

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCTOBER 9, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu – to establish the country’s first advanced manufacturing hub (AMHUB)**
 - ✓ It will be set up jointly by Guidance, the Tamil Nadu government’s nodal agency for investment promotion and single window facilitation, and the World Economic Forum (WEF)
 - ✓ The State will be able to create opportunities in electronics, electric mobility, solar energy and textiles through collaboration with the AMHUB.
 - ✓ Further, the state will utilise the AMHUB to adopt the concept of IoT [Internet of Things] and other emerging technologies for advanced manufacturing in various sectors
 - ✓ The AMHUB is one of the 19 platforms designed by the WEF.

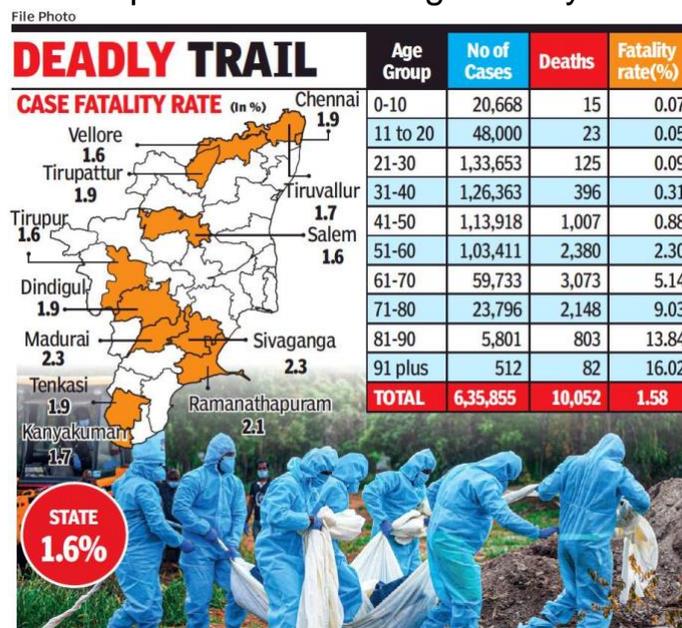
- **Greater Chennai Corporation - has started the second sero prevalence survey to assess the exposure of the city’s population to Covid-19.**
 - ✓ The survey will be carried out randomly over the next 68 days across the capital city
 - ✓ According to the first survey carried out by the National Institute of Epidemiology, one in every five people in the city was exposed to the virus in July
 - ✓ The survey would be conducted in other districts after 10 days

- **Guindy Children’s Park in Chennai - was being upgraded from mini zoo to medium category zoo with the approval of Central Zoo Authority**
 - ✓ This was announced by Forest minister Dindigul C Sreenivasan, who was the chief guest at the valedictory programme of Wildlife Week Celebration organised online by Arignar Anna Zoological Park (AAZP) in Vandalur
 - ✓ Further, the Minister said that efforts are being taken to upgrade the Kurumbapatti mini zoo to medium category zoo at a cost of Rs. 8 crore.

- **Ramkumar Ramamoorthy, former chairman and MD of Cognizant India - has joined as the chief executive officer in Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI) with effect from October 1.**



- ✓ He will teach mathematics, computer science, physics and data science to undergraduate and post-doctoral students.
- ✓ The institute undertakes applied research through AlgoLabs, the in-house industrial consultancy and sponsored research centre.
- **On October 8, Tamil Nadu –5,088 fresh Covid-19 infections and 68 deaths, taking the state’s caseload to 6,40,943 and the death toll over 10,000 people to 10,052**
- ✓ The number of active cases remains at 44,437, after the discharge of 5,718 persons on the day
- ✓ With this, a total of 5,86,454 persons have been discharged so far.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu remains the second state to cross 10,000 deaths after Maharashtra, which has recorded more than 39,000 deaths.
- ✓ The case fatality rate in Tamil Nadu (1.6%) is much lower than in Maharashtra (2.7%) and almost on a par with the average fatality rate in the country (1.5%).



- ✓ The capital city, Chennai recorded 1,295 cases and 16 deaths on the day.
- ✓ Further, Coimbatore reported the next highest of 448 cases followed by Chengalpet (363), Salem (362) and Thanjavur (239)
- ✓ A total of 87,341 samples have been tested in the last 24 hours, taking the total samples tested till now to 80,44,447

STATES

- **Karnataka – to host the 13th edition of Aero India from February 3 to 7, 2021**

