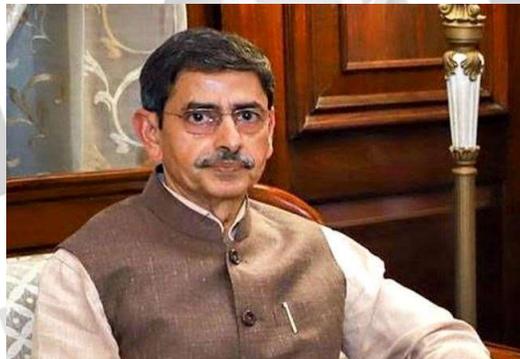


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- The Centre's interlocutor for the Naga peace talks and retired IPS officer R.N. Ravi - has been shifted from Nagaland to Tamil Nadu as its new Governor on September 9



- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin greeted R N Ravi on his appointment, wishing that his arrival to Tamil Nadu will encourage its growth and prosperity.
- ✓ On the day, President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed three Governors, besides accepting the resignation of one.
- ✓ The incumbent Banwarilal Purohit has been named as governor of Punjab.
- ✓ He was earlier holding additional charge of Punjab.
- ✓ In addition to his duties as the governor of Punjab, Purohit has now been appointed as the administrator of Chandigarh
- ✓ RN Ravi is a native of Bihar and a retired IPS officer from the 1976 batch of Kerala cadre.
- ✓ Ravi's first five years as the interlocutor are considered 'successful' by the government.
- ✓ He signed the Framework Agreement, which aimed to end the decades-old Naga issue, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 3, 2015.

- ✓ However, differences had emerged recently between the Centre and the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Isak-Muivah), with the latter demanding Ravi's removal as the interlocutor last year.
 - ✓ Lt Gen Gurmit Singh, who retired as Deputy Chief of Army Staff in February 2016, has been appointed the Uttarakhand Governor after incumbent Baby Rani Maurya resigned.
 - ✓ Lt Gen Singh has served as corps commander of the strategic XV Corps, which overlooks the Line of Control in Kashmir.
 - ✓ He was also handling China operational and military strategic issues as additional director general of Military Operations.
 - ✓ A graduate from the Defence Services Staff Course, Lt Gen Singh visited China seven times for LAC meetings.
 - ✓ Assam Governor Professor Jagdeesh Mukhi will hold additional charge of Nagaland.
 - ✓ All these appointments will take effect from the dates they assume charge of their respective offices
- **On September 9, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin – announced in the state assembly that a civilization flourished on the banks of Thamirabarani river 3,200 years ago**
- ✓ This was confirmed by AMS carbon dating done by US lab Beta Analytic
 - ✓ Paddy and soil that from an urn unearthed during an excavation in Sivakalai in Tuticorin district were sent for the carbon dating process

URN FROM 1155 BCE

- Carbon dating showed paddy found in burial urn at Sivakalai in Thoothukudi district belonged to 1155 BCE
- Thamirabarani river starts in Pothigai hills of Western Ghats in Ambasamudram taluk, flows through Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts and empties at Korkai (Tirunelveli district) into Gulf of Mannar

- ✓ The paddy in the urn belonged to 1,155 BCE that is 600 years older than the samples found in Keeladi in Sivaganga district where the excavation is ongoing
- ✓ According to the historians, the graffiti found in the Indus Valley civilization and in south India are about 80% identical.
- ✓ This suggests that there may be some linguistic connection between Indus Valley Civilization, south India and Sri Lanka.
- ✓ The shortest river in the state, the Tamirabarani starts in Pothigai hills of the Western Ghats in the Ambasamudram taluk, flows through Tirunelveli and

Tuticorin districts and empties at Korkai (Tirunelveli district) into the Gulf of Mannar (Bay of Bengal).

