



FVF RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS - October

TAMIL NADU

- **Chief Minister M K Stalin - is all set to launch the ward committee and area sabha in urban local bodies on November 1, celebrated as Local Bodies Day.**
- ✓ On November 1, all urban local bodies, corporations, municipalities and town panchayats would hold meetings of area sabhas, wherever they have been duly constituted
- ✓ During the day, Chief Minister would participate in an area sabha meeting at Ward 6 in Pammal of Tambaram municipal corporation
- ✓ The move is aimed at strengthening public participation in civic affairs and to hear the grievances of public.
- ✓ The Greater Chennai Corporation has planned to hold its ward committee meeting on January 26, Republic Day.
- ✓ This will be the first meeting since the rules to this effect were passed
- ✓ The number of area sabhas and ward committees will differ depending on the population of each urban local body.
- ✓ A ward committee, headed by the councillors, consists of members nominated from the area sabha
 - ✓ The chairperson of the ward committee will convene the meetings of the ward committee and the meetings should be convened once in three months.
 - ✓ Every meeting of the ward committee will be presided over by the chairperson
 - ✓ The quorum of the meeting will have a Chairperson and two members, as far as Corporations and Municipalities are concerned, and Chairperson and a member in case of town panchayats.
- ✓ An area sabha is an urbanised set up of grama sabha in which all the voters are members and assemble to discuss issues.

- ✓ In case of area sabha, each ward in a municipal area shall be divided into a number of areas based on the category of municipal areas
- ✓ In case of municipalities, there would be four area sabhas in a ward and in case of town panchayats there would be three area sabhas.
- ✓ As far as Corporations are concerned, if the population is below 5 lakh, there will be 4 to 5 area sabhas and if population is between 5 and 10 lakh, there would be six to nine area sabhas and in case of more than 10 lakh there would be 10 area sabhas.
- ✓ On June 24, Tamil Nadu government announced gazette notification on the rules for the formation of ward committees and area sabhas
- ✓ According to the notified Rules, the secretary of the ward committee and the secretary of the area sabha will be nominated from among the employees of the urban local bodies by the respective council
- ✓ In 2010, the-then DMK Government passed the Tamil Nadu Municipal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2010 (Act. No 35 of 2010) which mentioned the inclusion of area sabhas and ward committees in urban local self-government
- **For the first time, the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation (TNTEC) – to introduce medical textbooks in Tamil for the MBBS students joining college this year.**
- ✓ A total of four textbooks have been translated by the Corporation and will be released before December.
- ✓ The move is aimed at giving better conceptual clarity and understanding of the subject for Tamil medium students
- ✓ Overall, the TNTEC is planning to bring out 25 medical textbooks in Tamil.
- ✓ In the first phase, the corporation has translated four books -Gray's Anatomy for Students, Guyton and Hall Textbook of Medical Physiology, Bailey and Love's Short Practice of Surgery (Volume 1) and Mudaliar and Menon's Clinical Obstetrics.
- ✓ As many as thirty professors and practising doctors across the state were involved in translating the English textbooks for the past one year.
- ✓ There are 13 core textbooks for MBBS students, which will be translated in a phased manner to give conceptual clarity to medical students
- ✓ Though can students' study Tamil textbooks, they must write their exams only in English as per the existing regulations.
- ✓ In the first phase, 20 textbooks in Tamil for medical, engineering, agriculture and veterinary sciences will be released by the textbook corporation.
- **On October 28, the Tamil Nadu law department - constituted a committee on 'Review of Personal Laws'**
- ✓ The committee will function under the chairmanship of retired Madras high court judge M Satyanarayanan

- ✓ Recently, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel Public Grievances, Law and Justice, chaired by MP Sushil Kumar Modi, has identified the subject of 'Personal Laws' for detailed examination.
- ✓ In order to have a wider consultation, the state formed a four member committee to receive suggestions from stakeholders concerned and submit a report within 21 days.

