

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—OCTOBER 18, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **The Anna University Incubator - has selected 24 startups with ideas to incubate, with the support of Atal Innovation Mission**
- ✓ The incubator received 90 applications from faculty members, students, alumni and the public.
- ✓ Of the 90, the incubator filtered 49 ideas before zeroing in the final list of 24 ideas for pre-incubation.
- ✓ The focus areas of the chosen startups include smart society, smart health, smart agriculture, education technology, future of wealth and other areas such as security and space.
- ✓ The 10,000 sqft incubation facility of the Anna University offers sector specific labs, Fablab, pre-incubation space, incubation area, co-working area and a conference centre
- ✓ Other innovate startup ideas selected for incubator include locust smart repellent and artificial intelligence-based drones.

- **On October 17, Tamil Nadu - reported 4,295 new cases and 57 deaths, taking the cumulative case tally to 6,83,486 and death toll to 10,586.**
- ✓ The number of active cases remains at 40,192 with the discharge of 5,005 persons in the last 24 hours.

COVID TRACKER

Zone	New cases	New deaths	Active cases
Chennai region	1,729	24	17,047
North	489	8	4,041
Central	418	2	3,557
South	386	5	4,031
West	1,273	18	11,500
Other	0	0	16
Total	4,295	57	40,192

- ✓ Hotspot Chennai (1,132) was the only district to report more than 1,000 fresh cases.
- ✓ Chennai was followed by Coimbatore (389), Salem (240), Chengalpet (231) and Tiruvallur (218)
- ✓ A total of 6,32,708 persons have recovered from the viral infection till date.
- ✓ As many as 90,242 samples were tested in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of samples tested as on date to 88,56,280.

STATES

- **Assam government – has announced that it is mandatory to have bank accounts for all children studying in government or provincialized educational institutions from Class-I to Class XII in the state**
 - ✓ This order will also be applicable to the students of Special Training Centres, residential schools, KGBVs, model schools etc
 - ✓ Ahead of the 2021 assembly polls, the state government is going ahead with the policy of giving a direct benefit transfer (DBT) to students from Class 1-12.
 - ✓ The Axom Sarba Siksha Abhiyan Mission office has asked all district education authorities to initiate the process immediately and complete the whole exercise by November 30, 2020
 - ✓ For all students, the bank accounts will be opened with zero balance.
 - ✓ For students below 10 years, the bank account will be 'joint accounts' operated alongwith guardians.
 - ✓ However, those aged above 10 can operate their accounts on their own.
- **Uttar Pradesh government - launched a new women empowerment programme 'Mission Shakti' on October 17, 2020.**

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath to launch Mission Shakti for women in Navratri



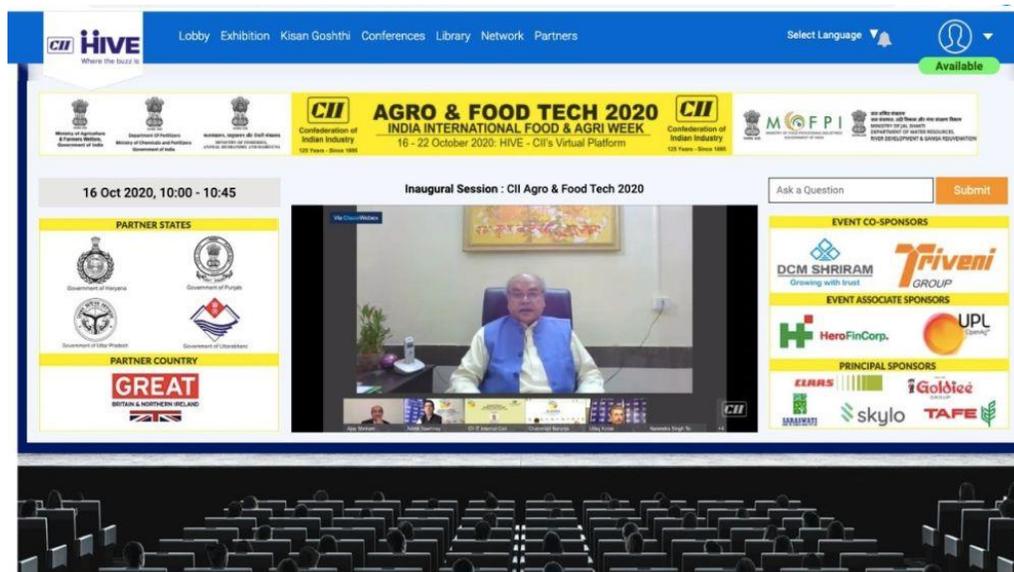
- ✓ The initiative was launched in order to raise awareness and tackle crime against women in the state.
- ✓ Governor Anandiben Patel launched the campaign in Lucknow while chief minister Yogi Adityanath started it in Balrampur.
- ✓ The six-month long campaign has two phases – 'Mission Shakti' and 'Operation Shakti'

