

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-OCTOBER 13, 2021

TAMIL NADU

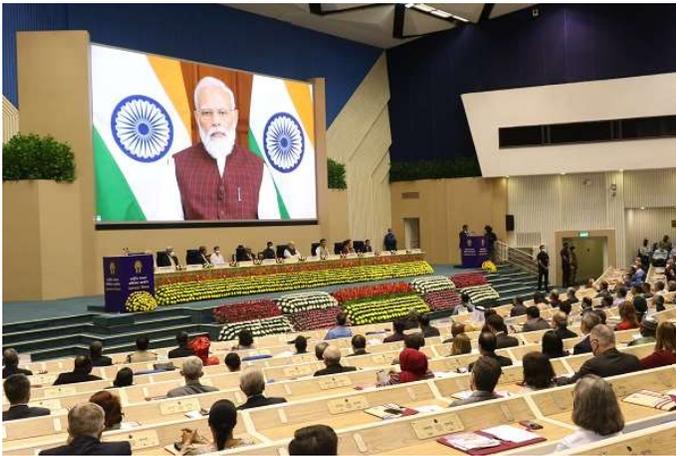
- **Tamil Nadu - to build its first multi-modal logistics park at Mappedu in Tiruvallur district near the automobile and electronic manufacturing clusters of Sriperumbudur and Oragadam.**
- ✓ The project will be executed at a cost of ₹1,200 crore on 158 acres of land owned by the Chennai Port Trust.
- ✓ The logistics park will be established under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model
- ✓ The proposed park seeks to address the needs of industries by reducing logistics cost to help them become globally competitive.
- ✓ The project is expected to generate 10,000 jobs and will have warehouses, cold storage facilities and rail connectivity.
- ✓ On October 12, an MoU was signed in Chennai between the state-owned Tidco and NHAI's arm, National Highway Logistics Management Ltd (NHLML) for the multimodal logistics park
- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin and state industries minister Thangam Thennarasu were present during the occasion.
- ✓ Union minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari and Sarbananda Sonowal, minister for ports, shipping and waterways participated through video conference facility.
- ✓ The Centre's logistics park project, implemented along with states, aims to bring down the cost of freight movement by lowering operational delays through in-house warehousing, cold storage and customs clearance facilities.
- ✓ Besides, Tidco and NHLML, the project will involve the partnership of Railway Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL).

- **On October 12, the Tamil Nadu government - released the draft of its first resettlement and rehabilitation policy for slum dwellers.**

- ✓ The policy deals with various issues relating to relocation of slum dwellers and also about enhancing employment opportunities provided to them after moving to the tenements.
 - ✓ As per the draft drawn up by the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB), a Chennai city habitat development committee would be established.
 - ✓ Similar committees are to be set up in all districts to look into various issues, including efforts to prevent drug abuse, domestic violence, teenage pregnancies and alcoholism.
 - ✓ It will also facilitate transfer of Aadhaar cards, family cards and voter IDs within three months.
 - ✓ Moreover, as per the draft, slum dwellers must be accommodated only in areas from where it won't take more than half an hour to reach the nearest urban areas by bus or train.
 - ✓ The TNUHDB has invited suggestions from stakeholders on the draft policy, which should be submitted within 15 days.
 - ✓ Further, residents welfare associations will be formed in the tenements like in other gated communities, which will act as a bridge between the residents and the board.
 - ✓ The 22-member committee in Chennai will be chaired by the corporation and the police commissioner will be vice-chairman.
- **On October 12, School education minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi - said that there will be no quarterly, half-yearly exam for state board students of Class X, XI and XII this year.**
- ✓ However, the department is planning to conduct a mock exam in December to allay the fears of students about board exams and to train them, as per the Minister
 - ✓ The Minister further said the board exams will be conducted either in February end or March next year.
 - ✓ Ahead of reopening of schools for Classes I to VIII from November 1, the district level educational officers meeting was held in Chennai.
 - ✓ In the meeting, it was decided to follow standard operating procedures announced for conducting physical classes for Classes IX to XII for lower classes as well.

NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi – addressed the 28th National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Foundation day programme through video conference on October 12**
- ✓ Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister remarked that India's freedom movement and its history has been a great source of inspiration for human rights and the values of human rights for India



- ✓ He said that the whole world sees India as a symbol of human values and the National Human Rights Commission is providing strength to these moral resolutions.
 - ✓ Union Home Minister Amit Shah and NHRC Chairman Justice Arun Kumar Mishra were present at Vigyan Bhawan.
 - ✓ During the event, Justice Arun Mishra (retd) said that it is increasingly common for external forces to level false allegations of human rights violations against India .
 - ✓ He also lauded the “untiring efforts” of Union Minister for home affairs, Amit Shah, in fostering peace in J&K and northeast.
 - ✓ The Prime Minister also underscored “pro-poor, pro-women and pro-disabled” initiatives taken by his government
 - ✓ Union Home Minister, Amit Shah also lauded NHRC for its efforts to protect the human rights of people in the 28 years of its existence.
 - ✓ He said since its inception, NHRC disposed of 20 lakh cases and awarded ₹205-crore compensation to various people whose human rights were violated, which is a commendable figure.
 - ✓ During his speech, PM Modi also highlighted the government action to approve a 26-week maternity leave to working women, a right, he said, that is still not available to women in many developed countries.
 - ✓ The NHRC was set up under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 on October 12, 1993 for the promotion and protection of human rights
 - ✓ The Commission holds ‘A’ status accreditation with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions since 1999, besides being a founder member of Asia Pacific Forum since 1996
- **The central drugs regulator’s subject expert committee - approved the restricted emergency use (EUA) of Bharat Biotech’s Covaxin in children and adolescents between 2 and 18 years of age**
- ✓ Covaxin is the second Covid-19 vaccine to be approved for emergency use among children in India after Zydus Healthcare’s ZyCoV-D, meant for children above 12 years of age.

