

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—OCTOBER 23, 2020**

### **TAMIL NADU**

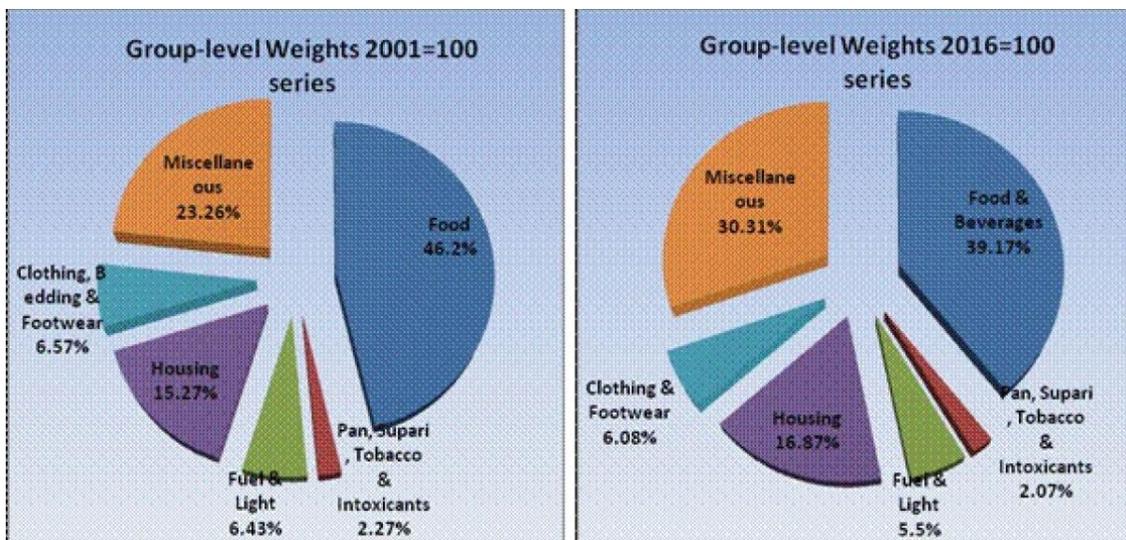
- **On October 22, Tamil Nadu chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - said the state government will provide free vaccination for all, once a vaccine for Covid-19 is available for mass production.**
- ✓ His announcement came just hours after the Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcement of free Covid vaccine to all in Bihar, if the BJP is voted to power
- ✓ Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Chouhan announced that the state's poor people would be given the vaccine free of cost.
- ✓ Further, Karnataka also joined to announce free distribution of the vaccine for all its citizens, if and when the vaccine is available.
  
- **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - will lay the foundation stone for the Cauvery-Vaigai-Guntar river linking project in January 2021.**
- ✓ The scheme proposes a new link canal for 250 km to carry surplus waters of the Cauvery from the Mayanur barrage in Karur district to Agniyaru, South Vellar, Manimutharu, the Vaigai and Gundar under the intra-State river-linking programme
- ✓ The project would benefit the district of Pudukottai to the maximum extent, as a 119km-long canal will connect Cauvery with south Vellar estuary bringing water to 760 tanks in the district.
- ✓ It will irrigate 20,249 hectares and provide drinking water to 100 villages.
- ✓ The land acquisition is under way, after ₹700 crore was allocated in February for the project by the government
  
- **The Election Commission – has announced the new assembly constituencies in the bifurcated and trifurcated districts of Kancheepuram, Vellore, Villupuram and Tirunelveli.**

