

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—OCTOBER 30, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **On October 29, the Tamil Nadu government – has issued an executive order to reserve 7.5% seats for government school students in medical courses from this year**
- ✓ The decision of the government to take the G.O. route follows the delay in getting the Tamil Nadu governor Banwarilal Purohit's assent for the bill to provide 7.5% horizontal reservation quota for NEET-qualified students of State government schools in undergraduate medical admissions
- ✓ According to the government, more than 300 MBBS seats in government medical colleges and self-financing colleges will now be available for students from government schools.
- ✓ The order will benefit those who have studied from Class VI to XII in state government schools and have cleared NEET for admission to undergraduate medical, dental, ayurveda, siddha, unani and homeopathy courses in state-run medical colleges and state-quota seats in self-financing colleges.
- ✓ A bill to reserve 7.5% seats was passed by the state assembly on September 15
- ✓ It is currently pending with Governor Banwarilal Purohit, who has sought legal opinion on the matter.
- ✓ The horizontal 7.5% quota shall be provided in each category of vertical reservation followed in TN within 69% reservation from 2020, the G.O. said.
- ✓ There are 3,300 seats in 26 government medical colleges and 2,100 seats in 15 self-financing medical medical colleges.
- ✓ Also 1,800 seats available in nine deemed universities in the state.

- **On October 29, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - inaugurated the 3-day virtual global conference 'Yaadhum Oorae'.**
- ✓ The conclave was organised by the Southern India Chamber of Commerce (SICCI) in association with Guidance Tamil Nadu.

- ✓ During the event, the CM invited members of the global Tamil diaspora, settled around the world, to invest in emerging sectors like aviation and defense equipment, electric vehicles, lithium cell manufacturing and renewable energy among others in Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ Last year, the CM unveiled the 'Yaadhum Oorae' global platform in New York as an initiative to connect with Tamil diaspora during his official tour of the US, UK and Dubai last year
 - ✓ During the pandemic, the Tamil Nadu government has signed 55 MoUs to bring in over ₹40,700 crore of investments and to generate over 74,000 jobs.
 - ✓ Overall, the state has signed 120 MoUs in the past 21 months.
 - ✓ Of the 98 MoUs signed during the first edition of the GIM in 2015, 72 are in various stages of implementation
 - ✓ Of the 304 MoUs signed during the second edition of the GIM in 2019, 81 MoUs have commenced production and 191 projects are in various stages
 - ✓ As a result, Tamil Nadu has now become the leading state in terms of attracting investments in this year, said the Chief Minister.
- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - inaugurated 25 air quality monitoring (AQM) stations across the state**
- ✓ This comes five years after former CM J Jayalithaa announced the establishment of ambient air quality monitoring (AQM) stations



மாண்புமிகு தமிழ்நாடு முதலமைச்சர் திரு. எடப்பாடி K. பழனிசாமி அவர்கள் 28.10.2020 அன்று தலைமைச் செயலகத்தில், தமிழ்நாடு மாக கட்டுப்பாடு வாரியத்தின் மூலமாக தமிழ்நாட்டில் உள்ள 21 மாவட்டங்களில் நிறுவப்பட்டுள்ள 25 தொடர் கற்றுப்புற காற்றுத்தர கண்காணிப்பு நிலையங்களை (Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations) திறந்து வைத்தார்கள்.

- ✓ Built at a cost of ₹45 crore, the AQM stations were set up in Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Vellore, Krishnagiri, Trichy, Dindigul, Salem, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Ariyalur, Thanjavur, Pudukottai, Karur, Namakkal, Tiruppur, Coimbatore, the Nilgiris, Ramanathapuram, Madurai, Virudhunagar and Tirunelveli
- ✓ They will collect data on PM10, PM2.5, nitrogen oxide, ammonia, ozone, carbon monoxide, benzene, deluvin and zaileen levels for every 15 minutes.
- ✓ Based on the collected data, the air quality index will be calculated and results will be available on the pollution control board's website
- ✓ The board has also signed MoUs with a few colleges in each district to share data from AQM stations for research purposes.

