

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—OCTOBER 25, 2020**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **The National Institute of Siddha (NIS) - has signed an MoU with the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Raipur for collaboration in research and development.**
  - ✓ The MoU aims to strengthen research activities, particularly those dealing with Covid-19
  - ✓ It will initiate randomised clinical trials to treat the disease using the traditional Siddha system of medicine.
  - ✓ Both institutes also agreed to utilise their expertise for the development of the AYUSH Department in AIIMS.
  
- **The 97th Battalion Rapid Action Force (RAF) of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Avadi - has developed a reusable microbial preventive suit that can be used by frontline workers engaged in Covid-19 prevention duties.**



- ✓ The reusable microbial preventive suit is an advanced version of the personal protective equipment (PPE).
- ✓ A PPE kit, used once, needs to be disposed of, so that the virus does not spread.

- ✓ The materials for the suit were presented to the Tamil Nadu Health Department, and the suit was approved by the South India Textile Research Association.
  - ✓ The microbial preventive suit is made of high quality woven cloth, and contains no cotton to ensure the suit is not heavy.
  - ✓ The suit is made of three pieces — one is the shoe cover which extends up to the knee, the other is the upper portion and the third is a trouser.
- **The Justice (retd) A Arumughaswamy commission - has been given another extension by the state government.**



- ✓ The commission has been probing the circumstances surrounding the death of former chief minister J Jayalalithaa
  - ✓ This is the ninth time the term of the commission has been extended.
  - ✓ The commission will function for three more months.
  - ✓ The commission's previous extension will end on October 25
  - ✓ Last week, the commission had written a letter to the state government asking for another extension.
  - ✓ An interim stay order on the commission's functioning was obtained by Apollo Hospitals.
- **On October 24, Tamil Nadu – reported 2,886 positive cases, taking the state's cumulative caseload to 7,06,136**

<b>TN COVID TRACKER</b>					
Zones	Fresh cases	Fresh deaths	Active cases	Toll total	Case tally
Chennai Region	1,253	13	13,344	5,228	2,99,300
North	288	3	2,969	1,325	1,02,357
Central	253	3	2,554	839	63,733
South	290	5	3,204	1,988	1,22,380
West	802	11	9,713	1,511	1,16,031
Other	0	0	3	2	2,335
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,886</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>31,787</b>	<b>10,893</b>	<b>7,06,136</b>

- ✓ The state also reported 35 deaths on the day, taking the death toll to 10,893
- ✓ For the first time in several months, the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH), the largest government tertiary care hospital in Tamil Nadu, recorded no deaths due to Covid-19 in the last 24 hours.
- ✓ In Chennai, 779 persons tested positive for the viral infection
- ✓ A total of 31,787 people were still under treatment as active cases, after the discharge of 4,024 persons
- ✓ This takes the total recovered in the state to 6,63,456
- ✓ After Chennai, Coimbatore reported 287 cases followed by 148 in Salem

## NATIONAL

- **On October 24, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - inaugurated three projects in Gujarat — one each related to farmers' welfare, healthcare, and tourism development — via video-conferencing from New Delhi.**

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**Hon'ble Prime Minister to inaugurate three major projects in Gujarat**

24th October, 2020 at 11 AM

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KISAN SURYODAY YOJANA

ROPEWAY AT GIRNAR

U.N MEHTA INSTITUTE OF CARDIOLOGY & RESEARCH CENTRE

- ✓ The PM launched the 'Kisan Suryodaya Yojana' aimed at providing day-time electricity to farmers in the State for irrigation and farming.
- ✓ The state government of Gujarat has allocated Rs 3,500 crores for implementing the scheme.

- ✓ The second project inaugurated was a paediatric heart hospital at the U.N. Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre in Ahmedabad, developed with an investment of ₹470 crore by the State's Health Department.
  - ✓ The third project launched was a 2.3-km-long ropeway project on Mount Girnar in Junagadh city, a major pilgrimage site.
  - ✓ The ropeway project is being considered as the longest temple ropeway in Asia.
  - ✓ The project was first proposed in 1983, but the construction began only in September 2018 due to various livelihood-related and environment issues
  - ✓ The ropeway has been developed by Usha Breco Limited at an investment of ₹130 crore.
  - ✓ The Girnar ropeway is a state-of-the-art passenger ropeway comprising 25 cabins, including one glass-floored cabin, each having the capacity to carry eight passengers at a time.
  - ✓ It can ferry 800 people in an hour, and 8,000 in a day.
- **On October 24, the Centre - has extended the deadline for filing income tax returns by individual taxpayers for fiscal year 2019-20 to December 31**
- ✓ The due date for furnishing of income tax returns for the taxpayers (including their partners) who are required to get their accounts audited has been extended to January 31, 2021
  - ✓ Further, the due date for furnishing returns for the taxpayers who are required to furnish reports linked to international/specified domestic transactions has also been extended to January 31, 2021.
  - ✓ The announcement was aimed at providing relief to taxpayers hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic.
  - ✓ Towards this, the government brought the Taxation and Other Laws (Relaxation of Certain Provisions) Ordinance, 2020 on March 31, 2020 which extended various time limits.
  - ✓ The ordinance has since been replaced by the Taxation and Other Laws (Relaxation and Amendment of Certain Provisions) Act.