STATES

- **The Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik - launched a common credit portal 'SAFAL' for farmers recently on October 27**



- ✓ SAFAL refers to 'Simplified Application For Agricultural Loans' and it is the country's first online agricultural credit facilitation portal
- ✓ The online credit facility will allow farmers and agri-entrepreneurs to gain access to over 300 term loan products from more than 40 partner banks
- ✓ The App is a one-stop-solution to avail credit from public and private sector banks, regional rural banks, state cooperative banks and small finance banks.
- ✓ This portal has been integrated with Krushak Odisha, which is an authentic database of farmers in the state, including small, marginal, and landless farmers and agricultural labourers

NATIONAL

- **On October 28, the government - has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2022**
- ✓ The new rules makes it mandatory for intermediaries like Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and other social media platforms to comply with the Constitution of India provisions and India's sovereign laws.
- ✓ According to the new rules, Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) will be set up in three months for addressing grievances of users against social media platforms

- ✓ Each grievance appellate committee shall consist of a chairperson and two whole-time members appointed by the Centre, of which one shall be a member ex-officio and two shall be independent members.
 - ✓ The amendments provide for social media platforms to acknowledge user complaints within 24 hours, and resolve them within 15 days thereafter
 - ✓ In case of a dispute, users have to appeal to the GAC through 'online' within 30 days of receiving a communication from a grievance officer
 - ✓ The GAC will endeavour to resolve users' complaints through digital mode within 30 days of the date of receiving the appeal
 - ✓ As per the new rules, social-media platforms will also have to prominently publish their rules, regulations, privacy policy, and user agreement in English or any of the 22 official languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, as the user chooses
 - ✓ Further, social media platforms must remove content that is unlawful or violates IP rights within 72 hours of reporting
 - ✓ Besides, the Rules mandate intermediaries to ensure content posted on its platform is not obscene, pornographic, paedophilic, invasive of another's privacy, hate speech, promoting illegal activities or threatening "the unity, integrity, defence, security or sovereignty of India"
 - ✓ It gives powers to the government to order social media giants such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube to overturn decisions such as suspending, blocking or removing user accounts over violations
 - ✓ The amended rules will come into effect immediately.
 - ✓ The government had, in February 2021, notified draft IT rules, which seeks to modify Information Technology Rules 2021 for social media apps, online news portals, news aggregators and OTT platforms
- **On October 28, the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) - issued a joint advisory against online PhD programmes offered by educational technology (EdTech) companies in collaboration with foreign educational institutions.**
- ✓ In a latest notice, the UGC reiterated that it is mandatory for all higher education institutions to follow UGC regulations and its amendments to award PhD degrees.
 - ✓ This is the second such warning this year to students by the higher education and the technical education regulators.
 - ✓ Earlier this year, the UGC and the AICTE had warned their recognised varsities and institutions against offering courses in distance learning and online mode in association with EdTech companies
 - ✓ Further, the UGC has also barred students pursuing PhD programmes from pursuing two academic degrees simultaneously under its new regulation.
 - ✓ In order to maintain the standards for awarding PhD degrees, the UGC has notified the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of MPhil, PhD degrees) Regulation 2016.

- ✓ In another set of regulations notified by the UGC in September allowing students to pursue two academic degrees in physical mode simultaneously, the regulator kept PhD programmes out of their ambit.
- ✓ In July, the central government had warned EdTech companies against unfair trade practices
- **The government - has restricted use of herbicide Glyphosate and its derivatives, fearing health hazards and risk to human beings/animals**
- ✓ Glyphosate and its formulations are widely registered and currently used in more than 160 countries, including the EU and the USA.
- ✓ Farmers across the globe have been using it for safe and effective weed control for over 40 years
- ✓ According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, the use of Glyphosate is restricted and no person shall use Glyphosate except Pest Control Operators (PCOs)
- ✓ The companies have been given three months time to return the certificate else strict action will be taken as per the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968.
- ✓ The final notification restricting Glyphosate comes more than two years after a draft was issued by the ministry on July 2, 2020.
- ✓ The draft was issued following a report from the Kerala government for prohibiting the distribution, sale and use of this herbicide
- ✓ Glyphosate is an herbicide that is applied on the leaves to kill both plants and grasses.
- ✓ It is a non-selective herbicide that can kill almost all plants by stopping them from producing specific proteins required for their growth.
- ✓ Pest control operators are licensed to use deadly chemicals for eliminating pests like rodents.
- ✓ Glyphosate is a popular herbicide in India
- ✓ Its usage became popular in the country after the illegal cultivation of Ht BT cotton started.
- ✓ It is mainly used in tea plantations to control the growth of unwanted plants and also used in non-crop areas to prevent plant growth.
- ✓ Glyphosate is banned because of its potential link to cancer and its role in causing deaths of important insects like bees.