- ✓ The CM announced that the government would set up a museum at Tirunelveli to showcase rare artefacts found in Adichanallur and Sivagalai in Tuticorin district and Korkai at a cost of Rs.15 crore.
 - ✓ He also said that the state government will conduct excavations at Chera era port city Musiri (now Pattanam) in Kerala along with local archaeologists to establish the ancientness of Chera country and culture
 - ✓ Likewise, studies will be conducted at Vengi in Andhra Pradesh, Talakadu in Karnataka and Palur in Odisha with the help of local archaeologists, the CM said while making a suo-motu statement in the assembly.
 - ✓ The CM also said the state archaeological department would conduct research in Quseir al-Qadim in Egypt, which was once part of the Roman empire as well as in Khor Rori in Oman, to establish Tamils' trade relations with these countries.
 - ✓ The government would also conduct similar studies in south east Asian countries like Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam (conquered by Tamil king Rajendra Chola) with the help of local archaeologists, the CM added.
 - ✓ He recalled that the Union government had left the excavation at Keeladi incomplete, prompting the state to continue its initiative.
 - ✓ Further excavation and carbon dating established that Tamils were literate in the sixth century BC itself.
 - ✓ The state archaeological department is now excavating sites at Adichanallur, Sivagalai, Korkai, Kodumanal, Mayiladumparai and Gangaikonda Cholapuram, the CM said.
- **On September 9, Chief Minister M K Stalin - introduced a bill in the state assembly to constitute a state commission for scheduled castes (SCs) and scheduled tribes (STs).**
- ✓ The bill is to be called "The Tamil Nadu State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act, 2021"
 - ✓ As per the bill, the commission will have a chairperson, vice-chairperson and five members.
 - ✓ The commission will have powers of civil court in matters of summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person, requiring the discovery and production of any document, receiving evidence on affidavits, requesting any public record or copy from any court or office.
- **For the third year in a row, IIT Madras - topped 'India Rankings 2021' released by the Centre on September 9.**
- ✓ IIT-M retained the top position in 'engineering' and 'overall' categories and stood second in 'research'.

- ✓ Five state universities dropped in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings 2021 on the top 100 colleges list which featured eight each from Chennai and Coimbatore.

HOW TN COLLEGES FARED

TOP FIVE ENGINEERING INSTITUTES FROM TN

IIT Madras (1st rank) | NIT, Trichy (9) | VIT (12) | Amrita Vishwa Vidhyapeetham (16) | Anna University (18)

TOP FIVE COLLEGES IN TN



Loyola College
(3rd rank)

PSGR
Krishnammal
College for

Women, Coimbatore (6)

Presidency College (7)

Madras Christian College (18)

PSG College of Arts and Science (19)

STATE UNIVERSITIES

DROPPED IN RANKINGS

(2021 rank, 2020 rank)

Bharathiar University (14) (13)

Anna University (16) (12)

University of Madras
(28) (22)

Alagappa University (33) (36)

Bharathidasan University
(57) (53)

- ✓ While Anna University slipped by four places in both university category and engineering category to be ranked 16 and 18 respectively, University of Madras slipped six ranks from 22 to 28.
- ✓ National Institute of Technology Trichy retained the top position among 31 NITs.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has 19 institutions in top100 universities.
- ✓ In the colleges category, Loyola College was ranked the third best college in the country, moving up three places, while Presidency College slipped two ranks to 7th.
- ✓ As many as 32 colleges from Tamil Nadu featured among the top 100, the same as last year.
- ✓ Christian Medical College in Vellore has retained its third position among medical colleges.
- ✓ In the engineering category, IIT Madras was the top ranked institute, NIT Trichy was ranked 9th and Vellore Institute of Technology 12th.
- ✓ Bharathiar University from Coimbatore dropped from 13 to 14, Bharathidasan University in Trichy slipped from 53 to 57 in the university category and Madurai Kamaraj University also came down from 60 to 63.
- ✓ However, Alagappa University in Karaikudi has improved from 36 to 33 and Periyar University in Salem climbed 10 places from 83 to 73.
- ✓ In the dental colleges category, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences came in third, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research was ranked 8 and SRM Dental College was ranked 10th.
- ✓ Among the pharmacy colleges, JSS College of Pharmacy in Ooty was ranked 7th.

STATES

- **Telangana – has started a trial run for delivering vaccines by drones on September 9**

FIRST IN THE COUNTRY



➤ On Thursday, boxes weighing 2-3 kg will take off from Vikarabad district hospital for primary healthcare centres

➤ The three-phase trial will see six flights a day, with each drone carrying 175 vaccines in temperature-controlled boxes

- ✓ Delhi-based drone delivery tech firm Skye Air Mobility has tied up with Blue Dart to initiate a three-phase trial for the Telangana government's "Medicine from the sky" project.
- ✓ Union aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the pathbreaking 'medicine from the sky project' where drones will be used to transport vaccines to remote areas
- ✓ To begin with, each drone will carry 175 vaccines and fly within line of sight and then go beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS).
- ✓ Being a trial run, the vaccines being delivered initially will not be the precious Covid jabs but others.
- ✓ On September 9, boxes weighing 2-3kg will take off from Vikarabad District Hospital for 500-metre-away primary healthcare centres, flying to an altitude of up to 400ft.
- ✓ Claiming it to be India's first drone delivery trial, the "Medicine from the sky" project trial will go on till October 17.

