



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-OCTOBER 23, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- On October 22, Chief minister M K Stalin - unveiled two initiatives 'e-munnnetram' (e-progress) and 'IT Nanban' (IT-friend) of the Information Technology (IT) department to strengthen governance in the state



- ✓ The 'e-munnnetram' (e-progress) is a new web portal created to monitor progress of various projects undertaken by the Tamil Nadu government
- ✓ The 'IT Nanban' (IT-friend) is an interactive web platform for IT/ ITeS industry in the state, which provides information on various government tenders that are floated for procuring services of the industry.
- ✓ The government has also announced that a high-level committee, headed by the chief secretary, would periodically monitor the progress of about 200 major infrastructure projects that together cost more than ₹1 lakh crore.

- ✓ TNe-GA (Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency) has developed the portal 'e-Munnetram' for reviewing the progress of all major infrastructure projects of Tamil Nadu
- ✓ The portal would provide information on key details of a project including date of agreement, estimated cost, when project begins and the progress on financial and physical parameters on a monthly basis.
- ✓ It allows heads of departments to update progress periodically, flag critical issues and causes for delay of the projects.
- ✓ The exports from IT/ITeS sector in Tamil Nadu has been growing at 10% YoY (Year-over-Year).
- ✓ **Further, the Chief Minister released two Tamil computing softwares - 'Keezhadi Keyboard' and 'Tamizhi – Tamizhinayam Unicode converter' during the event**
- ✓ The Tamil Virtual Academy developed these computing softwares with advanced features
- ✓ The two softwares, Keezhadi and Tamizhinaiya Keyboard, will function with three types of keyboards including Tamil 99 keyboard, phonetic keyboard and the old typewriter keyboard.
- ✓ Tamizhi - Tamizhinaiya Unicode Converter can convert text, file, and folder which are typed in Vanavil and other fonts in doc, docx, rtf, xls, xlsx, ods ppt, and pptx formats
- ✓ These can be downloaded from www.tamilvu.org at free of cost.
- **Tamil Nadu governor R N Ravi - has promulgated ordinances for the creation of four corporations, Cuddalore, Kancheepuram, Sivakasi and Karur, upgrading the erstwhile municipalities.**
- ✓ Ordinances will be issued for Tambaram and Kumbakonam corporations soon.
- ✓ This follows an announcement made by the state government during the budget session in the assembly in August.
- ✓ The government announced that 6 municipalities and 28 town panchayats would be upgraded as municipal corporations and municipalities respectively.
- ✓ Tambaram gets four municipalities, including Pallavaram, Pammal, Sembakkam and Anakaputhur, and five town panchayats, Chitlapakkam, Madambakkam, Perungulathur, Peerkankaranai and Tiruneermalai.
- ✓ Daraspuram town panchayat is merged with Kumbakonam corporation.
- ✓ The Ordinances assumes much significance in the backdrop of the Supreme Court directive to complete the elections to urban local bodies in Tamil Nadu within four months.
- ✓ According to the ordinances, the percentage of the urban population in Tamil Nadu stood at 53% as against 48.45% as per the 2011 Census.
- ✓ As the Assembly is not in session, Governor RN Ravi promulgated the ordinances.

- ✓ However, the ordinance will be passed by the Assembly within six months of the issuing date.
- ✓ The municipal authorities charged with carrying out the provisions of the ordinances will be a Mayor, a council, a standing committee, a wards committee and a Commissioner.

NATIONAL

- **The central government - launched Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for Telecom and Networking Products**
- ✓ Devusinh Chauhan, Minister of State of Ministry of Communications, launched the scheme recently



- ✓ The scheme aims at reducing India's dependence on other countries for import of telecom and networking products
- ✓ It is being launched by DoT to boost domestic manufacturing in the telecom and networking products by incentivising incremental investments and turnover with total outlay of ₹12,195 crore
- ✓ The scheme was announced to be effective from 1st April, 2021
- ✓ The support under the Scheme shall be provided for a period of five years from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26.
- ✓ As per scheme guidelines, a total of 31 companies, comprising of 16 MSMEs and 15 Non-MSMEs (8 Domestic and 7 Global companies) have been found eligible
- ✓ These companies are being given approval under the PLI scheme of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications.
- ✓ As per commitments given by applicants, these 31 applicants are expected to invest ₹ 3345 crore in the next 4 years
- ✓ This will generate incremental employment of more than 40,000 people with expected incremental production of around ₹ 1.82 Lakh crore over the scheme period

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India - got re-elected to the UN Human Rights Council for the 2022-24 term (6th term) with 184 votes in 193 member United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).**
- ✓ TS Tirumurti, India's permanent Ambassador to the UN casted his vote on behalf of the country for electing 18 new members of the UN Human Rights Council



