



## **FVF RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS - October**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **Chief Minister M K Stalin - has appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi not to go ahead with the recommendations made by the parliamentary committee on official language “to impose Hindi”.**
- ✓ The committee is headed by Union home minister Amit Shah.
- ✓ In his letter, the CM told the PM that the number of people speaking languages other than Hindi was more than Hindi speaking people.
- ✓ He said all regional languages, including Tamil, should be treated equally.
- ✓ Recalling the 1965 anti – Hindi agitations in Tamil Nadu, the CM said then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru gave an assurance that English would continue to be one of the official languages as long as non-Hindi speaking people wanted it.
- ✓ Subsequently, resolutions passed in 1968 and 1976 ensured use of both English and Hindi in government services, he said.
- ✓ The 11th volume of the Report of the Official Language Committee headed by Home Minister Amit Shah was submitted to President Droupadi Murmu on September 9
- ✓ The committee has recommended that local languages should be given preference over English in all states.
- ✓ As per the report, Hindi should be made as a compulsory medium of instruction in educational institutions such as IITs, IIMs, AIIMS and central universities, replacing English.
- ✓ The report also includes a recommendation that Hindi shall be the medium of instruction in all technical, non – technical institutions and KVs
- ✓ It also recommended that Hindi should be one of the official languages of the United Nations.
- ✓ All states and Union territories are divided in three groups (regions) on the basis of progressive usage of Hindi



- ✓ Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, and Andaman and the Nicobar Islands are ranked in category 'A'
  - ✓ The committee has suggested that Hindi should be given a respectable place in 'A' category states and it should be used 100%
  - ✓ Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, and the Union territories of Chandigarh, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, where the use of Hindi is upto 80%, are in category 'B'; while the rest of India, where the use of Hindi is less than 65%, are categorized as 'C'.
  - ✓ States like Tamil Nadu and Kerala are exempted as per The Official Languages Act, 1963 and the Rules and Regulations (of the Act), 1976
  - ✓ The end of compulsory English language question papers in the recruitment examinations and adequate arrangement for Hindi translation in the orders of the high courts in Hindi-speaking states are among over 100 recommendations made by the committee in its latest report.
  - ✓ Other recommendations include communication by central government offices, ministries, or departments, such as letters, faxes, and emails, should take place in Hindi or local languages
  - ✓ The panel noted that officers and employees in the central government who deliberately don't work in Hindi in Hindi-speaking states should be warned and if they don't perform despite warning, it should be reflected in their Annual Performance Assessment Report (APAR).
  - ✓ Further, invitation letters, speeches, and moderation for any events organised by the central government should all be in Hindi or local languages
  - ✓ The committee is the only parliamentary panel that is headed by Union home minister, and unlike all House committees that submit report to Parliament, it presents its report directly to the President.
  - ✓ The Committee of Parliament on Official Language was set up in 1976 under Section 4 of The Official Languages Act, 1963.
    - ✓ It is chaired by the Union Home Minister and comprises 30 members of Parliament -- 20 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha.
    - ✓ The panel reviews the progress made in the use of Hindi for official purposes and submits a report to the President making recommendations.
    - ✓ The first Report of the Committee was submitted in 1987.
  - ✓ On January 18, 1968, Parliament passed the Official Language Resolution to build a comprehensive programme to increase the use of Hindi for official purposes by the Union of India
- **Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) - is planning to bring out 46 ancient Tamil epics including Silappatikaram, Manimekalai, Tolkappiyam and Natrinai in Braille script.**
- ✓ The institute is planning to bring the Braille version by December 2022 and give it to the visually challenged students for free of cost.



- ✓ All these volumes will contain Tamil text and simple interpretations of poems.
- ✓ So far, only Tirukkural has a Braille version among ancient Tamil epics.
- ✓ CICT also is translating Manimekalai, an ancient Tamil-Buddhist epic in 18 different languages including Malay, Chinese, Japanese, Thai and Korean.
- ✓ When this project is completed, it will be the second widely translated Tamil epic after Tirukkural.