- ✓ The Mission Shakti phase is the first phase of the campaign that focus on women's safety by means of women nodal officers
 - ✓ They will raise awareness about the help lines numbers such as 1090, 181, 1076, 108 and 102.
 - ✓ The Operation Shakti is the second phase of the campaign.
 - ✓ Under this, the police will prepare a register of persons who have served the jail terms for crimes against women and are released.
- **Chief Minister (CM) of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan - inaugurated the operations of the first phase of the International Institute of Advanced Virology at the Life Science Park at Thonakkal on October 15, 2020.**
- ✓ The institute will undertake research on various viruses, viral infections and review its clinical aspects.
 - ✓ Kerala had decided to set up a virology research centre in 2017 after following the suggestions of world-renowned scientists Prof M V Pillai and Dr Saragndharan.
 - ✓ The first phase of the building was inaugurated in February 2019.
 - ✓ The institute operates under the Department of Science and Technology.
 - ✓ It will be upgraded to an autonomous institution once it is fully operational
 - ✓ A total of eight scientific divisions have been set up in the 80,000 square feet campus of the institute, based on various virology research topics.

NATIONAL

- **The Centre - has notified the Director General of Shipping (DG Shipping) as National Authority for Recycling of Ships under section 3 of the Recycling of Ships Act, 2019 on October 15, 2020.**
- ✓ The office of the national authority for recycling will be set up in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
 - ✓ Gujarat is Asia's largest ship breaking and ship recycling industry.
 - ✓ DG Shipping will be India's representative in International Maritime Organization (IMO).
 - ✓ DG Shipping has been authorised to administer, supervise and monitor all activities relating to ship recycling.
 - ✓ It will also focus on the sustainable development of the ship recycling industry, while ensuring the compliance of environment-friendly norms
 - ✓ Further, it will monitor the safety and health measures prescribed for various persons employed in the ship recycling industry.
 - ✓ It will be acting as the final authority for approvals required by the ship-recycling yard owners and state governments.
 - ✓ The Ship Recycling Act, 2019 came into force on December 13, 2019.
 - ✓ This act regulates the recycling of ships by setting certain international standards.

- ✓ Earlier, Government of India agreed to the Hong Kong International Convention for Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009 on November 28, 2019.
 - ✓ As per the Recycling of Ships Act, 2019, the use of hazardous materials is prohibited in all the ships, except the warships and non-commercial ships operated by Government.
 - ✓ India has aimed to double its contribution to GDP from ship recycling to over \$2 billion apart from providing more employment opportunities
 - ✓ Presently, India is recycling 70 lakh gross tonnage of ships per annum.
- **The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Food Processing Industries, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Narendra Singh Tomar - virtually inaugurated the 14th session of the India – International Food & Agri Week 2020 on October 16, 2020.**



- ✓ The Food and Agri week is being organised from October 16 to October 22, 2020.
 - ✓ The “Anna Devo Bhava” awareness Campaign has been started by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) to mark the Food and Agri Week.
 - ✓ The campaign aims to raise the awareness about the value of food and to reduce food wastage.
 - ✓ The Ministry is also responsible for other schemes such as PM Kisan Sampada Scheme, Operation greens scheme and PM Formalisation of Micro food Enterprises (PMFME) scheme in the agro processing field.
- **On October 16, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan - said that the aim of the government is to make India Trans Fat free by 2022.**
- ✓ If this is achieved, India would be a year ahead of target as set by World Health Organization (WHO).