- ✓ The state pollution control board is now operating the most number of AQM stations in the nation.
- Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami - inaugurated a portal <http://tamilnadu.mygov.in> on October 29



மாண்புமிகு தமிழ்நாடு முதலமைச்சர் திரு. எடப்பாடி K. பாலிசுவாமி ஆலாசன் 28.10.2020 அன்று தலைமைச் செயலகத்தில், தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பவியல் துறையின் கீழ் செயல்படும், தமிழ்நாடு மின்னளவுமை ஆணையகத்தால், மக்கள் அரசை எளிதில் தொடர்பு கொண்டு தங்கள் கருத்துகளைப் பகிர்ந்து கொள்ள உதவும் வகையில் உருவாக்கப்பட்ட இன்ற "நமது அரசு" (<http://tamilnadu.mygov.in>) வலைதளத்தை துவக்கி வைத்தார்கள்.

- ✓ Through the portal, people can contact the government and express their opinions on various issues.
- ✓ The CM also inaugurated a scheme under the Jal Jeevan Mission in Salem to provide water connection to 1,143 small villages, at a cost of ₹118.46 crore.
- The new radar at NIOT campus in Pallikaranai – will start tracking rainfall and extreme weather events during this northeast monsoon season

Pic: A Prathap

OBSERVATION NETWORK

DOPPLER RADAR | Radars measure objects through radio waves emitted from its antenna

➤ As radio waves strike objects in the atmosphere, energy scatters in all directions, and some of it is picked up by the antenna

➤ Doppler radars can measure the movement of targets and their position

PARAMETERS MEASURED

- Tracking cyclone
- Structure of rainfall and its intensity
- Precipitation
- Wind speed and direction
- Cloud development and movement
- Water content in the air

➤ IMD uses Doppler Radar installed in Port Trust and Karaikal to predict Nowcast, (weather forecasting for two to three hours)

➤ India has plans to add 50 new Doppler Weather Radars in three years across the country

RADAR AT PORT



- Giant football-shaped instrument on top of Port Trust Building was imported from Germany and installed in 2002 to replace cyclone detection radars
- It is an S Band radar operating at 8-15cm wavelength and a frequency of 2-4GHz, and is suitable for near and far range weather observation

NIOT DWR | An X-band radar with Isro technology made by a Chennai-based manufacturer

- Its range is between 100 and 150km

KARAIKAL DWR | An S-Band radar with a range of 500km has been operational since 2015

- ✓ With this, there will be three doppler weather radars to monitor the weather phenomenon during this monsoon season
 - ✓ The new radar at NIOT, based on Isro technology, will assist the city's only radar at Chennai Port, which is awaiting a replacement after being in service for 18 years.
 - ✓ The new X-band radar made by city-based Data Patterns, will function from the NIOT premises in Pallikaranai, and will be mostly used for daily forecast.
 - ✓ Two S-band radars at Karaikal and Sriharikota, with a range of 500km, will track weather systems like cyclones if the existing Chennai port radar stops functioning.
 - ✓ The new radar has a range of 100 to 150km only and can be used for city forecast and nowcast, but not for cyclone tracking like the existing one at port
 - ✓ For the radar at Chennai port trust building, bull gear, a crucial component for rotating the doppler radar antenna, located in the pedestal of the instrument is awaiting a replacement from its maker in Germany
 - ✓ The existing S-band doppler weather radar on Rajaji Salai has been a key instrument for tracking storms and rainfall since it was installed in 2002.
 - ✓ But for the last two years, it is not functioning full time due to mechanical issues.
- **On October 29, the food safety department - launched an 'eat right challenge,' setting higher targets for safety, hygiene, quality, enforcement and surveillance of food.**
- ✓ Under the programme, mobile units would travel across the city to check adulteration of oil, street food and colouring agents among others on the spot.
 - ✓ The department will register all food operators compulsorily under the initiative to ensure better surveillance.
 - ✓ Hotels and restaurants will be rated on hygiene standards
 - ✓ Further, certificates will be issued to street vendors, hotels and meat shop owners.
 - ✓ Various activities and programmes will also be conducted to educate all food providers on various FSSAI norms and to ensure safety and hygiene

