

**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-SEPTEMBER 25,2021**

**TAMIL NADU**

- **Tamil Nadu government - has identified six champion sectors to focus for the state's exports thrust.**
- ✓ The champion sectors identified for achieving the \$100 billion target include automobile and auto components, textiles, food processing, leather and footwear, electronic and communication as well as machinery.

<b>AIMING HIGH</b>	<b>Champion sectors and target markets</b>
<b>Automobiles &amp; auto components</b>   USA, Europe, Germany, Mexico, Japan and Canada	<b>Leather &amp; footwear</b>   USA and Europe
<b>Textiles</b>   USA, Europe, Germany, Mexico, Japan and Canada	<b>Electronics &amp; Electrical equipment</b>   USA, Europe, China, Hong Kong, Mexico, South Korea and Vietnam, besides Africa and Middle East
<b>Food processing</b>   USA, Europe, Japan, Canada, South Korea and China	<b>Machinery</b>   USA, Europe, China, Mexico and Japan

- ✓ Unveiling the state's Export Promotion Strategy on September 22, Chief Minister M K Stalin had set out a target for the state to achieve \$100 billion in exports by 2030.
- ✓ This requires the state's exports to jump four-fold in just over eight years from the present \$26 billion
- ✓ This necessitates the identification of champion sectors for special focus as part of the strategy.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu consists of a diversified export sectors including automobile and components, machinery and instruments, electronic hardware, software, readymade garments and accessories, yarns, fabrics and leather products.
- ✓ According to the export policy, the value of merchandise from Tamil Nadu stood at Rs 11.55 lakh crore (\$168.5 billion) between 2015-16 and 2020-21.

- ✓ In FY2020-21, Tamil Nadu accounted for 9% of the national exports.
- ✓ To increase the state's export volume, a State Export Promotion Committee is to be constituted under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary V Irai Anbu
- ✓ The committee will include secretaries to government of departments concerned and related to identified focus areas of exports, besides others.
- **Tamil Nadu Agriculture University (TNAU) - is all set to release a new variety of rice similar to BPT or 'Andhra Ponni' before January 2022**
- ✓ Compared to other varieties, it would be of superior quality having pest and disease resistance
- ✓ This was confirmed by the university's vice-chancellor N Kumar during the two-day global rice conference in Thanjavur
- ✓ Around 350 eminent scientists from various organizations across the country are participating in the conference jointly organised by TNAU and Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (IIFPT).
- ✓ They have been discussing crop management and improvement at the meet and are presenting about 300 research papers.

## **SUPREME COURT VERDICT**

- **On September 24, the Supreme Court – sets aside the order of Madras High Court on 10% EWS quota**
- ✓ In August, the High Court directed the Centre to first get approval of the SC before implementing 10% reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) in all-India Quota for medical admissions
- ✓ The bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and B V Nagarathna said the Madras HC had overstepped jurisdiction in passing the order while adjudicating a contempt petition filed by the DMK on OBC reservations
- ✓ In a related development, another bench headed by CJI N V Ramana stayed the proceedings of a PIL before the Kerala HC that challenged the validity of the 103rd Constitution Amendment Act, 2019
- ✓ The 103rd Constitution Amendment Act, 2019 provides for 10% EWS quota in jobs and admissions to government educational institutions
- ✓ On August 5, a 3-judge bench of apex court agreed to transfer all petitions challenging the Centre's decision to grant 10% reservation in jobs and education to economically weaker sections and the 103rd Constitution (Amendment) Act 2019 to a larger 5-judge bench
- ✓ The 10% reservation quota will be over and above the existing 50% reservation to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.
- ✓ Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha cleared the bill on January 8 and 9, 2019 respectively, and the bill was signed by President Ram Nath Kovind.

- ✓ On July 29, the Centre had notified its decision to provide the 10% EWS quota along with 27% reservation to OBC (Other Backward Classes) candidates for admission in central medical colleges under the AIQ.
- ✓ The July 29 decision applies to 50% PG seats and 15% UG seats under All India Quota seats.
- ✓ The quota covers undergraduate and postgraduate medical and dental courses, starting from the current academic year
- ✓ This decision would benefit every year nearly 1500 OBC students in MBBS and 2500 OBC students in PG and also around 550 EWS students in MBBS and around 1000 EWS students in PG
- ✓ Under the AIQ, reservation for Scheduled Castes (15%), Scheduled Tribes (7.5%) and persons with disability (5%) is already provided.

