

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-SEPTEMBER 24, 2020**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **On September 23, Tamil Nadu – reported 5,363 fresh Covid-19 infections and 63 more deaths, taking the cumulative casecount to 5,57,999 and death toll to 9,010**
- ✓ As many as 5,363 persons were discharged during the day, taking the total number of recoveries to 5,02,740.
- ✓ The capital city, Chennai reported 980 new cases and eight deaths
- ✓ In Coimbatore, 587 more people were diagnosed with the infection, while Salem reported 298 fresh cases and Tiruppur 247.
- ✓ The neighbouring Chengalpattu district logged 297 fresh cases, while Kancheepuram reported 205 cases and Tiruvallur 218.
- ✓ Currently, the state has 177 testing facilities, including 66 in the government sector.
  
- **Chennai - will soon have the second radar to help in surveillance and early warning of severe weather events.**
- ✓ The state-of-the-art indigenous weather radar will be installed on the premises of the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Pallikaranai.
- ✓ On September 23, the foundation stone for the dual polarised solid state X-Band weather radar was laid.
- ✓ The instrument will help in capturing weather events occurring within a radius of 80-100 km and assist providing forecasts on urban flooding
- ✓ With technical design provided by the Indian Space Research Organisation, it was manufactured indigenously by Data Patterns Ltd.
- ✓ The city has its sole S-Band Doppler weather radar installed on top of the Port Trust Centenary building
- ✓ It was installed in 2002 as part of the IMD's modernization plan to replace cyclone detection radar

## NATIONAL

- **On September 23, the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha – were adjourned sine die**
  - ✓ This year, the Rajya Sabha witnessed one of the shortest monsoon sessions with only 10 sittings and clocked a productivity rate of over 100%
  - ✓ The monsoon session, that started on September 14, was scheduled to go on till October 1, 2020
  - ✓ On its last day, the Upper House passed eight Bills in less than four hours as the Opposition boycotted the proceedings over the manner in which two farm Bills were passed on September 20.
  - ✓ According to the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, M. Venkaiah Naidu, the session was being concluded eight sittings ahead of the 18 planned sittings due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
  - ✓ In the 10 sittings, 25 bills were passed and six bills introduced.
  - ✓ The productivity of the House during this session has been 100.47%.
  - ✓ As against the scheduled available time of 38 hours and 30 minutes, the actual functional time of the House has been 38 hours and 41 minutes, as per the Chairman.
  - ✓ During the last day, the House passed the following legislation — the Foreign Contribution Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020; the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020; the Bilateral Netting of Qualified Financial Contracts Bill, 2020; the Occupational Safety Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020; the Industrial Relations Code, 2020; the Code on Social Security, 2020; the Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2020; and the Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2020.
  - ✓ The Lok Sabha also witnessed one of the shortest sessions in India's parliamentary history, seeing the passage of 25 bills.
  - ✓ Lok Sabha's productivity clocked at 167% with 25 Bills passed; 2,300 unstarred questions answered; 68% of the sittings dealing with legislative work; and 370 Zero Hour mentions.
  
- **On September 23, Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan - addressed the Ministers of Member Nations of WHO, Heads and Representatives of UN Agencies**
  - ✓ During his speech, the Minister said that India has accorded high priority for ending tuberculosis by 2025.
  - ✓ India is planning to achieve this target five years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goals.
  - ✓ To reach the target, the country had launched National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme , which has been later renamed to National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).
  - ✓ Further, TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign was launched in September 2019.