## STATES

- **Gujarat – has introduced a new method in the state to ascertain whether meat contains beef content.**
- ✓ The LAMP DNA method is currently introduced in limited capacity in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar in Gujarat
- ✓ The new method provides result within an hour whereas conventional methods like serological analysis and DNA analysis take more than a day
- ✓ In conventional testing, if the sample is exposed to heat for a long time or analysed after a long period of seizure, it affects identification, which is not the case in the LAMP DNA method.
- ✓ Using the LAMP DNA method, the sample can be analysed on the spot, unlike other methods of testing done in a lab setting.
- ✓ This test can identify beef even from smaller or cooked meat samples.

## NATIONAL

- **On October 16, Indian Railways - flagged off its first freight train with rustproof aluminium rakes, which are lighter than their predecessors, but have more freight carrying capacity.**



- ✓ Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated the freight train having 61 aluminium wagons manufactured by Hindalco
- ✓ The move is aimed at modernising freight transportation and enable huge carbon savings by the national transporter.



- ✓ The new rakes were manufactured in collaboration with Besco Ltd's wagon division and aluminium major Hindalco
- ✓ They are 180 tonnes lighter than steel rakes, carry up to 10% more payload, and consume less energy with relatively negligible wear and tear to rolling stock.
- ✓ The rakes will carry coal for Hindalco's Aditya Smelter in Lapanga in Odisha.
- ✓ The railway minister highlighted that each of these aluminium rakes will save 14,500 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emission in its lifetime and are 100% recyclable
- ✓ This is a dedicated effort for the 'Make in India' programme as it has been fully designed and developed indigenously in collaboration with RDSO, Hindalco and Besco.
- ✓ The new generation wagons fabricated by Besco, based on RDSO-approved designs, are made from high strength aluminium alloy plates and extrusions indigenously manufactured at Hindalco's rolling facility at Hirakud in Odisha.

## INTERNATIONAL

- On October 16, Chinese President Xi Jinping - attended the opening ceremony of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

### ZERO-COVID POLICY TO STAY IN CHINA

*Xi Jinping's speech to Communist Party Congress lasted less than two hours, far shorter than his nearly three-and-a-half-hour address at the last party congress in 2017. Key takeaways:*

**BIRTH RATE** | Xi said China will enact policies to boost its birth rate as policymakers worry that an imminent decline in China's population could hurt the world's second-biggest economy

**TAIWAN** | Said it was up to the Chinese people to resolve the Taiwan issue and China would 'never renounce the right to use force' but will strive for a peaceful resolution

**COVID-19** | Gave no sign that country's strict zero-Covid policy, which has



forced millions into lockdowns over just handfuls of cases, would relent anytime soon

**HONG KONG** | Hailed end of 'chaos' (pro-democracy protests) in Hong Kong. 'The situation in Hong Kong has achieved a major transition from chaos to governance,' he said

**WORD PLAY** | Mentioned 'safety' or 'security'

73 times, up from 55 times in the previous speech, while mentioning 'reforms' 16 times, down from 70 times 5 years ago

**DEFENCE BOOST** | China president called for accelerating the building of a world-class military, faster work to modernise military theory, personnel and weapons

He made no mention of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and did not refer to Xinjiang, where Beijing stands accused of widespread human rights

- ✓ Around 2,300 delegates gathered for China's president Xi Jinping's speech which opened the once-in-five-year meeting



- ✓ The meeting is set to announce Xi Jinping's historic third term as the party's general secretary, as well as a new 300-strong Central Committee, the party's top policymaking body
- ✓ Jinping is projected as the most powerful leader of China since Mao Zedong, especially after he removed presidential term limits in 2018.
- ✓ Xi Jinping, 69, delivered a speech summarising the achievements of the past five years and projecting the path for the party and country over the next five years and beyond
- ✓ During his speech, Jinping hailed his party's regime and defended Covid-19 policies
- ✓ Notably, he condemned the interference of 'external forces' in the China-Taiwan feud
- ✓ Jinping also commended his party's efforts in containing and taking control of anti-government protests in Hong Kong in 2019.

