

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

### TAMIL NADU

- Chief Minister M K Stalin - relaunched the 'Varumun Kappom' (preventive healthcare) scheme as 'Kalaingarinar Varumun Kappom' at a function at Vazhapadi in Salem on September 29.



- ✓ According to the CM, 1,250 medical camps would be conducted under the scheme in the state in a year.
- ✓ Health minister Ma Subramanian said the Varumun Kappom scheme was first launched by former chief minister M Karunanidhi and discontinued in the previous regime
- ✓ The main objective of the scheme was to prevent diseases among the people and ensure their healthy wellbeing
- ✓ The scheme will benefit the people in all villages, town panchayats, municipalities and corporations in the state.

- ✓ The chief minister has increased the number of camps under the scheme to 1,250 from his earlier announcement of 1,000 to cover the maximum number of population in the state
  - ✓ At the medical camps, doctors will screen beneficiaries for all types of health issues.
  - ✓ The camps would address dental, ENT, stomach, intestine, high blood pressure, diphtheria, bone and joint, kidney, heart, and psychiatric related issues.
  - ✓ Special focus will be given on paediatric issues, pregnant women's issues and women's health issues in general.
  - ✓ The scheme would be linked to 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' (taking medicines to people's doorstep) scheme to help the newly-identified patients get medicines at their doorsteps.
- **The State government – is planning to setup a turmeric research centre in Erode**
- ✓ This was announced by the commissioner and secretary of Tamil Nadu agriculture and farmers' welfare department C Samayamoorthy
  - ✓ C Samayamoorthy participated in the third edition of 'PonManjal – CII turmeric conclave 2021' that was organised online by the confederation of India Industry (CII) – Erode zone.

## STATES

- **On September 29, Dr R Bindu, Higher Education and Social Justice Minister of Kerala - released the first uniform sign language alphabet in Malayalam**



- ✓ The alphabet was developed by the National Institute of Speech and Hearing (NISH), in collaboration with the All Kerala Association of the Deaf
- ✓ The event coincided with the International Week of the Deaf, which is observed in the last week of September.
- ✓ Currently, English and Hindi have alphabets in sign language.
- ✓ NISH plans to incorporate the uniform finger-spelling into the curriculum for the hearing impaired with the support of the State Council of Educational Research and Training.

# NATIONAL

- **On September 29, the Centre - launched the Prime Minister POSHAN scheme or PM-POSHAN scheme for providing cooked hot meal in government and government-aided schools**
- ✓ The Union Cabinet, in a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gave its approval to the 'Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman' scheme in order to address malnutrition among school-going children in the country



- ✓ The existing Mid-Day Meal scheme will be renamed as the National Scheme for PM Poshan Shakti Nirman.
- ✓ The Mid-Day meal scheme was initially launched by the Narasimha Rao government in the year 1995
- ✓ A total budget of Rs.1,30,795 crore has been allocated for the continuation of the scheme for five years, from 2021-22 to 2025-26
- ✓ Of this, the central government will contribute Rs 54,061.73 crore, while the state governments and union territory administrations will provide Rs 31,733.17 crore.
- ✓ The scheme will cover 11.8 crore students enrolled in classes 1 to 8 in over 11.2 lakh schools across the country.
- ✓ The scheme will be extended to students studying in pre-primary or Balvatikas running in government and government aided primary schools.
- ✓ Currently, these students were not included in the scheme.
- ✓ Last year, the government had opened pre-schools called Balvatikas attached to anganwadis.
- ✓ The government will also promote nutritional gardens in schools, thereby using harvest from the gardens for cooking midday meals
- ✓ The social audit of the scheme has been made mandatory in all districts under the scheme
- ✓ The scheme encourages "Tithi Bhojan", introduced in 2018, to allow people from community to provide special food to children on occasions and festivals
- ✓ Further, cooking competitions to promote ethnic cuisine and innovative menus will also be part of the scheme
- ✓ The scheme entails involvement of farmers producer organizations (FPO) and women self help groups in implementation

- ✓ The new scheme has a provision for supplementary nutrition for children in aspirational districts and those with high prevalence of anaemia.
- ✓ Under the scheme, primary (1-5) and upper primary (6-8) schoolchildren are currently entitled to 100 grams and 150 grams of food grains per working day each, to ensure a minimum of 700 calories

## INTERNATIONAL

- **On September 29, former Japanese foreign minister Fumio Kishida - won the governing party's leadership election and is set to become the next prime minister**



