

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-SEPTEMBER 24,2021

TAMIL NADU

- **On September 23, the State Government - approved one lakh power connections to farmers – most of which would be free -- at a cost of Rs. 3,025 crore to the exchequer.**
- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin, while inaugurating the event, said the government was prioritising generation of solar energy and the state's first solar park would come up at Tiruvarur.
- ✓ The one lakh farm electricity connection scheme was recently announced in the State Assembly during the demand for grants (2021-22) for Energy Department.
- ✓ The state government has entered into an agreement with Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (Ireda) to provide technical expertise in developing renewable energy projects and raise funds to the tune of Rs.1.32 lakh crore.
- ✓ The previous DMK government had given 2.09 lakh free power connections to farmers and the AIADMK government, in the last 10 years, had provided 2.21 lakh connections.
- ✓ There are 4.32 lakh pending applications from farmers with Tangedco for free power connections.
- ✓ The state-owned Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) is the holding company and it has two subsidiaries, the TN Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) and Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation (Tantransco)

NATIONAL

- **On September 23, the Centre - told the Supreme Court that enumerating caste data on Other Backward Classes in the 2021 Census will be “administratively complex” and lack complete or accurate information**
- ✓ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment made the submission in an affidavit in response to a petition by the Maharashtra government

- ✓ Maharashtra was seeking census data of OBCs collected by Centre in 2011-2013 for implementing 27% reservation for other backward classes (OBCs) announced under the Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act.
- ✓ Earlier this year, the Maharashtra Assembly had passed a resolution to approach the Centre for the 2011 census to compile empirical data on OBCs in the state.
- ✓ On January 7 2020, the Centre had issued a notification stating that information related to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be collected for the 2021 Census.
- ✓ Further, the government said that it took a “conscious policy decision” to not include information regarding any other castes apart from SC & ST
- ✓ The Centre also pointed out that the policy of caste-wise enumeration for groups other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes had been discontinued in 1951
- ✓ The 2011 caste census, collected during the United Progressive Alliance government, was the first caste-based census since the 1931 census of India.
- ✓ The first census was conducted in 1881, and since then, has been held every 10 years.
- ✓ While the Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) was last conducted in 2011, the 2021 census was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and it is now expected to take place in February 2022.
- ✓ According to the Centre, the raw data on the number of OBCs, collected under the 2011 Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC), was technically flawed, unreliable and unusable for any purpose
- ✓ On August 23, an 11-member delegation led by Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to demand caste-wise enumeration of OBCs in the 2021 census
- ✓ The underlying factor behind the demand for a caste census is the idea that the existing cap of 50% reservation in government institutions should be changed as it is not proportional to the caste composition in India.
- ✓ The 50% cap was put in place in 1992 after the Supreme Court verdict in its landmark case of Indra Sawhney, with several states exceeding the limit since then
- ✓ A Supreme Court verdict in May cancelled the Maharashtra government’s decision to grant reservation to the Maratha community beyond the 50% quota.
- ✓ During the Monsoon Session of Parliament, both Houses unanimously passed the 127th Constitutional Amendment Bill, which restores the state governments’ power to make their own lists of OBCs.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On September 22, the US Food and Drug Administration - authorised people of over 65 years who had received Pfizer-BioNTech’s Covid vaccine to get a booster shot at least six months after their second injection.**

- ✓ The FDA also authorised booster shots for adult Pfizer-BioNTech recipients who are at high risk of becoming severely ill due to frequent exposure with coronavirus
- ✓ Roughly 22 million Americans are at least six months past their second dose of the Pfizer vaccine, while about half of them are 65 and older.
- ✓ Some countries, including Israel and Britain, have already rolled out Covid-19 booster campaigns.