- ✓ A National TB information system called as the 'Nikshay Ecosystem' was also unveiled, which is intended to serve as a one-stop solution to monitor program progress and manage patient information
  - ✓ A financial support scheme called 'Nikshay Poshan Yojana' was inaugurated for the TB patient's nutritional needs
  - ✓ Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) had started 'Saksham Project' to provide psycho-social counselling to drug resistant TB patients.
  - ✓ Tuberculosis is a bacterial infection affecting lungs.
  - ✓ It is caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis (MTB) bacteria.
  - ✓ India accounts for 27% of the cases in world as of 2018.
  - ✓ At present, antibiotic resistance is a growing concern with an increase in the number of cases of multiple drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB)
- **On September 23, the Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020 - was passed in Lok Sabha**
- ✓ The bill was intended to replace the Major Ports Act, 1963.
  - ✓ It aims to regulate, operate and plan major ports in India and provide greater autonomy to ports in the country.
  - ✓ The bill specifically deal with the major ports such as the Vishakhapatnam, Paradip, Mormugao, V.O. Chidambaranar, New Mangalore, Kolkata, Kandla, Mumbai, Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Chennai, Cochin port.
  - ✓ As per the new Bill, ports will be managed by Port Authorities Board, which will replace the port trusts.
  - ✓ The board comprises of chairperson, members from respective state governments, representatives from Defence Ministry, Railway Ministry and Customs Department.
  - ✓ The chairperson of the board will be appointed by the Central Government.
  - ✓ The board will also include two to four independent members who will represent the interests of the port authorities.
  - ✓ The board will be empowered to use its properties and raise loans from any scheduled banks and financial institutions.
  - ✓ It can also use its funds to provide social benefits including health, education, skill development, environment and housing.
- **On September 23, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICMR) – launched Kritagya (Krishi-Raknik-Gyan) Hackathon under the National Agricultural Higher Education Project.**
- ✓ It was launched with an objective to promote farm mechanization, especially to develop women friendly equipment for agri-sector.
  - ✓ Students from any university and college can apply and participate in the event.
  - ✓ The Hackathon carries a first prize of Rs 5 lakhs, second prize of Rs 3 lakhs and third prize totaling Rs 5 lakhs.

- ✓ The hackathon aims to enhance the farm productivity and profitability by enhancing the innovation in farm mechanization.
  - ✓ The National Agricultural Higher Education project was launched in 2019 at a budget of Rs 1100 crores.
  - ✓ It was funded by the World Bank and the Centre at a ratio 50:50.
  - ✓ Under the project, four year degree in Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries and Forestry will be considered a professional degree.
  - ✓ Further, the project intends to set up Indian Agricultural Research Institutes (IARI) in Barhi, Jharkhand and in Assam.
- **The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers - has approved to set up ten plastic parks in the country under the Plastic Park scheme, launched in 2019.**
- ✓ The plastic parks will be set up in Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand
  - ✓ The centre will allocate Rs 40 crore per project and rest will be borne by the state government.
  - ✓ A plastic park is a dedicated zone of plastic and related industries.
  - ✓ It was launched to increase the competitiveness and value addition to the plastic industry through dedicated research and development
  - ✓ Out of the 10 plastic parks, six are being implemented currently, while the draft plan for the four is under progress.

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **On September 23, Saudi Arabia - banned all flights from and to India for 14 days**
- ✓ The decision will affect nearly 30 flights operated by the Air India Group — 28 of Air India Express and two of Air India — under the Vande Bharat Mission to Saudi Arabia over the next two weeks.
  - ✓ IndiGo and SpiceJet will be cancelling their chartered flights.
  - ✓ Further, South Korea imposed restrictions on certain categories of Indian visa-holders due to the rise in the number of Covid-19 cases in the country
  - ✓ In this regard, the Indian Embassy in Seoul issued a circular on the new guidelines of South Korea.
  - ✓ It has imposed entry restrictions on Indian visa-holders travelling on chartered flights but not on scheduled flights.

## DEFENCE

- **Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh from Varanasi - is all set to become a first woman fighter pilot to fly Rafale aircraft**