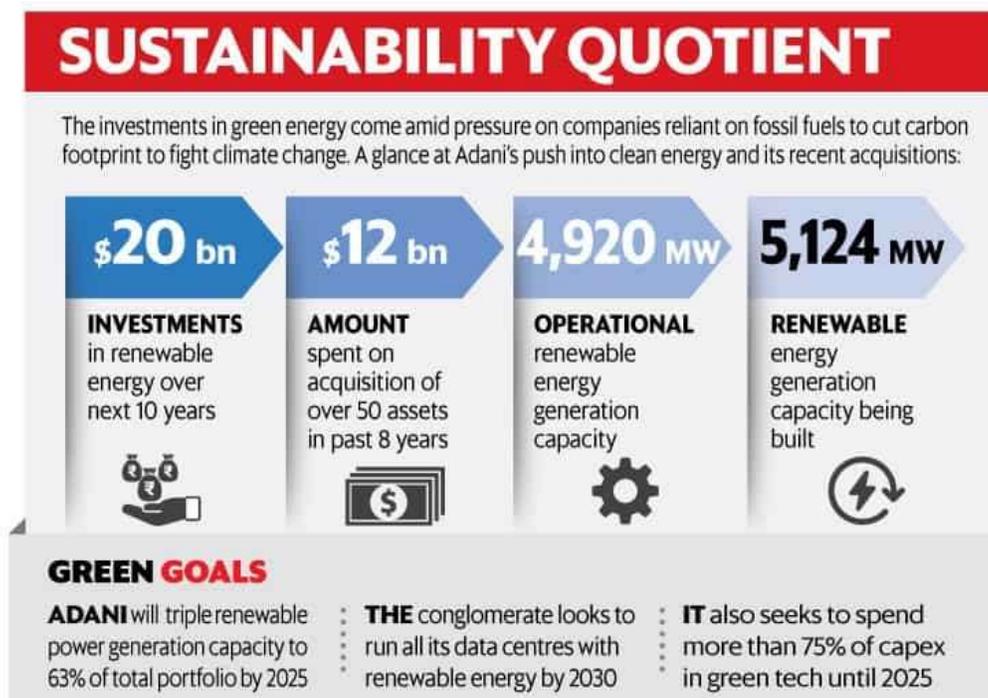
## **INTERNATIONAL**

- **On September 24, Chinese central bank - declared that all transactions involving cryptocurrencies are illegal**
- ✓ This has been done for the purpose of national security and for the “safety of people’s assets”, as per the bank
- ✓ Ten agencies, including the central bank, financial, securities and foreign exchange regulators, will work together to bring an end to “illegal” cryptocurrency activity.
- ✓ In May, China banned financial institutions and payment companies from providing services related to cryptocurrency transactions, and issued similar bans in 2013 and 2017.
- ✓ Vast amounts of Chinese wealth, including those generated by business community engaged in international dealings, is concentrated in digital coins like Bitcoin and Tether.
- ✓ The Biocoin market fell 9% from \$45,000 per unit to \$40,900 within three hours of the announcement.
- ✓ The People’s Bank of China, or the central bank, feels that these coins — which are outside its regulatory ambit — are being used for money laundering.
- ✓ The bank said the offenders would be “investigated for criminal liability in accordance with the law”.
- ✓ Besides the central bank, nine other government agencies, including the powerful National Development Reform Commission, have come together to eliminate the use of digital coins.
- ✓ At the same time, the government has not asked holders of the cryptocurrencies to return the digital coins to the state.
- ✓ The global cryptocurrency market has rapidly grown to \$2 trillion as of April this year
- ✓ Several other regulators, including the Federal Reserve in the US, are contemplating measures to restrict the use of cryptocurrencies.

- ✓ China is developing an electronic version of the country's yuan — e-CNY — for cashless transactions that can be tracked and controlled by Beijing.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Adani Enterprises – has announced an investment of \$20 billion (Rs 1.48 trillion) over 10 years in the renewable energy supply chain, including power generation, manufacturing, transmission and distribution**
- ✓ The announcement comes after Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) in June announced green energy initiatives with Rs 75,000-crore investment in the coming three years.



