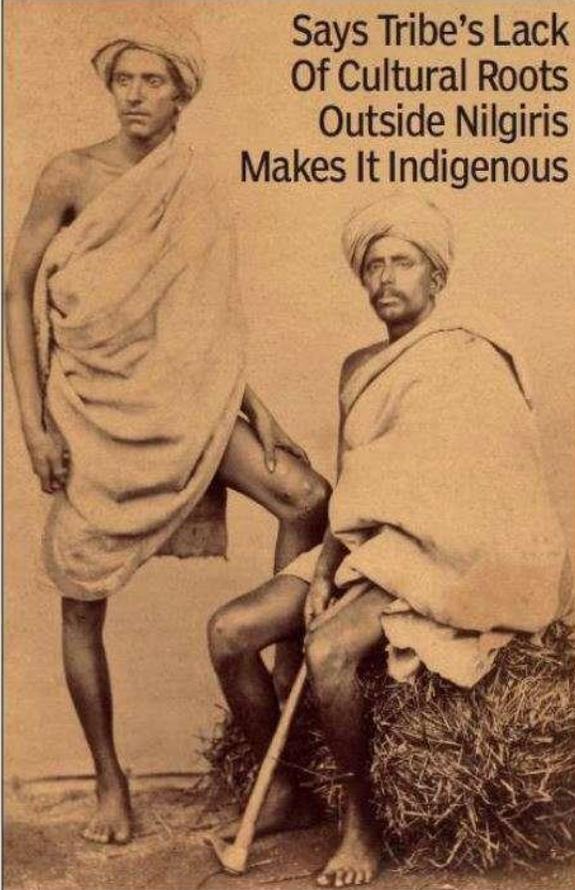


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—OCTOBER 17, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- The badagas, the largest indigenous community in the Nilgiris - has been included in the database of the United Nations International Mountain Partnership.
- ✓ In the UN database of world’s indigenous people, badagas are described as traditionally buffalo herders, who are nowadays turning to farming with special focus on organic farming.



Says Tribe’s Lack Of Cultural Roots Outside Nilgiris Makes It Indigenous

ABORIGINAL: Badaga men; (above) portrait of a Badaga woman (1844)

KEEPERS OF THE HILLS

The Badagas are considered one of the largest tribes of the Nilgiris

- Some theories say the Badagas have inhabited the Nilgiris since the Indus Valley civilization
- Father Fenicio, a Portuguese priest discovered the tribe when he came to the Nilgiris in 1603; Badagas told him that they inhabited three hills in the region
- The 1901 census of India classified Badagas as tribes; the 1911 census denoted the community as Hindu animist tribes having a tribal mother tongue
- In 1931 they were classified as important primitive tribes of southern India
- But the community was removed from the Scheduled Tribes list after Independence; Badagas

are now classified as backward class in Tamil Nadu through constitutional orders

- Customs followed by Badagas are mostly pragmatic and relevant to their day to day life
- Their marriage customs also do not reveal any supernatural underpinnings – a unique feature among tribes; dowry is also unknown in Badaga marriages
- Badagas have a distinct language of their own which belongs to the Dravidian family of languages
- Thundu, a white cloth and seeley forms the traditional attire of Badaga women

“ THE BADAGAS ARE AS INDIGENOUS TO THE NILGIRIS AS THE ENGLISH ARE TO BRITAIN

Paul Hockings | AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGIST



- ✓ “Badaga language is part of the Dravidian language family and one of world’s primary language families spoken by more than 200 million people in south, central and north India,” as said by the UN.
 - ✓ The Mountain Partnership is a UN alliance of partners dedicated to improving the lives of mountain people and protecting mountain environments around the world.
 - ✓ The Mountain Partnership, founded in 2002, has more than 400 members.
 - ✓ The UN defines indigenous mountain people based on criteria such as how long they have been living in a specific territory, traditional food system, their cultural distinctiveness -- including exclusive language, social organization, religion and spiritual values -- history of struggle and exploitation, and their clear connection to a particular mountain or range, among others.
 - ✓ The United Nations Economic and Social Council (UNESCO) had earlier included the Badaga language as ‘definitely endangered’ on its atlas of the world’s languages in danger.
 - ✓ Indigenous people are distinct social and cultural groups that share collective ancestral ties to the land and natural resources where they live.
 - ✓ They constitute 6% of the global population spread across 90 countries and occupy 25% of the world’s area.
 - ✓ Also, they safeguard 80% of the global biodiversity
- **Dr J A Jayalal, a government medical practitioner from Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu - was elected national president of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) on October 16**



- ✓ The IMA is a professional body of doctors that has nearly four lakh doctors as members.
 - ✓ Dr Jayalal, who is a professor of surgery in Tirunelveli Medical College, will take over from the incumbent president Dr Rajan Sharma on December 27
- **On October 16, Tamil Nadu - recorded 4,389 new Covid-19 cases and 57 deaths.**
- ✓ With this, the state’s death toll touched 10,529 while the cumulative case tally stood at 6,79,191.
 - ✓ The state has 40,959 patients still under treatment as ‘active cases’ for the viral infection.

