

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—OCTOBER 15, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **The Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) and Guidance TN - to jointly host a three-day Global YaadhumOorae virtual conclave from October 29-31**
- ✓ The conclave is aimed at helping the global Tamil diaspora to reconnect with the state by communicating the uniqueness of Tamil and the ethnicity of the Dravidian culture.
- ✓ It is intended to promote cultural heritage and literary works from the state, while helping to bring in fresh investments into the state in the long run.
- ✓ Yaadhum Oorae was launched last year in the US, when chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami toured the country to meet and interact with investors.
- ✓ It provides a dedicated platform to bring Tamil diaspora, spread across the world, together to connect with the state
- ✓ The three-day conclave has been planned in away to redefine the state's engagement with Tamil diaspora.
- ✓ Over 300 Tamil associations from over 38 countries have confirmed their participation.
- ✓ Henceforth, Yaadhum Oorae will be conducted as an annual event

- **On October 14, the Union government - extended the services of Tamil Nadu chief secretary K Shanmugam by another three months.**



- ✓ He will now retire on January 31, 2021
 - ✓ In an order, the Union ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions approved the extension of service to the Chief Secretary for a further period of three months with effect from November 1.
 - ✓ This follows the state government's request in August to the Centre to extend the service until May next year
 - ✓ The 1985-batch officer attained superannuation in July but was given extension for a period of three months ending October 31
- **On October 14, Tamil Nadu – reported 4,462 fresh Covid-19 cases and 52 deaths**
- ✓ This takes the state's caseload to 6,70,392 and death toll to 10,423
 - ✓ As of date, 42,566 persons, including 13,488 in Chennai, are under treatment in the State.
 - ✓ A total of 5,083 persons were discharged on the day, taking the total recovered to 6,17,403 persons
 - ✓ With 1,130 fresh cases, Chennai has recorded the maximum cases, followed by Coimbatore (389) and Salem (274).
 - ✓ Chennai's neighbouring district Chengalpattu (272) had the fourth highest number of fresh cases, followed by the 207 cases in Tiruvallur and 148 in Kancheepuram

CHENNAI STILL TOPS TABLE				
Zone	New cases	New deaths	Active cases	Total recoveries
Chennai region	1,757	20	17,833	2,62,175
North	495	6	4,087	92,855
Central	416	7	3,656	55,818
South	426	8	4,301	1,12,677
West	1,368	11	12,672	91,562
Other	0	0	17	2,316
Total	4,462	52	42,566	6,17,403

- ✓ The state tested 95,538 samples on the day, taking the total number of samples tested till date to 85,84,041
- ✓ As on date, the state has a total of 192 testing laboratories, which includes 66 in the government sector
- ✓ In another related move, Health Secretary J. Radhakrishnan was conferred with the Professor K.V. Thiruvengadam Award 2020 instituted by Rotary Club of Madras East and Kauvery Hospital

STATES

- **The educational institutions in Andhra Pradesh - have been asked not to mention caste and religion of students in the attendance registers.**

- ✓ In this regard, the government has issued a circular asking the schools to remove the students' caste and religion from the attendance register.
 - ✓ Further, schools have been instructed stop writing names of girls in red ink.
 - ✓ Many schools still have the practice of using blue ink to write boys' names and red ink to write girls' names.
- **The Delhi Government - has announced the exemption of road tax on the battery-operated vehicles under its new Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy.**
- ✓ This decision has been taken by the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Anil Baijal and comes into effect immediately.
 - ✓ The move is a step forward to ensure pollution-free Delhi and also to encourage the adoption of electric vehicles on a large scale
 - ✓ This decision is in line with the Delhi Government's dream of making Delhi, the EV Capital of India.
 - ✓ The Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal had announced the Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy, 2020 in August 2020.
 - ✓ It is aimed at increasing the adoption and use of electric vehicles in the capital city.
 - ✓ Further, the government had also announced the purchasing incentives to promote the EV purchases.
 - ✓ Under the policy, a financial assistance of Rs. 1.5 lakh will be given on car purchases, Rs. 30,000 will be given for the 2-wheelers purchase and Rs. 30,000 would be given for e-rickshaws and auto-rickshaws purchase by the Government
 - ✓ The government had set a target of around 5 lakh electric vehicles to be registered in Delhi by 2024