- ✓ RIL is setting up an integrated, renewables energy ecosystem in Jamnagar, Gujarat and plans to set up four 'giga' factories to make solar modules, hydrogen, fuel cells, and a battery grid to store electricity.
- ✓ Adani Group, through its arm Adani Green Energy, has a renewable energy portfolio of 25 GW—a target which it has achieved four years ahead of the 2025 scheduled timeline.
- ✓ The group is the world's largest solar power producer considering the functioning, under construction, and contracted projects
- ✓ Adani Group also plans to triple its renewable power generation capacity over the next four years to 63% of its total portfolio from 21% now.
- ✓ By 2030, the group aims to power all data centres with renewable energy and make its ports net carbon zero by 2025.
- ✓ Adani also recently announced its entry into petrochemicals through Adani Petrochemicals Ltd

- ✓ The Adani group is now India's largest private sector power producer, the largest private port operator, the largest private airport operator, the largest private consumer gas and electric utility business, the largest private electric transmission company and the largest infrastructure developer in renewables.

## DEFENCE

- **On September 24, the defence ministry – signed Rs. 21,000 crore (around \$3 billion) contract with Airbus Defence and Space (Spain) to acquire 56 C-295 medium transport aircraft**

### **BREAKING MONOPOLY**

- Airbus to **deliver 16 of 56 C-295MW planes** in a flyaway condition in 2 yrs. Other **40 will be made by Tata consortium**
- **A C-295 can carry up to 9-tonne of payload or 71 jawans** & is capable of operating from semi-prepared strips
- Breaking the monopoly of defence PSU HAL, this will be the **first time an Indian private company will manufacture a military aircraft**

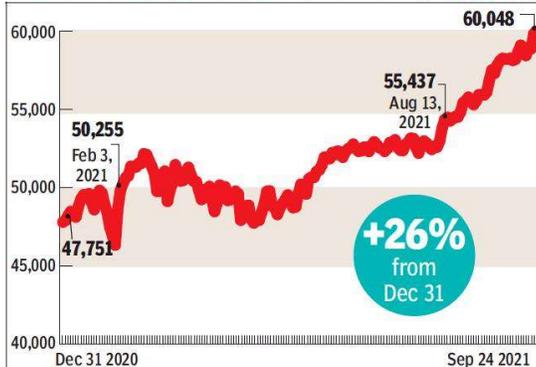
- ✓ The C295 aircrafts are to be purchased to replace the old Avro HS-748 planes of the IAF.
- ✓ Airbus will deliver 16 of the twin Pratt & Whitney PW-127 turbo-prop C-295MW aircraft in a flyaway condition from its final assembly line in Seville, Spain within two years
- ✓ The remaining 40 will be manufactured in India by the Tata Consortium's Tata Advanced Systems (TASL) under industrial partnership within 10 years.
- ✓ After the delivery of the 56 aircraft, the subsequent planes manufactured in India can be exported to countries cleared by the Indian government
- ✓ The project will create 15,000 skilled direct jobs and 10,000 indirect jobs over the next 10 years
- ✓ With this, India becomes the 35<sup>th</sup> country to purchase C-295 aircraft worldwide
- ✓ Under the centre's ambitious "Avro replacement programme", a private sector firm will build an entire aircraft in India for the first time
- ✓ The Airbus-Tata project, which was under consideration for around a decade, was cleared by the cabinet committee on security on September 8.
- ✓ Breaking the virtual monopoly of defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics in the field, this will be the first time an Indian private sector company will manufacture a military aircraft.
- ✓ The highly-versatile C-295 aircraft, which can carry up to 9-tonne of payload or 71 soldiers, is capable of operating from semi-prepared strips

- ✓ It has a rear ramp door for quick-reaction and para-dropping of troops and cargo.

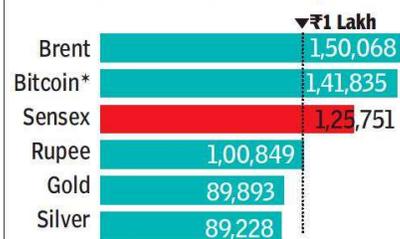
## ECONOMY

- Indian equity benchmark, Sensex - breached the 60,000 mark for the first time ever on September 24
- ✓ It took just eight months for the Sensex to jump from 50,000 to 60,000-mark at a rapid pace

