

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCTOBER 1, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- On September 30, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - inaugurated the takeover of solid waste management at Adyar by private entity Urbaser-Sumeet.



- ✓ During the occasion, the CM flagged off vehicles that would be used for cleaning the streets, collecting waste from houses, segregating solid waste and depositing the waste in dumpyards.
- ✓ The company will manage seven corporation zones including Adyar and carry out 100% source segregation.
- ✓ The private player - Urbaser SA and Sumeet Facilities - would undertake solid waste management in Teynampet, Kodambakkam, Valasaravakkam, Alandur, Adyar, Perungudi and Sholinganallur zones.
- ✓ By December, this process will get extended to eleven zones.
- ✓ This is the first time that the contractor will be paid based on 36 key performance indicators and not on weight of the waste collected.
- ✓ A third-party audit and citizen feedback will facilitate the payment process.

- ✓ A total of 3,000 battery-operated vehicles, 38 mechanical sweepers, 11,000 compactor trash cans and 38 mechanical sweepers would be for door-to-door household waste collection.
 - ✓ The seven zones consists of 92 wards that have 16,621 streets and 37 lakh people.
 - ✓ The company will employ about 11,000 people for the work.
 - ✓ Urbaser SA and Sumeet Facilities bagged the contract for waste management in the seven zones, containing 86 divisions, for a period of eight years at a cost of ₹447 crore per year.
- **The Tamil Nadu government - is set to launch the Centre's 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme on October 1.**
- ✓ The scheme will allow ration cardholders to collect their monthly entitlements from any public distribution system (PDS) outlet in the State.
 - ✓ Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami is likely to launch the scheme on the day.
 - ✓ Over 25 States have already joined the scheme
 - ✓ The scheme aims to provide rations for migrant families, irrespective of their state of origin.
 - ✓ All shops in the network that have point-of-sale (POS) devices will keep track of the beneficiary's withdrawals of monthly entitlements.
- **The estimation of the tiger population using camera traps - will begin in the Pollachi forest division of the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) this week.**
- ✓ A total of 245 pairs of cameras would be used for 25 days for the estimation in the Ulandy, Pollachi, Valparai and Manombolly forest ranges.
 - ✓ The camera pairs would be installed in 245 girds of 2 sq. km each.
 - ✓ The images recorded in the storage device of the cameras would be collected once in every five days.
 - ✓ The images would also help the Forest Department in the overall management of the tiger reserve.
 - ✓ The estimation would provide information about the prey base of tigers, the occupancy range of individual tigers and the presence of co-predators
 - ✓ The exercise that comes under Phase IV tiger estimation would not include the Tiruppur Forest Division.
- **On September 30, Tamil Nadu – reported 5,659 Covid-19 fresh cases and 67 deaths, taking the state's cumulative caseload to 5,97,602 and casualties to 9,520**
- ✓ A total of 5,610 persons, including 1,205 in Chennai, were discharged after treatment
 - ✓ With this, a total of 5,41,819 persons have been discharged till date.
 - ✓ The state now has 46,263 people undergoing treatment in various medical institutions

AS IT STANDS		New Covid-19 cases and deaths in Tamil Nadu on Wednesday		
ZONES	CASES	DEATHS	ACTIVE CASES	TOTAL TOLL
Chennai Region	2,112	20	16,024	4,626
North	716	12	5,688	1,145
Central	656	6	5,217	715
South	562	2	5,094	1,859
West	1,607	27	14,220	1,174
Other	6	0	20	1
Total	5,659	67	46,263	9,520

- ✓ The state's capital city, Chennai accounted for 1,295 new infections while the three neighbouring districts –Chengalpattu (335), Tiruvallur (275) and Kancheepuram (207) – logged 817 fresh cases.
- ✓ Further, Coimbatore reported 574 cases, while Salem and Thanjavur reported 378 and 266 cases respectively
- ✓ As many as 86,928 samples were tested in the last 24 hours, taking the total figure to 73,54,050.