- ✓ A total of 5,245 persons were discharged in the last 24 hours, taking the total cured so far to 6,27,703
- ✓ The state has a recovery rate that is nearly 92% and case fatality rate close to 1.5%.

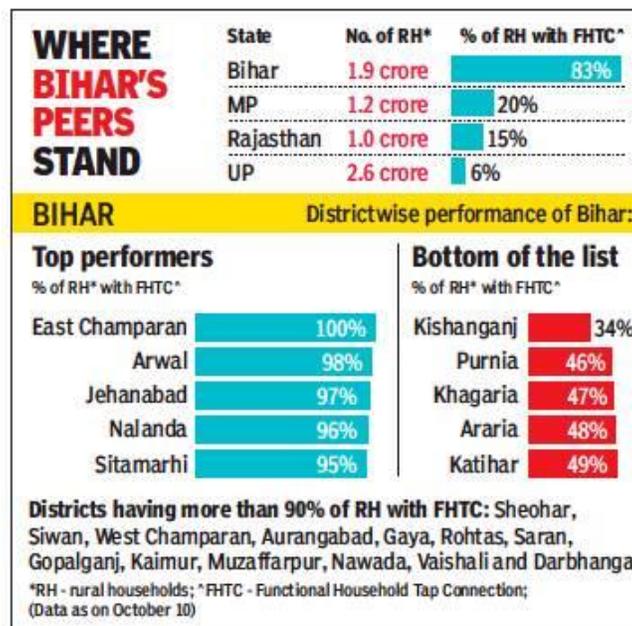
TN COVID TRACKER

Zones	Fresh cases	Fresh deaths	Active cases	Total toll
Chennai Region	1,726	21	17,457	5,061
North	549	9	4,035	1,286
Central	414	7	3,584	809
South	428	4	4,195	1,949
West	1,272	16	11,672	1,422
Other	0	0	16	2
Grand Total	4,389	57	40,959	10,529

- ✓ Chennai, the worst affected district, reported 1,140 fresh cases while neighbouring districts Chengalpet (261), Tiruvallur (195), and Kancheepuram (130) together reported 586 cases.
- ✓ Coimbatore (387) had the second highest number of fresh cases after Chennai.
- ✓ In the past 24 hours, the state tested more than 89,497 people using RT PCR kits.

STATES

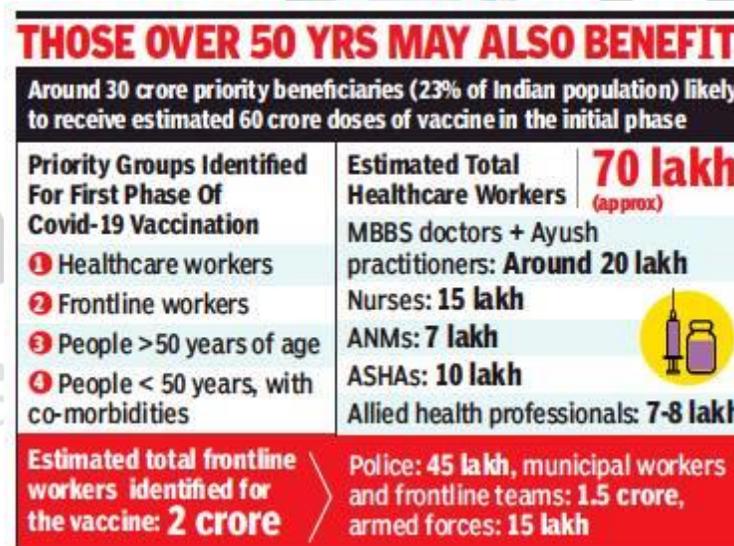
- Bihar – is set to become the first state among ‘BIMARU’(Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh) grouping to achieve the target of ‘Har Ghar Jal’ under the Centre’s ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)
- ✓ The state has set a target to cover its all 1.92 crore rural households with tap connections for drinking water supply by next year.



