

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—OCTOBER 11, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- The school education department - has reduced the upper age limit for direct recruitment of teachers from 57 years to 40 years for open category and from 57 years to 45 years for reserved categories.
- ✓ As per the notification released by the Government, this is applicable to recruitment of secondary grade, graduate and postgraduate teachers.
- ✓ The change was effected as teachers are being recruited only based on Teachers Recruitment Board conducted tests.
- Tamil Nadu – added 5,242 fresh Covid-19 cases on October 10, to take its cumulative caseload to 6,51,370
- ✓ The state reported 67 deaths on the day, taking the death toll to 10,187
- ✓ The number of people who have recovered is nearing the six lakh mark at 5,97,033, after the discharge of 5,222 people on the day

KEEPING TALLY			
Zones	Cases Today	Death Today	Active cases
Chennai region	1,940	32 ●	18,328
North	646	7 ●	4,396
Central	590	8 ●	4,144
South	565	6 ●	4,403
West	1,499	14 ●	12,841

- ✓ A total of 44,112 people are being treated in various health facilities as 'active cases' for the viral infection, as on date.
- ✓ Chennai, the worst affected district reported 1,272 cases —the highest in the state — followed by Coimbatore (392), Salem (339) and Chengalpet (309).
- ✓ Chennai's neighbouring districts, Chengalpet (309), Tiruvallur (199), and Kancheepuram (160) together reported 688 deaths and nine deaths.

- ✓ Chennai reported 23 deaths, the highest, followed by Chengalpet (5) and Coimbatore (4).
- ✓ A total of 91,191 samples were tested in the last 24 hours, taking the number of samples tested so far to 82,32,725
- ✓ The state has 191 testing facilities as on date, which includes 66 in the government sector.

STATES

- **Goa - has become the first state in India to provide 100% tap water connections in the rural areas, covering 2.30 lakh households**
 - ✓ This was announced by the Jal Shakti Ministry on October 9
 - ✓ Two districts- South Goa with 98,000 households in 191 gram panchayats and North Goa with one lakh 65 thousand rural households have been fully covered under the scheme
 - ✓ Further, the State is planning to get 14 water quality testing laboratories that are accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)
 - ✓ Under Jal Jeevan Mission, it is mandatory that 5 persons in every village, especially women, must be trained in using field test kits to test the water
- **Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals India Ltd - has launched an indigenous variety of calcium nitrate and boronated calcium nitrate for the first time on October 9**



Union Minister launched indigenous variety of Calcium Nitrate & Boronated Calcium Nitrate

- ✓ Till now, India used to import it from other countries.
- ✓ Calcium nitrate is a colorless salt that absorbs moisture from the air and is used as a water-soluble fertilizer.
- ✓ It is also used in other applications such as in agriculture, wastewater treatment and to increase the strength of cement concrete
- ✓ Boronated Calcium Nitrate is important for the growth, physical strength, fruit set and flowering fertilization of the plants.
- ✓ It improves the overall health of the soil and improves fertility

NATIONAL

- On October 10, the Centre - issued a fresh advisory, directing all states and UTs to strictly enforce the mandatory laws and guidelines relating to sexual assault on women
- ✓ As per the advisory, the dying declaration of a victim cannot be discarded on the grounds it has not been recorded in the presence of a magistrate.

FIR MANDATORY

- MHA advisory says dying declaration can't be rejected if it has not been recorded in presence magistrate
- Lists mandatory actions, including registration of FIR, collection of evidence for forensic exam and national database on sexual offenders
- A victim should be examined by a registered doctor under consent within 24 hours from the time of receiving the info

Standard procedure

Some of the mandatory measures that have to be taken in cases of crime against women