NATIONAL

- **On September 9, American auto giant, Ford Motor Company – has announced that it will close manufacturing plants in India and will only sell imported models henceforth.**



- ✓ After the exit of GM and Harley-Davidson, another iconic brand Ford has now quit Indian market.

- ✓ With an investment of more than \$2.5 billion in the country, and having a presence since 1995, Ford ended 2020-21 selling 48,042 units with a market share of 1.8%.
 - ✓ As per the “restructuring” of the company’s business in India, its plants in Chennai and Sanand (Gujarat) would be shut down by the second quarter of next year
 - ✓ However, after-sales support for the roughly 10 lakh customers in India will continue as its 300-odd dealerships will remain open for service.
 - ✓ The company’s new strategy will involve import and sale of “must-have, iconic vehicles”, including Mustang coupe.
 - ✓ The move will see many of the 4,000-odd permanent employees of Ford India move out.
 - ✓ Ford failed to grow in a market where others such as Maruti, Hyundai, Tata Motors and Mahindra, reaped in dividends.
 - ✓ Newcomers such as Korean Kia and China’s MG Motors also managed to get a solid opening, despite starting late in 2019.
 - ✓ Ford’s losses to date stand at \$2 billion and the company says it preferred to invest money in markets where it can fetch returns than sink further cash in India.
 - ✓ The government’s high tax regime, which imposes levies as high as 28% on gasoline vehicles, has also been a major roadblock.
 - ✓ The company will, however, continue the ‘Ford Business Solutions’ programme in India, where it employs 11,000 members engaged in software development, data science, R&D, and finance and accounting.
 - ✓ The closure comes months after Ford’s last-ditch efforts to forge a Joint Venture with local sport utility vehicle maker Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd failed in January 2021.
 - ✓ Ford India has an installed manufacturing capacity of 610,000 engines and 440,000 vehicles a year.
 - ✓ It also exported its models such as Figo, Aspire, and EcoSport to over 70 markets around the world.
 - ✓ Ford is the second American auto major after General Motors to shut plants in India.
 - ✓ In 2017, General Motors announced that it would stop selling vehicles in India
 - ✓ Ford was one of the first global car companies to enter India when the economy opened up in the early 1990s.
 - ✓ The company first established manufacturing plant in 1926 but shut down its initial operation in the 1950s.
- **For the third year in a row, IIT-Madras - has topped the ‘India Rankings 2021’ released by the ministry of education on September 9**
- ✓ In the colleges category, Delhi’s Miranda House and Lady Shri Ram College for Women retained the first and second positions among the top 100.
 - ✓ IIT-Madras retained top position in the ‘engineering’ and ‘overall’ categories.

- ✓ Among the universities, IISc-Bangalore is ranked number one, followed by Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

OVERALL TOP 10	TOP 10 COLLEGES
1. IIT Madras	1. Miranda House, Delhi
2. IISc, Bangalore	2. Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi
3. IIT Bombay	3. Loyola College, Chennai
4. IIT Delhi	4. St. Xavier's, Kolkata
5. IIT Kanpur	5. RK Mission, Howrah
6. IIT Kharagpur	6. PSGR Krishnammal College, TN
7. IIT Roorkee	7. Presidency, Kolkata
8. IIT Guwahati	8. St. Stephen's, Delhi
9. JNU, Delhi	9. Hindu College, Delhi
10. BHU, Varanasi	10. SRCC, Delhi