- ✓ Shivangi Singh is being currently trained to fly IAF's newest fighter jet based in Ambala.
- ✓ She will soon be joining the Ambala based No. 17 squadron, which is also known as 'Golden Arrows'.
- ✓ Shivangi Singh was also previously deployed at a forward fighter base in Rajasthan
- ✓ Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh was among the second batch of women fighter pilots who had been commissioned in 2017.
- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) currently has 10 women fighter pilots, who have undergone the arduous training to fly the supersonic jets.
- ✓ In 2016, Flt Lts Bhawana Kanth, Avani Chaturvedi, and Mohana Singh became the first women to be commissioned as the flying officers into the IAF Fighter stream after the basic training.
- ✓ Sub Lieutenants Riti Singh and Kumudini Tyagi have been selected for the helicopter stream recently.
- ✓ In September 2016, India had ordered 36 Rafale Jets from France in a deal worth Rs. 59,000 crores.
- ✓ The air force then formally inducted the jets at the Ambala airbase on September 10, 2020
- ✓ All the deliveries of the fighter jets are expected to be completed by the end of 2021
  
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - has successfully test fired an indigenously developed laser-guided anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) at the firing range in Maharashtra.**
- ✓ Having a range of up to 4 km, it was test fired from an MBT Arjun Tank at KK Ranges in Armored Corps Centre and School (ACC&S).
- ✓ ATMs are the guided missiles designed to destroy the heavily armored vehicles and tanks.
- ✓ DRDO ATM, AMOGHA, JASMINE, Spike ATGMs, NAG are some of the first generation Anti- Tank Missiles that has been launched by DRDO.



- ✓ The Arjun is a third generation battle tank that has been developed by DRDO
- ✓ It entered into service of Indian Army in 2004.

## OBITUARY

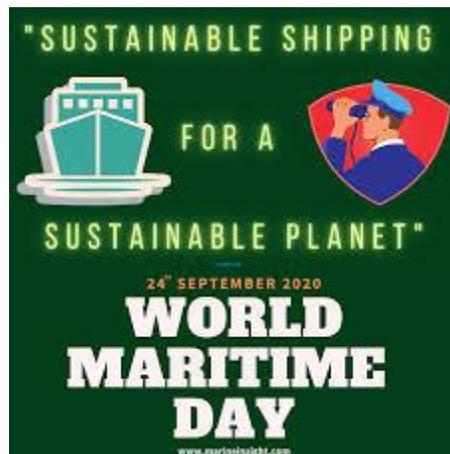
- **On September 23, Minister of State for Railways, Suresh Channabasappa Angadi - passed away at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi.**



- ✓ He was admitted there earlier this month after developing symptoms of Covid-19.
- ✓ He is the first Union Minister to have succumbed to the deadly virus.
- ✓ The 65-year-old BJP leader, a four-time MP, tested positive on September 11.
- ✓ A lawyer by training, he was first elected to the Lok Sabha in 2004 and won continuously from Belagavi constituency.
- ✓ Angadi was among the senior most leaders of the BJP in north Karnataka.
- ✓ He was one of the earliest Lingayat leaders from non-Sangh Parivar background to join BJP in Karnataka.
- ✓ Suresh Angadi had been a part of the team that had organised LK Advani's rath yatra in the Karnataka region
- ✓ He had served as a member of parliament since 2004 and as minister of state for railways from 2019

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Maritime Day - September 24**



- ✓ The day aims to spread awareness about the importance of shipping safety, marine environment and maritime security.
- ✓ It was observed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) globally in different countries
- ✓ The day is celebrated on the last Thursday of the September every year.
- ✓ Theme 2020 - Sustainable Shipping for a Sustainable Planet
- ✓ The first World Maritime Day was celebrated in March 1978 to mark the IMO Convention.
- ✓ The IMO is a United Nations agency which is responsible for regulating the shipping.
  - ✓ It was established in 1948 with its headquarters in London and came into force in 1959.
  - ✓ It has 171 member and 3 associate members.
  - ✓ India joined IMO as member-state in 1959.
  - ✓ India also celebrates its own National Maritime Day on April 5 every year since 1964
- ✓ Regarding the maritime initiatives of the country, India is part of the Indo-Pacific initiative to ensure a safe and secure region.
  - ✓ This initiative is supported by Australia, Japan and Thailand.
- ✓ India recently became an observer of Djibouti Code of Conduct, established by International Maritime Organization.
  - ✓ It aims to check piracy and armed robbery against ships in Gulf of Aden and western Indian Ocean.