- ✓ This was highlighted during the event on World Food Day organized by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
 - ✓ In this regard, Eat Right India movement and Fit India Movement were launched by the ministry.
 - ✓ Further, Eat Right Creativity Challenge for schools and 'Eat Smart City' (challenge) by FSSAI were launched to create awareness about healthy diet practices
 - ✓ Trans fat is a food toxin that are present in partially hydrogenated vegetable oils (PHVOs).
 - ✓ It is the worst type of fat leading to cardiovascular diseases (CVD).
- **National Informatics Centre (NIC), IEEE Computer Society and Oracle - will organize Gov Tech- Thon 2020 commencing from October 30, 2020 to November 1, 2020.**
- ✓ This would be launched under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
 - ✓ It is a pan-India 36 hours virtual Hackathon, that is open to students, working professionals, faculty, start-ups, freelance technologists, and other IT service firms of India.
 - ✓ During the summit, participants will receive mentorship and advice from technical experts from NIC, IEEE and Oracle, apart from senior domain experts from the Ministries of Agriculture, Education and Transport Departments
 - ✓ Participants would be given access to the latest tools from Oracle, Oracle Autonomous Database, built-in and easy-to-use cloud security.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On October 17, UK chancellor Rishi Sunak - unveiled a new 50-pence Diversity Coin to celebrate Britain's diverse history**



- ✓ The move intends to recognise the "profound contribution" made by the minority communities to the shared history of UK.

- ✓ Around 2.5 million of the new coins, with the message “Diversity Built Britain”, will enter general circulation from October 19.
 - ✓ The new 50p follows a campaign led by the ‘We Too Built Britain’ group
 - ✓ It also marks the start of a series which will honour the contributions of Britain’s ethnic minority communities.
- **On October 15, Israel’s Parliament, the Knesset - voted in favour of normalisation of ties with the United Arab Emirates**
- ✓ The unicameral parliament approved the peace deal called as the ‘Abraham Accord’, after a marathon debate with over 100 speeches lasting more than eight hours.
 - ✓ A total of 80 lawmakers voted to in favour of the U.S.-negotiated agreement, while 13 from the Arab-led Joint List voted against it.
 - ✓ The legislation is all set now to be finally be approved by the Government
 - ✓ The UAE in August became the first Arab state to establish relations with Israel since Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994.
 - ✓ The UAE’s decision was quickly followed by Bahrain.
 - ✓ The U.S.-brokered deals were formalised at the White House in Washington on September 15.
 - ✓ Under the deal, the UAE will establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **India and Chile - held their first joint commission meeting on October 16, 2020.**



- ✓ During the meeting, both countries agreed to work in the fields of trade and commerce, agriculture, health and social security, defence and space.
- ✓ The meeting was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Chilean counterpart Andres Allamand Zavala.
- ✓ This discussion was the first institutionalised dialogue between the two countries at the level of Foreign Ministers.

- ✓ Chile decided to designate India as a priority country in its foreign policy and announced its decision to open its Consulate General in Mumbai.
 - ✓ Chile has established an embassy in New Delhi and India has established an embassy in Santiago.
 - ✓ Both of these countries are members of the G20 and partners in International Solar Alliance.
 - ✓ In 2019, India- Chile commemorated the 70th anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between them.
 - ✓ Chile became the first country in South America to sign a trade agreement with India.
 - ✓ In 2005, both the countries signed a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), that came into force in 2007
 - ✓ India's bilateral trade with Chile stands at \$2.6 billion.
- **On October 15, a webinar - was held between India and Kazakhstan under the theme "Make In India for The World, India – Kazakhstan Defence Cooperation: Webinar and Expo".**
- ✓ The webinar was organized by the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence through FICCI



- ✓ The webinar is the part of the series of webinars which are being organised to boost defence exports and achieve a target of \$5 billion in the next five years
- ✓ The webinar was attended by 350 participants and 39 virtual exhibition stalls including the 7 stalls from Kazakh companies.
- ✓ The trade between India and Kazakhstan stands at \$78,910,000 as of 2003.
- ✓ To boost the trade and commerce, both nations established the Indo-Kazakh Joint Business Council.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Drugs Controller General of India – has approved Pharma major Dr. Reddy's Laboratories and Russia's sovereign wealth fund RDIF to conduct an adaptive phase 2/3 human clinical trial for the Sputnik V vaccine in India.**
 - ✓ It is the world's first registered vaccine against Covid-19.
 - ✓ This will be a multi-centre and randomised controlled study, which will include safety and immunogenicity study.
 - ✓ The Sputnik V vaccine is developed by Gamaleya National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, Russia
 - ✓ It is based on the human adenoviral vectors platform.
 - ✓ The vaccine was registered by Russia's Health Ministry in August.