NATIONAL

- **On October 14, the Union Cabinet - approved Rs 5,718-crore World Bank aided project 'STARS' for improving school education.**
- ✓ The Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States or STARS scheme, will in sync with the National Education Policy 2020 and focuses on "quality based learning outcomes"
 - ✓ The implementation of the STARS project will be with financial support of the World Bank amounting to \$500 million (approximately Rs 3,700 crore).
 - ✓ It would be implemented as a new centrally sponsored scheme under Department of school education and literacy, ministry of education (MoE)
 - ✓ The project will cover six states — Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha.
 - ✓ It will be based on learning with understanding and will help improve the quality of education by providing capacity building exercises for the teachers and focusing on monitoring of the school education system.

- ✓ STARS include setting up and support to the National Assessment Centre, PARAKH as an independent and autonomous institution under MoE.
 - ✓ PARAKH stands for 'Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development'
 - ✓ Included in the National Education Policy 2020, this autonomous institution under the Union Education Ministry will set guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all school boards across the country
 - ✓ The identified states will be supported for various interventions for improving the quality of education.
 - ✓ The project envisions improving the overall monitoring and measurement activities in the Indian school education system through interventions in selected states.
 - ✓ It also includes an emergency response component to help the government respond to disaster situations which lead to school closures and loss of learning, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic
 - ✓ Apart from this project, a similar Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded project will be implemented in five states – Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Assam.
 - ✓ All states will partner with one other state for sharing their experiences and best practices.
 - ✓ In line with the goals of NEP 2020, STARS will train students in soft skills and STEM/ STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) related skills.
 - ✓ The students will gain on the job experience through various internships and apprenticeships.
 - ✓ The project shifts focus from the provision of inputs and maintaining of outputs to actual outcomes by linking the receipt and disbursement of funds to these outcomes.
- **Union minister Jitendra Singh - recently announced the abolition of interview for recruitment in government jobs in 23 states and 8 union territories.**
- ✓ In 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had proposed this, while delivering the speech from Red Fort in New Delhi on August 15.
 - ✓ He suggested to abolish the interview system and emphasised that the job selection should be done on the basis of written test only.
 - ✓ This follows the complaints, grievances and allegations about marks being manipulated for favoured candidates in interviews.
 - ✓ The proposal is in continuation of the plan of abolition of interview for Group-B (non-gazetted) and Group-C posts in the Central government.
 - ✓ The entire process, which is in mission mode since 2016, is being done by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
 - ✓ Maharashtra and Gujarat are some of the states that quickly implemented this rule, even though other states were reluctant to abolish the interview system

- ✓ However, after reminding repeatedly to State governments, practice of conducting interview has been discontinued in all the 8 Union territories, including Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
- ✓ At present, 23 out of 28 states have also abolished the system.
- **The Rashtriya Kamadhenu Aayog - had began the nationwide campaign called “Kamadhenu Deepawali Abhiyan” on October 12, 2020.**
- ✓ This initiative is being implemented by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- ✓ The campaign aims to promote the extensive use of cow dung during the Diwali season
- ✓ This will generate more business opportunities for the cow based entrepreneurs and farmers
- ✓ Under the scheme, Rashtriya Kamadhenu Aayog would be promoting the cow dung based diyas, dhoop, Agarbatti, swastika, wall-pieces as well as idols of goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesha.