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE			
WHAT IS EAT RIGHT CHALLENGE?	SOME OF THE GOALS SET		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It's a Central govt initiative aimed at strengthening food safety ➤ Taking part in the initiative, the food safety dept has launched a surveillance drive in Chennai to ensure food safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rating eateries on hygiene ➤ Picking up samples of commonly eaten food such as milk ➤ Departmental action on illegalities and ensuring 100% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> registration of all food providers ➤ Samples collected, analysed will be increased ➤ Health complaints will be addressed ➤ Training and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> certification will be done for retailers, wholesalers, caterers, hotels ➤ Prasad will also be analysed ➤➤ Hygiene at vegetable and fruits markets
Fund received ₹5lakh 			

- ✓ As per the data available with the Chennai food safety and drug administration department, more than 700 samples were collected in the last financial year for checking the quality of food items

- ✓ Out of this, 482 samples were analysed and 191 were found to be safe.
- ✓ Among the rest, 130 were found to be completely unfit for human consumption and 161 did not conform to norms of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- **On October 29, Shiv Nadar Foundation - launched Shiv Nadar University at Kalavakkam in Chennai.**
 - ✓ This is the first private university to be legislated in Tamil Nadu after 90 years (since the Annamalai University Act in 1928), upon the passing of the Shiv Nadar University Act 2018.
 - ✓ This was announced by Roshni Nadar Malhotra, chairperson, HCL Technologies and trustee of the foundation, in the presence of R Srinivasan, chancellor, Shiv Nadar University Chennai and Kala Vijayakumar, pro-chancellor.
 - ✓ R. Srinivasan is the co-Founder of Redington (India) Limited
 - ✓ C Rangarajan, former governor of Reserve bank of India and one of the most eminent economists and policymakers of the country, and Raj Reddy, computer scientist, professor at Carnegie Mellon University and winner of the Turing Award, will be its mentors.
 - ✓ The university will open for admissions in April 2021 with four specialized courses in disciplines of engineering and commerce.
 - ✓ The University plans to introduce a four-year undergraduate programme in Business Management (BMS) in the following academic year (2022-23).
- **In a first, the Sainik School in Amaravathinagar at Udumalpet in Tirupur - will admit girls in Class VI from next year.**
 - ✓ The Sainik Schools Society will conduct 'All India Sainik Schools entrance examination' on January 10 to admit boys and girls in class VI and boys in XI for the academic year 2021-22.
 - ✓ The residential school prepares students for entry into the National Defence Academy.
 - ✓ A total of 67% of seats are reserved for candidates in Tamil Nadu, as per the policy.
 - ✓ Girls will stay in a hostel on the school premises.
 - ✓ The entrance examination will be held at Amaravathinagar, Udumalpet, Coimbatore, Chennai, Thanjavur and Puducherry.
 - ✓ Admission will be based on written exam, merit and medical fitness. school authorities said.

STATES

- **The Karnataka government - has decided to ban its employees from acting in films and television serials, publishing books, and voicing criticism against the State and Union government policies.**

- ✓ As per the draft of the Karnataka State Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 2020, the government employees could not act in films and television serials without permission from the competent authority.
- ✓ The draft rules also seek to stop government staff from sponsoring media programmes in radio and television channels.
- ✓ The Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms notified these draft rules on October 27, 2020, seeking objections within 15 days.
- ✓ The rule said a government servant should not publish any book or engage him/herself habitually in literary or artistic or scientific work without the permission of prescribed authority.
- ✓ A new set of rules, likely to be enforced soon, also states that government servants cannot consume intoxicating drinks in public places.
- ✓ It also prohibited employees appearing in a public place in a state of intoxication.
- ✓ The rules also seek to ban employees from embarking on foreign tours without permission.
- ✓ The rules will apply to about six lakh employees.

