in May, the US Navy tested a new 'high-energy solid-state laser' to disable a drone aircraft in mid-air.
- ✓ In the next four to five years, the US will be capable of deploying 300 to 500 kilowatt DEWs capable of shooting down cruise missiles.

- ✓ In the next decade, the Army and IAF need at least 20 'tactical high-energy laser systems' that can destroy 'small aerial targets', electronic warfare and radars systems at a range of 6-8km in Phase-I.

## OBITUARY

- **Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, former Union Minister (74 years)**



- ✓ Former Union Minister Raghuvansh Prasad Singh passed away on September 13 in New Delhi after a prolonged illness.
- ✓ The five-time Lok Sabha MP representing Vaishali was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi in the second week of August with post-COVID-19 complications
- ✓ Singh, a Ph.D. in mathematics, was one of the few Rajput leaders in the RJD who entered politics as part of the socialist ideological school
- ✓ He was made Minister of State for Energy in the Karpoori Thakur government in Bihar in 1977.
- ✓ He fought his first Lok Sabha election in 1996, when he was made a Minister of State in the Union government.
- ✓ Singh was most known for steering the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the UPA government's flagship programme, as the Minister for Rural Development (2004-09).

## SPORTS

- **Naomi Osaka (Japan) – defeated Victoria Azarenka (Belarus) to clinch her second US Open crown in three years at Flushing Meadows in New York on September 12**
- ✓ With the win, Osaka becomes the first Asian player — man or woman — to capture three Grand Slam singles titles.



- ✓ China's Li Na is the only other major singles champion from Asia having won the 2011 Roland Garros and 2014 Australian Open titles
- ✓ The 22-year old Naomi took almost two hours to emerge victorious over the 31-year old Azarenka to win the \$3 million prize money
- ✓ Osaka had jumped to World No.3 in WTA rankings with the win , while Azarenka moved to No. 14 in the new rankings

## NATIONAL DAY

- **Hindi Diwas or Hindi Day – September 14**



- ✓ The observance of the day marks the adoption of Hindi as one of the official languages of India.
- ✓ Hindi, an Indo-Aryan language written in the Devanagari script, was adopted under Article 343 of the Indian Constitution.
- ✓ After the independence of the country in the year 1947, Hindi and English were chosen as the official languages of the new nation.

- ✓ On 14 September 1949, the Constituent Assembly accepted Hindi written in Devanagari script along with English as the official language of the nation
- ✓ The first official Hindi day was observed on 14 September 1953, as decided by Jawaharlal Nehru government in Centre
- ✓ Under Article 351 of the Constitution, it is the responsibility of the central government to develop and promote Hindi as a medium of expression.
- ✓ In addition to the official language, 22 other languages are included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
- ✓ Every year from September 14-21, Hindi week or Rajbhasha week is celebrated across the nation.
- ✓ In addition to Hindi Day, World Hindi Day is also celebrated on 10 January every year.
- ✓ The decision to use Hindi as an official language of India was legalized by the Constitution of India on January 26, 1950.
- ✓ Hindi is spoken as the native language by 258 million people
- ✓ It has also been recognized as the fourth most spoken language in the world.



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