- ✓ Kishida replaces outgoing party leader PM Yoshihide Suga, who is stepping down after serving only one year.
- ✓ As new leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, Kishida is certain to be elected the next PM on October 4 in parliament, where his party and its coalition partner control both houses.
- ✓ Kishida defeated popular vaccinations minister Taro Kono in a runoff after finishing only one vote ahead of him in the first round.
- ✓ In a landslide 257-170 victory in the second round, Kishida received support from party heavyweights
- ✓ Kishida lost to Suga in the 2020 party leadership race.
- ✓ A third-generation politician from Hiroshima, Kishida has a reputation among his fellow lawmakers as polite and honest.
- ✓ He was first elected to parliament in 1993.
- ✓ An advocate for nuclear disarmament, he escorted former US President Barack Obama during his 2016 visit to Hiroshima
- ✓ As foreign minister under Abe, he struck a 2015 agreement with South Korea to resolve a row over the issue of women who were sexually abused by Japan's military during World War II.

## DEFENCE

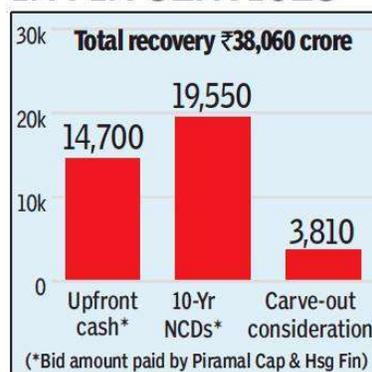
- **India - is likely to send a three-member team to participate in a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) anti-terror exercise in Pakistan next week.**

- ✓ The 'Pabbi anti-terror Exercise 2021' is being held at Pabbi in Pakistan's Nowshera district from October 3 under the framework of SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)
- ✓ The exercise seeks to promote counter-terrorism cooperation between SCO member-states.
- ✓ India's presence will be seen as a sign of the importance it attaches to the role of the central Asia-focused regional bloc in security-related issues, especially in Afghanistan.
- ✓ India was apparently the last country to confirm its participation in the exercise
- ✓ The decision to hold the joint exercise "Pabbi-Antiterror-2021" was announced in March this year during the 36th meeting of the Council of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) held in Tashkent.
- ✓ Headquartered in Tashkent, RATS is a permanent organ of the SCO with the objective to promote cooperation among member states against terrorism, separatism and extremism.
- ✓ The SCO is an economic and security bloc in which India and Pakistan were admitted as full members in 2017.
- ✓ Its founding members included China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

## ECONOMY

- **On September 29, Piramal Group - announced that it has completed the acquisition of housing finance firm Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL) for the concluded payment of Rs. 34,250 crore**

### 1ST INSOLVENCY RESOLUTION IN FIN SERVICES



- ✓ As a part of the process, Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Ltd (PCHFL) will merge with DHFL and the merged entity will be renamed PCHFL.
- ✓ The merged entity will be 100% owned by Piramal Enterprises and the merger will be effected within two weeks
- ✓ The deal may help banks that had been hit by the collapse of the firm DHFL, whose promoters are accused of fraud

- ✓ Overall, creditors will receive close to Rs. 38,000 crore, including the liquid cash of Rs. 14, 700 crore with DHFL and Rs.19,550 crore of bonds.
- ✓ The amount received by creditors will be around 46% of their admitted claims.
- ✓ SBI, Bank of India and Union Bank will be among the beneficiaries.
- ✓ The acquisition marks the first successful resolution under the IBC route in the financial services sector
- ✓ All necessary approvals for the acquisition have been obtained from Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Competition Commission of India (CCI) and National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
- ✓ In January 2021, 70,000 creditors of DHFL voted in favor of Piramal's resolution plan.
- ✓ With access to over 1 million lifetime customers, DHFL will have presence across 24 states with a network of 301 branches and 2,338 employees.

## APPOINTMENTS

- **On September 29, Najla Bouden Romdhane – was named as the first female prime minister of Tunisia**



- ✓ Tunisian President Kais Saied named Najla Bouden Romdhane as PM nearly two months after he seized most powers in an alleged coup
- ✓ A geological engineer, Romdhane was responsible for implementing World Bank projects by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
- ✓ Romdhane is a professor of geology at the National School of Engineers in Tunis.
- ✓ In 2011, she worked as the director-general in charge of quality at Ministry of Higher Education
- ✓ Women have only rarely held senior political roles in Arab countries.
- ✓ In Tunisia, Saied has also appointed a woman, Nadia Akacha, as chief of staff.