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The second edition of the UN World Geospatial International Congress – was held in Hyderabad, Telangana from October 10 to 14, 2022**



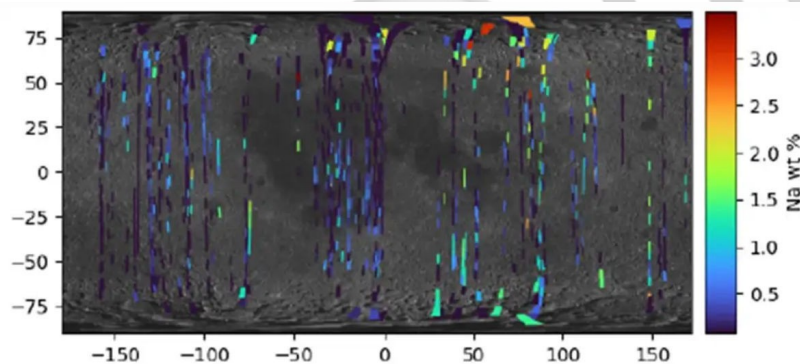
- ✓ Science and Technology minister Jitendra Singh inaugurated the conference, which was organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- ✓ It was hosted by the ministry of science and technology of the Government of India
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the address through the video conferencing
- ✓ The theme of the conference was 'Geo-Enabling the Global Village: No one should be left behind'.



- ✓ The conference was convened by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM).
- ✓ It was attended by UN representatives and international delegates, including UNGGIM Director Stefan Schweinfest
- ✓ The event involved the participation of over 2,000 delegates from over 120 countries across the world
- ✓ The inaugural edition of the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) was held in 2018 at China's Deqing, Zhejiang Province.
- ✓ Geospatial technology can be used to create intelligent maps and models which help to collect geographically referenced data.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Chandrayaan 2 Orbiter - has discovered the abundance of sodium on the Moon for the first time**



- ✓ The X-ray spectrometer instrument named 'CLASS' onboard the Orbiter provides clean images of the sodium line with its high sensitivity and performance.
- ✓ The X-ray spectrometer was built at the U R Rao Satellite Centre of ISRO in Bengaluru
- ✓ Earlier, the Chandrayaan 1 orbiter detected sodium from its characteristic line in X-rays using the X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometer instrument
- ✓ The data available suggests there are two kinds of sodium atoms on the Moon's surface, those that are loosely bound on the surface and those that are part of the minerals
- ✓ The Sodium was found in Moon's exosphere, which is a very thin atmosphere on the Moon beginning at the surface and extending to an altitude of several thousand kilometers
- ✓ Chandrayaan-2, hovering in lunar orbit, had earlier discovered that the Moon's ionosphere has a plasma density in the wake region, which is at least one order of magnitude more than what is present on the day side.
- ✓ The spacecraft has been studying the lunar surface ever since it arrived in orbit in 2019



# ECONOMY

- On October 16, PM Narendra Modi - unveiled digital banking units (DBUs) in 75 districts across the country through video conferencing

## 24X7 Digital Branches In Self-Service Mode

### What are Digital Banking Units?

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ They are specialised units or hubs set up by scheduled commercial banks</li> <li>➤ They will be open 24x7 in self-service mode and will offer <b>cash withdrawal and deposit services, net banking</b></li> <li>➤ Customers can also use the <b>digital assistance zones</b> in each unit during banking hours, when there will be special emphasis on education and awareness</li> <li>➤ Minimum offerings to include <b>account opening</b> (including FDs), kiosks for e-KYC and updates, fund transfer via NEFT/RTGS</li> <li>➤ Banks have to allow applications to onboard</li> </ul> | <p>customers for identified retail, MSME or schematic loans. It can include end-to-end digital processing, from online application to disbursal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In future, <b>RBI expects DBUs to offer more structured and custom-made products</b>, using hybrid and high-quality interactive capabilities</li> <li>➤ Digital business facilitators, business correspondents can be used to expand the virtual footprint of DBUs</li> <li>➤ Banks have been asked to <b>ensure cyber security</b> in these units</li> <li>➤ Currently only 75 units set up, and are <b>limited to district headquarters</b></li> </ul> |
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PM Narendra Modi

