



## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-October** **TAMIL NADU**

- On September 30, Chief Minister MK Stalin - inaugurated the commercial production of Taiwan's Pegatron Technology India Pvt Ltd at Mahindra World City in Chengalpattu district near Chennai.



- ✓ Pegatron, a Taiwan headquartered company and one of Apple's contracted manufacturers of the iPhone, has invested Rs 1,100 crore in this smart phone manufacturing project
- ✓ Through this investment, Pegatron will generate 14,000 jobs in the factory — in line with the memorandum of understanding that the company signed with the Tamil Nadu state government in February last year.
- ✓ Pegatron is the third Apple vendor to have set up a factory in India after Foxconn and Wistron.
- ✓ The company has been running trial production of the iPhone for the last six to eight months
- ✓ The plant was set up under the Centre's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme.

- ✓ Pegatron is the second largest smartphone supplier of Apple phones and the company which has established its plant in various parts of the world is one of the leaders in smartphone manufacturing.
  - ✓ At the event, Union Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Rajeev Chandrasekhar, along with ministers from Tamil Nadu were present.
  - ✓ The development comes at a time when Foxconn, another contract iPhone maker, is about to manufacture iPhone 14 at its Chennai plant
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu, with its electronics manufacturing hubs in Sriperumbudur near Chennai, Hosur and Coimbatore, has 20% of the country's production capacity.
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu has received large investments from Foxconn, Dell, Ascent Circuits, and Bharat FIH (the India-focussed Foxconn entity making phones like Xiaomi), under the Production Linked Incentive scheme to ramp up capacities.
- **The Greater Chennai Corporation - has planned to set up model schools to equip students to face competitive entrance exams of premier educational institutions in the country such as IITs.**
- ✓ The idea of model schools is said to be the brainchild of principal secretary to chief minister T Udhayachandran.
  - ✓ To begin with, the corporation school in Nungambakkam will be upgraded as a model with necessary facilities and labs to train students in biology, physics, chemistry and maths.
  - ✓ As per a recent council resolution, a total of 160 students from Classes 11 and 12, including 80 boys and 80 girls, will be identified to be trained for an academic year.
  - ✓ The government has tied up with agencies to provide specialised teachers to train the students.
  - ✓ The corporation has estimated that it will cost about Rs.1.8 crore to train 160 students with the help of 15 teachers identified for the programme
  - ✓ The programme will soon be expanded to many other schools across Chennai in the coming months.

## STATES

- **On September 30, the Karnataka government - enacted the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, 2021.**
- ✓ Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot had given his assent to the anti-conversion bill on September 28 and the government has now issued a gazette notification which formally passes it into law.
  - ✓ The government had tabled the bill in the legislative assembly in the winter session in Belagavi last year

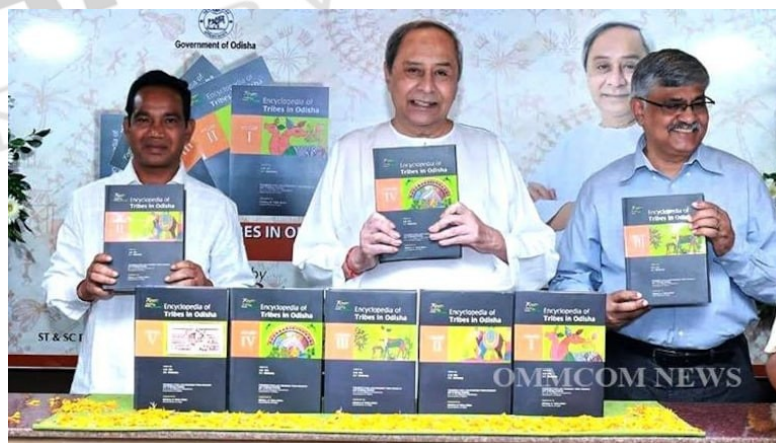
- ✓ But the controversial bill was passed in the legislative council only last month during the monsoon session, since the BJP did not have a majority in the Upper House.
  - ✓ The government, meanwhile, enacted provisions of the bill through an ordinance in May
  - ✓ Besides other provisions, the law states that those who are converted will lose government benefits meant for their original religion.
  - ✓ Attempts at conversion under force or allurements will attract a jail term of up to five years and a fine up to Rs. 2 lakh.
- **The Uttar Pradesh (UP) cabinet - approved the notification of the state's fourth tiger reserve in the Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary (RWS) in Chitrakoot district under the Wild life (Protection) Act of 1972**