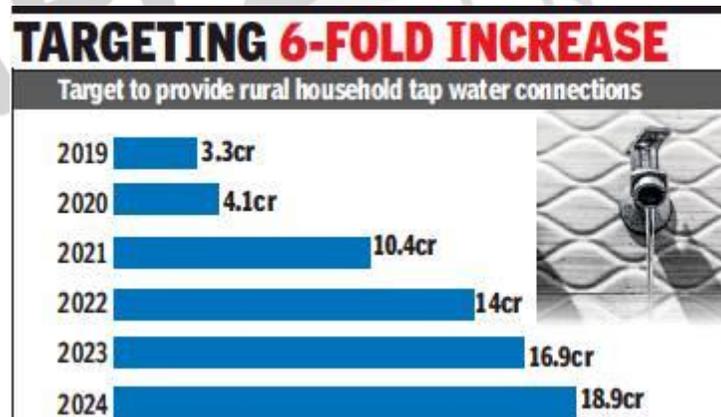
- 1 Compulsory registration of FIR in cases of cognisable offences, including sexual assault
- 2 Collection of evidence for forensic examination
- 3 Use of Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit
- 4 Completion of investigation in sexual assault cases in 2 months
- 5 Use of the national database on sexual offenders for identifying and tracking repeat offenders

The Ministry of Home Affairs reiterated that the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, provides that the statement, written or verbal, by a person who is dead shall be treated as relevant fact in the investigation



- ✓ Further, the new guidelines mandated the completion of probe into rape cases within two months.
 - ✓ The advisory, issued by the home ministry, comes days after the Hathras incident in Uttar Pradesh.
 - ✓ It lists out key areas of mandatory action by police in cases of crime against women, including sexual assault.
 - ✓ These include registration of FIR, collection of evidence for forensic examination and use of Sexual Assault Evidence Collection (SAEC) kits, completion of probe in sexual assault cases in two months and use of the national database on sexual offenders for identifying and tracking repeat sexual offenders among other things.
 - ✓ The Ministry reiterated that the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, provides that the statement, written or verbal, by a person who is dead shall be treated as relevant fact in the investigation.
 - ✓ Further, the guidelines mandated a compulsory registration of FIR
 - ✓ The Ministry also cited Section 164-A of CrPC which provides that in case of sexual assault investigation, the victim should be examined by a registered medical practitioner under consent within 24 hours from the time of receiving the information
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi - to launch the physical distribution of property cards under the 'SVAMITVA' (ownership) scheme on October 11, 2020.
 - ✓ The scheme will enable the villagers use their property as a financial asset to obtain loans and for other financial benefits

- ✓ This launch will enable one lakh property holders to download their property cards using SMS link.
 - ✓ These beneficiaries were chosen from 763 villages across six states
 - ✓ Out of these, 346 comes from Uttar Pradesh, 221 from Haryana, 100 from Maharashtra, 44 from Madhya Pradesh, 50 from Uttarakhand and 2 from Karnataka.
 - ✓ The SVAMITVA scheme was launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day on April 24, 2020.
 - ✓ The scheme is aimed at providing the 'record of rights' to the village household owners in rural areas and issue property cards.
 - ✓ The scheme is being implemented for a period of four years - from 2020-2024 - in a phased manner.
 - ✓ It has a target to cover 6.62 lakh villages in the rural India.
- **The Centre – has set up an ambitious target of providing 155% more tap water connections in villages in next year, when compared with the current financial year**
- ✓ According to the Jal Shakti ministry, the target is to ensure approximately 4.1 crore village households get tap water connections during this year and 10.4 crore households by the next year.
 - ✓ Eventually, the aim will be to extend this coverage to nearly 19 crore households in the next four years.



- ✓ This will be the biggest jump under the Jal Jeevan Mission, which aims to ensure universal drinking tap water connection to every rural household by 2024.
- ✓ As per the plan, all rural households in four states and UTs - Bihar, Goa, Telangana and Puducherry - will get functional tap water connections next year
- ✓ Five more states - Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Manipur, Sikkim and Ladakh – are set to achieve this goal in 2022.
- ✓ Further, a maximum of 12 states and UTs including Gujarat, Karnataka, Haryana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand will be covered in 2023.

- **Social media giants Facebook and Twitter - have announced initiatives in India related to World Mental Health Day.**
 - ✓ On October 10, Facebook announced tie-ups with three Indian firms — Tata Institute of Social Sciences, It's Ok To Talk and actor Deepika Padukone's The Live Love Laugh Foundation — to provide mental health helplines and resources to support the local needs of citizens.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, Facebook India also announced the new initiatives on the eve of the day.
 - ✓ Earlier, the social media company had launched a new global emotional health resource centre to provide credible information to people about mental health.
 - ✓ The resource will be accessible through WhatsApp, Messenger and Instagram as well.
 - ✓ The resource centre also includes an initiative to prevent suicide and selfharm to provide Crisis Support Over Messenger.
 - ✓ Earlier, Twitter had announced that it has put together information by “credible mental health authorities” that users can follow to ensure their wellbeing.

