



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – SEPTEMBER 3, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu government – is planning to provide a unique health ID (UHID) to everyone in the state**
 - ✓ The UHID will help the people to access medicare and provide the government with a database to prioritise and provide health care facilities.
 - ✓ This was announced in the assembly by the state health minister Ma Subramanian on September 2
 - ✓ The unique ID will also be the backbone for schemes such as Makkalai Thedi Maruthum, a flagship scheme to provide comprehensive and holistic healthcare for non-communicable diseases at people's doorsteps.
 - ✓ Every listed beneficiary under the scheme will be brought under the Population Health Registry (PHR).
 - ✓ The registry will have the name, age, gender, mobile number, smart (ration) card number, health ID, street details, health sub-center of the beneficiaries.
 - ✓ The state has already commenced the pilot run of UHID projects in two blocks of Krishnagiri district.
- **The Tamil Nadu Small Industries Corporation Limited (Tansidco) – is planning to establish four industrial estates at a cost of Rs. 218.22 crore for MSME units in Tiruvallur, Chengalpet, Trichy and Madurai districts.**
 - ✓ The estates, spread across a total of 394 acres, will help create 7,000 jobs
 - ✓ This was announced by the minister for rural industries T M Anbarasan in the assembly on September 2.
 - ✓ The clusters will be established at Manaparai in Trichy, Sakkimangalam in Madurai, Kodur in Chengalpet and Kaverirajapuram in Tiruvallur.
 - ✓ The Coimbatore SIDCO Industrial Estate Manufacturers' Association (COSIEMA) will establish a private industrial park on 42.42 acres at Kinathukadavu in Coimbatore district.

- ✓ The state government will provide a grant of Rs. 9.06 crore out of the total investment of Rs. 18.13 crore for the project, which is expected to create 1,000 new jobs
- ✓ Tansidco will also establish a sculptors park in Thirukkalukundram taluk in Chengalpet district on 19 acres at a cost of Rs.23 crore to provide direct employment to 100 artisans and indirect employment to 1,000 people
- ✓ With the government's aid and loan assistance under the RIDF Scheme of NABARD, 10 industrial cooperative tea factories in the Nilgiris district will be modernised at an estimated budget of Rs. 50.06 crore
- ✓ The MSME department has increased capital subsidy by 50% to Rs.75 lakh from Rs.50 lakh under the New Entrepreneur cum Enterprise Development Scheme (NEEDS), the state's major self-employment programme.
- ✓ Educational qualification to get assistance under the scheme will be Class XII.
- ✓ Through the Tamil Nadu Startup Seed Grant Fund (TANSEED), the state is also planning to provide a grant of Rs.10 lakh each to 50 startups this year.
- ✓ In another major initiative, the industries and MSME departments have decided to sign an MoU between TIIC and Taico Bank, an industrial cooperative bank with around Rs.1,200 crore in deposits, for easy sanction of loans to MSMEs.

NATIONAL

- **The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) - is set to become India's first education board to offer board exam online from 2022.**
- ✓ It has also launched the first-of-its-kind virtual school providing learning, practical simulation in virtual labs, accessing resource materials via its digital library to online examinations.
- ✓ NIOS is the only education board in the country, which delivers secondary and senior secondary education in 14 languages.
- ✓ Due to the Covid-19 situation, NIOS too could not conduct its board exams as well as on-demand exams in 2020 and 2021.
- ✓ Annually it conducts board exams for around five lakh candidates.
- ✓ However, keeping mind the digital divide, NIOS will opt for the hybrid mode keeping both online and offline options open for the time being.

- **Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal - inaugurated India's first-ever smog tower at Baba Kharak Singh Marg in the Connaught Place recently**
- ✓ The smog tower is an experimental set up at a cost of Rs 20 crore to purify air in a 1-km radius around the structure
- ✓ The tower, located behind the Shivaji Stadium Metro station in Connaught Place, was constructed at a height of 24.2 metres
- ✓ The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) is the nodal agency for the tower, while NBCC is the project management consultancy and the executing agency was Tata Projects Limited.