- ✓ India's election was announced in the 76th session of the UN General Assembly.
- ✓ India's current term was to end on December 31, 2021.
- ✓ There were five vacant seats in Asia-Pacific States category namely Kazakhstan, Malaysia, India, Qatar and United Arab Emirates, for election for the term of 2022-2024.
- ✓ The UN General Assembly elected Argentina, Benin, Cameroon, Eritrea, Finland, Gambia, Honduras, India, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Montenegro, Paraguay, Qatar, Somalia, UAE and the USA by secret ballot
- ✓ In 2018, the US under the Donald Trump administration had withdrawn from the UN Human Rights Council.
- ✓ The United States, which was unopposed, received 168 votes in the secret ballot by the 193-member General Assembly.
- ✓ All the elected countries begin a three-year term on 1 January, 2022
- ✓ The council is made up of 47 member states.
- ✓ Human Rights Council candidates are elected in geographical groups to ensure even representation, while members cannot serve more than two consecutive terms.
- ✓ Seats are distributed among regional groups - Group of African States (13), Group of Asia-Pacific States (13), Group of Eastern European States (6), Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (8) and Group of Western European and other States (7).

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The fourth general assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) - was held virtually between October 18th and October 21st, 2021.**
- ✓ It was headed by the President of the ISA Assembly and Union Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy, R.K. Singh.
- ✓ A total of 108 countries participated in the assembly, including 74 member countries, 34 observer and prospective countries, 23 partner organisations and 33 special invitee organisations.



- ✓ U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, John Kerry delivered the keynote address, and the European Commission Executive Vice President for the European Green Deal, Frans Timmermans, addressed the gathering.
- ✓ During the assembly, two new programmes were launched - Management of Solar PV panels and battery usage waste & Solar Hydrogen programme.
- ✓ The new Hydrogen initiative is aimed at enabling the use of solar electricity to produce hydrogen at a more affordable rate than what is available currently (\$5 per Kg), by bringing it down to \$2 per Kg.
- ✓ Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech announced a National Hydrogen Mission
- ✓ **Further, the ISA gave its approval to the political declaration — called ‘One Sun’ — for the launch of the ambitious Green Grid Initiative-One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG) at COP26.**
- ✓ It envisions building an inter-regional energy grid to share solar energy across the globe and help decarbonise energy production, which is the largest source of global greenhouse gas emissions.

- ✓ ISA is the nodal agency for implementing OSOWOG, which seeks to transfer solar power generated in one region to feed the electricity demands of others.
- ✓ A consortium led by French state-run power utility firm EDF and comprising France's AETS, and India's The Energy and Resources Institute (Teri) has been tasked with creating the road map for the global grid OSOWOG.
- ✓ The World Bank has signed a tripartite agreement with ISA and the ministry of new and renewable energy (MNRE) for implementing OSOWOG
- ✓ The concept of a single global grid for solar was first raised at the First Assembly of the ISA in late 2018.
- ✓ The UK COP Presidency, the Government of India, and the Presidency of the ISA, are expected to announce this collaboration at COP26, United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, UK
- ✓ The International Solar Alliance (ISA) also announced a partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies to mobilize \$1 trillion in global investments for solar energy across ISA's member countries by the year 2030
- ✓ The two organizations will work with World Resources Institute (WRI) to develop a Solar Investment Action Agenda and a Solar Investment Roadmap, which will be launched at COP26.
- ✓ Further, the ISA agreed to provide aid of up to \$50,000 to 11 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SID) for demonstrative solar energy projects
- ✓ The 11 ISA member countries are Comoros, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guyana, Jamaica, Kiribati, Malawi, Senegal, Togo, Tonga, and Niger
- ✓ Seven member countries - Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Fiji, Senegal, and Sudan - have opted for demonstration project implementation by ISA.
- ✓ These projects will be implemented through NTPC, which is ISA's Project Management Consultancy
- ✓ The ISA is an inter-governmental treaty-based organisation that seeks to promote solar growth by helping to reduce the cost of financing and technology.
- ✓ It was co-founded by India during the 2015 climate change conference, COP21, in Paris
- ✓ Currently, 121 countries have agreed to be members of ISA, which is headquartered in Gurugram, India

DEFENCE

- **China and Russia – concluded joint naval drills 'Joint Sea 2021' on October 17, 2021, near the Peter the Great Gulf in the Sea of Japan, or East Sea.**
- ✓ The annual joint drills aim to develop the comprehensive strategic military partnership between the two countries
- ✓ China's advanced Type 055, a 10,000 ton-class large destroyer, Nanchang, was deployed for the first time in an exercise with a foreign navy



- ✓ The Naval Interaction-2021 maritime military exercise featured Type 052D destroyer Kunming, the Type 054A frigates Binzhou and Liuzhou, and the Type 903A comprehensive supply ship Dongpinghu among other anti-submarine warfare aircraft and vessel-borne helicopters
- ✓ The four-day naval exercise focused on mutual assistance to destroy floating enemy mines with artillery fire
- ✓ It also involved warships and support vessels from Russia's Pacific Fleet, including mine-sweepers and a submarine
- ✓ As the largest maritime drill series between China and Russia, the Naval Interaction has been held nine times since the launch in 2012.