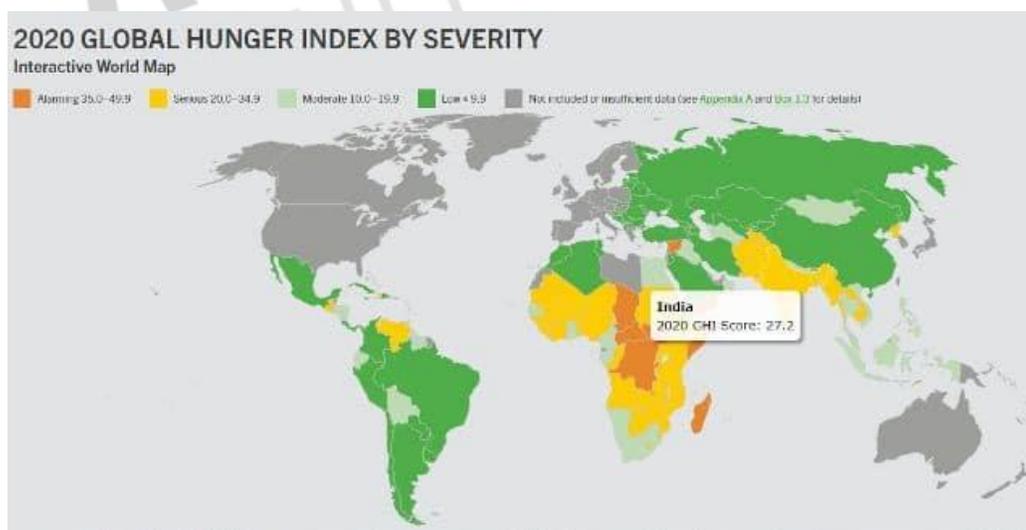
- **Researchers at Oxford University - have developed a new swapped nasal sample testing method named as New Rapid Antigen Test to detect the Covid-19 virus and other types of viral diseases**
 - ✓ The new test uses the concept of artificial intelligence in order to locate single intact virus particles.
 - ✓ The test does not require any complex steps such as amplification technique used in RT-PCR testing and takes less than five minutes to show the results
 - ✓ RT PCR is the Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction technique invented by the American biochemist named Kary.
 - ✓ He was presented the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1993 for the invention.
 - ✓ Under this technique, copies of a deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) are created and amplified using a Polymerase enzyme.
 - ✓ The coronavirus is made of ribonucleic acid (RNA).
 - ✓ In order to detect coronavirus, RNA is first converted into DNA by a technique called reverse transcription.
 - ✓ The new Rapid antigen test method detects the antigen (foreign substances that induce immune response of the body) that are found in the Covid-19 virus

- **The BepiColombo Space Craft - has crossed the planet of Venus in its journey towards Mercury.**
 - ✓ The spacecraft was launched jointly by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and European Space Agency to explore planet Mercury.
 - ✓ BepiColombo was launched on the Ariane 5 rocket and will arrive Mercury in 2025.
 - ✓ This Mission is a part of the Horizon 2000+ Programme by the European Space Agency.
 - ✓ This was the last spacecraft of the programme.
 - ✓ The BepiColombo spacecraft consists of two satellites jointly launched namely, Mercury Planetary Orbiter and Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter.

- ✓ They will get separated once they arrive Mercury.
- ✓ This spacecraft mission has been launched to explore and study the mercury.
- ✓ It would study the characterisation of magnetosphere and the external and surface magnetic field of the mercury.
- ✓ It will study the solid and liquid cores of mercury and perform magnetic and gravitational field mappings there.
- ✓ The mission also seeks to verify existence of water in the polar craters, using tools provided by Russia
- ✓ The mission will also verify Relativity Theory of Einstein
- ✓ The BepiColombo spacecraft have been named after the scientist Giuseppe BepiColombo.
- ✓ The spacecraft was first used in 1974 on the Mariner 10 mission.