- **The Centre – to allow the renewal of the expired International Driving Permits (IDP) of Indian citizens travelling abroad, while they are still in overseas**
 - ✓ In this regard, the Ministry of road transport has issued a draft notification making changes in the Central Motor Vehicle Rules
 - ✓ The expats will be allowed to apply through the portals of Indian embassies or missions abroad
 - ✓ The applications would then be moved to the Parivahan portal for the respective RTOs to process them.
 - ✓ Parivahan portal is the national register of all DLs and RCs.
 - ✓ The proposal also includes the removal of the conditions of a medical certificate and a valid visa at the time of making the request for the IDP in the country.
 - ✓ This visa condition is removed with as several countries offer visa on arrival and in such cases the visa would not be available when applying for the IDP before travel.
 - ✓ However, those applying for renewal of the IDP would need to pay a fee of ₹2,000, proof of valid driving licence, three copies of passport photographs, valid proof of nationality and proof of valid passport.
 - ✓ They will also need to give the address at which the renewed IDP can be delivered where the person is staying.

- **The Central government - has proposed ₹40,000 crore investment on new technologies to decarbonise India's vast reserves of coal**
 - ✓ In this regard, the world's second-largest coal consumer has proposed to launch various initiatives to find cleaner use for coal, also called as Black Diamond

- ✓ State-run major Coal India and its subsidiaries are in the process of setting up five projects to make methanol or methyl alcohol from coal, using the latest CTL (coal-to-liquid) technology.
 - ✓ Each of these projects is estimated to cost approximately ₹6,000 crore.
 - ✓ The several initiatives to find cleaner use for coal was launched with a ₹13,000-crore coal-to-gas, or coal gasification, project in Angul district of Odisha.
 - ✓ The gas produced from coal will be used for making urea at the Talcher fertiliser plant in the district.
 - ✓ Methanol is an excellent energy carrier, making it ideal for improving the efficiency of motor fuels up to 15%, which improves combustion and contributes towards reducing the country's oil imports.
 - ✓ Methanol also has wide industrial applications and is the main ingredient for the manufacture of a wide range of everyday products — from plastics to synthetic yarns for making textiles.
 - ✓ Bengal will have the second coal-to-methanol plant at Sonapur near Asansol.
 - ✓ The others will be set up in Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Jharkhand.
 - ✓ Eastern Coalfields will supply coal for the Asansol project, South Eastern Coalfields the Chhattisgarh plant and Central Coalfields the Jharkhand plant.
 - ✓ These projects will consume almost 7.5 million tonne per annum of coal
 - ✓ The projects will be implemented through the BOO (build, own, operate) model and the operator would fund, own and lease the plant as well as store the product.
 - ✓ Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries will provide land, power and water.
 - ✓ Government think-tank Niti Ayog has been pushing for developing a methanol economy as one of the options to reduce India's carbon footprint in line with the Paris climate commitment and dependence on oil imports.
 - ✓ The share of renewables, including large hydel projects, in the country's installed generation capacity has risen to 36.2% as of March 2020.
- **On October 10, India - became the second country after the US to cross 7 million confirmed Covid-19 cases.**
- ✓ On a brighter side, the country also recorded its 6 millionth recovery on the day
 - ✓ India reported 74,205 cases and 917 deaths on the day, taking the cumulative toll to 108,305
 - ✓ The active cases remained below 9 lakh as on date.
 - ✓ Among states, Kerala reported the highest number of cases on the day with 11,755 new cases.
 - ✓ Maharashtra reported 11,416 fresh cases while Karnataka accounted for 10,513 cases
 - ✓ Andhra Pradesh's case tally crossed 7.5 lakh with 5,653 new infections on the day
- **Globally, only 26 of the 158 countries - were found to be spending the recommended 15% of their budgets on health.**