NATIONAL

- **On September 30, The Ministry of Home Affairs – released the Unlock 5 guidelines, announcing further easing of Covid-19 restrictions outside containment zones**
- ✓ The guidelines empower the states and UTs to decide on reopening of schools in a graded manner after October 15

NO LOCAL LOCKDOWNS ALLOWED	
ALLOWED TO REOPEN: Cinemas, theatres, multiplexes with up to 50% of seating capacity; swimming pools used for training sportspersons; biz-to-biz (B2B) exhibitions; entertainment parks and similar places	with written consent of parents, attendance mustn't be enforced ➤ Higher education institutions only for research scholars and PG students in science & tech requiring lab experimental works permitted to open from Oct 15
STILL NOT ALLOWED: Int'l air travel, except as allowed by MHA	➤ States/UTs given flexibility to permit gatherings beyond 100 persons, outside containment zones (CZs), after Oct 15
ONLINE/DISTANCE LEARNING ENCOURAGED: Students may attend schools/institutions only	➤ States not to impose any local lockdown outside CZs

- ✓ However, students will be given the option of attending online rather than physical classes based on their wish and schools are asked not enforce attendance.
- ✓ A decision on opening of higher education institutions will be taken by the ministry of education based on an assessment of the situation later

- ✓ Higher education institutions in the science and technology stream, where research scholars and post graduate students need to access the laboratory, will be permitted to open from October 15.
 - ✓ There are no changes in rules regarding air and train travel.
 - ✓ Only limited international flights under the air bubble scheme and the Vande Bharat Mission allowed by the government are operating currently.
 - ✓ Presently, only 310 special passenger trains are running.
 - ✓ The government had also urged the states not to impose local lockdowns outside containment zones without consulting the home ministry.
 - ✓ Cinemas, theatres and multiplexes have been permitted to open with up to 50% of their seating capacity in non-containment zones from October 15
 - ✓ Swimming pools are allowed to open from the same date but only those for training of sportspersons.
 - ✓ Further, the government had allowed the entertainment parks and 'similar places' to open, while the business-to-business exhibitions are also allowed to be conducted.
 - ✓ Importantly, social, academic, sports, entertainment, cultural, religious and political functions can be held after October 15 with a maximum of 200 people in closed spaces, subject to a maximum 50% of the hall capacity.
 - ✓ In open spaces, crowds may be allowed depending on the size of the ground.
 - ✓ In both situations, wearing of face masks, social distancing, provision of thermal scanning and use of hand wash and sanitiser will be mandatory.
 - ✓ A lockdown will continue to be enforced in containment zones till October 31.
 - ✓ The fresh guidelines issued under the Disaster Management Act 2005 will be effective from October 1 to 31, 2020.
- **The Ministry of Road transport – has notified the amended Motor Vehicle Rules recently to facilitate digital verification of driving-related documents**
- ✓ The new rules, aiming to curb corruption, does away the need to carry the physical copy of driving licence, registration certificate, permits, PUC and insurance documents of vehicle
 - ✓ Alternatively, the digital copies in the MParivahan or digilocker app on the smartphone are accepted as validated digital documents
 - ✓ However, keeping a photograph of the documents in the mobile phone is not accepted, as the details need to be downloaded from a server.
 - ✓ M-Parivahan app is a better option considering that one can download all documents related to driver and vehicle
 - ✓ Last year the government had issued advisory to all state transport and police departments to recognise such validated digital documents
 - ✓ According to the rules notified last week, if the details provided by the driver or vehicle owner are found validated through the electronic means by the police and

transport department officials, no physical document would be demanded for inspection even in cases of offence which necessitates seizure of any document.



- **The amended Motor Vehicle Act by the road transport ministry – includes new rules to protect the good samaritan who comes to the rescue of road accident victims.**
 - ✓ Accordingly, no police officer or any other person shall compel a 'good samaritan' to disclose name, identity, address or any such other personal details
 - ✓ According to the rules, such a person may voluntarily choose to disclose his or her name.
 - ✓ As per the Act, no civil or criminal action will be taken against the good samaritan for any injury or death resulting from their negligence while rendering emergency medical or non-medical care or assistance to accident victims.
 - ✓ As per the notified rules, those who come to the aid of accident survivors must be treated respectfully without any discrimination
- **On September 29, the National Crime Records Bureau – released a report on 'Crime in India – 2019'.**
 - ✓ As per the report, cyber crimes registered a massive 63.5% rise in 2019, with overall cases increasing to 44,546 from 27,248 in 2018 and 21,796 in 2017.
 - ✓ Cyber crime rate also rose up to 3.3 from 2.0 in 2018
 - ✓ In the cities, a total of 18,732 cyber crimes were registered, marking a massive 81.9% rise over 2018.
 - ✓ Fraud emerged as the main motive of the cybercrimes registered in 2019, constituting 60.4% or 26,891 cases
 - ✓ It was followed by sexual exploitation in 2,266 cases (5.1%), causing disrepute in 1,874 cases (4.2%), extortion in 1,842 cases, pranks in 1,385 cases, personal revenge in 1,207 cases, and anger in 581 cases.
 - ✓ Of the total 44,546 cyber crimes booked countrywide in 2019, 30,729 were registered under various provisions of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 13,730 under IPC read with IT Act and 87 under Special & Local Laws (SLL) read with IT Act.
 - ✓ Karnataka reported the highest cyber crimes at 12,020, followed by Uttar Pradesh (11,416) and Maharashtra (4,967).
 - ✓ Cyber crime rate was highest in Karnataka (18.2), followed by Telangana (7.2), Assam (6.2) and UP (5.1).
 - ✓ As per the report, crime rate in the country went up marginally to 385.5 in 2019 as compared to 383.5 in 2018
 - ✓ However, crimes against women and children showed a 7.3% and 4.5% rise respectively
 - ✓ Crime rate refers to the number of crimes registered per lakh population