- ✓ Accordingly, Chengalpet would get seven segments, including Sholinganallur, Pallavaram, Tambaram, Chengalpet, Tiruporur, Cheyyur (SC) and Madurantakam (SC)
  - ✓ However, Alandur, Sirperumbudur (SC), Uthiramerur and Kancheepuram would continue to remain in Kancheepuram district.
  - ✓ The trifurcated Vellore would get Katpadi, Vellore, Anaikattu, Kilvaithinakuppam (SC) and Gudiyatham (SC) constituencies.
  - ✓ The newly constituted Ranipet would get Arakkonam (SC), Sholingur, Ranipet and Arcot segments.
  - ✓ Further, Tirupattur will have Vaniyambadi, Ambur, Jolarpet and Tirupattur constituencies.
  - ✓ Mayiladuthurai carved out of Nagapattinam was not included in the redrawing exercise, since the district is still governed by a special officer and not by a district collector.
  - ✓ Seven assembly segments — Gingee, Mailam, Tindivanam (SC), Vanur (SC), Villupuram, Vikravandi and Thirukoilur — continue to remain in Villupuram
  - ✓ The newly created Kallakurichi district gets Ulundurpet, Rishivandiyam, Sankarapuram, Kallakurichi (SC) segments.
  - ✓ Further, Tirunelveli, Ambasamudram, Palayamkottai, Nanguneri and Radhapuram remain in Tirunelveli district
  - ✓ Sankarankoil (SC), Vasudevanallur (SC), Kadayanallur, Tenkasi and Alangulam form part of newly created Tenkasi district.
- **On October 22, Tamil Nadu's total Covid-19 casecount – crossed the seven lakh mark to reach 7,00,193 after reporting 3,077 new infections**
- ✓ The state reported 45 deaths on the day, taking the cumulative death toll to 10,825
  - ✓ There were 34,198 people still under treatment across the state.
  - ✓ The total number of cases in Tamil Nadu is the fourth highest after Maharashtra (16 lakh), Andhra Pradesh (7.9 lakh) and Karnataka (7.8 lakh)
  - ✓ However, the death toll was the highest in Tamil Nadu after Maharashtra, which has reported more than 42,000 deaths.
  - ✓ Case fatality ratio in Tamil Nadu stands at 1.6% compared to Maharashtra (2.6%), Andhra Pradesh (0.8%) and Karnataka (1.3%).
  - ✓ Hotspot Chennai (833) continued to report the maximum number of cases
  - ✓ It was followed by Coimbatore (285) and Chengalpet (193), which recorded significant cases.
  - ✓ A total of 4,314 people were discharged on the day, taking the recoveries to 6,55,170.
  - ✓ A total of 81,259 samples were tested in the last 24 hours
  - ✓ This takes the total number of samples tested so far in the state to 92,75,108

## NATIONAL

- **The Centre – is planning to set aside about 500 billion rupees (\$7 billion) to vaccinate the entire country against the coronavirus**
- ✓ The government estimates an all-in cost of about \$6-\$7 per person in the nation of 1.3 billion
- ✓ The money provisioned so far is for the current financial year ending March 31 and there will be no shortage of further funds for this purpose
- ✓ Adar Poonawalla, head of the Serum Institute of India Pvt., the world's largest manufacturer of vaccines, has predicted the nation would need about 800 billion rupees to procure and inoculate people living everywhere from the Himalayas to the remote Andaman & Nicobar islands.
- ✓ Apart from buying the treatment, transporting the vaccines from manufacturing sites would be a massive task.
- ✓ By one estimate, airlifting single-dose regimens to protect the world's population would require space in about 8,000 cargo planes.
- ✓ The biggest challenge for India will be building up cold chain logistics to distribute vaccines across India in a short period of time
  
- **The Adani Group - will take over the operation and management of Mangaluru, Lucknow and Ahmedabad airports on October 31 and November 2 and 7, respectively**
- ✓ This was announced by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) on October 22
- ✓ Citing the pandemic, the group had sought time to take over the airports and AAI had asked it to do so by November 12.
- ✓ Ahmedabad-based Adani Group is also likely to take over Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL), and the upcoming Navi Mumbai Airport, before the year-end where it is acquiring a controlling stake from outgoing promoter GVK Group.
- ✓ It has won the bid to operate, manage and develop six AAI airports — Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Mangaluru, Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram — in the PPP mode for 50 years.
- ✓ The process of taking over Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram will soon be completed.
- ✓ On October 22, the aviation ministry signed three MoUs with the concessionaires — Adani Ahmedabad International Airport Ltd, Adani Lucknow International Airport Ltd and Adani Mangaluru International Airport Ltd —for provision of services like customs, immigration, plant and animal quarantine, health, met and security (collectively called reserved services).
- ✓ AAI has also signed three separate communications, navigation and surveillance systems for air traffic management with these concessionaires for services at these three airports.

- ✓ The concession agreements for operations, management and development of Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Mangaluru Airports through PPP mode were signed on February 14, 2020.
- ✓ But the pandemic delayed the taking over of these airports by Adani Group.
- **On October 22, the Labour and Employment Ministry - revised the base year of the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) from 2001 to 2016**
- ✓ The move is aimed at reflecting the changing consumption pattern, giving more weightage to spending on health, education, recreation and other miscellaneous expenses, while reducing the weight of food and beverages.
- ✓ The reduction in weight to spending on food and beverages from 46.2% to 39% indicated an increase in disposable income.



- ✓ The CPI-IW is mainly used for measuring inflation in retail prices
- ✓ It is also used to regulate the dearness allowance (DA) of government staff and industrial workers, as well as to revise minimum wages in scheduled employments.



