

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-SEPTEMBER 14,2021

TAMIL NADU

- **On September 13, the Tamil Nadu assembly - passed a bill for admission to medical courses only on the basis of Class XII marks in board examinations.**
- ✓ The bill also provides for 7.5% horizontal reservation in medical courses for students of government schools.
- ✓ The bill seeks to have a permanent exemption to the state from NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test).
- ✓ Instead, the state will have only Class XII marks as criterion for admissions to MBBS, BDS, Indian medicine and homeopathy courses.
- ✓ Introducing the Bill, Chief Minister M K Stalin said the state government is moving this legislation as it has the competency, saying that admissions to “medical education courses fall under entry 25 of List III, Schedule VII of the Constitution”
- ✓ The government decided to enact a law to ensure social justice, uphold equality and equal opportunity, protect all vulnerable student communities, and ensure a robust public health care in the state, especially in the rural areas, said the CM.
- ✓ The Bill was introduced on the basis of recommendations from a state appointed high-level committee by Justice A K Rajan to look at various aspects and impact of NEET exam.
- ✓ The committee set up in June 2021 recommended that the state government shall pass an Act, like Tamil Nadu Admission in Professional Educational Institutions Act, 2006 (Tamil Nadu Act 3 of 2007)
- ✓ The Act allowed admission to engineering, medicine, dental, agriculture, and other allied courses on the basis of performance in the qualifying Class 12 examination.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Admission in Professional Educational Institutions Act, 2006, received presidential assent in March 2007, and in March 2011, the Supreme Court upheld the state law.
- ✓ Further, the committee findings pointed out that NEET had affected diverse societal representation in MBBS and higher medical education, favouring rich sections and spoiling the dreams of underprivileged sections.

- ✓ The Justice Rajan committee received views from 86,342 people both offline and online and submitted its report on July 14.
 - ✓ After considering the recommendations of the committee, another committee headed by Chief Secretary V Irai Anbu was formed in July, which also recommended abolishing NEET.
 - ✓ In August 2019, the state government under All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) passed an ordinance exempting the state from NEET.
 - ✓ In 2017, NEET was made mandatory for admission.
 - ✓ Education, after the 42nd amendment, is on the concurrent list where the Centre and the states have equal say to enact laws.
 - ✓ There are several state-specific laws concerning concurrent list subjects that Tamil Nadu enacted and got the presidential assent.
 - ✓ In 2006, Tamil Nadu removed the practice of conducting the entrance examination for professional courses.
- **The Tamil Nadu government - has increased the quota for women in government jobs from 30% to 40%.**
- ✓ Finance and human resource management minister P T R Palanivel Thiagarajan made the announcement in the assembly on September 13 while replying to the debate on demand for grants for the human resource management department
 - ✓ Aiming at gender equality, the government would introduce necessary amendments to implement the increase in job quota for women.
 - ✓ According to the 2017-18 data provided by the department of employment and training, out of 8.8 lakh employees of the state government, state government undertakings and local bodies, 2.92 lakh were women.
 - ✓ The percentage of women among government employees is 33%.
 - ✓ The minister also said preference in government posts would be given to children orphaned by Covid-19, first generation graduates and Tamil medium students in government schools.
 - ✓ Due to Covid-19 pandemic, the age limit for recruitment exams will be relaxed by two years as the exams were delayed, said the Minister
 - ✓ The Tamil language paper would be made mandatory in exams conducted for all state government departments and undertakings to ensure 100% Tamil Nadu candidates are appointed to the vacancies.
 - ✓ In a separate announcement, Chief Minister M K Stalin said that, henceforth, MLAs can spend Rs. 3 crore fully towards developing their constituency without any restrictions
- **On September 13, DMK MLA Udhayanidhi Stalin – was nominated to Anna University's Syndicate, the highest decision making body of the university.**
- ✓ The Chepauk-Thiruvallikeni MLA will replace R Nataraj, retired IPS officer and former Mylapore MLA at the syndicate.



- ✓ Speaker M Appavu released the names of MLAs appointed as members of syndicates of various state universities
- ✓ He said the election was not needed as the applications received and number of vacancies was equal.
- ✓ Egmore MLA N Ezhilan and Maduravoyal MLA K Ganapathy appointed as members of Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University.
- ✓ Villivakkam MLA A Vetriyazhagan, Tiruvallur MLA VG Rajendran, Ambattur MLA Joseph Samuel were appointed as the members of Madras University Senate.