- ✓ The Ranipur Tiger Reserve will be the fourth in UP, after Dudhwa, Pilibhit and Amangarh (buffer of Corbett Tiger Reserve).
- ✓ It will also be the first in the state's portion of the Bundelkhand region, which it shares with neighbouring Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ The Ranipur Tiger Reserve has tropical dry deciduous forests and is home to animals such as tigers, leopards, sloth bears, spotted deer, sambhar, chinkara and a number of birds and reptiles
- ✓ A Ranipur Tiger Conservation Foundation will also be established for the protection and conservation of tigers in the region.
- ✓ The tiger reserve will span across 529.89 square kilometres (sq km), with a 299.58 sq km buffer zone and 230 sq km core area, which was already notified as the RWS in 1977
- ✓ There are 50 Tiger Reserves in India spread across an area of 72,749 sq km, which is 2.21% of India's geographical area.
- ✓ They are governed by Project Tiger, which comes under the jurisdiction of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- ✓ Project Tiger was launched in 1973 to protect Bengal tiger population in its natural habitat.
- ✓ There were 2,967 tigers in India according to the NTCA's estimation in 2018.



- ✓ Uttar Pradesh had 173 tigers, with 107 in Dudhwa National Park and 65 in Pilibhit
- **The Calcutta High Court - declared the 'Duare Ration Scheme' (ration at the doorstep) of West Bengal government is 'illegal' and against the National Food Security Act, 2013**
  - ✓ The court was of the view that doorstep delivery of foodgrains can be provided only if the Act is amended by the Central Government to enable the same or to provide such power to the state government
  - ✓ The scheme was launched by the West Bengal government on November 15, 2021, under which ration items were provided at the doorsteps of more than 10 crore beneficiaries
  - ✓ Under the scheme, around 21,000 ration dealers were provided with the financial assistance of Rs.1 lakh each to purchase vehicles for delivering the rations at the doorstep.
  - ✓ It was promised as part of chief minister's election manifesto before the 2021 assembly elections and implemented after the Trinamool Congress (TMC) came to power for the third straight term
  - ✓ A similar scheme was launched by the Delhi Government but it was halted by the Delhi High Court.
- **Odisha - became the first state in the country to release an encyclopaedia on tribal communities and document their historic and unique traditions**
  - ✓ The 'Encyclopedia of Tribes in Odisha' was released by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.



- ✓ The five volumes of encyclopaedia were published by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI) and Odisha State Tribal Museum.
- ✓ This 3,800-page book has 418 research articles focusing on tribal communities, including 13 particularly vulnerable groups.
- ✓ Odisha has 62 tribes and account for 22.85% of tribal population
- ✓ In 2018, the state government unveiled a tribal atlas having 60 plates of maps featuring the distributional aspects of the Odisha's tribal population, ecological

settings of the tribal habitats and the tribes' socio-cultural characteristics like linguistic affinity, sex composition and literary levels.

- ✓ SCSTRTI is the oldest tribal research institute in India.
- ✓ It was established as the Tribal Research Bureau (TRB) in 1952 and was later renamed as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI) in 1994.
- ✓ Till date, it has been publishing its 61-year-old research journal titled "ADIVASI".

## NATIONAL

- **On September 30, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - dedicated phase 1 of the Ahmedabad metro project — a 21-km corridor between Thaltej and Vastrapur**
- ✓ The PM also flagged off the Gandhinagar-Mumbai Central Vande Bharat Express from Gandhinagar Railway Station.



- ✓ He travelled in the Vande Bharat Express from Gandhinagar to Ahmedabad and, in Ahmedabad, on the metro from Kalupur to Doordarshan tower.
- ✓ The train is equipped with the indigenous 'KAVACH' technique, which is an automatic protection system that prevents two trains from colliding.
- ✓ The indigenously developed semi-high-speed train will attain a speed from 0-100 km within 52 seconds.
- ✓ The new train can reach the maximum speed of 160 km per hour in 129 seconds, around 16 seconds faster than the other Vande Bharat trains.
- ✓ The train is equipped with recliner 180-degree rotating seats, sliding footsteps, touch-free sliding doors and automated plug doors, while the coach control management system will regulate the temperature.
- ✓ The GSM/GPRS will be used for communication and feedback with Control Centre and maintenance staff.
- ✓ The internal air in the train is filtered through photo catalytic ultra violet air purification system with UV lamp that deactivates 99% of germs
- ✓ The new coaches have a centralized coach monitoring system through CCTV cameras and the internal network supports data at 1 gigabyte per second