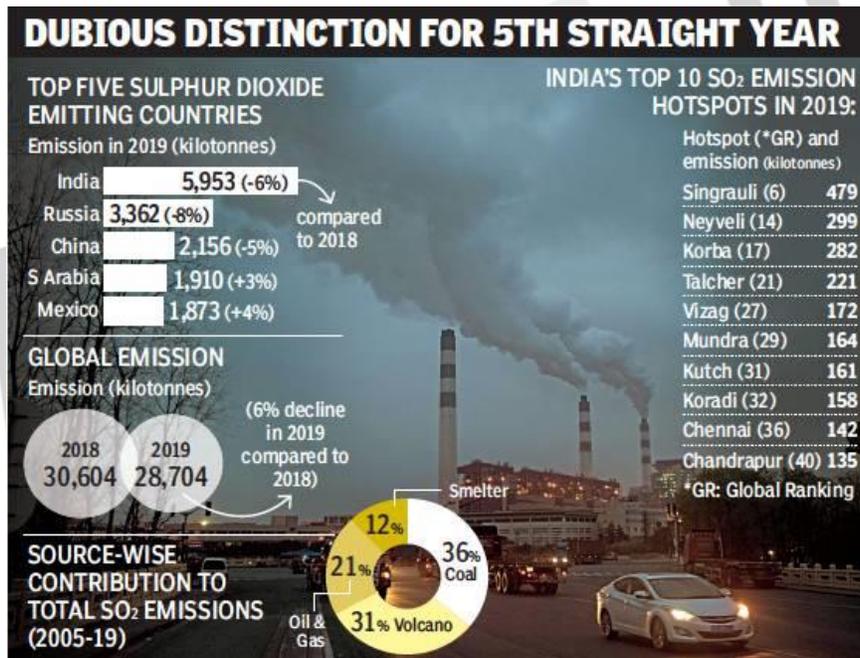
The screenshot shows the official website for Aero India 2021. At the top, there are 'Contact Us' and 'Login' buttons. The main heading is 'Aero India 2021' with the dates '03 - 07 February 2021' and the location 'Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru'. A quote from Prime Minister Narendra Modi is prominently displayed: "Defence manufacturing is becoming vibrant in India. With holistic efforts, we are creating a strong ecosystem to ensure self-sufficiency in Defence Production." Below the quote is a portrait of PM Modi and a graphic of several upward-pointing arrows. Navigation tabs include 'AQs', 'Covid Care', 'Media Coverage', 'Media', 'B2B', 'B2BMeeting', and 'My Account'. A 'LATEST NEWS' section is at the bottom.

- ✓ This was decided in a meeting chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on October 7
- ✓ Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa participated in the ambassador's round table virtual summit on the 13th edition of Aero India, 2021
- ✓ Karnataka has been the host State for the last 12 editions of Aero India in the past
- ✓ The 12th edition of Aero India was held from 20 to 24 February 2019 in Bengaluru, Karnataka
- ✓ It was inaugurated by defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ✓ The theme of the event was 'Runway to a Billion Opportunities'

NATIONAL

- **India - has recorded a 6% decline in emission of hazardous sulphur dioxide (SO₂) in 2019 compared to 2018**
- ✓ This is the first steep decline of SO₂ emissions reported in the country during the last four years.
- ✓ However, India continues to be at the top in the list of big emitters for the fifth year in a row.

- ✓ The country has been contributing 21% of global anthropogenic emissions of sulphur dioxide in 2019, nearly double that of the second-ranked global emitter, Russia, which was followed by China
- ✓ Two thermal power stations in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh figure among the worst emitters of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) globally in 2019
- ✓ While Ramagundam in Telangana was ranked 31 among the top 50 global hotspots for coal-based SO₂ emissions, Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh was the 11th worst emitter.
- ✓ Incidentally, in rankings that covered all SO₂ emissions including from other sources, not just coal, Vishakhapatnam figured 27th on the list of 50 global SO₂ emitters.
- ✓ The worst hotspot in India remained at Singrauli (MP).
- ✓ These findings under the report titled 'annual global sulphur dioxide emission' were released by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) and Greenpeace India on October 8



- ✓ This year, the overall SO₂ emissions dropped for all the top three big emitters – India, Russia and China — for only the second time on record.
- ✓ The declining trend continues, so far, even in 2020 thanks to a 10% drop in consumption of coal during the January-August period.
- ✓ The decline in India's SO₂ emissions is attributed to the country's stride towards renewable energy and less consumption of coal.
- ✓ SO₂ is a poisonous air pollutant that increases the risk of stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, and premature death
- ✓ In December 2015, the Union environment ministry had introduced SO₂ emission limits for coal-fired power stations and asked the power plants to install flue-gas desulfurisation (FGD) to reduce the emissions within two years.