- **The upgraded single window clearance website 2.0 - has included over 100 services across 24 departments of the state government**
- ✓ Further, the state government is planning to add another 210 services under the system by next March
- ✓ This was announced by the state industries minister Thangam Thennarasu on September 13
- ✓ The upgraded system will have features such as parallel processing of clearances, virtual meeting with departments, artificial intelligence based Chatbox facility and deemed approval for select clearances
- ✓ The minister was speaking virtually at the 185th AMG of the Madras Chamber of Commerce.
- ✓ The state has signed 35 new MoUs to attract more than Rs 17,141 crore in new investments and generate employment to 55,000 people.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has set a target of achieving a \$1 trillion economy by 2030

- **The local body elections in nine newly-created districts of Tamil Nadu - would be held in two phases on October 6 and 9**
- ✓ This was announced by the state election commissioner V Palanikumar on September 13
- ✓ Elections will be held in 39 unions on October 6, while the remaining 35 will go to polls on October 9.

- ✓ The code of conduct would come into immediate effect in the districts of Kancheepuram, Chengalpet, Vellore, Ranipet, Tirupattur, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Tirunelveli and Tenkasi where the polls would be held.
 - ✓ In 28 other districts, elections would be held on October 9 for 789 posts in the local bodies, which are lying vacant, said the state election commissioner.
 - ✓ Filing of nominations will take place from September 15 to September 22.
 - ✓ Counting will be held on October 12.
 - ✓ The elections would be held for 27,003 posts, including those of 140 district panchayat ward councillors, 2,901 village panchayat presidents and 22,581 village panchayat ward councillors.
 - ✓ A total of 76,59,720 voters would exercise their franchise in the two-phase polls.
 - ✓ Each voter would cast four votes to elect the district panchayat ward councillors, panchayat union councillors, village panchayat president and village panchayat ward councillors.
 - ✓ Ballot paper would be used, while the polling will take place from 7am to 6pm.
 - ✓ Covid-19 patients and persons with symptoms would be allowed to vote from 5pm to 6pm.
 - ✓ The commission would engage an IAS officer as an election observer for each district.
- **Ola Electric - announced an “all-women” 10,000-strong workforce at its upcoming two-wheeler factory in Pochampalli village of Krishnagiri district in TN.**
- ✓ This was another instance of a growing trend of women getting more opportunities in critical and tough manufacturing processes.
 - ✓ The ITC Foods unit at Nanjangud in Karnataka has already an all-women workforce, as does the Taiwanese contract manufacturing major Rising Star.
 - ✓ The Foxconn group company has a 25,000 all-women team manufacturing devices and appliances.
 - ✓ The decision for an all-women workforce will ensure an inclusive workforce and provide more economic opportunities for women.
 - ✓ Chinese carmaker MG has around 35% women on the shopfloor, while Vedanta Aluminium employs women at smelting plants and crane operations.
 - ✓ Under a specialised ‘Project Tejaswini’ initiative, Hero Motors has also increased the number of women employees on the shopfloor to more than 1,000
 - ✓ Bhagwati Products, the maker of Micromax, also has a workforce comprising over 50% women.
 - ✓ Similarly, Tata Group’s Titan has watch factories where the vast majority of employees are women.
 - ✓ Tata Electronics is setting up a massive precision engineering and manufacturing facility in Hosur, which plans to hire over 18,000 people — about 90% of them are expected to be women.

STATES

- **Himachal Pradesh and Goa - lead the country with vaccinating 100% of their eligible population with a single dose.**
- ✓ The states have given both doses to over 35% and 41% of the population respectively.
- ✓ Behind these two states is Uttarakhand, having vaccinated over 90% of its population with the single dose and over 30% with both doses
- ✓ It was followed by Gujarat that has given the single dose to over 81% and double dose to 30% of its population.
- ✓ Kerala is among the top five states that have given the single dose of the Covid-19 vaccine to more than 75% of its eligible population.
- ✓ While over 79% of the state's population got the first jab, around 31% aged above 18 have received both doses.

NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will launch Sansad TV on September 15 along with Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.**
- ✓ Sansad TV was finalised by a six-member committee following a two-year-long process by executing the merger of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Television.
- ✓ The move was aimed to pool resources, rationalize costs and cut extra spends on coverage of parliamentary proceedings
- ✓ Sansad TV is to be led by retired civil servant Ravi Capoor, who was appointed its chief executive for one year from March 2021
- ✓ It is likely to have two operational platforms that will telecast live proceedings of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha when Parliament is in session.