- ✓ The virtual inaugural event was also attended by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das
- ✓ DBUs will be brick and mortar outlets which will provide a variety of digital banking facilities such as opening savings accounts, balance-check, print passbook, transfer of funds, investment in fixed deposits, loan applications, stop-payment instructions for cheques issued, apply for credit / debit cards, view statement of account, pay taxes, pay bills, make nominations, etc.
- ✓ They are available in both self-service and assisted mode
- ✓ The DBUs enable customers to have cost effective/ convenient access and enhanced digital experience of products and services in an efficient, paperless, secured and connected environment
- ✓ Eleven public sector banks, 12 private sector banks and one small finance bank are participating in the initiative.
- ✓ The setting up of 75 DBUs in 75 districts by scheduled commercial banks were announced by FM Nirmala Sitharaman in her 2022-23 Budget speech to commemorate the 75 years of independence of the country.



- ✓ In April this year, the RBI had released guidelines on the “Establishment of Digital Banking Units (DBUs)”.

## AWARDS

- **Telangana’s Hyderabad city - won the overall ‘World Green City Award 2022’ and ‘Living Green for Economic Recovery and Inclusive Growth’ award at the International Association of Horticulture Producers (AIPH) World Green City Awards 2022 held in Jeju, South Korea on October 14**



- ✓ Hyderabad is the only Indian city that was selected for the 'World Green City 2022,' award, the best across all six categories.
- ✓ The city received the prestigious AIPH Global ‘World Green City Awards 2022’ for developing lush greenery in and around the Outer Ring Road (ORR).
- ✓ The award was given to the Telangana government’s large-scale tree-planting program known as “Telangana Ku Haritha Haram,” which was carried out from 2015 to 2016.
- ✓ The program aims to increase the tree cover of the state by about 33%.
- ✓ The AIPH had invited entries for ‘World Green Cities Awards 2022’ across six categories and Hyderabad won in the ‘Living Green for Economic Recovery and Inclusive Growth’.
- ✓ The six categories of award includes Living Green for Biodiversity, Living Green for Climate Change, Living Green for Health and Wellbeing, Living Green for Water, Living Green for Social Cohesion and Living Green for Economic Recovery and Inclusive Growth



- ✓ Hyderabad outranked 18 cities of the world to make it to the shortlist and then was chosen among six other cities, that included Paris, Bogota, Mexico City, Montreal and Fortaleza
- ✓ The Green City Award was instituted by the AIPH to recognise the best practices in landscaping and cultivating plants and flowers.

## OBITUARY

- **Dilip Mahalanabis, 88, who contributed to the development of life-saving ORS and popularized oral rehydration therapy (ORT) - passed away in Kolkata on October 16**

### DONATED LIFE'S SAVINGS TO CHILDREN'S HOSP



Dilip Mahalanabis

➤ Born on Nov 12, 1934; graduated from Medical College Hospital Kolkata in 1959

➤ Trained in paediatrics in Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children in London

➤ Started working on ORS as part of Johns Hopkins University International Centre for Medical Research and Training in 1966

➤ In 1971, he started treating patients of

the cholera outbreak following the Bangladesh Liberation War

➤ In 2002, he was honoured by University of Columbia and Cornell with the Pollin prize

➤ The Thai government recognised his work with the country's highest civilian award, the Prince Mahidol Award, in 2006