- ✓ This was revealed by the latest 'Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index 2020' by international charity agency, Oxfam
 - ✓ As per the Oxfam survey, India spent less than 4% of its budget on health and ranked 155th on the health spending index.
 - ✓ The country's health budget is the fourth lowest in the world.
 - ✓ Nigeria, Bahrain and India were among the world's worst performing countries in tackling inequality going into the Covid-19 pandemic, the survey noted.
 - ✓ As per the survey, Afghanistan and India set aside the same share for health in their budgets at 4%
 - ✓ It was just above a quarter of the recommended spending and one-third of what the second poorest country in the world, Burundi, did.
 - ✓ The report noted that only 50% of India's population has access to the most essential health services and more than 70% of health spending is being met from household budgets, which is one of the highest levels in the world.
 - ✓ According to the World Bank database, India was the 13th lowest (among 206 for which data was available) in terms of the percentage of total government expenditure on health in 2017.
 - ✓ India's budget allocations for health stood at 3.4%, while Burundi spent 8.5% of its total government budget on health in the same year.
 - ✓ For perspective, the average for high income countries was 18.6%, for lower middle income (the group to which India belongs) 5.1%.
 - ✓ Japan spent 23.6% of the government budget on health.
 - ✓ Across South Asia — Pakistan spent just above 4% of its budget on health, Nepal and Bangladesh spent 5%, according to the Oxfam report.
 - ✓ For the economic fallout of the pandemic, India was even worse prepared.
 - ✓ India, which has weak labour rights and a high incidence of vulnerable employment (about 75%), is eighth from the bottom, as per the report
 - ✓ India and Haiti are the only countries outside Africa in the bottom 10.
 - ✓ In both Bangladesh and Pakistan, 57% of the workers are vulnerable — which takes into account wages, rights, conditions of work etc.,
 - ✓ In Nepal, it's a little higher than India, at 79%.
- **The New Development Bank, which is also known as BRICS Bank - has approved infrastructure projects worth \$741 million in India**
- ✓ A loan of \$500 million has been approved for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Project and a loan of \$241 million has been approved for Mumbai Metro Rail II (Line 6) Project.
 - ✓ The loan would be utilized by the National Capital Region Transport Corporation Limited (NCRTC) for construction of a rapid rail corridor connecting the National Capital Territory of Delhi with the cities of Ghaziabad and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh.
 - ✓ It will reduce the journey time from Delhi to Meerut to 60 minutes.

- ✓ The metro rail line 6 will have a length of about 14.47 km, connecting the western and eastern suburbs of Mumbai
- ✓ The metro rail project will be implemented by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority.
- ✓ The NDB was established by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
- ✓ The NDB was formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank.
- ✓ With its headquarters at Shanghai, China, the NDB was founded on July 15, 2014
- ✓ The first President of the bank was K. V. Kamath

INTERNATIONAL

- **Russia - has test-fired the Hypersonic Cruise missile called TSIRKON (Zircon) successfully in the white Sea on October 7 to hit the target located in Barents Sea.**



- ✓ The test fire was conducted on the occasion of the birthday of the former Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- ✓ The Missile, having a capacity to reach hypersonic speeds of more than Mach 8, can hit the destined target at a distance of 450 km in just 4 and half minutes.
- ✓ Earlier the test firing of the missile was conducted in January 2020 for the first time.
- ✓ The first Avangard hypersonic missiles were put into the service of the nation in December 2019.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The World Economic Forum (WEF) - has announced that it will hold its Annual Meeting in Lucerne-Burgenstock, Switzerland from May 18 to 21, 2021.**

- ✓ The annual meeting will be preceded by high-level “Davos Dialogues”, which will be convened digitally by the WEF by January 25, 2021
- ✓ The WEF has planned to held Annual Meeting 2022 in Davos
- ✓ The Annual Meeting in Lucerne-Burgenstock will be organised under theme “The Great Reset”
- ✓ The participants in Lucerne-Burgenstock will be connected with 400 hubs around the world digitally
- ✓ The WEF, a non-governmental organization, was founded in 1971 with its headquarters at Geneva, Switzerland
- ✓ It aims to connect various business, political, and academic leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas.
- ✓ The WEF hosts annual meeting in the last week of January in Davos.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) - will commission the India’s largest High Performance Computing and Artificial Intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer, ‘PARAM Siddhi – AI’.**



- ✓ The supercomputer will provide an ecosystem for research and innovation in science and engineering.
- ✓ It will be based on the NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD and will have 210 AI Petaflops
- ✓ The supporting infrastructure for the supercomputer will be established under NSM at C-DAC, with support from Niti Aayog, Ministry of Electronics and IT, Department of Science and Technology and the central government
- ✓ The first super computer of India was “Param Shivay”, which was built under the National Supercomputing Mission by C-DAC.
- ✓ IIT-Kharagpur was the first institute to establish supercomputing facility under the National Supercomputing Mission.
- ✓ Fugaku super computer from Japan with its speed 415 petaFlops is the world fastest supercomputer.

