

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCTOBER 5, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **On October 4, Tamil Nadu – recorded 5,489 new Covid-19 cases and 66 deaths, taking the case count to 6,19,996 and cumulative death toll to 9,784.**
- ✓ There are 46,120 people still under treatment as ‘active cases’ for the viral infection.
- ✓ A total of 5,558 persons were discharged after the treatment on the day, taking the total recovered to 5,64,092
- ✓ With 1,348 cases, Chennai continued to report the maximum infections, followed by Coimbatore with 474 new cases

TN COVID TRACKER

Figures for October 4

Zones	New cases	New deaths	Active cases	Total deaths	Total cases
Chennai Region	2,072	23	17,502	4,731	2,65,762
North	625	5	5,134	1,178	923,48
Central	654	7	5,232	744	54,613
South	587	11	4,707	1,881	1,13,910
West	1,546	20	13,518	1,249	91,046
Other	5	0	27	1	2,317
Total	5,489	66	46,120	9,784	6,19,996

- ✓ Chennai’s neighbouring districts, Chengalpet (381), Tiruvallur (197), and Kancheepuram (146) together reported 724 cases.
- ✓ Further, Salem and Thanjavur added 357 and 244 fresh cases respectively.
- ✓ As many as 86,012 samples were tested in the last 24 hours across the network of 189 authorised testing laboratories
- ✓ This takes the total number of samples tested till now to 77,00,011

NATIONAL

- **On October 4, Union health minister Harsh Vardhan – announced that the government is expecting to receive and utilise 40 crore to 50 crore doses to vaccinate 20 crore to 25 crore people by July 2021**
- ✓ The minister also informed that the government had already started working on plans to ramp up human resource and training capacity on a massive scale.
- ✓ The Centre has also asked states to submit lists of populations that would receive the vaccine on priority, especially health workers engaged in Covid management
- ✓ This was announced by the minister during an interaction on social media called 'Sunday Samvad'.



- ✓ Vaccine procurement will be done centrally and consignments tracked real-time to ensure they reach those who need it the most and there is no black-marketing.
- ✓ As per the minister, the first priority will be accorded to the frontline personnel and healthcare workers
- ✓ The list of frontline personnel will include government as well as private sector doctors, nurses, paramedics, sanitary staff, ASHA workers, surveillance officers and many other occupational categories who are involved in tracing, testing and treatment of patients.
- ✓ This planning exercise is to be completed by the end of October.
- ✓ India has three vaccines in phase 2-3 trials which are so far showing promising results.
- ✓ The Serum Institute of India is partnering the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine to produce the Covishield vaccine, which is the only one to enter phase 3 trials
- ✓ Bharat Biotech is developing COVAXIN and Zydus Cadila is working on the third one named ZyCoV-D, both of which are in phase two trials
- ✓ India is also part of the GAVI alliance that is intended to ensure that 92 low and middle income countries get access to the vaccine.
- ✓ The minister said a high-level committee headed by NITI Aayog Member, health, Dr V K Paul, is preparing the entire plan including timelines of availability of various vaccines in the country

- ✓ The committee is also entrusted with obtaining commitments from vaccine manufacturers to make available maximum number of doses for India inventory and supply chain management and also on prioritisation of high-risk groups.
- **The operational integration of Ayush Grid – has been proposed with the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) by a high level meeting chaired by Vd. Rajesh Kotech, Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH**
- ✓ Ayush grid is the emerging IT backbone for AYUSH Sector.
- ✓ The integration will be beneficial for availing many options for the health needs of the public and to bring mainstream the Ayush disciplines of healthcare.
- ✓ Further, the digitization of the Ayush sector will transform the health care delivery at all levels including the research, education, various health programmes and drug regulations
- ✓ The Ayush Grid Project was initiated by the Ministry of AYUSH in 2018 to create a comprehensive IT backbone for the AYUSH sector.
- ✓ This will emerge as a comprehensive IT backbone which would be serving 8 lakh Ayush physicians and 50 crore citizens within three years.
- ✓ The components of Ayush Grid initiative covers all the verticals of the Ayush sector including the health services, education, central sector and centrally sponsored schemes, ayush research, drug licencing portal, training programmes, citizen centric services and media outreach
- ✓ Ayush Grid project have developed and supported initiatives related to managing the health crisis such as AYUSH Health Management Information System (AHMIS), Ayush Sanjivani mobile app, the Yoga locator mobile app, Covid-19 dashboard etc.,
- ✓ Another ambitious project, Ayush Next is being launched to support Ayush education
- **The Election Commission - has approved postal ballot for people aged above 80 years of age and people with disabilities for the upcoming Bihar elections**
- ✓ To avail the postal ballot, a specific form (Form- 12-D) would be delivered and collected at the voter's residence by the booth level officer (BLO) under his polling station.
- ✓ This decision has been taken in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ The Law Ministry recently amended the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961.
- ✓ This extended the facility of postal ballots to people who are unable to cast their vote because of their service conditions.
- ✓ This includes the persons with disabilities and elderly voters above the age of 80.
- **On October 4, India – reported 77,100 fresh infections across the country**
- ✓ With this, 6.5 million had tested positive for the virus since March

- ✓ Further, there were 101,782 deaths reported, while the number of active cases stood at 9.3 lakh
- ✓ Maharashtra reported the maximum of 13,702 fresh cases and 326 deaths on the day
- ✓ Karnataka logged 10,145 fresh cases, while Kerala added another 8,553 cases to its overall case count
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh recorded 6,242 new infections on the day.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **The 19th round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Myanmar - was held on October 1 in virtual mode.**