- ✓ The latest version has a budget of over Rs 115 crore, which is Rs 15 crore higher than the previous version
  - ✓ The Union Government, in its Budget 2022, announced a 2,000-km rail network under the 'KAVACH' technique
  - ✓ Two Vande Bharat trains are currently operational in the country – one from New Delhi to Varanasi and the other in New Delhi to Katra.
  - ✓ The first Vande Bharat Express train was launched in 2019 on the New Delhi-Kanpur-Allahabad-Varanasi route.
  - ✓ Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Union Minister of State for Railways Darshana Jardosh were present during the event
  - ✓ The PM wrapped up his two-day visit by visiting Ambaji in north Gujarat, where he commissioned or laid the foundation of several projects in the region.
- **On September 30, the four-month southwest monsoon season - ended with the country recording “above normal” rainfall at 6% higher than the long period average.**
- ✓ Overall, this was the fourth consecutive year of “normal” or “above normal” monsoon in the country since 2019.
  - ✓ Despite this, east and northeast India saw 18% rain deficiency, according to data maintained by India Meteorological Department (IMD).
  - ✓ There is 1% excess rain over northwest India; 19% excess over central India and 22% excess over peninsular India.
  - ✓ Telangana reported 46% excess rainfall during the season, followed by Karnataka (29%), Gujarat (28%), Madhya Pradesh (24%) and Maharashtra (23%).
  - ✓ The states with the highest rainfall deficiency include Manipur with 47%; Bihar with 31%; Uttar Pradesh with 28% deficit; Tripura 24%; Mizoram 22% and Jharkhand with 21%
  - ✓ West Bengal, the top rice producing state in the country, saw 17% deficient rains, directly impacting paddy sowing in the state
  - ✓ While presenting its long-range forecast on June 1, IMD had said that monsoon rainfall this year was likely to be “normal” at 103% of LPA a model error of +/-4%.
  - ✓ LPA is the average rainfall calculated for the 1971 to 2020 period, which is 87 cm of rain between June to September
  - ✓ Monsoon rainfall less than 90% of LPA is considered “deficient”; 90 to 96% of LPA is considered “below normal”; 96% to 104% is “normal”; 104 to 110% is considered “above normal” and over 110% of LPA is considered “excess”.
  - ✓ The last time India saw four consecutive years of normal or above normal monsoons was 14 years ago, between 2005 and 2008, according to IMD
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu, which usually receives rains during the north-east monsoon season beginning October, received 477.3 mm rainfall this year from the south west monsoon

- ✓ It was 47% excess in comparison to the normal of 323.6 mm for the south-west monsoon season between June and September
  - ✓ According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the south-west monsoon season begins on June 1 and ends on September 30
  - ✓ The India Meteorological Department (IMD), meanwhile, predicted that the northeast (winter) monsoon season (October-December) rainfall over south peninsular India is “most likely to be ‘normal’ at 88%-112% of the long period average.
  - ✓ The LPA of rainfall over south India during the October to December season, based on data from 1971 to 2020, is about 334.13 mm.
  - ✓ IMD has forecast normal rainfall for Tamil Nadu, including Chennai, in the northeast monsoon season beginning mid-October.
  - ✓ South India, consisting of five meteorological subdivisions (Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikkal; coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam; Rayalaseema; Kerala & Mahe and south interior Karnataka), receives about 30% of its annual rainfall during the northeast monsoon season.
  - ✓ The Tamil Nadu subdivision gets about 48% of its annual rainfall during the winter monsoon.
- **On September 30, Union shipping minister Sarabhananda Sonowal - unveiled projects worth Rs.231.21 crore in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu**



- ✓ The Minister laid the foundation stone for Rs.100 crore Tuticorin SPEEDZ, a special economic zone for development of Port-based Industries on 1,300 acres near V O Chidambaranar Port.
- ✓ SPEEDZ is a coastal employment unit land owned by the port which will be provided to nearby industries like oil refineries, hydrogen and other allied industries for export and import oriented activities
- ✓ Sonowal also laid the foundation stone for several harbor infrastructure projects
- ✓ This included the Smart Port projects, India's first indigenously developed Vessel Traffic System at the cost of Rs.2.29 crore