- ✓ The tower will serve as a pilot study to assess the reduction of particulate air pollution in urban areas through 'air cleaning' process.
 - ✓ The two-year pilot study will be carried out by IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay, technical advisors for the project.
 - ✓ The institutions will monitor the impact of the tower on PM2.5 and the functioning of the tower under different weather conditions.
 - ✓ The tower is designed to filter around 1,000 cubic metres of air per second.
 - ✓ A Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system has been installed in the tower to collect data and monitor its functioning.
 - ✓ The smog tower has 40 fans and 5,000 filters developed by experts at the University of Minnesota, which also helped design a 100-metre-high smog tower in Xian, China.
 - ✓ Another 25-metre-tall smog tower, built by the central government at Anand Vihar, is expected to become fully operational by September 7.
 - ✓ Smog towers are structures that are designed as large-scale air purifiers in order to reduce air pollution particles.
 - ✓ In November 2019, an expert panel estimated that the capital will need 213 such anti-smog towers.
 - ✓ PM2.5 refers to fine particles which penetrate deep into the body and fuel inflammation in the lungs and respiratory tract, leading to risks of cardiovascular and respiratory problems, including a weak immune system.
 - ✓ "IQAir", a Switzerland-based air quality technology company that measures air quality levels of selected cities based on PM2.5 concentration, ranked Delhi the world's most polluted capital for the third straight year in 2020.
- **The Union Cabinet – approved the highest ever Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) on sugarcane at Rs 290 per quintal based on a 10% recovery**



- ✓ The FRP approved shall be applicable for the purchase of sugarcane from the farmers in the sugar season 2021-22 with effect from 1st October 2021 by sugar mills
- ✓ This was announced by Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles Piyush Goyal recently
- ✓ The cost of production of sugarcane for the sugar season 2021-22 is Rs 155 per quintal.
- ✓ The decision will benefit 5 crore sugarcane farmers & their dependents, as well as 5 lakh workers employed in sugar mills and related ancillary activities
- ✓ In the current sugar season 2020-21, about 2,976 lakh tons of sugarcane worth Rs 91,000 cr was purchased by sugar mills
- ✓ This is at all-time high level and is the second highest next to the procurement of paddy crop at Minimum Support Price
- ✓ In August 2020, the Centre had increased the FRP by Rs 10, bringing the amount to Rs 285 per quintal.
- ✓ In 2019-2020, the government had fixed Sugarcane FRP at Rs 275 per quintal
- ✓ The concept of Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane was replaced with the 'Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)' of sugarcane for 2009-10 and subsequent sugar seasons.
- ✓ In this regard, the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 was amended on October 22, 2009
- ✓ Under the FRP system, the farmers are not required to wait till the end of the season or for any announcement of the profits by sugar mills or the Government.
- ✓ The FRP has been determined on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and after consultation with State Governments and other stakeholders.
- ✓ The government is also encouraging sugar mills to divert excess sugarcane to ethanol which is blended with petrol, which not only serves as a green fuel but also saves foreign exchange on account of crude oil import
- ✓ At present, 7.5-8% ethanol blended into petrol and is expected to go up to over 20% over next 2-3 years

- ✓ Major sugarcane producing states such as Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Haryana have their own sugarcane price called 'state advisory prices' (SAPs), which is usually higher than the Centre's FRP.
- **The US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US International Development Finance Corporation (USDFC) – to jointly sponsor a \$50 million loan portfolio guarantee to Kotak Mahindra Bank**
- ✓ The agreement seeks to provide increased financial access to women borrowers, and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in India.
- ✓ It will help MSMEs impacted by the pandemic to easily access loans to rebuild and scale up their businesses
- ✓ Under the program, Kotak Mahindra Bank will provide loans to Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) operating in the MSME and Microfinance (MFI) space
- ✓ The scheme is expected to benefit more than 30,000 individual women borrowers and 7,500 MSME firms.
- ✓ The program will be supported by the Chennai-based NBFC, Vivriti Capital, which will provide a \$1 million first loss guarantee
- ✓ Further, leading debt platform CredAvenue will provide extensive analytical and sourcing support to the program

INTERNATIONAL

- **Israel - launched antibody testing for children between 3 years to 12 years old recently**
- ✓ The tests were launched to get the exact number of unvaccinated youths who have developed antibody against coronavirus.
- ✓ Israel has already begun vaccinating children aged 12 and above.
- ✓ Those children with sufficient antibodies will not be forced to quarantine when exposed to a Covid patient
- ✓ Under Israel's "largest serological operation", parents are urged to bring their children for the free 15-minute test done by finger pin-prick.
- ✓ The survey is being conducted jointly by the health and education ministries and by the army's Home Front command
- ✓ Israel was one of the first countries to launch a vaccination drive in mid-December following an agreement with Pfizer
- ✓ Israel is also pushing forward with a third or booster shot to everyone over 40 while urging the unvaccinated to get the jab
- ✓ More than 5.4 million of Israel's roughly 9.3 million people have received two doses of the vaccine, while 1.2 million have had a third jab
- **The world's largest and tallest observation wheel, called Ain Dubai - will open in the UAE on October 21, 2021**