- ✓ The campaign have targeted to reach to the 11 crore families and ignite 33 crore diyas made of cow dung.
- ✓ Apart from that, the initiative would be igniting 3 lakh diyas in Ayodhya and 1 lakh diyas in Varanasi.
- ✓ The campaign was inspired from the “Gaumya Ganesha Campaign” that encouraged the usage of user friendly materials while making Ganesh idols.
- ✓ The Rashtriya Kamadhenu Aayog was established in 2019 under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission with a budget of Rs 750 crores.
- ✓ The agency works to protect and conserve the development of indigenous breeds of cows and their progeny.
- ✓ To implement the project, it collaborates with the animal sciences, veterinary sciences and agriculture universities engaged in breeding and rearing cow.
- ✓ Under the Rashtriya Gokul mission, Gokul Grams or Integrated Cattle Development Centres are set up across the country

- ✓ The initiative has targeted to set up 21 gokul grams, out of which four gokul grams has been set up in Varanasi, Phora, Patiala and Mathura, as of June 2019.
 - **The eSanjeevani telemedicine initiative of the Union Health Ministry - recently completed a record 5 lakh teleconsultations.**
 - ✓ Earlier, the government has stated that the last one lakh tele consultations have been completed in just 17 days.
 - ✓ The top 3 states with highest teleconsultations are Tamil Nadu (1,69,977) Uttar Pradesh (1,34,992) and Himachal Pradesh (39,326).
 - ✓ On an average, the App provides 8,000 consultations per day across the country
 - ✓ Currently, 26 states are using two versions of eSanjeevani's telemedicine namely, eSanjeevani OPD for patient to Doctor consultation and eSanjeevani AB-HWC for doctor to doctor consultation.
 - ✓ eSanjeevani OPD initiative was rolled out on April 13, 2020 amidst the Covid pandemic, when the OPDs were closed across India.
 - ✓ It provides medical services directly to homes in the current situation where social distancing is the norm.
 - ✓ eSanjeevani AB-HWC telemedicine service was launched by the union health ministry in November 2019, under the Ayushman Bharat Health Wellness Centres (AB-HWC).
 - ✓ The ministry has a plan to launch and implement the service at 1,50,000 Health and Wellness centres in collaboration with the medical colleges functioning under the Union Government.
 - ✓ Presently, eSanjeevani AB-HWC is functional at 4,000 Health and Wellness Centres.
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- **TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs – has e-launched a new initiative “Tech For Tribals” in association with Chhattisgarh MFP Federation and IIT Kanpur on September 13, 2020**



- ✓ The Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) had also partnered in the initiative that aims the holistic development of tribals

- ✓ It focuses on entrepreneurship development, soft skills, IT and business development of the tribals.
- ✓ The initiative will be operated through Self Help Groups (SHGs), coming under the Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs).
- ✓ The training would extend to 6 weeks, starting from 13th October and concluding on 7th November 2020.
- ✓ Under it, Van Dhan beneficiaries across all districts of Chhattisgarh will be trained for the creation, management and functioning of micro enterprises
- ✓ The training module has been developed by IIT- Kanpur.
- ✓ The primary objective of the programme is to tap the traditional knowledge and skills of tribals and to add branding, packaging and marketing skills to optimize their income.
- ✓ It will be done through market led enterprise model by setting up of Van Dhan Kendras (VDVKs).
- ✓ TRIFED has sanctioned 1243 Van Dhan Kendras in 21 States and 1 UT so far benefitting around 3.68 lakh tribals.
- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana was launched by Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED.
- ✓ The primary objective of the scheme is to help increase tribal income by Value Addition.
- ✓ It is a market-linked tribal entrepreneurship development program involving clusters of tribal SHGs and strengthening them into tribal producer companies.
- ✓ Under the scheme, Van Dhan Vikas Kendra has also been established for providing capacity building training and skill upgradation.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On October 14, the Supreme Court - concurred with the Madras high court and directed eviction of 39 resorts with 309 buildings in Mudumalai reserve forest area falling within the elephant corridor in the Sigur Plateau region**
- ✓ These resorts hindered the nomadic lifestyle intrinsic to survival of pachyderms
- ✓ A bench of Chief Justice of India S A Bobde and Justices S Abdul Nazeer and Sanjiv Khanna upheld the Tamil Nadu government's earlier order of August 2010 on the issue
- ✓ The government had earlier notified an elephant corridor in the ecologically fragile Sigur Plateau through the Nilgiri biosphere reserve
 - ✓ It connects the forests in the Western and Eastern Ghats and sustains elephant populations and their genetic diversity.
 - ✓ The reserve is the largest protected forest area in the country, spanning across Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala.
 - ✓ It has the Nilgiri hills on its southwestern side and the Moyar river valley on its northeastern side.