- ✓ A total of 51.56 lakh cognisable crimes comprising 32.25 lakh Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes and 19.3 lakh Special & Local Laws (SLL) crimes were registered in 2019.
 - ✓ This marks an increase of 1.6% in registration of cases over 2018
 - ✓ Delhi recorded the highest rate of cognisable IPC and SLL crimes (1586.1), followed by Kerala (1287.7) and Gujarat (631.6).
 - ✓ West Bengal did not submit the data for 2019, so the NCRB has used the 2018 figures for the report.
 - ✓ As many as 10.5 lakh cases of offences affecting the human body were registered in 2019, making up 32.6% of total IPC crimes.
 - ✓ Hurt accounted for maximum 5.45 lakh or 51.9% of these cases, followed by death by negligence (13.8%) and kidnapping and abduction (10%).
 - ✓ Crime against members of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs) witnessed an increase of over 7% and 26% in 2019 compared with the 2018 figures
 - ✓ At 11,829 cases, Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of crimes against the SCs in 2019, followed by 6,794 cases in Rajasthan and 6,544 cases in Bihar
 - ✓ Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of cases against the STs with 1,922 cases, followed by Rajasthan with 1,797 and Odisha 576.
- **The Central Board of Direct Taxes - has extended the due date for filing of the belated and revised income tax returns for the assessment year (AY) 2019-20 from September 30 to November 30.**
- ✓ The due date for filing of ITR for AY 2020-21 had already been extended to November 30.
 - ✓ This is the fourth extension given to taxpayers to file revised or new returns of the previous financial year.
 - ✓ It was first extended from March 31 to June 30 and later till July 31 and again till September 30.
- **On September 30, India – reported 86,768 fresh Covid-19 cases and 1,173 deaths, taking the country's caseload beyond the 63-lakh mark to 63,06,802 and the casualties to 98,628**
- ✓ The country has 9,47,041 'active cases' as on date, undergoing treatment at various health facilities
 - ✓ Karnataka registered 8,856 new cases on the day and became the third state in the country after Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh to record more than six lakh cases.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, Kerala reported a big jump with 8,830 cases on the day and Andhra Pradesh logged 6,133 new infections

COURT VERDICT

- **On September 30, a special CBI court in Lucknow - acquitted all 32 accused in the 28-year-old Babri Masjid demolition case.**
- ✓ The verdict has given clean chit to BJP stalwarts like former deputy PM L K Advani, former UP CM Kalyan Singh, former BJP chief and Union minister M M Joshi, former MP CM Uma Bharti, Bajrang Dal founder Vinay Katiyar and three BJP MPs – Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, Lallu Singh and Sakshi Maharaj.
- ✓ Twenty-six of the 32 accused — most of them linked to the Sangh Parivar — were present in court.


WHY COURT ACQUITTED KEY ACCUSED

<p>L K Advani, M M Joshi, Uma Bharati, Sadhvi Ritambhara, Vinay Katiyar, Acharya Dharmendra Dev No evidence were produced about specific slogans; no recording to show which accused was shouting which slogan that could have hurt religious sentiments of another community. Original copy of Ritambhara's speeches which she reportedly delivered in Maharashtra was not produced</p>			
<p>Sakshi Maharaj Was made an accused only on the basis of an interview published in a newspaper. No other evidence of his involvement found</p>	<p>Kalyan Singh Wasn't present in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992 but accused of deliberately not using the paramilitary force deployed by the Centre. No evidence of conspiracy found. The CRPF was ordered to rush to the disputed site after kar sevaks went unruly, but they couldn't reach as the road from Faizabad to Ayodhya had been blocked and women kar sevaks were lying on the ground, not allowing the force to proceed</p>	<p>Lallu Singh Accused of making food arrangements for kar sevaks and being present on the Babri Masjid campus. But it doesn't prove his complicity in demolition</p>	
<p>Nritya Gopal Das, Ram Vilas Vedanti No evidence of involvement in Dec 6, 1992 incident found</p>		<p>Pawan Pandey Was made accused on basis of a picture he got clicked along with a plaque of the dispute structure. Didn't prove he took part in demolition</p>	
<p>Champat Rai He placed an order with a tentwallah for some stuff to be used by kar sevaks. CBI couldn't prove that those stuff were used in demolition</p>		<p>Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh Evidence of his presence near disputed site was not found</p>	