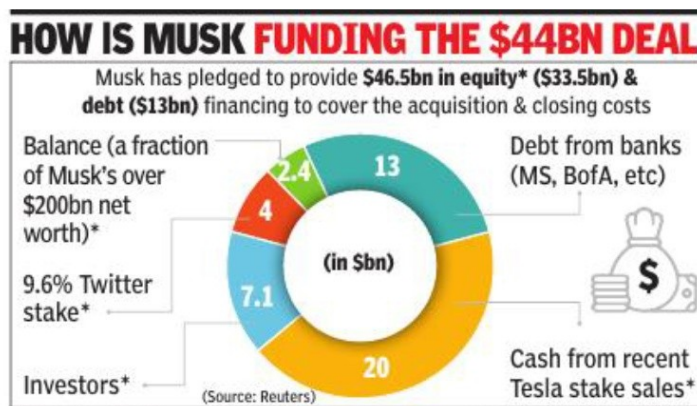
INTERNATIONAL

- **On October 28, Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk - took over the ownership of Twitter Inc., completing his \$44 billion acquisition of the micro-blogging platform**
- ✓ The takeover comes ahead of the October 29 deadline to complete his acquisition of Twitter or face a court battle with the company

- ✓ Musk took to his personal Twitter handle to announce that "the bird is freed" in an apparent reference to the takeover being completed, besides changing his Twitter account description to 'Chief Twit'



- ✓ After taking charge as Twitter's new boss, Elon Musk fired its recently appointed CEO Parag Agrawal, legal head Vijaya Gadde and three other top executives of the company
- ✓ He had accused them of misleading him and Twitter investors over the number of fake accounts on the social media platform.
- ✓ Parag Agrawal became the CEO of Twitter in November following the resignation of Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey.
 - ✓ Agrawal has been working with Twitter for almost a decade and was the chief technology officer before stepping into the CEO role.



- ✓ As Twitter's head of legal and policy issues, Gadde has overseen the creation and enforcement of rules for hundreds of millions of internet users

- ✓ The company permanently banned former US president Donald Trump in January 2021 following his supporters' attack on the Capitol.
 - ✓ The others shown the door included chief financial officer Ned Segal and general counsel Sean Edgett.
 - ✓ After taking over, Musk announced that Twitter will form a content moderation council with widely diverse viewpoints and no major content decisions or account reinstatements will happen before that council convenes
 - ✓ The \$44 billion acquisition of Twitter began on April 4 when Musk announced that he had a 9.2% stake in the company, making him the largest shareholder
 - ✓ In mid-May, Musk changed his mind about the purchase, citing concerns that the number of spam and fake accounts on the micro-blogging site was higher than what Twitter claimed.
 - ✓ After the announcement of Musk to terminate the deal, Twitter sued the billionaire for refusing to honour his obligations
 - ✓ In early October, ahead of the start of their trial, Musk again made a U-turn and offered to complete the deal.
- **For the first time ever, China's commercial capital of Shanghai - introduced a new type of Covid-19 vaccine that is inhaled rather than administered via injection.**
- ✓ Chinese regulators approved the vaccine for use as a booster in September.
 - ✓ The inhalable vaccine has been developed by the Chinese biopharmaceutical company CanSino Biologics Inc. as an aerosol version of its one-shot adenovirus vaccine, which uses a relatively harmless cold virus
 - ✓ The vaccine, a mist that is sucked in through the mouth, is being offered for free as a booster dose for previously vaccinated individuals
 - ✓ The inhaled vaccine has completed clinical trials in China, Hungary, Pakistan, Malaysia, Argentina and Mexico
 - ✓ In September this year, India's national drug regulator cleared Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech's iNCOVACC, the country's first intranasal Covid-19 vaccine for emergency use in unimmunised adults
 - ✓ iNCOVACC, which uses a modified chimpanzee adenovirus, will be delivered through the nasal route, which would potentially develop an immune response in the mucosal membrane

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The World Health Organisation (WHO) - released the first-ever list of fungal infections called "priority pathogens".**
- ✓ The fungal priority pathogens list (FPPL) includes 19 fungi that represent the greatest threat to human health.

