

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-OCTOBER 31, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **On October 30, Chief Minister M K Stalin - announced that July 18 will be observed as Tamil Nadu Day.**
 - ✓ He also said the state government would present Rs.1 lakh cash prize each to 110 'Border Saviours' on November 1 to honour their struggle to safeguard the border of Tamil Nadu when the states were formed on linguistic basis in 1956.
 - ✓ In a statement, the chief minister said former chief minister C N Annadurai had moved a resolution in the state assembly on July 18,1967, to change the name of erstwhile Madras state as Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ On January 14, 1969, the law came into effect renaming the state as Tamil Nadu
 - ✓ The previous AIADMK government announced in 2019 that November 1 would be observed as Tamil Nadu Day, since it was on this day that the states were reorganised and the boundary were determined
 - ✓ Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala were formed after being separated from the then Madras Presidency following enactment of State Reorganisation Act, 1956.

- **On October 30, The Tamil Nadu government - announced a ban on manufacturing, storing, transporting and selling fireworks with barium salts and series crackers for Diwali and for other occasions.**
 - ✓ The announcement has been made based on the directions of the Supreme Court on October 29 in various cases pertaining to use of fireworks citing pollution concerns from the year 2016 to 2018.
 - ✓ There is no ban as such on fireworks but those containing barium salts and series crackers are banned
 - ✓ As per the Supreme Court order, the Tamil Nadu government is banning firework units in the state to stop producing such fireworks.
 - ✓ Public are also advised to avoid lighting such banned fireworks

- ✓ The state government would initiate stringent action against those who fail to abide by the Supreme Court direction in this connection.
- **The forest department - will soon prepare a detailed project report to set up a TN Forest Archives and Data Centre in Chennai.**
- ✓ The state government has sanctioned ₹5 lakh for preparing a detailed project report for the Centre
- ✓ According to the Government, funds for setting up the centre can be taken from CSR funds of TN Forest Plantation Corporation Ltd.
- ✓ A reputed agency or consultant will also be roped in for the project.
- ✓ The announcement on setting up the Centre was made in the state assembly on August 3, 2021
- ✓ The proposed forest archives will be a repository of forest research reports, scientific publications and documents, old manuscripts and historical references, forest maps, rare photographs, slides, negatives and plates documenting history of the forest department and its evolution, resources covering conservation, forest working plans, management plans and annual reports and others.
- ✓ The decision to set up an archives and data centre was taken as the forest department is one of the oldest in the country
- ✓ The department has lot of data and documents in the field of forest protection, biodiversity conservation and wildlife management but there was no repository till now for easy access.
- ✓ The proposed Centre will be designed for the benefit of research, education outreach and for those interested in the history of forest resources and conservation.
- **The state government - has issued orders to its departments to take a decision on the departmental action against erring staff three months prior to the date of their superannuation to avoid suspension on the date of their retirement.**
- ✓ In cases, where charges have been framed and disciplinary authority is of the view that withholding pension under the Tamil Nadu Pension Rules, 1978, would suffice for the delinquency committed, the authority may allow the staff to retire, said an order.
- ✓ However, the order will not be applicable in cases where employees are facing criminal cases or probe by the directorate of vigilance and anti-corruption.
- ✓ Any failure on the part of the disciplinary authority to issue final orders three months before the date of retirement of a delinquent officer will be viewed seriously, said the order
- ✓ This will involve severe action against the officials responsible for dragging on the case to the date of retirement of the staff.

NATIONAL

- **On October 31, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - met Pope Francis at the Vatican and invited the head of the Roman Catholic Church to visit India.**



- ✓ The two leaders discussed the future of a post-Covid world, climate change and other issues at a meeting that went on for an hour beyond the scheduled 20 minutes.
 - ✓ The PM also interacted with US President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the G-20 meet in Rome on the day
 - ✓ PM Modi also met the Vatican Secretary of State Pietro Parolin and Vatican Secretary for Relations with States, Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, according to the Vatican statement.
 - ✓ The Pope, it seems, had accepted the invitation and if he does travel to India, it will mark the first papal visit after 1999 when late Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the PM.
 - ✓ This was the first visit by an Indian PM to the Vatican in over two decades, the last being Vajpayee in 1999 when Pope John Paul II came to India.
 - ✓ As an effort to connect with the Christian community, the PM earlier addressed the celebration of the elevation to sainthood of Kuriakose Elias Chavara and Mother Euphrasia in February 2015
 - ✓ He also attended the 90th birth anniversary celebrations of Joseph Mar Thoma on June 27, 2020.
- **The Centre - has invited applications for the post of chairman of the stock market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to succeed Ajay Kumar Tyagi, whose five-year term is set to end in February.**
 - ✓ The department of economic affairs, a finance ministry wing, issued the notice on October 28.
 - ✓ The chairman shall hold office for such period not exceeding five years and shall not hold office beyond 65 years of age, whichever is earlier, and will be eligible for re-appointment.