- ✓ As per the report, the biggest emission hotspots are thermal power stations (or clusters of power stations) in the country.
- **The India Meteorological Department (IMD) - will soon launch a dynamic, impact-based cyclone warning system**
 - ✓ The new warning system will help minimise economic losses and damage to property due to cyclones that hit Indian coasts every year.
 - ✓ The new system will have location or district-specific warning mechanisms, taking into account the local population, infrastructure, settlements, land use and other relevant elements.
 - ✓ All disaster management agencies will make extensive use of cartographic, geological and district-wise hydrological data under this mechanism.
 - ✓ The IMD would also start an interactive display system for “observed and forecast cyclone track and intensity” on GIS platforms during the cyclone season.
 - ✓ The National Disaster Management Authority has, meanwhile, taken up a project — National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project — to develop a web-based Dynamic Composite Risk Atlas (Web-DCRA) in collaboration with IMD and governments of coastal states.
- **The Indian drug regulator - has rejected Hyderabad-based company, Dr Reddy’s Laboratories’ proposal to directly conduct Phase III trials of Russian Covid-19 vaccine Sputnik V**
 - ✓ It has asked the company to first conduct Phase II human trials on a smaller population before graduating to Phase III trials.
 - ✓ The expert committee of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), which met earlier this week, turned down Dr Reddy’s Laboratories’ proposal
 - ✓ The CDSCO has stated that the “safety and immunogenicity data in overseas Phase I/II trials of Sputnik is too small and no data is available on Indian subjects”, while rejecting the proposal
 - ✓ The committee has now asked Dr Reddy’s Laboratories to submit a revised proposal with a detailed protocol for conducting Phase II and III studies.
- **On October 9, India – reported 71,275 fresh Covid-19 cases and 967 deaths, taking the country’s cumulative casecount to 69,04,304 and death toll to 1,06,457**
 - ✓ For the sixth day in a row, Maharashtra continued to record less than 15,000 new Covid cases, while Karnataka continued to record more than 10,000 infections
 - ✓ Further, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh reported 5,445 and 5,292 fresh cases on the day
 - ✓ Active cases continued to fall and stood at 9,01,816 on the day, while a total of 58,96,031 people have recovered from the infection till now.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The Trump administration – has announced the blacklisting of the entire Iran’s financial sector, dealing a big blow to its economy which is already under US sanctions**
- ✓ The move impacts 18 Iranian banks that had thus far escaped the bulk of re-imposed US sanctions
- ✓ It means, any foreign or non-Iranian financial institutions doing business with them will face heavy penalties.
- ✓ Thus, the sanctions effectively cut these banks off from the international financial system.
- ✓ The sanctions are imposed due to the support provided by Iran to terrorist activities and its continuing nuclear programs
- ✓ Out of 18 banks, the action targets 16 Iranian banks for their role in the country’s financial sector, one bank for being owned or controlled by a another sanctioned Iranian bank and one military-affiliated bank
- ✓ Foreign companies that do business with those banks were given 45 days to wind down their operations before facing “secondary sanctions”.

DEFENCE

- **The Indian Air Force’s 88th Air Force Day parade – was conducted at Hindon Air Force Station in Ghaziabad on October 8**



- ✓ During the parade, the team of IAF Advanced Light Helicopter ‘Sarang’ also participated
- ✓ The parade included a spectacular fly-past, with a wide range of aircraft and helicopters, including the newly-inducted Rafale fighters.
- ✓ Some of the IAF personnel associated with the predawn strikes at Balakot and the subsequent aerial skirmish with Pakistani fighters in February last year were awarded their medals during the parade.
- ✓ Three Indian Air Force officers who took part in the Balakot operation last year received gallantry medals on the occasion of 88th Air Force Day.

- ✓ The officers who received the YudhSeva Medal are Squadron Leader Minty Agarwal, Group Captain Hansel Sequera and Group Captain Hemant Kumar Vadsra.
- ✓ YudhSeva Medal recognises distinguished service of a high order during war, conflict or hostilities.
- ✓ Squadron Leader Minty Agarwal is a Fighter Controller with the Indian Air Force.
- ✓ She was part of the team that guided Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman during the 2019 Balakot airstrike carried out by the IAF.
- ✓ Minty Aggarwal showed exceptional alertness and presence of mind to direct the IAF jets to intercept the intruding Pakistani jets a day after the Balakot airstrikes.
- ✓ To avenge the Pulwama terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, India carried out an aerial strike at a terror training camps in Balakot in Pakistan on February 26 last year.
- ✓ A total 40 soldiers were killed in the terror attack claimed by Pakistan-based terror outfit JeM on February 14.