- ✓ The development of indigenous system would eliminate the need of relying on proprietary and costly foreign-made software solutions.
- ✓ The Minister laid the foundation stone for Integrative Medicine & AYUSH Unit and VOC Maritime Heritage Museum at a total cost of Rs.1.78 crore.
- **The Central government - has extended the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in three districts of Arunachal Pradesh and nine districts of Nagaland for six months**
  - ✓ The order will come into effect from October 1.
  - ✓ Nagaland has 16 districts while Arunachal Pradesh has 26 districts.
  - ✓ Union Home Minister Amit Shah had on March 31 announced to reduce the operation of AFSPA from April 1 in Assam, Nagaland, and Manipur.
  - ✓ The AFSPA allows the Army and other central para-military forces to conduct raids, operations, arrest anyone anywhere without prior notice or arrest warrant
  - ✓ The Act gives armed forces the power to prohibit a gathering of five or more people in a "disturbed area".
  - ✓ It also allows security personnel to use force and even open fire after due warning in the case of a breach of law and order.
  - ✓ The Act was in force in Nagaland, Assam, Manipur barring the Imphal municipal council area and certain districts of Arunachal Pradesh
- **President Droupadi Murmu - inaugurated Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) Integrated Cryogenic Engine Manufacturing Facility (ICMF) in Bengaluru recently on September 27**



- ✓ She also laid the foundation stone for the Zonal Institute of Virology (South Zone) virtually on the occasion
- ✓ Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, among others, accompanied the President.
- ✓ On January 5, 2014, India successfully flew GSLV-D5 with a cryogenic engine and became the sixth country in developing cryogenic engines after the US, China, Russia, Japan and France



- ✓ The cryogenic engine is utilised by the ISRO in its satellite launch vehicles.
  - ✓ At present, HAL Aerospace Division manufactures liquid propellant tanks and launch vehicle structures of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV MK-II), GSLV Mk-III and also stage integration for GSLV MK-II
  - ✓ The state-of-the-art ICMF, set up over an area of 4,500 square metres, houses over 70 hi-tech equipment and testing facilities for manufacturing cryogenic (CE20) and semi-cryogenic (SE2000) engines of Indian rockets
  - ✓ Semi-cryogenic engine uses refined kerosene as a fuel instead of liquid hydrogen, which is used by cryogenic engines
  - ✓ In 2013, an MOU was signed with ISRO for establishing the facility for manufacturing of Cryogenic Engine modules at HAL, Aerospace Division.
  - ✓ The MOU for the Cryogenic Engine facility was subsequently amended in the year 2016 with an investment of Rs. 208 crore towards setting up of Integrated Cryogenic Engine Manufacturing Facility (ICMF).
- **The government - launched the indigenously-developed AVGAS 100 LL, a special aviation fuel meant for piston engine aircrafts and unmanned ariel vehicles**
- ✓ Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri launched the fuel at Hindon air base recently on September 26, 2022



- ✓ The fuel has been developed by Indian Oil Corporation at Vadodara, Gujarat and it has been tested and certified by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)
- ✓ AVGAS 100 LL is a higher-octane Aviation fuel meeting the product specifications with superior performance quality standards, as compared to imported grades
- ✓ Currently, India is importing this fuel product from European countries for use in turbo-charged reciprocating piston engines aircrafts, mainly used by Flying Training Organisations (FTOs) and defence forces for training pilots.

**INTERNATIONAL**

- **The US State of Florida – witnessed the crossing of Hurricane Ian, one of the most powerful storms in the US history**
- ✓ After severe intensification, Ian crossed the coast from the Gulf of Mexico as a Category 4 hurricane on September 28, equipped with catastrophic 160-250 kmph gusts
- ✓ It made landfall near Cayo Costa with the maximum sustained wind speed of 150 mph, only 7 mph slower than a Category 5 – the highest status of the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale of Hurricane Intensity



- ✓ The devastating storm has adversely affected millions of people in the US states of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.
- ✓ Earlier, this storm has caused complete power outage in Cuba, after hitting the country as Category 3 storm.
- ✓ Category 5 hurricanes have occurred only four times in the history of the US with one of them hitting Mississippi and the rest making landfall in Florida.