### 50K-60K IN JUST 166 SESSIONS, BEATING 40K-50K'S 416

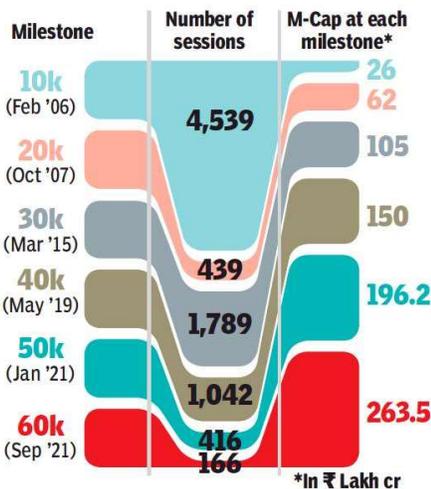


How much ₹1 lakh invested in these asset classes on Dec 31, 2020 would be worth today



### BULLS EYE NEW PEAKS

The sensex took just 166 sessions to go from the 50k milestone to the 60k peak—its fastest ever 10k points rise ever



### TOP 3 SENSEX GAINERS in 2021 (in %)



### FEARS Risk Factors

- Runaway inflation
- China real estate sectors leading to a global debt crisis
- Foreign funds slowing down buying in India



### CHEERS

#### What is driving the rally?

- US Fed's statement that easy liquidity to continue till mid-2022, low rates till mid-2023
- Slow but steady pace of vaccination globally
- Strong corporate results by India Inc

- ✓ The index closed above the 50,000-level on February 3 and it topped the 60,000-mark for the first time on September 24
- ✓ Interestingly, only five stocks have accounted for over half of the 10,000-point move.
- ✓ These are Reliance Industries (RIL), Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), ICICI Bank and Bajaj Finance
- ✓ The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies reached an all-time high of Rs.261.73 lakh crore

- ✓ India's first equity index launched closed above the four-digit figure of 1000 for the first time on 25th July 1990
- ✓ It touched the 10,000 mark for the first time on February 6, 2006 and the 20,000 mark on October 29, 2007
- ✓ On March 4, 2015, the index surged above the 30,000 mark, while reaching 40,000 on May 23, 2019 and eventually touching 50,000 mark on January 21, 2021.
- ✓ BSE is the first ever stock exchange in Asia established in 1875 and the first in the country to be granted permanent recognition under the Securities Contract Regulation Act, 1956

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Air marshal Sandeep Singh, who currently heads the South-Western Air Command at Gandhinagar - will take over as the new IAF vice-chief on October 1.**



- ✓ He would be the successor to the present Vice Chief V. R. Chaudhari who will take charge as the next IAF chief
- ✓ Air Marshal Sandeep Singh was commissioned into the Indian Air Force as a fighter pilot on December 22, 1983.
- ✓ He has experience of flying for over 4,150 hours and is qualified to fly on Su-30 Mkl, Mig-29 and Mig-21 aircraft.
- ✓ Air Marshal Sandeep Singh is a qualified flying instructor in the A2 category and an exceptional test pilot.
- ✓ He has also been the project test pilot with the 1AF Su-30 project team in Russia and is presently the commanding officer of a Su-30 Mk-1 Squadron
- ✓ Air Marshal Sandeep Singh is also a recipient of the Sword of Honour -- for standing first in the overall order of merit in his course.
- ✓ Earlier, the government has announced that Air marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari will take over as the IAF chief from Air chief marshal R K S Bhadauria on September 30

- ✓ Air marshal Amit Dev, the chief of the Shillong-based Eastern Air Command, in turn, will now head the Western Air Command (WAC) at New Delhi.
- ✓ Present WAC chief Air marshal B R Krishna will be the new chief of integrated defence staff under chief of defence staff General Bipin Rawat.

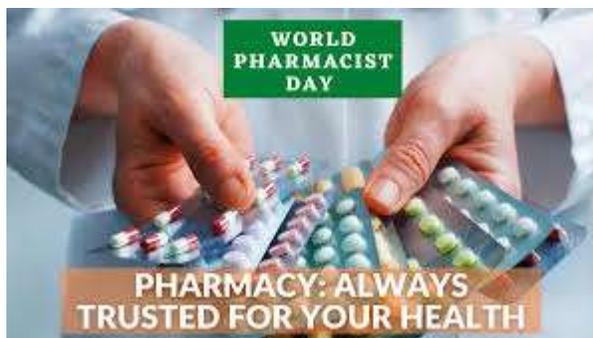
## INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ➤ World Cyanotype Day – September 25



- ✓ Cyanotype printing is a 19th century technique, best known as the low-cost process, used to produce copies of architectural drawings referred to as blueprints.
- ✓ The cyanotype process was introduced by English astronomer Sir John Herschel in 1842, as a means to copy notes.
- ✓ Prints are made by treating a surface — paper, cloth or leather — with iron salts which then react to UV light, creating a cyanblue print.
- ✓ Cyanotype has emerged an ideal form of alternative, analogue photography that can be worked with by using a chemically-treated paper, sunlight and tap water