- ✓ However, the new series would not have an impact on the DA given to government employees for now.
- ✓ The linking factor of the new series to the old series was 2.88
- ✓ The new series was launched by the Labour and Employment Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar
- ✓ The Minister also released the first index, with 2016 as the base year.
- ✓ Similar to this, the Ministry will roll out the new series of the CPI for agriculture workers, which currently has the base year of 1986-87, by August next.
- ✓ In future, the Ministry would work towards revising the index every five years.
- ✓ The index for October will be released on November 27.
- ✓ Earlier, there were four revisions made to the base year – 1944 to 1949, 1949 to 1960, 1960 to 1982 and 1982 to 2001

## INTERNATIONAL

- **The 20th Amendment to Sri Lanka's Constitution - was passed in Parliament with a two-thirds majority, following a two-day debate.**



- ✓ The controversial amendment envisages expansive powers and greater immunity for the Executive President
- ✓ The new legislation in turn reduces the Prime Minister's role to a ceremonial one.
- ✓ As many as 156 MPs in the 225-member House voted for it, while 65 legislators voted against the Bill.
- ✓ The 20th Amendment rolls back Sri Lanka's 19th Amendment passed in 2015 with wide support from the Rajapaksa camp, then in Opposition side.
- ✓ The 19<sup>th</sup> amendment sought to clip presidential powers, while strengthening Parliament and Prime Minister.

## PERSONALITIES

- **Pramod Mittal, the younger brother of the world's richest steel magnate, Arcelor Mittal chairman and CEO Lakshmi Mittal - was declared bankrupt by the UK high court in June.**



- ✓ Pramod, 64, was made bankrupt by the Insolvency and Companies List on June 23 after a bankruptcy petition was filed against him by Moorgate Industries (UK) Ltd.
- ✓ Lakshmi Mittal was the 10th richest person in India with assets worth \$10.3 billion (Rs.75,889 crore) and ranked 91 among the world's richest
- ✓ However, Pramod failed to settle a judgment debt of \$166 million (Rs.1,223 crore) against him in the commercial court of the high court to reach the present situation.
- ✓ Mittal was jointly and severally liable for the judgment debt with Isle of Man registered company Global Steel Holdings Ltd.
- ✓ Both had acted as guarantors for the debts of Global Ispat Koksna Industrija Lukavac, a Bosnian producer of coke, which is used in making steel.
- ✓ The bankruptcy petition was filed for £139 million (Rs.1,340 crore) by Moorgate against Pramod Mittal

## DEFENCE

- **On October 22, the final user trial of the indigenous anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) 'Nag' - was successfully conducted at Pokhran range**



- ✓ The third generation ATGM has a strike range of 4 km with 'fire and forget' capabilities
- ✓ It can now be produced by defence PSU Bharat Dynamics (BDL) before its eventual induction into the Army

- ✓ The Nag missile was fired with a live warhead from an infantry combat vehicle based missile carrier called 'Namica' during the test
  - ✓ The missile has the capability to engage highly-fortified enemy tanks in day and night conditions.
  - ✓ It also has 'top attack' capabilities with passive homing guidance to defeat all main-battle tanks equipped with composite and reactive armour.
  - ✓ The much-delayed Nag missile has taken over 20 years to be finally ready
  - ✓ At present, the Army is equipped with second generation Milan-2T(2km range) and Konkurs (4 km) ATGMs, produced by BDL under licence from French and Russian companies.
- **Indian Naval ship, INS Kavaratti - was formally inducted into the Navy at the Naval Dockyard in Eastern Naval Command at Visakhapatnam on October 22**



- ✓ It is the last of the four indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes
- ✓ The ASW was built under Project 28 (Kamorta class corvettes) by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata
- ✓ It was commissioned by General Manoj Mukund Naravane, Chief of the Army Staff, in the presence of Vice-Admiral Atul Kumar Jain, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command (ENC).
- ✓ The ship, named after the capital of the Lakshadweep group of islands, has been constructed using high-grade DMR 249A steel produced in India.
- ✓ The ship spans 109 metres in length, 14 metres in breadth with a displacement of 3,300 tonnes
- ✓ It was designed by the Directorate of Naval Design (DND) and built by using up to 90% indigenous content
- ✓ The ship comprises a sensor suite which is capable of "detecting and attacking" submarines

- ✓ Under the Project 28, which was approved in 2003, four corvettes were commissioned into the Indian Navy.
- ✓ They are - INS Kamorta that was commissioned in 2014, INS Kadmat commissioned in 2016, INS Kiltan in 2017 and the INS Kavaratti is being commissioned in 2020.
- ✓ All these four Indian Navy ships are named after the islands and archipelago of Lakshadweep.

## SPORTS

- **Woman Grandmaster R Vaishali– won an individual gold at the ongoing Asian Online Nations Cup tournament**



- ✓ Tamil Nadu's 19-year old Vaishali was instrumental in helping India finish on top in the preliminary stage of the tournament.
- ✓ Now, Indian women will take on Kyrgyzstan in the quarterfinals on October 23
- ✓ Apart from Vaishali, the Indian team captain Mary Ann Gomes (5 points) also won gold, while Padmini Rout (7.5 points) settled for silver.
- ✓ Vaishali was part of the Indian team that won gold in the online chess Olympiad this year.