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises - organized a ‘National SC-ST Hub Conclave’ at Ahmedabad, Gujarat on 28th September 2022**



- ✓ The conclave was organized to spread awareness about the National SC-ST Hub (NSSH) Scheme and other Schemes of the Ministry.

- ✓ Member of Parliament & Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki was invited as the Chief Guest for the event
- ✓ More than 300 SC-ST entrepreneurs participated in the event.
- ✓ The conclave provided a platform to aspiring and existing SC-ST entrepreneurs to interact with Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), lending institutions among other stakeholders
- ✓ The National Scheduled Caste Scheduled Tribe Hub (NSSH) scheme is aimed at capacity enhancement and promoting entrepreneurship culture amongst the SC-ST population for enhancing their participation in the public procurement.
- ✓ It is implemented by the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), which is a public sector undertaking under the MSME ministry.

## PERSONALITIES

- **The Supreme Court Collegium– is learnt to have recommended the Centre the transfer of Chief Justice (CJ) of Orissa High Court, Justice S Muralidhar, as the CJ of the Madras High Court**



- ✓ The SC Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India U U Lalit is also learnt to have finalised names for Chief Justices of three other High Courts – Karnataka, Rajasthan and Bombay
- ✓ While Karnataka and Rajasthan CJI posts are vacant, Bombay too is likely to fall vacant soon as sitting CJ Dipankar Datta's name has been recommended for elevation to the SC
- ✓ The Madras High Court Chief Justice post had fallen vacant following the retirement of Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari on September 12
- ✓ Justice Muralidhar enrolled as an advocate in September 1984 and practiced in the Madras High Courts before shifting to Delhi HC and Supreme Court.
- ✓ In May 2006, he was appointed Additional Judge of Delhi High Court and was made Permanent Judge in August 2007.
- ✓ In March 2020, he was transferred to Punjab and Haryana High Court from where he was elevated as Chief Justice of the Orissa HC on January 4, 2021.



# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Researchers from Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) - have developed an indigenous equipment to safely dismantle explosive shells and ammunition.**
  - ✓ The technical expertise for this technology is not readily available in India and globally.
  - ✓ The development of a cost-effective prototype will enable Indian defence personnel, particularly in the defence and nuclear sectors, to safely dismantle expired ammunition
  - ✓ The researchers developed the prototype using 'abrasive water suspension jet technology (AWSJ)'.
  - ✓ This technology has an advantage over other dismantling technologies due to its ability to cut almost any material with negligible heat generation.
  - ✓ The prototype was recognised as the 'best one for the outstanding contributions' made among the projects funded by the combustion detonics and shock waves panel under the Armament Research Board (ARMREB).
  - ✓ The project was taken up in collaboration with terminal ballistics research laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- **The DRDO - successfully flight tested the 'Very Short Range Air Defence System' (VSHORADS) missile in Chandipur off the coast of Odisha recently on September 27, 2022**



- ✓ The VSHORADS is a Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD) designed and developed indigenously by Hyderabad-based Research Centre Imarat of the DRDO in collaboration with other DRDO facilities and various Indian industry partners.
- ✓ The DRDO conducted two successful test flight of the missile, which is meant for neutralising low altitude aerial threats at short ranges, from a ground based portable launcher



- ✓ The Indian Army currently has Air Defence Guns L-70 and ZU-23 for this purpose, which have already served over 40 years

## DEFENCE

- **The Indian Air Force (IAF) - has kicked off the phased retirement of its existing four MiG-21 'Bison' fighter squadrons**
- ✓ The first squadron in Srinagar being "number-plated" for the purpose on September 30