- ✓ The court appointed a three-member committee headed by retired Madras HC judge K Venkatraman to inquire and identify exact areas to be acquired for the purpose of securing elephant corridors.
- ✓ The other two members are Ajay Desai, consultant to World Wide Fund for Nature-India, and Praveen Bhargava, trustee of Wildlife First.
- ✓ The committee will hear and decide on the individual objections of the appellants and other aggrieved parties, arising due to the earlier state government order
- ✓ The bench agreed with wildlife experts' unanimous opinion regarding elephants as a "keystone species" because of their nomadic behaviour, which is immensely important to the environment.
- ✓ In 2011, the Madras High Court had held that the government was authorised by the Centre's 'Project Elephant' to designate the corridor since there was no impediment in the Wildlife Protection Act.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The Asia Pacific group of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) – has recommended to keep Pakistan in its 'Enhanced Follow Up' list.**
 - ✓ The organisation had downgraded Pakistan status from "regular follow-up" to "enhanced follow up".
 - ✓ The Asia-pacific group of FATF submitted its report called "Follow up report on mutual evaluation of Pakistan".
 - ✓ In the report, it was highlighted that the progress of Pakistan to combat the Financing of terror system and anti-money laundering made by the Financial Action Task Force has remained unchanged in 2020 as compared to that of 2019.
 - ✓ Moreover, Pakistan complied with only two of the 40 recommendations of Financial Action Task Force, as per the report
 - ✓ The meaning of 'Enhanced follow up' is that the country needs to provide monthly reports of its compliance to the Financial Action Task Force.
 - ✓ Pakistan was put under the FATF grey list in 2019.
 - ✓ After that, Pakistan passed three bills to combat the terrorism and money laundering
- **The Bangladesh Cabinet - approved a draft law to include death penalty as the highest punishment for rape.**
 - ✓ This will be done by amending the Prevention of Women and Children Repression Act, 2000.
 - ✓ This decision was taken after the Cabinet meeting which was chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka on October 12, 2020.
 - ✓ The Ordinance in this regard will be issued after the consent of the President
 - ✓ Currently, the highest punishment for rape in Bangladesh is life imprisonment.
 - ✓ However, capital punishment is allowed if the victim dies.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The 5th meeting of India Mexico bilateral high-level group on trade, investment and cooperation - was held virtually on October 13, 2020.**
- ✓ During the meeting, both the countries reviewed their commercial and bilateral trade relations.
- ✓ Further, the discussion also focused on the market access for Agricultural Products, cooperation framework for phytosanitary and sanitary products, technical barriers to trade and ways to promote tourism
- ✓ The meeting also discussed about the cooperation in intellectual property rights, the bilateral investment treaty and audio-visual co-production.
- ✓ The countries signed two Memoranda of understanding (MoU) during the meeting which includes -
 - ✓ MoU between the Mexican Chamber of Electronics telecommunication and information Technologies (CANIETI) and Electronics and Computer software export Promotion Council of India (ESC) and
 - ✓ MoU between the Mexican Business Council of foreign trade investment and Technology (COMCE) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and industry (FICCI).
- ✓ The bilateral trade between both the countries stands at \$10 billion

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **On October 14, a three-person crew - successfully reached the International Space Station (ISS) aboard a Russian rocket after the fastest ever journey from Earth of just over three hours.**



- ✓ The mission of the Soyuz space craft, Soyuz MS-17 ,carrying two Russian cosmonauts and one Nasa astronaut of Russia's space agency Roscosmos was completed in a record time of three hours and three minutes
- ✓ Roscosmos has been sending US astronauts to the ISS since the retirement of the US space shuttle in 2011.

