

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCTOBER 7, 2021**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **On October 7, the state government - announced the constitution of Non-Resident Tamils' Welfare Board to ensure the welfare of non-resident Tamils living abroad and in other parts of the country.**
- ✓ The board, consisting of 13 members representing non-resident Tamils and the government, will implement and administer various welfare programmes.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Non-Resident Tamils' Welfare Act was enacted by the DMK government led by former CM Late M Karunanidhi on March 1, 2011, but the board was not set up as per the provisions of the Act.
- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin announced the constitution of Tamil Nadu Non-Resident Tamils' Welfare Fund with an initial corpus of Rs. 5 crore.
- ✓ The CM also said that 'Day of Non-Resident Tamils' will be celebrated every year on January 12 in collaboration with Tamil associations abroad to bring together Tamils in different countries and recognize their contributions.
- ✓ Further, the CM said the government would create a database of NRTs and life and health insurance schemes would be extended to those registered with the board.
- ✓ In the event of death of NRTs of low income group, the children will get financial assistance for education and marriage.
- ✓ The chief minister said the government would allocate Rs. 20 crore for the welfare of non-resident Tamils, including Rs. 6.4 crore for the board and welfare fund, Rs.8.1 crore for welfare schemes, and Rs. 5.5 crore for cultural exchanges.
- ✓ Orientation programmes will be extended to those who emigrate for education and employment from Ramanathapuram, Pudukottai, Kanyakumari, Thanjavur, Perambalur, Sivaganga and Villupuram districts, in addition to Chennai.
- ✓ Toll-free helpline, legal helpdesk, web portal and a mobile application will be developed for non-resident Tamils to get assistance, the CM said.

- ✓ Since many non-resident Tamils are keen on investing their savings in Tamil Nadu, the state government will facilitate signing of memorandum of understanding to deposit their funds in government agencies.
- ✓ A scheme – ‘My Village’ - will be launched to help non-resident Tamils improve infrastructure in their native, and meet the basic needs such as education and healthcare.
- ✓ An invite will be extended to the NRTs to build schools, hospitals and libraries, the chief minister said.
- ✓ In a bid to encourage children of those staying abroad to learn Tamil, the state government will impart Tamil teaching through Tamil Virtual Academy.
- ✓ Incentives will be provided to the institutions teaching Tamil and training to teachers.
- ✓ Currently, home and public departments, commissionerate of rehabilitation and welfare of non-resident Tamils and overseas manpower corporation limited are meeting the requirements of non-resident Tamils.

## **NATIONAL**

- **The Centre - has agreed to allow girls to get admission in Ministry of Defence-run Rashtriya Indian Military College and Rashtriya Military Schools which have so far been all-boys educational institutions.**
- ✓ In an affidavit filed in the apex court, the government said that the process of facilitating the induction of the girls would be done in a phased manner.
- ✓ The government said that the girls will be allowed to appear in the all India entrance examination to be conducted next year in June 2022.
- ✓ All states and UTs compete for an average 25 seats bi-annually for RIMC.
- ✓ The government said that in first phase the capacity will be increased from 250 to 300 by inducting five girls every six months.
- ✓ In phase 2, capacity will be increased from 300 to 350 to induct 10 girls every six months
- ✓ Finally, at the end of the expansion RIMC will have 250 boys and 100 girls
- ✓ The Rashtriya Indian Military College is an Inter Services Institute and a Category ‘A’ establishment of the ministry of defence alongside institutions like National Defence Academy.
- ✓ The purpose of this institution was to provide Indian boys with suitable education and training to ensure a high pass-rate for the Indians being sent to the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, as part of the Indianisation programme of the officer cadre of the Indian Army
- ✓ The government said that girls will also be allowed entry to Rashtriya Military Schools which are residential public schools from class VI to XII.
- ✓ There are five RMS across the country, which act as feeder institutions for NDA.

- ✓ The Centre said that entry of girls will be done in a phased manner and in first phase 10% of seats in class VI will be reserved for girls from next year and a year after girls will be allowed to take admission in all classes.
- **On October 6, the union Cabinet - cleared a Rs 4,445 crore scheme to set up seven mega integrated textile region and apparel parks (MITRA), each spread over 1,000 acre**
  - ✓ The decision is aimed at creating large textile facilities to take on global competition.
  - ✓ The plan is to set up the parks on a greenfield and brownfield basis, with each costing around Rs 1,700 crore.
  - ✓ The government has proposed a maximum development capital support of Rs 500 crore for all greenfield parks and a maximum of Rs 200 crore to brownfield for the development of common infrastructure, which will be up to 30% of the project cost.
  - ✓ In addition, there will be an “early bird” incentive of Rs 300 crore, up to 3% of a unit’s turnover, for setting up a facility in one of the seven MITRAs.
  - ✓ The PM MITRA parks were announced in the Budget and the funding is to be provided over five years.
  - ✓ 10 states — Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, and Telangana.— have shown interest in setting up these parks, which are expected to directly generate around seven lakh jobs.
  - ✓ The government will soon announce criteria of setting up the parks, such as connectivity to ports, power and water availability, the presence of the textile eco-system in a state as well as the implementation of labour laws
  - ✓ Unlike the earlier parks, the park will have facilities on a much larger scale so that an integrated value chain — from spinning, weaving, processing and printing to garment manufacturing — are at one location, which will help reduce costs.
  - ✓ The Centre is likely to prefer a master developer model, where one entity from the private sector sets up the facility, for the development of park
  - ✓ To facilitate this, the state and the Centre will set up a special purpose vehicle with the former holding a majority stake.
- **The iconic Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand - may be renamed as ‘Ramganga National Park’**