ECONOMY

- **India's GDP is forecast – is expected to plunge by 9.6% in 2020-21, as per the World Bank's latest report on South Asia unveiled on October 8**
- ✓ This is sharply lower than the 3.2% contraction forecast in June by the multilateral agency
- ✓ The drop in growth rate of Asia's third-largest economy is attributed to the Covid-19 induced prolonged lockdown, which affected general business in the country
- ✓ However, the growth is forecast to return to 5.4% in FY22, assuming Covid-related restrictions are completely lifted by 2022
- ✓ Most of the other agencies have also predicted a GDP decline between 5% to 15% in the current fiscal year
- ✓ India's GDP contracted 23.4% in the June quarter, the sharpest fall among global economies
- ✓ The latest South Asia Economic Focus of the World Bank forecasts a sharper than expected economic slump across the region
- ✓ The regional growth is expected to contract by 7.7% in 2020, after topping 6% annually in the past five years

APPOINTMENTS

- **On October 8, the World Trade Organization - announced that South Korea's trade minister Yoo Myunghee and a Harvard-trained former Nigerian finance minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala have qualified as the two finalists to become the next director-general of WTO**



- ✓ This ensures a woman in the top job of the WTO for the first time.
- ✓ The winner will be announced in November, 2020

AWARDS

- **On October 8, American poet Louise Gluck - won the 2020 Nobel Literature Prize**



- ✓ The 77-year old Gluck is known for themes of childhood and family life that draw inspiration from myths and classical motifs.
- ✓ Gluck, was honoured “for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal”, as per the Academy.
- ✓ Gluck won the Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for her collection *The Wild Iris* and the National Book Award for her latest collection, *Faithful and Virtuous Night*, in 2014.
- ✓ She is the fourth woman to win the Nobel Literature Prize in the past decade — after Olga Tokarczuk, Svetlana Alexievich and Alice Munro — and only the 16th women, since the Nobel prizes were first awarded in 1901.
- ✓ Gluck is a Professor of English at Yale University
- ✓ She was the author of collections, *The Triumph of Achilles* (1985) and *Ararat* (1990)
- ✓ Last year’s winner of Nobel Literature prize, Austrian novelist Peter Handke, proved to be a critical choice, as Peter was known for supporting Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic in the Balkan wars.

OBITUARY

- **Ram Vilas Paswan, Union Minister for consumer affairs, food and public distribution (74 years)**



- ✓ Lok Janshakti Party founder, Paswan, a leading dalit leader from Bihar with a long history in politics passed away at a private hospital in New Delhi on October 8, where he had undergone a heart surgery recently.
- ✓ He served as Minister under six Prime Ministers – ranging from the United Front government of Deve Gowda and the Manmohan Singh-led United Progressive Alliance government to the current Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance government.
- ✓ Paswan was first elected as MLA in 1969 for the Samyukta Socialist Party
- ✓ In the 42 years since, he had been elected to the Lok Sabha eight times, barring in 2009.
- ✓ And this year, he returned to Parliament once again for a second stint in the Rajya Sabha.
- ✓ In 1975, when the Emergency was proclaimed, he was arrested and spent the entire period in jail.
- ✓ On being released in 1977, he became a member of the Janata Party and won the election to the Lok Sabha for the first time on its ticket.
- ✓ He held the world record for winning the election by the highest margin.
- ✓ In 1977, he registered a Guinness World Record by winning the election from Hajipur with a margin of 4.24 lakh votes,
- ✓ In 1989, he first became a Minister handling the Labour portfolio in the V.P. Singh government.
- ✓ Then, he was in-charge of his favourite portfolio as Railway Minister in 1996 under Deve Gowda's leadership.
- ✓ He was also part of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government as Communications Minister
- ✓ In between, Paswan formed Dalit Sena in the year 1983
- ✓ In 2000, he broke from the Janata Dal to form the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP)
- ✓ Paswan was instrumental in the implementation of the Mandal Commission report in the 1990s

SPORTS

- **Ethiopian Letesenbet Gidey and Uganda's Joshua Cheptegei – have set new world records in the 5,000m and 10,000m track events in Valencia, Italy on October 7**



- ✓ Cheptegei smashed the men's 10,000m world record, clocking 26 min 11.00 sec to take an astonishing six seconds off the record mark set in 2005 by Ethiopian, Kenenisa Bekele
- ✓ Cheptegei won the 10,000m gold at last year's World Championships in Doha
- ✓ In August, Cheptegei had broken the 5,000m world record held by Bekele at the Diamond League in Monaco
- ✓ Last December, also in Valencia, Cheptegei smashed a decade-long record in 10km road racing by six seconds.
- ✓ His performance came after Ethiopia's Letesenbet Gidey bettered an equally remarkable four seconds from the previous record for the women's 5,000m set by Tirunesh Dibaba in 2008 at Oslo, Norway
- ✓ Gidey was timed in 14:06.62.
- ✓ Both the world records are set within an hour gap in the event.
- ✓ Both Cheptegei and Gidey were wearing Nike ZoomX Dragonfly spikes, a super-light shoe with a rigid plate and unique foam that lends a propulsive sensation to every stride.
- ✓ The spikes, nevertheless, are approved by track and field's governing body.
- ✓ Apart from the spikes, both the runners had a team of metronomic pacemakers around them who utilized Wavelight technology
- ✓ The wavelight technology is a trackside visual time guidance system which lights up to indicate the world record pace.