RANKINGS

- **India - ranked 94 among 107 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020 and continues to be in the “serious” hunger category with a score of 27.2**
- ✓ The scores of 2020 reflect data from 2015-19.
- ✓ In 2018, India was ranked 103 while in 2019, India was ranked 102 out of 117 countries
- ✓ The neighbouring countries of Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan too were in the “serious” category
- ✓ Bangladesh was ranked at 75th place, while Myanmar and Pakistan were in the 78th and 88th position respectively.



- ✓ Further, Nepal and Sri Lanka were in 73rd and 64th position and were in the “moderate” hunger category.
- ✓ As per the report, India’s score has decreased consistently, which is a positive sign in this ranking, from 32.2 in 2010 to 31.1 in 2018 and last year the score was 30.3.

- ✓ Countries that have scores between 10 and 19.9 are categorised as moderate ones.
- ✓ The GHI is calculated based on the performance of four indicators - percentage of undernourished population, percentage of children under five years suffering from wasting and stunting, and child mortality.
- ✓ As per the report, India has the highest prevalence of wasted children under five years in the world, which reflects acute undernutrition
- ✓ The country recorded a 37.4% stunting rate among children under five, a wasting rate of 17.3% and the under-five mortality of 3.7%.
- ✓ The situation has worsened in the 2015-19 period, when the prevalence of child wasting was 17.3%, in comparison to 2010-14, when it was 15.1%.

Where India stands

The Global Hunger Index score is computed using four indicators – undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality. A country's GHI score is classified by severity – low (), moderate () and serious ()



RANK	COUNTRY	2020 SCORE
1-17*	China	<5
64	Sri Lanka	16.3
73	Nepal	19.5
75	Bangladesh	20.4
78	Myanmar	20.9
88	Pakistan	24.6
94	India	27.2
99	Afghanistan	30.3

**17 countries have scores of less than 5 and are collectively ranked 1-17*

- ✓ The Index, which was released on October 16, is a peer-reviewed report released annually by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.
- ✓ As per the report, the world is not on track to achieve the second Sustainable Development Goal — known as Zero Hunger for short — by 2030.
- ✓ At the current pace, approximately 37 countries will fail even to reach low hunger, as defined by the Global Hunger Index Severity Scale, by 2030,” says the report.
- ✓ “Wasting” refers that the child is having low weight as per the height, while “Stunting” means the child is having low height for their weight.

REPORT

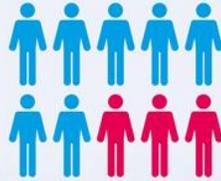
- **The World Health Organisation (WHO) - has recently released the Global Tuberculosis Report, 2020.**
- ✓ As per the report, Covid-19 might increase the TB deaths by 0.2 to 0.4 million worldwide.
- ✓ India registered a decline in Tuberculosis cases by 85% in April 2020 after the lockdown was imposed.
- ✓ India, China, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Nigeria, Bangladesh and Russia accounts for two-thirds of global TB cases

MORE PEOPLE REACHED WITH QUALITY TUBERCULOSIS CARE

IN 2019, AN ESTIMATED

10 MILLION PEOPLE FELL ILL WITH TB*

7.1 MILLION PEOPLE REPORTED TO HAVE ACCESS TO TB CARE, UP FROM 6.4 MILLION IN 2017



≈2.9 MILLION WERE UNDIAGNOSED OR NOT REPORTED

Better reporting, diagnosis and access to care will close this gap

*The 95% uncertainty interval for TB incidence is 8.9-11.0 million.



TUBERCULOSIS IS THE TOP INFECTIOUS KILLER IN THE WORLD

IN 2019

1.4 MILLION* PEOPLE DIED FROM TB



INCLUDING 208 000 PEOPLE WITH HIV

TB is the leading killer of people with HIV and a major cause of deaths related to antimicrobial resistance

*The 95% uncertainty intervals are 1.1-1.3 million for TB deaths and 177 000 - 242 000 for TB/HIV deaths.



- ✓ Also, the largest burden of drug-resistant TB was reported in India, China and Russia.
- ✓ Even though the TB cases reduced by 9%, the total TB deaths increased by 14% between 2015 and 2019.
- ✓ India accounts to 26% of total global TB cases which stands at the highest burden in the world.