- ✓ Union minister of state for environment, Ashwini Kumar Choubey, who visited the park recently, has sought a proposal in this regard from the state forest department.
- ✓ Between 1954 to 1956, the tiger reserve was called 'Ramganga National Park' after the Ramganga river that flows through it — before it was renamed in a tribute to noted hunter and conservationist Jim Corbett.
- ✓ When the park was first set up in 1936, it was known as Malcolm Hailey Park after the first Lt Governor of the United Provinces.
- ✓ The park, which is India's first national park, boasts of having the highest tiger density in the wild — at 14 tigers per 100 sq km — in the world.

## **CONFERENCES & SUMMITS**

- **The Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal – addressed the Inaugural Session of the ICRIER's 13th Annual International G-20 Conference on October 6, 2021**



- ✓ During his speech, the Minister called for pursuing a more inclusive and equitable agenda at the G20, in the backdrop of assuming the G20 presidency in 2023
- ✓ He called upon the G20 to play a leadership role for People, Planet & Collective Prosperity.
- ✓ The G20 is the international forum that brings together the world's major economies.
- ✓ Its members account for more than 80% of world GDP, 75% of global trade and 60% of the population of the world.
- ✓ The forum has met every year since 1999 and includes, since 2008, a yearly Summit, with the participation of the respective Heads of State and Government.
- ✓ Emerging market economies will hold the presidency for G20 presidency till 2025.
- ✓ Indonesia will hold it in 2022 while India in 2023.

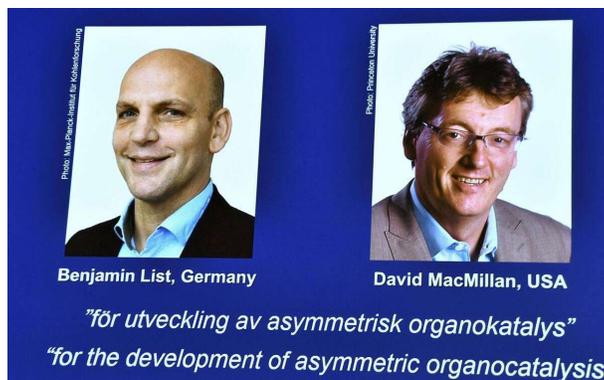
## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **On October 7, the World Health Organisation - approved the first ever vaccine to prevent malaria, aiming to save the lives of tens of thousands of children in Africa each year.**
- ✓ Malaria is among the oldest known and deadliest of infectious diseases.

- ✓ It kills about half a million people each year, nearly all of them in sub-Saharan Africa — among them 2,60,000 kids under age 5.
- ✓ The new vaccine, made by GlaxoSmithKline, awakes a child's immune system to thwart Plasmodium falciparum, the deadliest of five malaria pathogens and the most prevalent in Africa.
- ✓ The vaccine is not just a first for malaria — it is the first developed for any parasitic disease.
- ✓ In clinical trials, the vaccine had an efficacy of about 50% against severe malaria in the first year, but dropped close to 0% by the fourth year.
- ✓ If the vaccine were rolled out to nations with the highest incidence of malaria, it could prevent 5.4 million cases and 23,000 deaths in kids younger than age 5 each year.
- ✓ Called Mosquirix, the new vaccine is given in three doses between ages 5 and 17 months, and a fourth dose roughly 18 months later.
- ✓ Following the clinical trials, the vaccine was tried out in three countries — Kenya, Malawi and Ghana — where it was incorporated into routine immunization programs.
- ✓ More than 2.3 million doses have been administered in those countries, reaching more than 800,000 children.
- ✓ "This is a vaccine developed in Africa by African scientists and we're very proud," said WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.
- ✓ Malaria is far more deadly than Covid-19 in Africa, killing 386,000 Africans in 2019, according to a WHO estimate, compared with 212,000 confirmed deaths from Covid-19 in the past 18 months.
- ✓ As per WHO, 94% of malaria cases and deaths occur in Africa, a continent of 1.3 billion people.
- ✓ The disease, which is preventable, is caused by parasites transmitted to people by the bites of infected mosquitoes; symptoms include fever, vomiting and fatigue.