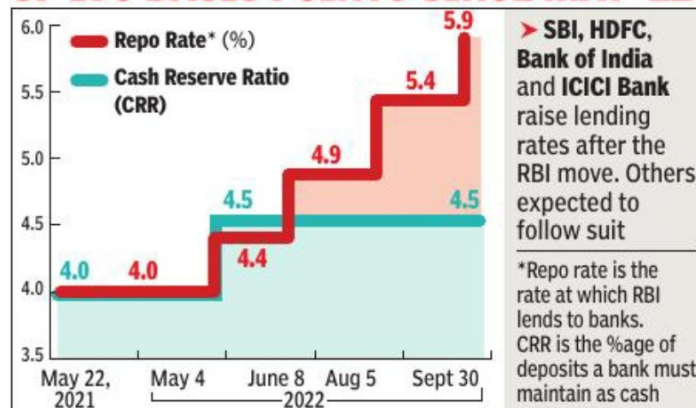


- ✓ It has been replaced by a MiG-29 squadron for air defence of the critical region.
- ✓ The Srinagar-based '51 Sword arms' Squadron of MiG-21s thwarted Pakistan Air Force's retaliation a day after the IAF's pre-dawn air strikes on the Jaish-e-Mohammed facility at Balakot on February 26, 2019.
- ✓ Group Captain Abhinandan Varthaman, then a Wing Commander, was awarded a Vir Chakra for shooting down an F-16, while his MiG-21 also went down during the aerial attack on that day.
- ✓ The other three squadrons of the single-engine MiG-21s will be phased out by 2025
- ✓ These three MiG-21 squadrons are presently based in Uttarlai, Suratgarh and Nal in Rajasthan.
- ✓ These single-engine MiG-21s were the first truly supersonic fighters to be inducted by IAF in 1963

## ECONOMY

- **On September 30, Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) - voted 5-1 to increase its key policy rate by 50 basis points for the fourth time in five months.**
- ✓ The latest repo rate hike, aimed at keeping the inflation levels within the target, will make all borrowings, home loans included, more expensive.
- ✓ RBI governor Shaktikanta Das announced the decision of the MPC to increase in the repo rate to a three year high of 5.9%

## UP 190 BASIS POINTS SINCE MAY '22



- ✓ After the recent hike, the repo rate has been increased by a total of 1.9% (50 bps +140 bps) since the first unscheduled hike in May.
  - ✓ RBI is the latest among the central banks worldwide that have followed in the footsteps of the US Federal Reserve, which hiked interest rates by 75 basis points on September 21.
  - ✓ Last month, the MPC had announced an increase of the repo rate by another 50 basis points – one basis point is one hundredth of a percentage point taking it to 5.4%, a level last seen in September 2019.
  - ✓ It was the third consecutive rate hike by the MPC since its unscheduled May 2022 meeting
  - ✓ Repo is the rate at which the central bank lends short-term funds to banks
  - ✓ Further, the Reserve Bank of India cut its GDP forecast for 2022-23 to 7% from the earlier 7.2% but retained the inflation projection for the fiscal year at 6.7%.
  - ✓ It expects second quarter GDP growth at 6.3%; third quarter at 4.6% and fourth quarter at 4.6%.
  - ✓ Core sector data released during the day showed that growth slowed to a nine-month low of 3.3% in August from 4.5% in July as against 12.2% in August 2021.
- **The RBI - is going ahead with the deadline of September 30, 2022 for tokenisation of cards, without any more extension of deadline**
- ✓ The deadline for implementation of tokenisation was extended for the third time in June as the payments industry had asked for more time to avoid disruptions.
  - ✓ Tokenisation is replacing the debit or credit card details with a token issued by the operating bank to make all e-payments safe, secure, convenient, quick and affordable
  - ✓ It is a process by which card details are replaced by a unique code or token, generated by an algorithm, allowing online purchases without exposing card details, in a bid to improve data security.
  - ✓ That means, now while paying for something online, a user will not punch in the 16 digits engraved on his or her card

- ✓ With this, customer's card information will no longer be available on any merchant, Payment Gateway, or third-party platforms like e-commerce, food delivery and streaming services
  - ✓ All token-based transactions are considered safer as the actual details will not be shared with the merchants, entities and cannot be misused any further.
  - ✓ Companies like Razorpay, PhonePe, Worldline and Pine Labs provide the bridge for these services between banks and merchants.
  - ✓ However, if a customer chooses to not have their card tokenised on any platform for making payments, they can still make payments by entering the 16-digit card number as well as card expiry date and CVV number along with the two-factor authentication code
  - ✓ The tokenization policy was first introduced by the RBI in January 2019 and the initial deadline for the system was December 31, 2021
- **The commerce ministry - has extended the existing foreign trade policy (FTP) (2015-20) by another six months till March 2023**
- ✓ The extension of the current foreign trade policy is attributed to global economic uncertainty and currency volatility, following requests from export promotion councils and leading exporters.
  - ✓ Currently the USD is at a 22-year high and the Indian Rupee has hit an all-time low of 81.6 against the dollar and hence the current geo-political situation is not favorable for the adoption of long-term foreign policy FTP 2022-27
  - ✓ FTP is a set of guidelines and instructions by DGFT in matters related to importing and exporting goods in India.
  - ✓ The existing policy came into force on April 1, 2015, and was valid for five years – till 2020
  - ✓ Later, it was extended for one year because of the “unprecedented” situation due to Covid-19 pandemic and was subsequently extended every six months upto September 30, 2022
  - ✓ The objective of FTP 2022-27 is to provide strategy to increase India's share in the global trade to 10% by 2047 and 3% by 2027 from the existing 2.1%
  - ✓ The new FTP was aimed at complementing the overall objective of achieving a \$2 trillion target for merchandise exports and services exports each by 2027.
  - ✓ Pharmaceuticals, gems and jewellery, marine and agriculture, textiles, leather, engineering goods, electronics and telecom products and chemicals will be focus sectors of this policy
  - ✓ According to the latest provisional data released by the commerce ministry on September 14, India's merchandise exports in August saw less than 2% year-on-year growth at \$33.92 billion while imports surged 37.28%.
- **E-commerce major, Amazon - has rolled out its live commerce feature 'Amazon Live' in India during the ongoing Great Indian Festival sale**