## **TAX RETURNS: NEW TIMELINES**

Nature of compliance	Assessment year	Original date	Last extended	New due date
Belated Return of Income	2019-20	31-03-2020	30-09-2020	30-11-2020
Revised Return of Income	2019-20	31-03-2020	30-09-2020	30-11-2020
Return of Income (In case of TP Audit)	2020-21	30-11-2020	-	31-01-2021
Return of Income (Company Assessee)	2020-21	31-10-2020	30-11-2020	31-01-2021
Return of Income (Where audit's mandatory)	2020-21	31-10-2020	30-11-2020	31-01-2021
Return of Income (In case of a partner in a firm whose audit is mandatory)	2020-21	31-10-2020	30-11-2020	31-01-2021
Return of Income (In Any other case)	2020-21	31-07-2020	30-11-2020	31-12-2020
Filing of tax audit report and all other reports	2020-21	30-09-2020	31-10-2020	31-12-2020

Source: Taxmann.com

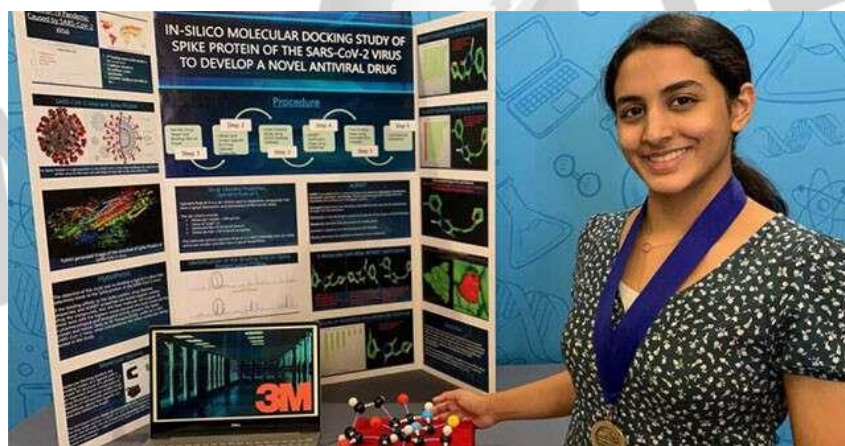
- ✓ The government had issued a notification on June 24 under the ordinance extending the due date for all income tax returns for FY 2019-20 (assessment year 2020-21) to November 30, 2020.
  - ✓ In order to provide relief to small and middle class taxpayers in the matter of payment of self-assessment tax, the due date has been extended for the second time.
  - ✓ The deadline for payment of self-assessment tax for taxpayers whose self-assessment tax liability is up to ₹1lakh has been extended to January 31, 2021 for certain category of taxpayers mentioned and to December 31, 2020 for the other category of taxpayers mentioned.
  - ✓ The government has also decided to extend the date for filing the annual returns (FORM GSTR-9/GSTR-9A) and reconciliation statement (FORM GSTR-9C) for the financial year 2018-19 from October 31 to December 31, 2020.
- **Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh - has secured the first position among 30 districts of the country for successfully implementing the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).**
- ✓ The district had obtained the top position for constructing roads of maximum length (1104 km) in 2020-21.
  - ✓ The rankings under the PMGSY was released by the Union Ministry of Rural Development recently
  - ✓ Along with Mandi, 6 more districts of Himachal Pradesh have found place among top 30 best performing districts.
  - ✓ The 6 districts include – Una, Chamba, Kangra, Shimla, Sirmour, Hamirpur and Solan.
  - ✓ Also, Himachal Pradesh has secured second position for construction of roads under PMGSY
  - ✓ The PMGSY is a centrally sponsored scheme that aims to provide all-weather road connectivity to the unconnected villages
  - ✓ It is being implemented under the Ministry of Rural Development.
  - ✓ The scheme was launched in 2000 by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
  - ✓ In November 2015, it was decided that the project will be funded by both the central government (60%) and states (40%) on the recommendations of 14th Finance Commission
- **Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan - launched an online portal 'CUREd' recently**
- ✓ The portal will provide comprehensive information about the Covid-19 clinical trials that the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) is engaged in collaboration with the Industry, ministries and other government departments.
  - ✓ The portal name 'CUREd' stands for 'CSIR Ushered Repurposed Drugs'



- ✓ It also contains information about the drugs, diagnostics and devices associated with the trials, along with the details of current stage of the trials, partnering institutions and their role in the trials.