- ✓ In the research category, that was introduced this year, IISc-Bangalore emerged topper and IIT-Madras second.
 - ✓ This is the sixth edition of the India Rankings instituted by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) by the ministry of education, which now ranks higher education institutions in 11 categories.
 - ✓ The number of unique applicants to the rankings has increased from 2,426 in 2016 to 4,030 in 2021 whereas the total number of applications for ranking in various categories has increased from 3,565 in 2016 to 6,272 in 2021.
 - ✓ However, not much have changed in terms of the rankings of the top institutions in the category of overall, engineering, law, medical and management
 - ✓ The college category has maximum changes with Loyola College (3), St Xavier's Kolkata and Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira, Howrah (5) breaking into the top five for the first time.
 - ✓ However, Delhi University, which itself has not featured in the overall and university top 10, has five of its colleges in the top 10 and 12 in the top 20 categories.
 - ✓ There are 28 colleges in the top 100 from Delhi, followed by eight each from Chennai and Coimbatore.
 - ✓ In Medical Category, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi was ranked at first position.
- **On September 9, Defence minister Rajnath Singh and minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari - inaugurated the country's first emergency landing facility (ELF) on a national highway**
- ✓ Jal Shakti minister and Jodhpur MP Gajendra Singh Shekhawat was also on the flight.
 - ✓ The government is planning to build 19 more ELF runways (including two more in Rajasthan) on national highways across the country.

- ✓ A Hercules C-130J aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) touched down on a 3-km stretch on National Highway 925 in Rajasthan's Barmer district in a mock emergency landing



- ✓ Chief of defence staff General Bipin Rawat, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria and other officials were present at the inauguration.
- ✓ The three union ministers flew in the aircraft as a part of the inauguration ceremony of the ELF
- ✓ The ELF was built under the supervision of national highways authority of India (NHAI), where all types of IAF aircraft can land.
- ✓ Several IAF aircraft, including the Sukhoi-30MKI fighter, landed on the strip.
- **On September 9, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) board - approved the privatisation of 13 more airports by early next year**
- ✓ This includes six major airports and seven smaller airports that will be clubbed with the bigger ones.
- ✓ The clubbing of airports includes - Varanasi with Kushinagar and Gaya, Amritsar with Kangra, Bhubaneswar with Tirupati, Raipur with Aurangabad, Indore with Jabalpur and Trichy with Hubli.
- ✓ AAI will now begin the process of preparing bid documents so that the same can be completed by next year.
- ✓ The Buddhist circuit of Varanasi-Kushinagar-Gaya is likely to get significant interest from bidders due to the tourism potential of these cities
- ✓ The recently-announced National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) envisages privatisation of 25 AAI airports
- ✓ Through this, NITI Aayog has estimated a monetisation value of Rs 20,782 crore over FY22-25, accounting for 4% of asset monetisation target of Rs 6 lakh crore.
- ✓ This is the first time that smaller airports are being clubbed with bigger ones, while opting for the PPP mode
- ✓ Under the PPP mode, a private player develops and expands airports on revenue share model, while their ownership remains with the government.
- ✓ The airports being developed and run PPP way so far include those at Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai, Kochi, Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Mangaluru.

- ✓ The Adani Group will soon take over Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram airports and also build Navi Mumbai Airport.
- ✓ All these airports were privatised on standalone bases.
- ✓ The promoter of Mumbai Airport gets the right to build Navi Mumbai Airport.
- ✓ The NMP also envisages divesting AAI's residual stake in four airport JVs.

- **The government - has notified the constitution of the National Road Safety Board**
- ✓ The Board will function as the lead agency at national level to deal with matters relating to road safety.
- ✓ The notification was issued by the road transport and highways ministry
- ✓ The National Road Safety Board (NRSB) aims to integrate efforts in collaboration with states to reduce road crashes and improve all aspects of safety.
- ✓ The provision for establishing the board with experts from different fields was provisioned in the Motor Vehicle Amendment Act of 2019.
- ✓ Several countries across the world including the United States, Sweden and Australia have lead agencies at national level.
- ✓ The board will have an advisory role to come up with recommendations and proposals for the central government
- ✓ This may include formulation of specific standards for road safety, traffic management and road construction for hilly regions in the country.
- ✓ The board can also provide technical advice and assistance to the central and state governments and local authorities on administration of road safety and traffic management.
- ✓ It can also specify guidelines for establishing and operating trauma facilities and paramedical facilities for dealing with traffic related injuries on roads.
- ✓ The proposal for an apex board at the national level was first mooted in 2007 in the Sundar Committee report.
- ✓ The panel was formed to present a note to the Empowered Committee of Secretaries for the creation of a Directorate of Road Safety and Traffic Management and required the amendment of traffic laws as required.