NATIONAL

- **The Centre - has decided to set up a new commission in cleaning the air quality in the National Capital Region (NCR) and adjoining areas.**
- ✓ The new commission will have powers of enforcement and mitigation to prevent deterioration in Delhi's air quality
- ✓ The commission will be headed by a full-time chairperson of secretary-rank or chief secretary-rank bureaucrat
- ✓ It will have three sub-committees — on 'monitoring and identification', on 'safeguarding and enforcement' and on 'research and development'
- ✓ They are mandated to tackle air pollution in Delhi and neighbouring states of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and western Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ As per an ordinance issued on October 29, the commission will come into force immediately.
- ✓ It provides for a powerful 17-member commission for air quality management through strict enforcement and mitigation measures, enhanced penalty, better coordination, research, identification and resolution of problems surrounding air quality index of the region referred to as an 'airshed'.
- ✓ Any non-compliance or contravention of any provision, rules or order or direction of this statutory commission will be an offence punishable with a jail term up to five years or with fine up to ₹1 crore or both.
- ✓ Under existing rules, jail term was restricted up to one year and penalty up to ₹1 lakh.
- ✓ Importantly, the commission's directions will prevail over state pollution control boards in case of a conflict.

- **On October 29, a speciality Assam tea – fetched a record-equaling auction price of ₹75,000 a kilo at the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre**



- ✓ Manohari Gold, a hand-rolled tea produced in tiny batches at Manohari tea estate in Dibrugarh, has always been a winner at the auctions.
- ✓ This season, only 2.5kg of Manohari Gold was produced, of which 1.2kg was sold at auction centre.
- ✓ The rest will be made available at select outlets, including the auction centre lounge.
- ✓ The Guwahati Tea Auction Centre has sold tea at ₹75,000 a kilo twice before, both in 2019.
- ✓ On August 13 last year, Dikom tea estate had auctioned its Golden Butterfly produce at that price.
- ✓ A speciality tea manufactured by Donyi Polo tea estate of East Siang in Arunachal Pradesh later went for the same price.
- ✓ The Manohari Gold batch auctioned now was bought by Vishnu Tea Co, a Guwahati-based retailer.
- ✓ Manohari Gold was so named as only the soft golden tips picked from tea bushes make up this exceptionally rare and special tea.
- ✓ Highly rich in antioxidants, the tea also offers aromatic, full-bodied, bright yellowish and malty tea liquor

INTERNATIONAL

- **On October 29, China's ruling Communist Party - concluded its key annual conclave, during which it approved the 14th Five-Year Plan and Vision 2035**
- ✓ Vision 2035 is a long-term development plan that hints at the continuation of President Xi Jinping in power for the next 15 years.
- ✓ The four-day plenary session of the CPC heard and discussed a work report delivered by Xi.



- ✓ The 14th Five-Year plan aims at a massive overhaul of the country's domestic market to boost consumption in order to reduce China's reliance on shrinking exports markets
- ✓ The Vision 2035 visualises a long-term plan, reflecting the vision of Xi.
- ✓ The aim of Vision 2035 is to "set goalposts for China's progress towards achieving high-income status by 2049".