- ✓ Located at Bluewaters Island, Ain Dubai is the latest landmark to join Dubai's long list of world record-breaking attractions.
- ✓ At nearly twice the height of the London Eye, Ain Dubai will take guests up to a 250-metre height, where they will enjoy a majestic view of Dubai skyline
- ✓ In terms of comparison, Ain Dubai will go past the 167 metre High Roller observation wheel in Las Vegas, and the 135-metre London Eye.
- ✓ A complete journey on Ain Dubai, having 48 cabins, takes around 38 minutes.
- ✓ The experiences are split into three main categories - Observation Cabins, Social Cabins and Private Cabins
- ✓ Open both day and night, at Ain Dubai, visitors will be able to experience two very different sides of Dubai, from stunning views of Bluewaters to a range of night-time entertainment.
- ✓ Unique celebration packages will also be available for birthdays, engagements, weddings, business functions and other activities
- ✓ It can carry up to 1,400 passengers in its 48 capsules, providing breathtaking visuals of Dubai Marina, Burj Al Arab, Palm Jumeirah, and Burj Khalifa.
- ✓ The plan to construct the 250 m high observation wheel was first announced in February 2013.
- ✓ The construction of the giant wheel was started in May 2015, with Hyundai Engineering & Construction and Starneth Engineering being the primary design and construction contractors

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The India-ASEAN Engineering Partnership Summit 2021 - was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Anupriya Patel recently**
- The summit was organised by Engineering Exports Promotion Council (EEPC) with the support from Ministry of External Affairs and Department of Commerce.



- ✓ **The Government of Tamil Nadu joined the event as “Partner State” while Government of Haryana as “Focus State”.**
- ✓ The objective of the summit was to discuss collaborations in the engineering trade and investment sector at the ASEAN level.
- ✓ During the event, the Union Minister said ASEAN will be an important region for India with an export target of US\$ 46 billion in meeting the global export target of US\$ 400 billion in financial year 2021-22
- ✓ The Summit witnessed the participation of over 300 delegates from the Indian industry.
- ✓ This year is special for both partners as it marks the 25th anniversary of India-ASEAN dialogue partnership and 10 years of the Strategic Partnership.
- ✓ An e-Book on India-ASEAN trade and investment emphasizing engineering and MSME sector was also launched during the inaugural session
- ✓ ASEAN as a region is the third largest export destination of Indian engineering products after EU and North America.
- ✓ Among the ASEAN member nations, Singapore and Malaysia are major export destinations for Indian engineering products.
- ✓ With a combined economy of around US\$ 5.8 trillion, there is significant potential for enhancing trade and investment partnership between India and ASEAN.
- ✓ ASEAN, with over 15% share in India’s global engineering shipment, is likely to be a key region to focus with a target of around \$16 billion of exports for 2021-22.

DEFENCE

- **The Quad countries — Australia, Japan, India, and the United States — have conducted the 25th edition of the Malabar naval exercises off the coast of Guam from August 26-29**
- ✓ This is the second consecutive edition of the Malabar exercise featuring the Royal Australian navy.
- ✓ The aim of the exercise is to increase interoperability amongst the participating navies, develop a common understanding and Standard Operating Procedures for

maritime security operations and to operate as a team to meet the challenges in the maritime domain.



- ✓ The Malabar naval exercises began in 1992 between the Indian and U.S. navies in the Indian Ocean.
- ✓ Since 2015, Japan has been a permanent partner in the exercise with the participation of Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF)
- ✓ Following India's invitation, Australia participated in the Malabar exercise last year
- ✓ The 2020 edition of the Malabar exercise was held in two phases in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea
- ✓ Malabar exercise is an annual naval exercise held alternately in the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean.

SPORTS

- Tamil Nadu's GB Harshavardhan won gold in the U-18 open category of the Fide online Cadets and Youth Rapid World Cup which concluded earlier this week.