➤ Donated his life's savings of Rs 1 crore to ICH

- ✓ Trained primarily as a paediatrician, Mahalanabis entered into public health when he started working on ORT in 1966
- ✓ He worked as a research scholar for the Johns Hopkins University International Centre for Medical Research and Training in Kolkata, along with doctors David R Nalin and Richard A Cash.
- ✓ The team developed ORS, whose efficacy had been tried only under controlled conditions, until the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War broke out
- ✓ Due to the war, over 10 million people had crossed over to India in the border districts of Bengal.
- ✓ A massive cholera epidemic followed in the refugee camp in Bongaon, where stock of intravenous fluid ran out.
- ✓ During this time, Mahalanabis introduced ORS in the camps, even before ORS was recommended for treatment.

## RANKINGS

- **The Mumbai-Dubai and Delhi-Dubai routes – have been ranked eighth and tenth respectively among the world's busiest flight routes, as per data from OAG Aviation Worldwide**



- ✓ Delhi-Dubai was ranked tenth with 1.89 million seats flown by airlines, while the Mumbai-Dubai route took eighth place with 1.97 million seats flown by airlines in a calendar year
- ✓ The busiest international route is between Cairo and Jeddah (CAI-JED) which has 35 daily flights at 3.2 million seats in the last 12 months

Top 10 global international airports			
Rank	Departure airport	Arrival airport	Seats* (in million)
1	Cairo International	Jeddah	3.23
2	Dubai International	Riyadh King Khalid International	3.19
3	New York JFK	London Heathrow	2.84
4	Dubai International	London Heathrow	2.69
5	Kuala Lumpur International	Singapore Changi	2.44
6	Dubai International	Jeddah	2.42
7	Orlando International	San Juan Luis Munoz Marin	2.09
8	Mumbai	Dubai International	1.97
9	Cairo International	Riyadh King Khalid	1.91
10	Delhi	Dubai International	1.8
* Seats flown by airlines between October 2021 and September 2022			(Source: OAG)

- ✓ The busiest international route in 2019, pre-Covid, was between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore Changi (KUL-SIN) with an annual capacity of 2.4 million seats
- ✓ It is now the only intra-Asian route to appear in the top 10 list at number five.
- ✓ The busiest domestic airline route was between Jeju International and Seoul Gimpo International Airport (CJU-GMP) of Japan
- ✓ The longest airline route in September 2022, currently in operation, is between New York and Singapore (JFK-SIN) at 9,527 miles
- ✓ Currently, the Bangkok-Delhi route is the most competitive international route out of India, with seven airlines operating close to 2,700 flights and over 0.6 million seats between October 2021 and September 2022.
- ✓ Prior to April, when international flight operations were curtailed for two years from March 2020, it was the Delhi-Dubai route which had registered a faster recovery that was the busiest international route out of India.
- ✓ The busiest airline routes are defined as those with the largest volume of scheduled seats in the last 12 months (October 2021 – September 2022).
- ✓ International scheduled airline flights were restarted on March 27.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ➤ World Food Day - October 16



- ✓ The day is observed every year to highlight the importance of healthy and nutritious diet along with the issue of hunger and wastage of food.
- ✓ It marks the anniversary of the founding of the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in the year 1945
- ✓ World Food Day is celebrated by organisations like the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agriculture Development under various themes to highlight the importance of food security.



- ✓ Theme 2022 - 'Leave NO ONE behind'.
- ✓ World Food Day was established in November 1979, as per the suggestion of the former Hungarian minister of agriculture and food Dr Pal Romany at the FAO's General Conference.
- ✓ It was first celebrated in the year 1981
- ✓ World Food Day aims to focus towards the Sustainable Development Goal to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030
- ✓ On the occasion of World Food Day 2022, the Kirisia Community Forest Association (CFA) was conferred an FAO award for the restoration of the Kirisia forest in Kenya.
- ✓ The second edition of the World Food Forum was organized on this occasion.
- ✓ It included events such as WFF Global Youth Forum, the FAO Science and Innovation Forum and the FAO Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum.