### ➤ World Pharmacist Day – September 25



- ✓ The day is observed to celebrate and recognise the role played by the pharmacists in improving global health
- ✓ Theme 2021 - "Pharmacy: Always Trusted For Your Health"

- ✓ World Pharmacists Day was introduced in 2009 by the International Pharmaceutical Federation council in Istanbul during the World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- ✓ It was on this day the International Pharmaceutical Federation was originally established in the year 1912
- ✓ FIP is the global federation of national associations of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists.

## REPORT

- **For the first time, Havana syndrome – has been reported in India earlier this month**
- ✓ A US intelligence officer travelling to India with CIA director William Burns has reported symptoms of Havana Syndrome
- ✓ Nearly half of the known cases involve CIA officers, although State Department diplomats and members of the military have also been affected
- ✓ Last month, vice-president Kamala Harris was delayed for three hours as she was about to fly to Hanoi, Vietnam, after a US official in Vietnam reported Havana syndrome symptoms.

### MEDICAL SYMPTOMS RESULT OF ESPIONAGE WARS?

#### WHAT IS HAVANA SYNDROME?

Havana syndrome is a set of medical signs and symptoms first reported in late 2016 by American and Canadian embassy staff in Havana, Cuba, and subsequently in other countries including the US, Austria, Germany, and now India



The apartments in Guangzhou where US diplomats developed the symptoms

#### WHAT DO US INTEL AGENCIES SAY?

The US intel services have not reached a consensus on a formal determination of the cause of the Havana syndrome, though unnamed sources in intelligence and in two presidential administrations have expressed suspicions to the press that Russian military intelligence is responsible

#### WHEN WAS IT FIRST DETECTED?

➤ In 2016, a number of Canadians and Americans living in Havana complained of **concussion-like symptoms, including headaches, dizziness, nausea and difficulty in concentrating.** Some described hearing buzzing or high-pitched sounds before falling sick

➤ In 2018, US diplomats in China reported problems similar to those reported



in Cuba, as did undercover CIA agents working in other countries with partner agencies on missions aimed at countering Russian covert operations

➤ Last month, US vice-president Kamala Harris was delayed for three hours as she was about to fly to Hanoi, Vietnam, after a US official in Vietnam reported Havana syndrome symptoms

Source: National Academy of Sciences & media reports

#### WHAT DO EXPERTS SAY?

While there is no expert consensus on the exact cause, a National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine expert committee concluded in December 2020 that microwave energy (especially directed radio frequency energy) 'appears to be the most plausible mechanism in explaining these cases among those that the committee considered' but that 'each possible cause remains speculative'. The Biden admin has started calling them 'unexplained health incidents (UHIs)'

- ✓ Government agencies have started providing warnings about the incidents in recent days, particularly for officials traveling abroad.
- ✓ Last week the Pentagon warned its entire workforce about the anomalous health incidents involving strange sounds or a sensation of heat or pressure followed by headache, nausea, vertigo and other symptoms.
- ✓ Havana Syndrome refers to a set of mental health symptoms that are said to be experienced by US intelligence and embassy officials in various countries.
- ✓ It typically involves symptoms such as hearing certain sounds without any outside noise being present, nausea, vertigo and headaches, memory loss and issues with balance.
- ✓ The Havana syndrome gets its name from Havana, the Cuban capital, where the first cases of the syndrome were reported
- ✓ In late 2016, about a year after the US opened its embassy in Havana, some intelligence officials and members of the staff at the embassy began experiencing sudden bursts of pressure in their brain followed by persistent headaches, feeling of disorientation and insomnia.
- ✓ As the mental health of its officials began to be impacted, the US withdrew them, dramatically reducing the strength in its embassy in Havana.
- ✓ In early 2018, similar accusations began to be made by US diplomats in China
- ✓ In 2019 and 2020, such incidents have been reported from within the US — particularly in Washington DC
- ✓ In the past few years US officials have reported around 130 such attacks across the world including at Moscow in Russia, Poland, Georgia, Taiwan, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Austria, among others
- ✓ The mysterious neurological illness is speculated to be caused by microwave radiation strikes
- ✓ "Microwave weapons" are a type of direct energy weapon, which aim highly focused energy in the form of sonic, laser, or microwaves, at a target.