DEFENCE

- **The Navy - is scheduled to hold a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier group on October 12**

- ✓ Navy ships will hold a PASSEX with USS Ronald Reagan on October 12 as it transits through the Indian Ocean
 - ✓ The PASSEX is likely to be held in the waters off Kochi.
 - ✓ On September 25, for the first time a U.S. Navy P-8A long range maritime patrol aircraft landed at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, for refuelling under the bilateral logistics support agreement.
 - ✓ In July, front-line warships of the Navy conducted a PASSEX with the U.S. Navy's Nimitz carrier strike group near the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as it was transiting the Indian Ocean.
 - ✓ The USS Nimitz was returning from the South China Sea through the Strait of Malacca where it undertook Freedom of Navigation Operations (FONOP).
 - ✓ The USS Ronald Reagan was in the South China Sea in August to conduct FONOPs amid tensions between China and the U.S.
 - ✓ The trilateral Malabar Naval exercise with Japan and the U.S. is also scheduled to be held in November
- **The Indian Coast Guard - have launched an offshore patrol vessel 'Vigraha' at a private shipyard in Kattupalli, Chennai on October 7**



- ✓ The vessel is the one among the series of seven vessels that were designed and built for the Coast Guard.
- ✓ These vessels have been built and designed by Larsen and Toubro Shipbuilding under the 'Make in India' initiative
- ✓ Vigraha will be inducted into Indian Coast Guard in March 2021 after extensive trials and testing of the on-board equipment and machinery.
- ✓ The vessel would serve the East Region from Vishakapatnam after induction.
- ✓ It would be operated under the leadership of IG S.Paramesh
- ✓ The 98-metre long vessel can stay at sea for 20 days without replenishment and has a life span of more than 25 years
- ✓ The vessel has been designed to carry integral Twin Engine Helicopter and will be armed with a 30mm 2A42 Naval Gun and two 12.7mm guns
- ✓ It would be utilised for day and night surveillance, anti-terror and anti-smuggling operations in the Exclusive Economic Zone to enhance the coastal security

SPORTS

- **The 19-year-old Iga Swiatek – won the French Open and her first Gram Slam title on October 10**
- ✓ She defeated the fourth seeded Sofia Kenin (USA) in straight sets to lift the women's singles title at the French Open in Roland Garros, Paris



- ✓ With the win, Swiatek became the first Polish player to win a Grand Slam singles title.
 - ✓ Unseeded Swiatek, who was ranked 54th at the start of the tournament, is the youngest woman to win the French Open since Monica Seles in 1992
 - ✓ She is also the first to emerge winner in the French Open without dropping a set during the fortnight since Justine Henin in 2007.
 - ✓ World No. 54, Swiatek is also the lowest-ranked woman to win the French Open since rankings were introduced in 1975
 - ✓ Swiatek is the ninth first-time women's champion in the last 14 Majors.
 - ✓ The loser of the finals, the 21-year old Kenin is the current Australian Open champion
- **Indian Chess sensation, Nihal Sarin - has created history by emerging as a winner in the 2020 Junior Speed Online Chess Championship of Chess.com on October 10**



- ✓ In the finals, Sarin has beaten Russia's world junior No. 6 Alexey Sarana 18-7.
- ✓ With this win, the 16-year old Sarin has earned \$8,766 and has also become enable to qualify for the 2020 Speed Chess Championship Final
- ✓ Sarin had earlier lost in the first round of the 2019 Junior Speed Chess Event.
- ✓ The past winners of the Speed Chess Championships also include two times winner Hikaru Nakamura in 2018, 2019, and Magnus Carlsen in 2017.
- ✓ Nihal Sarin is also a former world Under-10 champion