DEFENCE

- **The Army - has developed an in-house WhatsApp like messaging application called 'Secure Application for Internet (SAI)' for its personnel**
- ✓ The new App is aimed at preventing "leaking" of any classified information to any intelligence agencies.
- ✓ SAI is a simple and secure messaging application
- ✓ It supports end-to-end secure voice, text and video calling services for Android platforms over the internet.
- ✓ It will be utilised pan-Army to facilitate secure messaging within the service
- ✓ SAI was first developed by Colonel Sai Shankar, the commanding officer of a signals unit in Rajasthan, and then upgraded to military-grade standards.
- ✓ SAI is similar to commercially available messaging applications like WhatsApp, Telegram, SAMVAD and GIMS and utilizes end-to-end encryption messaging protocol.
- ✓ The application has been vetted by the empaneled auditor of CERT-in (the government's Indian Computer Emergency Response Team) as well as the Army Cyber Group.

APPOINTMENTS

- **India - has proposed appointment of diplomat Suresh Kumar, an IFS officer of 2006 batch, as its charge d'affaires in Islamabad**
- ✓ Earlier, Pakistan had rejected the appointment of Jayant Khobragade, India's first choice for leading the scaled-down mission, saying that he was too senior for the post.

- ✓ Khobragade is an IFS officer of 1995 batch and served as ambassador earlier.
 - ✓ In June, India had asked Pakistan to reduce its mission strength by half, saying that most Pakistani officials in India were engaged in espionage and terrorism-related activities.
 - ✓ Before that India had declared two Pakistani officials 'persona non-grata' for their involvement in espionage in India
 - ✓ Pakistan's reciprocal action saw India too recalling half of its staff from Islamabad.
 - ✓ While India had proposed Khobragade's name in June, Pakistan finally rejected visa to him three months later.
 - ✓ Pakistan had recalled its high commissioner last year following India's decision to revoke the special status of Jammu & Kashmir and asked India also to do the same.
- **The government - has approved former diplomat and central information commissioner, Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha as the next chief information commissioner in the central information commission.**



- ✓ The recommendations of the PM-led selection committee for the post of CIC and three information commissioners has been sent to the President for approval and a notification is expected soon
- ✓ Deputy CAG Saroj Punhani and Ahmedabad based veteran journalist Uday Mahurkar are among the three names recommended for appointment as ICs
- ✓ Sinha is a retired Indian Foreign Service officer and had served as India's High Commissioner to the U.K. and Sri Lanka.
- ✓ He was appointed a member of the Central Information Commission in January 2019.
- ✓ The CIC has been without a chief since August 27 when Bimal Julka retired.
- ✓ In the Commission that can have up to 10 commissioners besides the chief, five posts of information commissioners are currently vacant.
- ✓ With Sinha's name cleared for chief's post, and three new ICs to be appointed, the Commission will now have seven ICs.
- ✓ The three-member selection committee, including the Prime Minister, Congress Leader in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Home Minister Amit Shah, met twice, on October 7 and 24.

- ✓ The PM-led selection committee had first met on October 7 to consider the names recommended by the search committee for the post of the chief and vacant IC posts in CIC.
- ✓ However, the meeting was inconclusive and a second round of meeting was held last week where the names were finalised.

OBITUARY

- **On October 29, former Gujarat chief minister Keshubhai Patel (92 years) - passed away in Ahmedabad after suffering a heart attack.**



- ✓ From joining the RSS as a pracharak, Keshubhai was a key leader of the Jan Sangh.
- ✓ He became the first president of BJP's Gujarat unit and played a major role in the party's rise in Gujarat.
- ✓ The first BJP chief minister of Gujarat, Keshubhai Patel did not enjoy long stints as CM.
- ✓ In his first stint, Patel had to step down following a rebellion led by senior party leader Shankersinh Vaghela.
- ✓ He was replaced as CM in his second stint in the aftermath of three natural disasters - the 1998 Kandla cyclone, 1999 drought and the devastating earthquake of 2001.
- ✓ Although he quit the BJP and formed his own political outfit— the Gujarat Parivartan Party— in 2012, he commanded great respect within the BJP.
- ✓ Within a couple of years of forming the GPP, Patel returned to the BJP by merging his outfit with it.