- ✓ The judge, Surendra Kumar Yadav, said demolition was not pre-planned and was a handiwork of 'unruly' elements and miscreants among the kar sevaks.
- ✓ Also, CBI couldn't prove that the accused Sangh Parivar functionaries were behind any conspiracy to demolish the 16th century structure on December 6, 1992.
- ✓ He said CBI could not produce any conclusive evidence against any accused.
- ✓ The judge did not accept newspapers as pieces of evidence as the original sources of them were not produced and proved.
- ✓ He also did not accept the photos of incidents as their negatives were not produced.

- ✓ The judge wrote the 2,300 pages verdict and delivered on the last day of his tenure.
- ✓ He had superannuated on September 30, 2019 but the Supreme Court had extended his service period till delivery of the judgment.

KEY OBSERVATIONS OF CBI COURT

<p>1 Everything was normal till 12:00 noon on December 6, 1992 and Ashok Singhal was asking kar sevaks to bring sand and water from Saryu for symbolic kar seva. This was done to keep both hands of kar sevaks occupied so that they didn't bring any device to harm the structure</p>		<p>4 The fact that RSS and VHP volunteers were taking care of arrangements for women, the elderly, the media proves that there was no planning done by the named accused to bring down the disputed structure on December 6, 1992</p>	<p>Ayodhya and December 5, 1992, Union home department report about the presence of Pakistan-backed anti-national persons in the temple town was not probed</p>
<p>2 When Singhal announced the symbolic kar seva, one section got infuriated and climbed the disputed structure. Singhal again asked this group to climb down, but they started throwing stones and even attacking him</p>	<p>5 There is no evidence to prove that the accused persons sitting on the Ram Katha Kunj dais and Singhal and Vijayaraje Scindia standing nearby played any role behind the action of the section of kar sevak which suddenly got agitated and started harming the structure</p>	<p>8 There were contradictions in the deposition of witnesses produced by the CBI. Many of them were not even present at the scene</p>	<p>9 CBI couldn't prove that all 49 accused had ever assembled together at a certain place and a time to discuss the kar seva to be performed on December 6, 1992</p>
<p>3 Many kar sevaks who were peacefully going about their job got injured in the stone-pelting. So, how can one consider that the two were of the same group when they didn't have a common goal?</p>	<p>6 The section of the kar sevaks which suddenly got violent and started bringing down the structure can only be called 'unruly elements' (arajak tattva)</p>	<p>10 As for the hate speeches, the CBI couldn't prove which accused said what and raised which slogans which could have led to communal animosity. The video cassettes that have been presented were edited and tampered. It has been accepted by the related witnesses</p>	
<p>7 An LIU report of December 2, 1992 about the possibility of untoward incidents in</p>			

- ✓ The acquittal comes in the wake of the Supreme Court verdict allotting the disputed Ayodhya site to Hindus for the construction of Ram Mandir
- ✓ BJP has maintained that the destruction of the mosque was not premeditated.
- ✓ However, Shiv Sena has been a defiant exception and even claimed responsibility for the demolition.
- ✓ The conspiracy charge against Advani had been dropped by the Allahabad high court in 2001, but was restored by the Supreme Court in 2017.
- ✓ The CBI had filed a chargesheet in October 1993 against 49 accused.
- ✓ Out of them, 17 accused, including Ashok Singhal, Bal Thackeray and Vijaya Raje Scindia have passed away.
- ✓ The agency produced 351 witnesses and over 600 written documents, apart from newspaper clippings, printed material, video and audio evidence.
- ✓ Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh was the only accused to submit documentary evidence in his defence.

PERSONALITIES

- **Manali Desai** - has made history as the first woman of Indian origin to take over as the head of the sociology department of the University of Cambridge in its over 800-year history.



- ✓ Desai was working as a reader in comparative and historical sociology
 - ✓ She is a fellow of Cambridge's Newnham College
 - ✓ Her work focuses on social movements, ethnic and gendered violence and post-colonial studies, with a strong focus on India
 - ✓ Desai took over as chair of the department this month.
 - ✓ She grew up in India and the US before moving to Britain.
- **Actor Sonu Sood** - has been honoured with the prestigious SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



- ✓ Sonu sood helped thousands of migrant workers reach home during lockdown.
- ✓ The award was presented to him via a virtual ceremony.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Chennai-based space startup, Agnikul Cosmos** - has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Alaska Aerospace Corporation to test its launch vehicle — Agnibaan — from the Pacific Spaceport Complex Alaska (PSCA) on Kodiak Island in the US.