DEFENCE

- **India - to conduct the first user trial of the indigenous Agni-V inter-continental range ballistic missile (ICBM) in October 2021**
- ✓ The over 5,000-km Agni-V missile has a strike range of 5,000 kms and can hit targets deep inside China, entire Asia and Europe and parts of Africa.
- ✓ The “user-trial in full operational configuration” of the Agni-V missile, which carries a single 1.5-tonne warhead, will be conducted by the tri-Service Strategic Forces Command (SFC) in October.
- ✓ The three-stage intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) is now gradually being inducted into the SFC, since the military confrontation with China in eastern Ladakh erupted in April-May last year.
- ✓ Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) have developed the Agni-V Intercontinental Ballistic Missile.
- ✓ Earlier, on 19 April 2012, the Agni V was successfully test-fired by DRDO from Wheeler Island off the coast of Orissa.
- ✓ The test launch was made from the Launch Complex 4 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Wheeler Island using a rail-mobile launcher.
- ✓ Besides India, only seven countries, including the US, UK, Russia, China, France, Israel and North Korea possess Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles in their defence arsenal.
- ✓ India has a series of Agni missiles in its armoury.
- ✓ Agni-1 has a range of 700 km, Agni-2 with a range of 2,000 km, Agni-3 and Agni-4 can strike targets between 2,500 km and 3,500 km.
- ✓ Further, DRDO successfully flight tested the new generation Agni Prime Ballistic Missile on June 28, 2021.
- ✓ Agni P is a new generation advanced variant of Agni class of missiles, developed by the DRDO
- ✓ It is a canisterised missile with a range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 kms.
- ✓ For the first time, the indigenous Multiple Independently targetable Re-entry Vehicles (MIRV) technology was tested successfully in the Agni P missile with the weapon delivering two maneuverable warheads at two separate locations.

RANKINGS

- **The QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2022 list - was released on September 23 with 12 Indian universities and institutes featuring on the**

global list of 550 institutes highlighting graduate employment processes and outcomes.

12 IN FINAL 550

Top 200 | IITB, IIT-Delhi & IIT-Madras

201-250 | IIT-KGP & Delhi Univ

251-300 | BITS Pilani, IIT-Kanpur and **Mumbai University**

301-500 | Indian Institute of Science, O P Jindal Global Univ

501-550 | IIT-Roorkee, Calcutta Univ

➤ IIT-Bombay ranked 70 in employer reputation parameter

➤ IITM scores 100/100 in location-adjusted graduate employment rate, ranked 4 globally

➤ Delhi University ranked 21 globally in alumni outcomes metric

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS: GRADUATE EMPLOYABILITY 2022 (INDIA)

	2022	2020	2022 QSWUR*
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)	101-110	111-120	177=
Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD)	131-140	151-160	185
Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM)	151-160	171-180	255=
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT-KGP)	201-250	201-250	280
University of Delhi	201-250	191-200	501-510
Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani	251-300	251-300	1001-1200
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK)	251-300	301-500	277=
University of Mumbai	251-300	251-300	1001-1200
Indian Institute of Science	301-500	301-500	186=
O.P. Jindal Global University	301-500	-	701-750
Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR)	501+	-	400=
University of Calcutta	501+	301-500	801-1000

*QS World University Rankings

- ✓ Three Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) -- Bombay, Delhi and Madras have been ranked among the global top 200
- ✓ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) - Bombay is ranked as the best institution in India for career-focused students
- ✓ The institute moved up to the 101-110 group, from 111-120 group in 2020.
- ✓ It achieves the nation's leading score for QS's Employer Reputation indicator (73.9/100, 70th globally).
- ✓ IIT-Bombay is followed by IIT-Delhi, which has jumped from the 151-160 band in 2020 to the 131-140 group in 2022.
- ✓ IIT-Madras, too, has risen from the 171-180 band to the 151-160 category.
- ✓ These are the three Indian universities that ranked among the global top 200, with all three having improved their position over the last year.
- ✓ These are also the top three universities in India according to the World University Rankings released by QS in June this year.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the University of Mumbai (MU) maintained its rank in the 250-300 band
- ✓ New entrances this year to the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2022 list are IIT Roorkee and O P Jindal Global University (JGU).
- ✓ MIT, Stanford and University of California are at the top of the rankings, according to the 50,000 employers surveyed by QS.
- ✓ Each institution's score consists of five chosen indicators - Employer reputation (30%), alumni outcomes (25%), partnerships with employers per faculty (25%), employer-student connections (10%) and graduate employment rate (10%).

- ✓ Three Indian universities achieved top-100 scores for QS's Alumni Outcomes metric
- ✓ This metric measures the number of highly successful business leaders, philanthropists, creatives, high-wealth individuals, and entrepreneurs produced by each university.
- ✓ University of Delhi ranked 21st globally and first in India for this metric with a score of 96/100
- ✓ IIT-Bombay has a score of 73.9 in employer reputation, 67.7 in alumni outcomes, 20.3 in employer-student connections.
- ✓ Only one Indian university – IIT-Bombay – achieved a top-200 score in QS's Partnerships with Employers indicator
- ✓ This metric captures the number of research engagements and work-placement partnerships formalised by each institution
- ✓ IIT-Madras achieved India's highest location-adjusted Graduate Employment Rate score (100/100, fourth globally).
- ✓ It is the only Indian institution to achieve a top-50 score for this metric.