- ✓ Sergey Ryzhikov and Sergey Kud-Sverchkov of Roscosmos and Nasa's Kathleen Rubins launched from the Russian-operated Baikonurcosmodrome in Kazakhstan on October 14.
- ✓ The journeys to the ISS usually take around six hours, which by itself was a vast improvement on the two-day flights that prevailed prior to 2013.
- ✓ The manned journey even beat the fastest time for missions just carrying supplies to the station.
- ✓ Only an unmanned Progress cargo space ship has done this previously, which requires just two orbits before docking.
- ✓ The launch is sandwiched between two SpaceX missions —the first manned spaceflights to the ISS under Nasa's aegis since 2011.
- ✓ On May 30, the first private spacecraft carrying two US astronauts Robert Behnken and Doug Hurley arrived at the ISS
- ✓ It was developed by SpaceX, owned by the private entrepreneur, Elon Musk

RANKINGS

- **IIFL Wealth Hurun India 40 & Under Self-Made Rich List 2020** - was released by the IIFL Wealth and Hurun India.

IIFL WEALTH HURUN INDIA 40 & UNDER SELF-MADE RICH LIST						
Rank	Name	Wealth ₹ Cr	Change %	Company	Age	City of Residence
1	Nithin Kamath & Nikhil Kamath	24,000	58	Zerodha	40,34	Bengaluru
2	Divyank Turakhia	14,000	8	Media.net	38	Dubai
3	Amod Malviya	13,100	274	Udaan	39	Bengaluru
3	Sujeet Kumar	13,100	274	Udaan	40	Bengaluru
3	Vaibhav Gupta	13,100	274	Udaan	40	New Delhi
6	Riju Ravindran	7,800	117	Think & Learn	39	Bengaluru
7	Binny Bansal	7,500	36	Flipkart	37	Bengaluru
7	Sachin Bansal	7,500	23	Flipkart	39	Bengaluru
9	Ritesh Agarwal	4,500	-40	Oravel Stays	26	New Delhi
10	Bhavish Aggarwal	3,500	13	ANI Technologies	35	Bengaluru
11	Deepak Garg	3,200	14	Rivigo	39	Gurugram
12	Herman Narula	2,900	45	Improbable Worlds	32	London
13	Deepinder Goyal	2,200	16	Zomato Media	37	Gurugram
14	Ankit Bhati	1,600	14	ANI Technologies	34	Bengaluru
15	Sriharsha Majety	1,400	0	Bundl Technologies	34	Vijayawada
16	Devita Rajkumar Saraf	1,200	-33	VU Technologies	39	Mumbai

Source: Hurun Research Institute, IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2020

- ✓ The rankings list the cumulative wealth of India's wealthiest self-made entrepreneurs under 40.
- ✓ As per the list, the wealth under this category has increased by a massive 59% in 2020.
- ✓ Online trading firm, Zerodha's Nithin Kamath, aged 40, and Nikhil Kamath, aged 34, have topped the list with a wealth of ₹24,000 crores.



- ✓ Divyank Turakhia, 38, comes the next with registered net worth of ₹14,000 crore.
- ✓ Amod Malviya, aged 39, along with their co-founders Sujeet Kumar, aged 40, and Vaibhav Gupta, aged 40, were ranked at the third position.
- ✓ Devita Saraf, aged 39, who is the founder of Vu Technologies, is the only woman who find place in the list.
- ✓ As per the report, Bengaluru is the most preferred city for these young wealth creators with 9 of the ranked persons setting up business there.
- ✓ Bengaluru is followed by Gurugram and New Delhi with 2 individuals finding the place in the list.