- ✓ The Jal Jeevan mission aims to cover the country's over 19 crore rural households by 2024.
- ✓ Among the other three states, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are expected to complete the mission only by 2022, 2023 and 2024 respectively.
- ✓ In fact, all these states have, so far, covered much less than the national average (nearly 30%) of rural households with functional household tap connection (FHTC) under the JJM which was launched in August last year.
- ✓ This mission aims at ensuring potable water supply in adequate quantity (55 litres per person per day) and of prescribed quality to every rural household on regular and long-term basis

NATIONAL

- **India - has started identifying around 30 crore priority beneficiaries who will likely receive an estimated 60 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses.**
- ✓ The beneficiaries include high risk population and first responders — from healthcare workers to police, sanitation workers as well as the elderly and people with co-morbidities



- ✓ The shots, which include the booster dose, are planned for the initial phase once a vaccine is approved for use.
- ✓ The list has four categories —
 - ✓ healthcare professionals (around 50-70 lakh),
 - ✓ frontline workers, including police, municipal workers and armed forces (more than two crore)
 - ✓ people above 50 years of age (about 26 crore) and
 - ✓ people aged less than 50 but with comorbidities.
- ✓ Currently, there are three vaccine candidates undergoing human trials in India.
- ✓ Of these, the Oxford-Astra Zeneca candidate is in the most advanced stage in Phase 3 and Pune-based Serum Institute is conducting trials in India.

- ✓ According to the government, the Phase 3 data of this vaccine will be available around November-end or early December.
- ✓ The draft of the implementation plan drawn by the national expert group on vaccine administration for Covid-19 was based on inputs received by central agencies and the states.
- ✓ The group, headed by Niti Aayog member Dr V K Paul and co-chaired by health secretary Rajesh Bhushan, has studied allocations for early-phase vaccinations proposed by the CDC, Atlanta and the WHO
- ✓ The plan aims to cover over 23% of the population in the first phase
- ✓ This was discussed in a meeting of the group of ministers on Covid-19 headed by Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan earlier this week.
- ✓ According to the draft plan, the committee has estimated 70 lakh healthcare workforce from the government as well as private sector.
- ✓ This includes 11 lakh MBBS doctors and 8 lakh Ayush practitioners, 15 lakh nurses, 7 lakh ANMs and 10 lakh ASHA workers.
- ✓ The list includes 7-8 lakh allied healthcare professionals and others, like sanitation workers, ambulance workers and hospital security.
- ✓ The final list of the beneficiaries will be ready by October-end or early November
- ✓ The draft plan also includes over 2 crore frontline workers, including 45 lakh police and related forces at the central and state levels along with home guards and 15 lakh people from the armed forces.
- ✓ Besides, 1.5 crore municipal workers and frontline teams involved in community services, like public transport drivers, cleaners and teachers, have also been identified under the list.
- ✓ An estimated 26 crore people are over 50 years of age and younger persons with conditions like diabetes, heart diseases, chronic kidney failure, lung disease, cancer and liver diseases are also being identified to receive the vaccine on priority.
- ✓ Considering the overlaps in certain categories, a total of 550-600 million doses of the vaccine has been identified for the initial requirement for the priority population.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **On October 16, the Government - held a virtual meeting of the Justice ministers of SCO member-states, which included the participation of Pakistan**
- ✓ The seventh meeting of the law ministers of the SCO group was conducted ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government meeting, which India plans to host on November 30
- ✓ India invited Pakistan for the meeting and the latter participated in the event
- ✓ It was hosted by Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Law & Justice, Communication and Electronics & Information Technology.



- ✓ The event is seen as a precursor to the heads of government summit for which India will soon be sending out invites, including one to Pakistani PM Imran Khan.
- ✓ In the virtual meeting, Prasad highlighted the initiatives taken by the government for providing affordable and easy access to justice for all.
- ✓ He said despite the restrictions imposed by Covid-19, as many as 25 lakh hearings took place through video conference in courts across the country, including 9,000 by the Supreme Court.
- ✓ Further, Pro Bono legal services and Tele-law services were launched to provide legal aid to the poor and marginalized sections of the society
- ✓ India is set to assume the chairmanship of the SCO's Council of Heads of Government later this year.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Dr Reddy's Laboratories - has got approval to conduct Phase-III trials of a potential cancer drug, after a Phase II study showed the drug's efficacy in Covid-19 patients**
- ✓ The pharma major has been studying the use of a potential cancer drug 2-Deoxy-D-Glucose (2-DG) oral powder for Covid-19 treatment
- ✓ The subject expert committee (SEC), at its meeting on October 13, said that the sample size of the Phase II study was too small for granting market authorisation
- ✓ Hence, the SEC asked the company to submit a new protocol for Phase III clinical trials.
- ✓ In the phase II b dose finding study, the results have shown efficacy with optimum dose of 90mg/ kg.
- ✓ The Phase II Covid-19 study on 2-DG, which is yet to be approved for cancer treatment, was conducted on 40 patients aged between 18 to 65 years.