- **The government - is planning to bring a new law to regulate medicines, cosmetics and medical devices in keeping with changes in the pharmaceutical market**
- ✓ The proposed new law will replace the existing Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940
- ✓ It seeks to comprehensively address areas like medical devices, hospital equipments, e-pharmacy, emergency use authorisation as well as compensation norms in case of EUAs and clinical trials etc.
- ✓ The health ministry has constituted a committee to examine the existing law and propose a draft for the new law by November 30

- ✓ The eight-member panel is headed by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) with representation from various other state drug regulators and health ministry.

HIGH COURT VERDICT

- **The Madras high court - has directed the state government to reconstitute the police commission with a retired high court judge as head and with legal experts, social workers, representative from the public, retired and serving police officials and civil servants as members.**
- ✓ The judges also asked the government to consider increasing the salary of police personnel by at least 10% considering the incomparable risk they take.
- ✓ A division bench of Justice N Kirubakaran (since retired) and Justice B Pugalendhi observed that the court had by an earlier judgement directed the state to constitute a commission to look into the grievance of police personnel.
- ✓ The commission is to be headed by a retired high court judge and comprising psychologist, psychiatrists, social worker, advocate who is an expert in service law, retired and serving police officials
- ✓ However, in contrary to that, the government constituted the commission in 2019 headed by a retired IAS officer and comprising retired and serving police officials.
- ✓ In these circumstances, the judges directed the government to reconstitute it in line with the earlier judgement within three months.
- ✓ So far, 6,823 desertions have taken place in the past 10 years, nearly 25 police personnel have committed suicide and 200 have died due to illness in 2020.

DEFENCE

- **The government - has given the final nod to the mega Rs.10,990 crore indigenous project to build six AEW&C (airborne early-warning and control) aircrafts for the Indian Air Force**
- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the project to be undertaken by the DRDO on September 8
- ✓ The project involves mounting indigenous 360-degree coverage AESA (active electronically scanned array) radars on six Airbus-321 passenger aircraft to be acquired from the existing Air India fleet
- ✓ The CCS had also cleared the long-pending Airbus-Tata project to build 56 C-295 medium transport aircraft at a cost of over Rs.21,000 crore (around \$3 billion)
- ✓ The AEW&C project was accorded the initial “acceptance of necessity” by the defence ministry in December last year
- ✓ Under the project, the first flight trial of the AEW&C aircraft is now expected to take place in four years, with the entire project being completed in seven years.
- ✓ IAF currently has just three Israeli Phalcon AWACS mounted on Russian IL-76 transport aircraft, with 360-degree radar coverage at a 400-km range.

- ✓ It also has two indigenous 'Netra' AEW&C aircraft, with indigenous 240-degree coverage radars with a 250-km range, fitted on smaller Brazilian Embraer-145 jets.
- **India - has finally kicked off the actual groundwork for creation of four theatre commands**
- ✓ Four senior three-star generals are tasked with working out the structures in them to build an integrated war-fighting machinery
- ✓ The integrated maritime theatre command (MTC), air defence command (ADC) and two land-based commands for Pakistan and China, will all take concrete shape in the next "two to three years".
- ✓ The western theatre command (WTC) will have its headquarters at Jaipur while the MTC will come up in Karwar.
- ✓ The eastern theatre command (ETC) will be based either in Kolkata or Lucknow, with the ADC in Gandhinagar or Allahabad.
- ✓ The theatre commands, once they are up and running, will first take over the "operational role" of the single-service commands under them.
- ✓ At present, India has as many as 17 single-service commands (Army 7, IAF 7 and Navy 3), which have very little synergy in planning and operations.
- ✓ The joint commands will place the assets and manpower of the Army, Navy and IAF under one operational commander in each theatre.

ECONOMY

- **On September 9, the income tax department - extended the deadline for filing returns for the 2020-21 financial year due to the glitches in the new taxpayer portal.**
- ✓ The original deadline for filing returns by those whose accounts are not audited is July 31, 2021
- ✓ However, the deadline had been extended to September-end due to the second wave of the pandemic.
- ✓ Now, the Central Board of Direct Taxes has again postponed the deadline, citing difficulties that have been reported by taxpayers.
- ✓ Due to the changes, the due date of furnishing of belated or revised returns for the last financial year, which is December 31, has now been extended to March 31, 2022.
- ✓ In addition, it has also extended the due date of furnishing the audit report to January 15, 2022 for those who are required to file the document.
- ✓ The new tax portal was launched in early June and the government has set a September 15 deadline to the technology vendor, Infosys for fixing the problems in the portal