## AWARDS

- **On October 6, German scientist Benjamin List and British scientist David WC MacMillan - were awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for developing “asymmetric organocatalysis” – a tool to build molecules.**



- ✓ The two scientists will receive gold medals and split the prize money of 10 million Swedish kronor equally (about Rs 8.5 crore).
- ✓ The work of two scientists has allowed scientists to build molecules that can be used to make everything from medicines to food flavourings, cheaply, efficiently, safely with significantly less environmental impact.
- ✓ Before the development of asymmetric organocatalysis by List, of the Max Planck Institute, and MacMillan, of Princeton University, researchers believed that there were just two type of catalysts metals and enzymes.
- ✓ However, in 2000, the two scientists, independent of each other, developed asymmetric organocatalysis, through which catalysts could be formed by building upon small organic molecules
- ✓ Last year, the chemistry prize went to Emmanuelle Charpentier of France and Jennifer A. Doudna of the US for developing a gene-editing tool - CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors- that has revolutionized science by providing a way to alter DNA.
- ✓ So far 186 people have been recognised by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden for their contribution in Chemistry, of which seven are women.

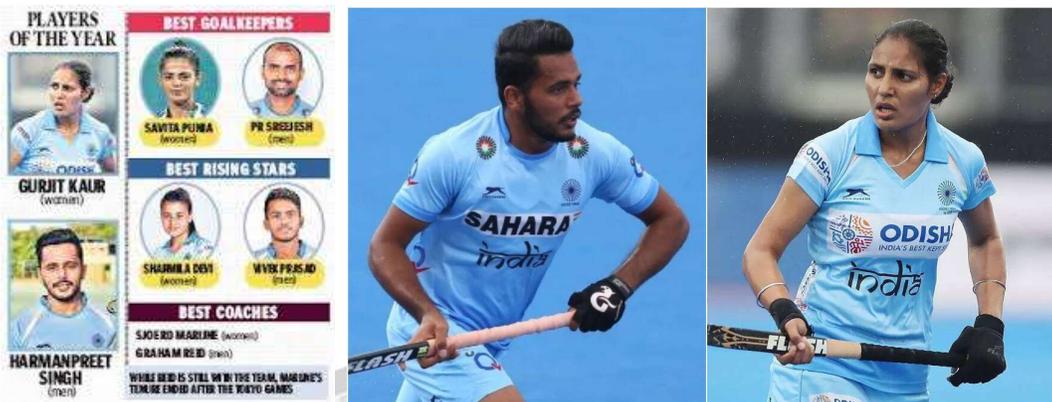
## SPORTS

- **On October 6, Anshu Malik (57kg) - created history by becoming the first-ever Indian woman wrestler to reach the final of the World Championships.**



- ✓ She defeated Ukrainian junior European champion Solomiia Vynnyk 11-0 on technical superiority in the 57 kg category in the semifinal in Oslo.
- ✓ The 20-year old girl from Nidani in Haryana's Jind district will now face 2016 Rio Olympics champion (53kg), USA's Helen Louise Maroulis, in the final bout
- ✓ At the Tokyo Games, the American two-time world champion Maroulis had settled for a bronze in the 57kg.
- ✓ The final bout is scheduled for October 7.
- ✓ Reigning Asian champion, Anshu can give Indian wrestling only its second world champion, after Sushil Kumar who won a gold in Moscow in 2010.
- ✓ Bajrang Punia had come close to matching Sushil's record but lost his final at the 2018 Worlds to settle for silver.
- ✓ Previously, only four Indian women wrestlers have managed to secure medals at the Worlds

- ✓ All of them settled for the bronze – Geeta Phogat (2012), Babita Phogat (2012), Pooja Dhanda (2018) and Vinesh Phogat (2019).
  - ✓ Anshu has also become only the sixth Indian ever to make the Worlds gold medal match.
  - ✓ Before her, Bishambar Singh, Sushil Kumar, Amit Dahiya, Bajrang Punia and Deepak Punia have made to the gold medal match
- **India - swept the International Hockey Federation's (FIH) annual awards on October 6, claiming top honours in all the categories based on a system of voting**



- ✓ Six Indian players and the head coaches of both the men's and women's teams in Tokyo won awards across different categories after gaining the maximum votes.
- ✓ The men's hockey team had won a bronze, its first in 41 years, in the Tokyo Olympics, while the women's side had finished an unprecedented fourth in the showpiece.
- ✓ Harmanpreet Singh won the men's 'Player of the Year' award and Gurjit Kaur was recognised as the best player in the women's section.
- ✓ Veteran PR Sreejesh and Savita Punia won the best goalkeeper awards in the men's and women's sections while young striker Sharmila Devi (women) and Vivek Sagar Prasad (men) were adjudged best rising stars.
- ✓ The duo of Harmanpreet and Gurjit were the top-scorers in their teams' stellar run at the Games.
- ✓ Men's team coach Graham Reid and women's coach Sjoerd Marijne were also voted the best.