## PERSONALITIES

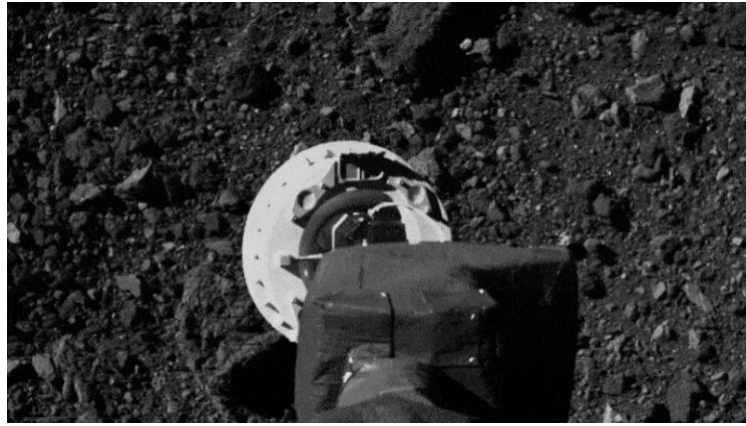
- A 14-year old Indian origin girl, Anika Chebrolu, in the US – has received this year's 3M Young Scientist award for her work on a potential therapy for Covid-19



- ✓ The award carries a cash prize of US\$ 25,000
- ✓ Through her research, Chebrolu has discovered a molecule that can attach to the spike protein on the SARSCoV-2 virus and potentially change its shape and function.
- ✓ Changing the shape of the protein prevents the virus from getting attached to the human cells and thereby further infection in a person's body can be reduced or treated
- ✓ The 3M Young Scientist judges selected Chebrolu for her “spark and inquisitiveness”.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- NASA's OSIRIS-Rex spacecraft – touched the Asteroid Bennu after two years of circling.



- ✓ The US-based National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) had launched the spacecraft to the Asteroid Bennu in 2016
- ✓ This mission is aimed at studying the Asteroid Bennu and return with at least 60 grams of the sample by 2023
- ✓ The spacecraft comprises three bottles of nitrogen that can make the spacecraft to touch down the asteroid thrice
- ✓ The asteroid Bennu is a hazardous object that has a 1 in 2700 chance of hitting the Earth in the year 2175 and 2199 that may lead to human extinction
- ✓ It is under observation by the various observatories of the Earth.
- ✓ The Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-Rex) spacecraft has been launched on the Atlas V rocket, which reached the asteroid in 2018

## REPORT

- **The Ministry of Road Transport – has released the “Road Accidents in India 2019” report**
- ✓ According to the report, the number of pedestrians, cyclists and twowheeler riders killed in road crashes has been increasing consistently
- ✓ The cumulative number of such victims categorised as vulnerable road users (VRUs) has increased from 70,831 in 2016 to 86,190 during 2019.
- ✓ The share of VRUs in total road deaths has jumped to 57% in 2019 compared to 47% in 2016.
- ✓ Further, there was decline in the fatalities with regard to occupants of other motorised vehicles (like car, taxi, truck, lorry occupants) in 2019 compared to the previous year.
- ✓ This is for the first time the Transport Research Wing under the road transport ministry has come out with the details of traffic violations and types of crashes on NHs
- ✓ The NHs have 2% share of the country’s total road network but account for nearly 36% road fatalities.
- ✓ In absolute numbers, 53,872 people lost their lives on NHs in 2019 and another 38,472 people were killed on state highways.

- ✓ The data show that speeding was the main reason for fatal crashes on NHs (36,566 deaths), followed by driving on the wrong side and driving under the influence of alcohol.
- ✓ The menace of wrong-side driving on roads claimed 9,200 lives in 2019 with more than one-fourth of such fatalities (2,726) occurring on the National Highways (NHs)
- ✓ It is the second biggest reason for deaths on such high-speed National Highways.
- ✓ A total of 2,376 persons were killed in drunk driving cases on NHs in 2019.