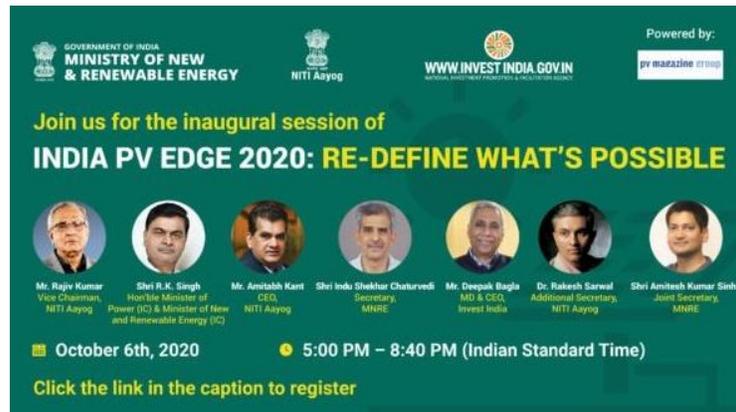


- ✓ Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla led the Indian delegation while the Myanmar delegation was led by Permanent Secretary, U Soe Han.
- ✓ During the consultations, both the countries discussed bilateral cooperation in regional and multilateral forums
- ✓ They also reviewed their border cooperation and the restoration work on earthquake damaged pagodas in Bagan.
- ✓ They also discussed to operationalize the Sittwe port by 2021.
- ✓ The next Joint Trade Committee Ministerial Meeting will be held on October 20 which would further strengthen the bilateral trade and investment relations.
- ✓ The Government of India is highly involved in several transportation infrastructure development projects in Myanmar.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **NITI Aayog, The New and Renewable Energy Ministry, and Invest India – to organise a global symposium virtually ‘India PV EDGE 2020’ on October 6**
- ✓ The summit is being organized to ramp up the efforts on promoting cutting-edge solar cell manufacturing in India.
- ✓ During the symposium, there will be sessions including the plenary session, sessions on ‘Wafers and Cells, Session on ‘Modules and Production Equipment’ and a session on ‘Supply Chain.
- ✓ As of August 31, 2020 India’s installed solar capacity was 35,739 MW.

- ✓ The Indian government had initially targeted for 20 GW capacity by 2022, which was achieved four years ahead of schedule.



- ✓ This target was revised in 2015 and raised to 100 GW of solar capacity, which includes 40 GW target from rooftop solar by 2022.
- ✓ Further, the target was again modified to 450 GW of renewable capacity by 2030 comprising solar energy target of 300 GW
- ✓ For achieving the target, India has established 42 solar parks.
- ✓ India has now become the third-largest solar capacity country in the world
- ✓ India also proposed and set up the International Solar Alliance (ISA) with its headquarter at Gurugram, Haryana.
- ✓ Further, India has also launched the “One Sun One World one Grid” concept and “World Solar Bank” in order to harness the solar power globally.

DEFENCE

- **The Indian Army - has built a memorial in the honour of twenty soldiers who lost their lives in the Galwan Clash between Indian Army and Chinese Army on June 15, 2020**

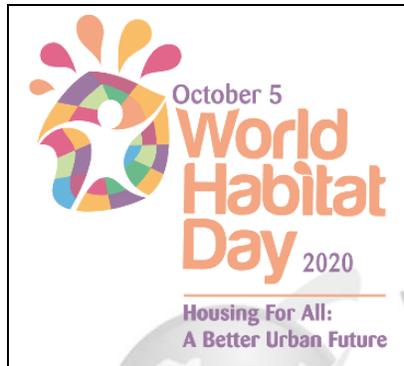


- ✓ The memory is located near the KM-120 post in the Durbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie road.
- ✓ It contains the names of the martyred soldiers and they have been mentioned as “Gallants of Galwan”.
- ✓ Indian side lost 20 Indian soldiers in the clash at Galway valley in Eastern Ladakh, while the Chinese side suffered a casualty of around 35 soldiers.

- ✓ The India Army completed the mission under the “Operation Snow Leopard”
- ✓ As per the inscription on the war memorial, Colonel Santosh Babu, Commanding officer of the 16 Bihar regiment, led the Quick Reaction Force of the 16 Bihar and fought bravely causing heavy casualties to the PLA
- ✓ Colonel Santosh Babu achieved martyrdom during the clashes.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Habitat Day – October 5, 2020



- ✓ The World Habitat Day is observed on the first Monday of October month every year.
- ✓ The observance of the day was first declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 1985
- ✓ The day is celebrated to recognise the basic right of humanity of having an adequate shelter and to initiate action to end poverty housing.
- ✓ Theme 2020 - Housing for All-A better Urban Future
- ✓ The day was first celebrated in 1986 at Nairobi under the theme “Shelter is My Right”.
- ✓ During the day, various countries organize several activities and seminars to examine and investigate the problems of rapid urbanization and its impact on the environment and human poverty.
- ✓ Around 1.8 billion people lives in the slum areas, facing the problems of homelessness and inadequate housing
- ✓ To address their concern, the UN had launched United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- ✓ It focuses on making socially and environmentally sustainable cities, well-planned and governed human settlements.
- ✓ It seeks to provide universal access to basic services including sanitation, water and energy.
- ✓ The UN also confers the world’s most prestigious human settlements award “Habitat Scroll of Honour” which was launched in 1989.