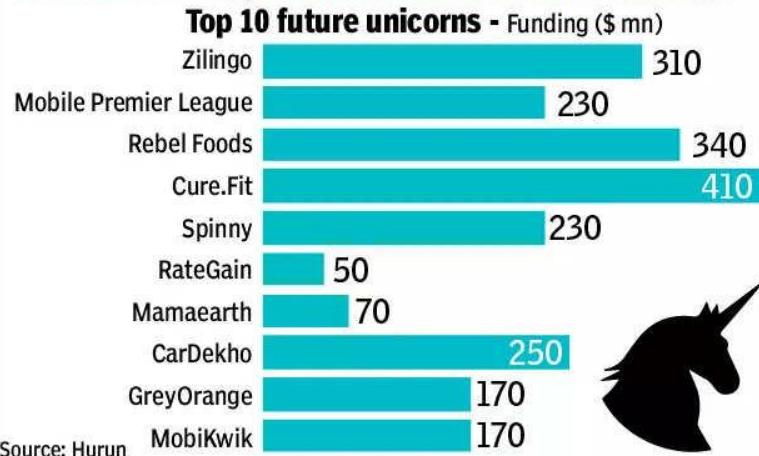
- ✓ Tamil Nadu's M Pranesh won bronze in the U-16 open category.
- ✓ Apart from these two players, Ethan Vaz (silver in U-10 Open) and Mrinmoy Rajkhowa (2nd place in U-12 Open) won medals for India at the event.
- ✓ Harshavardhan defeated Spyropoulos Nikolaos in the finals.

- ✓ In the U-16 open category, Pranesh lost to Ramos Aranda Zahid of Bolivia to settle for bronze.

RANKINGS

- India - has emerged as the third largest startup ecosystem in the world after the US and China, as per the Hurun India Future Unicorn List 2021
- ✓ Over the past year, India has added three unicorns every month taking the total count to 51, ahead of the UK (32) and Germany (18).
- ✓ A privately held startup company valued at more than \$1 billion is called a unicorn.
- ✓ The US tops the list with 396 unicorns, while China is at the second spot with 277, showed data from Hurun Research Institute.
- ✓ India's unicorns are at present worth \$168 billion
- ✓ The number of future unicorns called "gazelles" and "cheetahs" in India is growing at an exponential pace
- ✓ "Gazelle" is a startup founded after 2000 with the potential to go unicorn in two years, while "cheetah" may go unicorn in the next four years.
- ✓ Gazelles have an estimated valuation ranging from \$500 million to \$1 billion and the valuation of Cheetahs ranges from \$200 million to \$500 million.
- ✓ Online retail store Zilingo is the most valuable Gazelle and digital furniture platform Pepperfry is the most valuable Cheetah.

GAZELLES, CHEETAHS ON PROWL



- ✓ Mobile Premier League (MPL), Rebel Foods, Cure.fit, Spinny and Mamaearth are among a long list of future unicorns that are worth \$36 billion.
- ✓ The top investors in the gazelles and cheetahs are Sequoia followed by Tiger Global with 37 and 18 investments respectively.
- ✓ E-commerce, fintech and SaaS comprise 49% of the future unicorn list.
- ✓ CRED founder Kunal Shah tops the list with nine startup investments followed by Binny Bansal with five and Ratan Tata with four.

- ✓ Infosys co-founders Nandan Nilekani (3), N R Narayana Murthy (2) and Kris Gopalakrishnan (1) have also invested into startups in the list.
- ✓ With 31 startups, Bengaluru is the startup capital of India followed by Delhi NCR (18) and Mumbai (13).
- ✓ Bengaluru is the home to 11 gazelles and 20 cheetahs, with a cumulative valuation of \$12.4 billion.
- ✓ The top three cities headquarter 68% of these start-up companies.