- ✓ The Amazon Live feature allows customers to directly interact with content creators who showcase products, answer customer questions in real-time, run polls, and offer limited-duration deals.
- ✓ The e-commerce company will run 15 live streams every day from 10 am to 1 am.
- ✓ Over 150 content creators are live streaming during the ongoing sale on diverse topics ranging from beauty tips, fashion, electronics, parenting, etc.
- ✓ Amazon's launch follows a similar offering that was tested out and launched by Flipkart on its app earlier in 2022.
- ✓ Amazon itself had introduced a similar live commerce feature in the North America market in the past.

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Senior Advocate R Venkataramani – will take over as the 16th Attorney General for India from October 1, 2022**



- ✓ He will succeed K K Venugopal whose term comes to an end on September 30
- ✓ Venkataramani appointment is for a period of three years from the date he enters his office
- ✓ Earlier this week, Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi had turned down the offer of the Central Government to be the next Attorney General
- ✓ Born on April 13, 1950 in Puducherry, Venkatamanani has practised in various branches of law, prominently constitutional law, law of indirect taxes, human rights law, civil and criminal laws, consumer law, as well as law relating to services.
- ✓ Venkataramani got enrolled as a lawyer in the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu in July 1977 and started practising in the Supreme Court in 1979
- ✓ He was designated as senior advocate by the apex court in 1997.
- ✓ In 2010, he was appointed member of the Law Commission, and reappointed for a further term in 2013
- ✓ He has represented the central government, several state governments, universities, public sector undertakings in their major litigations in the Supreme Court and various high courts
- ✓ Venkataramani had been senior special counsel for Tamil Nadu



- ✓ Venkatramani was invited to speak at the workshop jointly organised by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and International Commission of Jurists at Geneva in 2001.
- ✓ The workshop was designed to submit a report to the Human Rights Commission, on the Optional Protocol to the International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), 1966.
- ✓ He was further involved by the International Court of Justice with its activities in the Afro-Asian region, particularly pertaining to ICESCR.
- ✓ The attorney general is the top law officer of the Centre and enjoys the right to appear in any court in India.
- ✓ Besides handling government litigations, the AG also advises the government on complex legal issues.
- ✓ Mukul Rohatgi served as the AG from June 2014 to June 2017.
- ✓ He was succeeded by Venugopal, who was appointed to the post in July 2017 and then re-appointed for three months on June 29.
- ✓ On his third extension, he told the government that he didn't want to continue after September 30.

## AWARDS

- **On September 30, President Droupadi Murmu - conferred the Dada Saheb Phalke Award on veteran actor Asha Parekh at the 68th National Film Awards.**



- ✓ Parekh, who received the award two days before her 80th birthday, said she was grateful for the recognition.
- ✓ The veteran actor has spent over six decades in the film industry as actor, director, producer and as CBFC chairperson
- ✓ President Murmu also gave away the 68<sup>th</sup> National Film Awards during the event
- ✓ Kerala's tribal folk singer Nanjamma, who won in the Best Playback Singer category, received a standing ovation from the audiences when she took the stage to receive her citation.