DEFENCE

- **The second batch of three to four Rafale fighters - will touch down in India from France in the first week of November**

- ✓ Already, the country has received the first five jets that arrived at Ambala airbase on July 29.
- ✓ As per the delivery schedule, three to four jets will reach India every two to three months till all 36 are delivered under the Rs.59,000 crore deal inked with France in September 2016.
- ✓ The first five Rafales were inducted into service at the Ambala airbase on September 10
- ✓ The 4.5-generation Rafales have a combat range of 780 km to 1,650 km, without mid-air refuelling, depending on the nature of the mission.
- ✓ The fighters are armed with long standoff weapons like the over 300-km range 'Scalp' air-to-ground cruise missiles.

APPOINTMENTS

- On October 16, the Supreme Court - appointed retired apex court judge Justice Madan B Lokur as a one-man committee to take steps for preventing stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh by farmers

SC appoints ex-judge M B Lokur as one-man panel to prevent stubble burning

The Supreme Court on 16th October appointed retired apex court judge Justice Madan B Lokur as a one-man committee to take steps for preventing stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh which is a source of pollution in Delhi-national capital region (NCR).

Panel shall submit its report on stubble burning fortnightly to the apex court.

List of Latest Committee and Headed by

- Examine the possibility of offering Surety Bond for contractors (IRDAI): **G. Srinivasan.**
- Setting Parameters for Loan Restructuring: **KV Kamath**
- Committee on Business Responsibility Reporting (BRR): **Rajesh Verma**
- Assessment of relief to bank borrower: **Rajiv Mehrishi**
- Government gives one-year extension to Company Law Committee - **Rajesh Verma**



- ✓ The stubble burning is a major source of pollution in Delhi-national capital region (NCR) during the winter season
- ✓ The appointment was announced by a bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde, comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian
- ✓ Justice Lokur will be helped by student volunteer forces deployed from the National Cadet Corps (NCC), the National Service Scheme and the Bharat Scouts and Guides
- ✓ Student forces will patrol highways and fields in the three States and ensure that no fires are started in the fields.

- ✓ The Supreme Court's own Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA) and chief secretaries of Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh will assist the Lokur panel to enable physical surveillance of fields where stubble is burnt.
- ✓ Existing mobile teams and nodal officers of the States will report to the committee.
- ✓ The top court directed the states concerned to provide adequate security, secretarial infrastructure and transport to Lokur panel
- ✓ The committee will file status reports with the court at least every fortnight.
- ✓ The court chose Justice Lokur for the task as he had headed the Green Bench that was monitoring stubble burning for two years before his retirement.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - October 17



Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all



- ✓ The day is observed every year by the United Nations to raise awareness about the extreme poverty and hunger faced by millions of deprived people
- ✓ Theme 2020 - "Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all"
- ✓ On 17 October 1987, a Commemorative Stone in Honor of the Victims of Extreme Poverty was inaugurated on the Plaza of Human Rights and Liberties, Paris-France, at the place where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed.
- ✓ The UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed at the Trocadero in Paris on December 10, 1948.
- ✓ On December 22nd 1992, the 47/196 resolution was adopted by the UN General Assembly to observe October 17 as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP)
- ✓ The day got inspiration from 'The Call to Action' by Father Joseph Wresinski, who urged the UN to declare the IDEP

- ✓ He also founded the International Movement ATD Fourth World.
- ✓ The goal one of the UN's Sustainable Development Goal, adopted in 2015, is to eradicate poverty in all its forms and everywhere.
- ✓ Last year, the day was observed under the theme "Acting together to empower children, their families, and communities to end poverty"

➤ **Global Handwashing Day – October 15**



- ✓ The day is observed with an objective to raise awareness and highlight the importance of handwashing.
- ✓ Theme 2020 - 'Hand Hygiene for All'
- ✓ In India, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the "hath dhona, roke corona" campaign on the eve of the day
- ✓ The campaign emphasizes that Personal hygiene will lead to a healthy and disease-free life
- ✓ To create awareness on the personal hygiene, Sulabh sanitation movement was launched by Bindeshwar Pathak way back during 1970s