REPORT

- **Odisha sculptor's grandson Smitesh Mohapatra – is currently on the process of building a replica of the Sun Temple in Konark**
- ✓ This was the dream and mission of his grandfather, eminent sculptor and Rajya Sabha MP Raghunath Mohapatra, who passed away due to Covid in May this year.
 - ✓ Raghunath Mohapatra named it the Aditya Narayan (another name of the sun) Temple.
 - ✓ Mohapatra, who passed away at the age of 78, had conceived the idea in 2013, after witnessing the damage done to the 13th century temple over the centuries.
 - ✓ He acquired 100-acre land near Puri, laid the foundation stone and set up the Raghunath Mohapatra Arts and Crafts Foundation that oversees sculpting work
 - ✓ He also set up the Aditya Narayan Trust to carry out construction and other necessary work.
 - ✓ The replica will be built 30 km from the original Sun Temple in Konark, between Sakhigopal and Puri
 - ✓ The site was chosen by Mohapatra, who has been conferred on the country's second-highest civilian award Padma Vibhushan followed by two other Padma awards Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan.
 - ✓ Mohapatra's creations include the six-feet-tall graystone statue of sun god at Central Hall of Parliament and Rajiv Lochan, lotus sculpted on black granite at Rajiv Gandhi samadhi, Vir Bhumi, in Delhi.
 - ✓ The replica is being built with sandstone and black granite, stones used in the original Sun Temple.
 - ✓ As legend goes, 800 years ago, 1,200 sculptors worked for 12 years to complete the original sun temple.
 - ✓ Mohapatra had estimated the cost of building the replica at Rs 300 crore in 2017
 - ✓ A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Konark Sun temple, is believed to have been built in the 13th century CE by the King Narasimhadeva I hailing from the Eastern Ganga dynasty between 1238-1250 CE
 - ✓ 'Konark' means the sun and the four corners
 - ✓ The temple was called Black Pagoda attributing to its dark facade by the Europeans who used it for navigation for their ships

- ✓ The temple is known for its impressive Kalinga architecture that includes a depiction of a 100 ft high chariot being pulled by horses and wheels carved out of a single stone
- ✓ The monument portrays the imposing chariot of the sun god.
- ✓ There are 24 intricately designed wheels, 12 ft in diameter which are seen drawn by horses.
- ✓ These seven horses represent the week, the wheels stand for the 12 months while the day-cycle is symbolised by the eight spokes in the wheels

THE SUN (TEMPLE) WILL RISE AGAIN

His ancestors were among sculptors who built the Jagannath Temple in Puri and Sun Temple in Konark. **Before he lost his life to Covid in May this year, sculptor and Rajya Sabha MP Raghunath Mohapatra from Odisha had dreamt of building a replica of the Sun Temple.** Now, his grandson Smitesh Mohapatra is taking his dream forward. *TOI* takes a look at the grand project coming up near Puri ...



THE NEW SUN TEMPLE



 Smitesh with the giant wheels carved at the workshop for the Sun Temple replica

► **When was Sun Temple replica conceived** | 2013. Model shown to Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik

► **What is the temple called** | Aditya Narayan (another name of Sun) Temple

► **How much work done till now** | 100-acre land acquired. Work began with 40 truckloads of sandstone brought in 2017. Two wheels and a sidewall completed. Aditya Narayan Trust formed to look after construction and foundation stone laid in 2018

► **Where are stones being sculpted** | Raghunath Mohapatra Arts & Crafts Foundation workshop on outskirts of Bhubaneshwar

Cost | ₹300 crore
(Mohapatra had estimated this cost in 2017)

THE MAN WHO DREAMT IT

► **Raghunath Mohapatra** was an architect, sculptor and a nominated Rajya Sabha MP

► Died of Covid infection on May 9, 2021, at the age of 78

► Awarded the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan

► A primary school dropout, he sold idols to pilgrims in Puri and was schooled at home in sculpting by grandfather Aparti Mohapatra

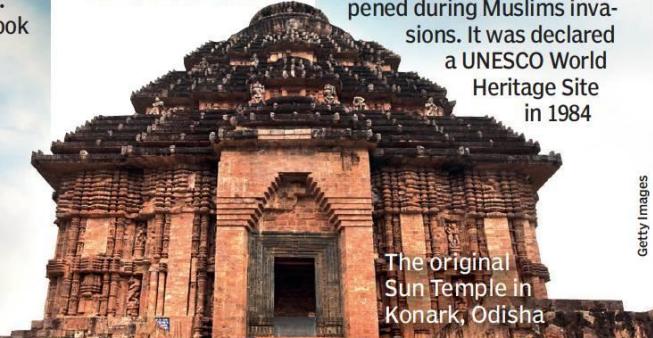
► After mentoring young sculptors for 50 years, he announced in 2013 his dream to build "another Konark"



The new Sun Temple is coming up between Sakhigopal and Puri in Puri district, around 30 km from Konark

THE SUN TEMPLE

Built in 1250 AD, the temple complex appears like a 100-feet-high chariot with giant wheels and horses, all carved from stone. Much of the temple is now in ruins. Called the 'black pagoda' by European sailors till the 17th century, the reasons for its damage are mired in controversy – whether the damage is due to natural reasons or happened during Muslim invasions. It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984



Getty Images