- ✓ The best feature film award was given to the Tamil film Soorarai Pottru, while Hindi film Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior' got the Award for best popular film providing wholesome entertainment.
  - ✓ Tamil actor, Suriya received the best actor award for the film, Soorarai Pottru along with Ajay Devgn, who received the best actor award for the film, Tanhaji : The Unsung Warrior
  - ✓ Tamil actress, Aparna Balamurali was awarded the best actress award for Soorarai Pottru.
  - ✓ Sachidanandan KR received best director award for Malayalam film AK Ayyappanum Koshiyum.
  - ✓ Union information and broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Dr. L Murugan, among others, were present during the event.
- **Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya – gave away the Ayushman Utkrishtata Awards to the top performers in the implementation of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri – Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) recently**



- ✓ The two-day Arogya Manthan 2022, celebrating completion of 4years of Ayushman Bharat PMJAY, and one year of Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission, concluded in New Delhi on September 26
- ✓ The National Health Authority, the implementing agency of the AB PMJAY, presented the Ayushman Utkrishtata Puraskaar (Ayushman Excellence Awards).
- ✓ The Ayushman Utkrishtata Puraskaar 2022 were awarded to Andhra Pradesh (Top Performing State/UT), Parvathipuram Manyam in Andhra Pradesh (Top Performing District) and district Hospital Dharwad in Karnataka (Top Performing Government Facility)
- ✓ Other states which bagged the awards include Kerala, Meghalaya, Gujarat, Manipur, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh (Best Performing States), Chandigarh and Jammu and Kashmir (Best Performing UTs).

- ✓ Further, National Informatics Centre won the award for the top government integrator with highest number of health records linked to Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA), while Eka Care bagged the award for the best private integrator with the highest number of health records linked to ABHA
- ✓ AB PMJAY, the largest government-funded health insurance scheme, was launched on September 23, 2018.
- ✓ This cashless and paperless scheme provides up to Rs.5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary healthcare hospitalizations.
- ✓ This scheme provides assistance for 10.74 crore vulnerable families across India.
- ✓ Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) is a unique health ID launched by the National Health Authority (NHA).
- ✓ It uses a 14-digit identification number that is generated using Aadhaar card or mobile number.
- ✓ It allows users to digitally share their health records with hospitals, clinics, insurance providers and other concerned stakeholders.

## SPORTS

- **On September 30, MotoGP - confirmed that it will race in India from 2023 with provisional dates set at September 22-24**
- ✓ This marks the return of a major motorsport event in the country after Formula 1's departure nine years ago.
- ✓ The racing event will be held at the Buddh International Circuit, which staged Formula 1 from 2011 to 2013.
- ✓ With this, India will become the 31st country to host a motorcycle Grand Prix next year.
- ✓ India has been listed as the 14th round, to be held in September, in a 21-race provisional calendar.
- ✓ MotoGP's commercial rights holder Dorna had visited India earlier this month to sign a seven-year MoU with Indian race promoters Fairstreet Sports (FSS).
- ✓ They had also held meetings with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur.

## RANKINGS

- **India's largest stock trading platform Zerodha's cofounder Nikhil Kamath - has topped the 'IIFL Wealth Hurun India 40 & Under Self-Made Rich List 2022' with a net worth of Rs 17,500 crore.**
- ✓ Ola cofounder Bhavish Agarwal came second with a wealth of Rs 11,700 crore
- ✓ Divyank Turakhia of Media.net was ranked at third place in the rich list with a wealth of Rs 11,200 crore, followed by Nakul Aggarwal and Ritesh Arora of BrowserStack both at fourth with Rs 9,900 crore each
- ✓ The List ranks self-made Indian entrepreneurs, aged forty years and under, with a wealth of Rs 1,000 crore



- ✓ Cofounder of Confluent, a streaming data technology company, Neha Narkhede at 37 is the youngest self-made woman entrepreneur in India
- ✓ The 19-year-old Kaivalya Vohra, the founder of quick commerce startup Zepto, is the youngest self-made entrepreneur on the list
- ✓ The Hurun India rich list has 53 entrepreneurs under 40 years of age.
- ✓ As per IIFL, 47 of the 53 entrepreneurs reside in India, while Bengaluru, called India's silicon valley, housed the maximum (14) on the list
- ✓ For the first time since the launch of Hurun lists, the cumulative wealth of IIFL Wealth Hurun India rich listers grew to Rs 100 lakh crore – more than the combined GDP of Singapore, UAE and Saudi Arabia