- ✓ The appointment shall be made by the central government on the recommendation of the financial sector regulatory appointments search committee (FSRASC) as provided in the Sebi Terms and Conditions of Service of the Chairman and Members Rules, 1992.
- ✓ The FSRASC is empowered to identify and recommend any other person, who has not applied for the post, on the basis of merit.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The world's 20 biggest economies (G20) - are set to endorse a landmark deal on a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15% and will aim to implement the rules by 2023**
- ✓ This was revealed based on the draft conclusions of the two-day G20 summit which began on October 30.
- ✓ The G20 had called upon the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting to develop the model rules and multilateral instruments as agreed in the Detailed Implementation Plan
- ✓ Earlier this month, a major reform of the international tax system was finalised at the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) that will ensure that multinational enterprises (MNEs) will be subject to a minimum 15% tax rate from 2023.
- ✓ The landmark deal, agreed by 136 countries and jurisdictions representing more than 90% of global GDP, will also reallocate more than \$125 billion of profits from around 100 of the world's largest and most profitable MNEs to countries worldwide
- ✓ This will ensure that these firms pay a fair share of tax wherever they operate and generate profits.
- ✓ A total of 136 jurisdictions (out of the 140 members of the OECD/ G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS) joined the statement to address the tax challenges arising from the digitalisation of the economy.
- ✓ With Estonia, Hungary and Ireland having joined the agreement, it is now supported by all OECD and G20 countries.
- ✓ Four countries — Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan and Sri Lanka — have not yet joined the agreement.
- ✓ Pillar One will ensure a fairer distribution of profits and taxing rights among countries with respect to the largest and most profitable multinational enterprises.
- ✓ It will re-allocate some taxing rights over MNEs from their home countries to the markets where they have business activities and earn profits, regardless of whether firms have a physical presence there.
- ✓ Specifically, multinational enterprises with global sales above 20 billion euros and profitability above 10% will be covered by the new rules, with 25% of profit above the 10% threshold to be reallocated to market jurisdictions.

- ✓ Under Pillar One, taxing rights on more than \$125 billion of profit are expected to be reallocated to market jurisdictions each year.
- ✓ Pillar Two introduces a global minimum corporate tax rate set at 15%.
- ✓ The new minimum tax rate will apply to companies with revenue above 750 million euros and is estimated to generate around \$150 billion in additional global tax revenues annually.
- **The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - has authorized the emergency use of Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine in children between five and 11 years**
 - ✓ This is the first jab authorized against the virus for kids in this age group.
 - ✓ However, the shot will not be immediately available as the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention still needs to advise on how the shot should be administered

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **On October 30, Prime Minister Narendra Modi – addressed the G-20 Summit’s first session on global economy and health in Rome, Italy**



- ✓ During this address, the PM announced that India will produce over five billion doses of Covid vaccines for the country and the world by the end of 2022
- ✓ The PM also pointed to WHO’s delay in granting emergency use authorisation to India’s Covaxin
- ✓ He also pushed for recognition of vaccine certificates to facilitate international travel to move the world towards normalcy.
- ✓ The PM highlighted the fact that India has extended assistance to about 150 countries during the pandemic.
- ✓ He also invited G-20 nations to make India “their partner in economic recovery, supply chain diversification”.
- ✓ On October 31, PM Modi will join US President Joe Biden’s programme on supply chain resilience

- ✓ His other programmes would include a G20 session on climate change and environment, a bilateral meeting with the PM of Spain and a second session on sustainable development.
- ✓ On October 30, the PM had two formal bilateral meetings — with President Emmanuel Macron of France and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **India - is planning to build its first deep sea research vessel equipped to penetrate several metres into the seabed for exploration and map sediment and other resources**
 - ✓ It will also help the nation claim additional continental shelf, which is the seabed and the subsoil, beyond its exclusive economic zone.
 - ✓ The ship, which will be indigenously built at an estimated ₹1,200 crore, is part of India's ₹4,077 crore Deep Ocean Mission.
 - ✓ When ready, it will join the fleet of research vessels under the ministry of earth sciences (MoES)
 - ✓ The existing Indian research vessels can map the seafloor, while the new ship will be able to penetrate a few 100 metres below the seafloor and study the characteristics of the rocks and solid substances.
 - ✓ The design for the ship is ready and has already received cabinet approval.
 - ✓ The shipyard where the vessel will be built will be finalised by March 2022 and it may take another three years or so for the ship to be ready,
 - ✓ Apart from the atmospheric, oceanographic and seismic instruments, the vessel will also have a radar with a capability to reach 300km to forecast and track weather systems like cyclones.
 - ✓ India can claim continental shelf, which is the seabed or seafloor and the subsoil, beyond 200nm and upto 350nm if it can establish that the sediment thickness of about a kilometre depth has its origin from Indian inland region.
 - ✓ India's exclusive economic zone is upto 200nm but the continental shelf extends beyond that.
 - ✓ Sagar Kanya, another ocean research vessel, already had capabilities to send seismic signals but the sensors were dismantled due to the cumbersome process of maintenance.
 - ✓ Union minister Jitendra Singh sailed aboard the ocean research vessel, Sagar Nidhi from Chennai Port
 - ✓ Sagar Nidhi is an ice-class research vessel from Chennai-based National Institute of Ocean Technology

SPORTS

- **Indian Paddler G Sathiyam and Harmeet Desai - won the men's doubles title at the WTT Contender in Tunisia on October 30.**



- ✓ The duo defeated Frenchmen Emmanuel Lebesson and Alexandre Cassin 3-1 in the final.
- ✓ This is Sathiyan's maiden men's doubles title in ITTF Pro Tour events.
- ✓ Harmeet and Sathiyan were partnering for the first time since the 2018 Commonwealth Games.