HIGH COURT VERDICT

- **The Madras high court - has said that it expects the state government to allocate at least 1% medical seats from the next academic year for wards of serving defence personnel and thereby recognize their selfless service to the nation.**
- ✓ A division bench of Justice N Kirubakaran (since retired after signing the order) and Justice B Pugalendhi also directed the Centre to revisit the priority list for medical admission of wards of armed forces personnel.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu government does not have any special reservation for wards of serving defence personnel for medical admissions.
- ✓ A GO passed by the government in 1979 allotted six seats (two each) to wards of ex-servicemen, deceased defence personnel and serving defence personnel.

INTERNATIONAL

- **North Korea - carried out successful tests of a new long-range cruise missile on September 11 and 12**



- ✓ This is said to be the country's first such weapon with a nuclear capability.
- ✓ The missiles are "a strategic weapon of great significance" and flew 1,500 km before hitting their targets and falling into the country's territorial waters during the tests
- ✓ North Korea's cruise missiles usually generate less interest than ballistic missiles because they are not explicitly banned under UNSC resolutions.
- ✓ Its' neighbour South Korea tested its first submarine-launched ballistic missile earlier this month.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India - now plans to institutionalise a biennial conclave with the defence ministers of different countries of the African continent.**
- ✓ Defence minister Rajnath Singh will host the second India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD) on the sidelines of the DefExpo scheduled at Gandhinagar in Gujarat in March next year.
- ✓ India Africa Defence Dialogue will be held under the theme: 'India – Africa: Adopting Strategy for Synergizing and Strengthening Defence and Security Cooperation'.
- ✓ The first-ever IADD was held at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh in conjunction with DefExpo on February 6, 2020, which was co-organized by the defence and external affairs ministries.
- ✓ This conclave was the first in series of Pan Africa events at Ministerial level in the run-up to the India Africa Forum Summit IV
- ✓ During the conclave, a joint Declaration called as 'Lucknow Declaration' was adopted as an outcome.
- ✓ India proposes to institutionalise the IADD during DefExpos, which are held once every two years, to build on the existing partnerships with African countries.

- ✓ The IADD will explore new areas of convergence for mutual engagements including areas like capacity building, training, cyber security, maritime security and counter terrorism.
- ✓ The Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses shall be the knowledge partner of IADD
- ✓ It will assist in providing necessary support for enhanced defence cooperation between India and Africa.
- ✓ The foundation of the India–Africa defence relations are based on the two guiding principles namely ‘SAGAR’ (security and growth for all in the region) and ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ (the world is one family).
- ✓ The Army had also conducted the first Africa-India military field training exercise, which included 18 countries from the continent, at the Aundh military station at Pune in March 2019.
- ✓ India has also been holding defence cooperation talks with countries like Botswana, Egypt, Kenya, Lesotho, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

SPORTS

- **World No. 2, Daniil Medvedev (Russia) – defeated World No. 1 Novak Djokovic (Serbia) in straight sets to lift the US Open men’s singles trophy at the Arthur Ashe stadium in New York**

DANIIL DESTROYS DJOKO'S DREAM
 Medvedev won the US Open singles title, denying Novak Djokovic the first calendar-year Grand Slam in men's tennis since 1969



While second seed Medvedev (L) celebrated by awkwardly falling to the court – imitating the ‘dead fish celebration’ of a Fifa video game – world No. 1 Djokovic was left weeping | **P 13**

<p>➤ It was Medvedev's maiden Grand Slam title in his third Slam final. He won 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 and avoided joining Agassi, Ivanisevic, Lendl, Murray and Thiem on the list of men to have lost their first 3 Grand Slam finals in the Open era</p>	<p>➤ Medvedev (25) is the third Russian after Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Marat Safin to win a Grand Slam and the 9th different men's singles champion at the US Open in the last 14 years</p>
---	---

- ✓ Medvedev pulled off a 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 victory to clinch his maiden Grand Slam title and spoiled the World No. 1's calendar Grand Slam goal.
- ✓ The 34-year-old Djokovic was looking to become the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win all four Majors in one season

- ✓ He was also seeking to break a tie with Roger Federer and Rafael for the most Major titles in the men's game, which now stands at 20 apiece.
- ✓ Medvedev, who lost just one set en route to the US Open title, leads the ATP Tour on hard courts, since 2018 he has won 12 titles, made 17 finals and secured 147 match wins.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Diede de Groot won the women's wheelchair singles final to become the first woman since Steffi Graf in 1988 to complete a Golden Slam (all four majors and Olympics gold)
- ✓ Dylan Alcott became the first man ever to complete a calendar Golden Slam by winning the wheelchair quad final