- ✓ Under the agreement, Alaska Aerospace will act as the launch port for Agnikul's home-grown launch vehicle.
- ✓ The IIT-Madras incubated startup is expected to undertake the launch by the end of 2021.
- ✓ This is a one-of-its-kind partnership where an Indian company will be tying up with a global space port for its launch
- ✓ The two companies will also work together to secure the required regulatory approvals such as US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) launch licencing, US export control and others along with necessary clearances from the concerned Indian authorities.
- ✓ The aim is to define launch vehicle-spaceport interfaces and procedures, and conduct at least one test launch from PSCA
- ✓ Additional tests and operational launches are also possible under the agreement.
- ✓ Agnikul is building a small satellite rocket, Agnibaan, that will be capable of carrying up to 100 kg of payload to low Earth orbits up to 700 km.

DEFENCE

- **On September 30, India - successfully tested the extended range BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from the integrated test range at Balasore in Odisha.**

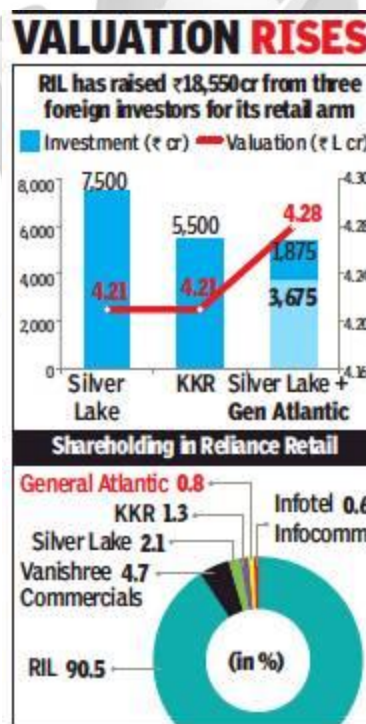


- ✓ The new BrahMos missile was test-fired from a land-based mobile launcher.
- ✓ It has the capability to strike targets over 400km away with pin-point accuracy.
- ✓ This was the third test of the extended range land-attack BrahMos cruise missile
- ✓ The original 290-km range BrahMos, jointly developed with Russia, has already been deployed in Ladakh as well as Arunachal Pradesh during the ongoing military confrontation with China.
- ✓ The armed forces over the last decade have inducted land and warship-based versions of the air-breathing BrahMos missiles
- ✓ A sleeker air-launched version of missile is also now being inducted after it was test-fired from Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets last year.
- ✓ These missiles fly almost three times the speed of sound at Mach 2.8.

- ✓ The first squadron of Sukhoi-30MKIs armed with BrahMos missiles was commissioned at Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu in January this year.
- ✓ BrahMos was developed jointly by Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) and the Federal State Unitary Enterprise NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM) of Russia.
- ✓ It has been named after the rivers Brahmaputra and Moskva.
- ✓ BrahMos is a ramjet supersonic cruise missile which can be launched from submarines, land, ships or fighter jets.
- ✓ The range of Brahmos missile has been increased to 450-600 km in compliance with the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).

ECONOMY

- **American private equity fund, General Atlantic - has become the latest high-profile foreign investor to invest in the retail unit of Reliance Industries (RIL)**
- ✓ General Atlantic, an early investor in Airbnb and Uber, will pump in ₹3,675 crore for buying a stake of over 0.8% of Reliance Retail Ventures, the RIL arm.
- ✓ With this, Reliance Retail could emerge as a formidable rival to Amazon as well as the Walmart-backed Flipkart in India's booming e-commerce market.



- ✓ The deal sets an enterprise value of ₹4.3 lakh crore for the retail business of RIL
- ✓ This is slightly higher than the value assigned by the unit's previous two foreign investors — Silver Lake and KKR.
- ✓ This is General Atlantic's second investment in an RIL subsidiary after it invested ₹6,598 crore for a 1.3% stake of Jio Platforms in May.
- ✓ RIL has attracted ₹16,675 crore of investment from three US funds by selling about 4% in the retail business in September.

- ✓ The company, founded in 2006, is controlled by India's richest man Mukesh Ambani
- ✓ It is now the country's largest (with 11,806 stores) and most profitable (₹5,448 crore) retailer.
- ✓ The unit launched its online grocery service, JioMart — powered by Jio Platforms' technology — in May 2020.