- ✓ According to the UN body WHO, some strains are increasingly drug-resistant and are growing at an alarming rate.
- ✓ The WHO FPPL is divided into three categories -- critical, high and medium priority.
- ✓ These fungal pathogens are ranked in each priority category based on their impact on public health and/or emerging antifungal resistance risk
- ✓ The critical group includes *Candida auris*, which is a highly drug-resistant fungi, *Cryptococcus neoformans*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, and *Candida albicans*.
- ✓ The high priority group includes a number of other fungi from the *Candida* family as well as others such as *Mucorales*, a group containing "black fungus", an infection which rose rapidly in seriously ill people, particularly in India, during Covid-19.
- ✓ The medium priority group lists a number of other fungi, including *Coccidioides* spp and *Cryptococcus gattii*.
- ✓ The UN body already has released lists of viruses and bacteria that spread across causing dangerous health implications

DEFENCE

- **The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the French Air and Space Force (FASF) are set to participate in a bilateral exercise, named 'Garuda VII'.**



- ✓ The bilateral exercise is scheduled from October 26 to November 12 and is held at Air Force Station Jodhpur.
- ✓ According to Ministry of Defense, the exercise will see the participation of Su-30 MKI, Rafale, LCA Tejas, and Jaguar fighter aircraft from the fleet of the Indian Air Force
- ✓ Additionally, the newly inducted Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand and the widely-used Mi-17 helicopters would also take part in the exercise
- ✓ Moreover, the IAF contingent will also include Flight Refueling Aircraft, Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS), and Airborne Early Warning and Control systems (AEW&Cs)
- ✓ The FASF's participation in the exercise will see four Rafale fighter aircraft, one A-330 Multi Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) aircraft, and a contingent of 220 FASF personnel

- ✓ The two-week-long exercise will provide a platform for both the participating Air Forces to enhance their operational synergy and strengthen defence cooperation.
 - ✓ This is the seventh edition of the Garuda exercise.
 - ✓ The first, third, and fifth editions were hosted by India in 2003, 2006, and 2014 at Air Force Stations in Gwalior, Kalaikunda, and Jodhpur, respectively.
 - ✓ France hosted the second, fourth, and sixth editions in the years 2005, 2010, and 2019.
 - ✓ In August, a French Air and Space Force contingent, including three Rafale jets, made a strategically crucial stopover at the IAF's Sullur base in Tamil Nadu as part of a mega military operation it carried out in the Pacific Ocean.
- **The Indian Navy - is hosting the 29th edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) from October 26 to 30 at Visakhapatnam.**



- ✓ Two ships from the Singapore Navy, RSS Stalwart (a Formidable Class Frigate) and RSS Vigilance (a Victory Class Corvette) arrived in Visakhapatnam for participation in the exercise.
- ✓ The exercise is being conducted in two phases – Harbour Phase at Visakhapatnam till October 27 followed by the Sea Phase in Bay of Bengal
- ✓ The Harbour Phase witnessed extensive professional and sporting interactions between the two navies, including cross-deck visits, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEE) and planning meetings
- ✓ The Sea Phase involves advanced surface, anti-air warfare and anti-submarine warfare exercises, including weapon firings in the Bay of Bengal
- ✓ SIMBEX series of exercises began in 1994 and were initially known as Exercise Lion King.

SPORTS

- **On October 28, the Olympic Refugee Foundation (ORF) and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team – was honoured with the 2022 Princess of Asturias Award for Sports from the Princess of Asturias Foundation in Oviedo, Spain.**

- ✓ The award was presented by Her Royal Highness Leonor, The Princess of Asturias, to IOC President Thomas Bach.



- ✓ He was accompanied by Refugee Olympic Team members Eldric Sella (boxing) and Masomah Ali Zada (cycling) , who both competed at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020
- ✓ The award recognises the opportunities that the ORF and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team provide to young displaced people around the world to access sport and excel in all aspects of their lives