- ✓ Approved in August, ZyCoV-D by Zydus Cadila is the world's first DNA vaccine to be used to prevent the Covid-19 infection
- ✓ A decision on the inclusion of Covaxin in the national vaccination programme will be taken by the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) on further evaluation of the data submitted by the company
- ✓ At present, the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) has partly recommended EUA for Covaxin along with many conditions.
- ✓ With this, Covaxin becomes the first whole cell inactivated vaccine approved for use and the first in the world for children as small as two years.
- ✓ The indigenous vaccine will be administered in two doses, with a gap of 20 days between the first and second dose.
- ✓ The conditions prescribed by Subject Expert Committee include continuation of clinical trials by Bharat Biotech.
- ✓ The firm has also been asked to submit updates prescribing information, package insert, summary of product characteristics as well as fact-sheet.
- ✓ It will also have to submit adverse event data and analysis every 15 days for first two months and monthly thereafter.
- ✓ In May this year, drugs controller general of India Dr VG Somani permitted Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech to conduct phase 3 clinical trials of its Covid vaccine on 525 child volunteers.
- ✓ After it ended in September, the trial data was submitted to the drugs regulator, CDSCO (Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation) in the first week of October
- ✓ Meanwhile, WHO (World Health Organisation) experts will meet this week to take the final decision on whether to grant emergency use listing to Covaxin-- an inactivated whole virion vaccine
- ✓ Apart from the above two, a third potential vaccine for kids is Serum Institute's Novavax, for which the DCGI last month cleared trials for children between seven and 11 years.
- ✓ A fourth is Biological E's Corbevax, which has been cleared to conduct advanced trials on children above five.
- ✓ There are around 44 crore children in the country, who are yet to be vaccinated.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - addressed the G20 Extraordinary Leaders' Summit on Afghanistan via video conferencing in New Delhi on October 12**
- ✓ In his virtual address, PM Modi pressed for "urgent and unhindered" humanitarian assistance to Afghan citizens and underlined the need for having an inclusive administration in that country.
- ✓ He called on the international community to ensure that Afghan territory does not become a source of radicalisation and terrorism and pitched for a united global response to bring about the desired change in that country.

- ✓ The PM further said a unified international response based on United Nations Security Council Resolution 2593 is necessary to improve the situation in Afghanistan



- ✓ The UNSC resolution, adopted on August 30 under India's presidency of the global body, talked about the need for upholding human rights in Afghanistan
- ✓ The resolution, among other things, calls upon the Taliban to not allow Afghanistan territory to be used against others
- ✓ The agenda of the meeting included a discussion on response to humanitarian needs and access to basic services and livelihood; security and the fight against terrorism; and mobility, migration and human rights.
- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that PM Modi took part in the summit at the invitation of the Italian presidency.
- ✓ The meeting was held a few weeks ahead of the summit of the G20 leaders scheduled in Rome for October 30 and 31.
- ✓ Italy is the current chair of the G-20
- ✓ The G20 comprises 20 of the world's major economies and is an important platform to help build international consensus to address the worsening humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.
- ✓ PM Modi had participated in the SCO-CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organisation) outreach summit on Afghanistan last month
- ✓ Recently, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar participated in the meeting of G-20 foreign ministers on Afghanistan on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York.

APPOINTMENTS

- **On October 12, the government - appointed former Union education secretary and alumnus of IIM-Ahmedabad, Amit Khare as adviser to the Prime Minister for two years on contract basis.**



- ✓ Khare, a 1985 batch IAS from Jharkhand had retired on September 30.
- ✓ Khare, a career bureaucrat, has held various assignments at the central and state government including as Union secretary information and broadcasting, department of school education and department of higher education.
- ✓ He has been closely associated with the formulation and implementation of National Education Policy 2020.
- ✓ The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 were issued under Khare's tenure.
- ✓ Khare also has been instrumental in progressing key social initiatives and has also contributed to Ujjwala Yojna - a scheme for providing LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.
- ✓ Earlier, as deputy commissioner, of West Singhbhum, Chaibasa in the late 1990's, he was responsible for unearthing the infamous "fodder scam" in Bihar.
- ✓ He had also worked as vice chancellor of Ranchi University and development commissioner of Jharkhand.
- ✓ Khare will enjoy the rank and scale of a secretary to the Union government on a contract basis "initially for a period of two years or until further orders, whichever is earlier"
- ✓ Khare's appointment comes barely months after the exit of two former IAS officers, P K Sinha and Amarjeet Sinha from PMO.

