



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

- **Tirunelveli district administration – has launched a joint project named ‘TamiraSES’ for the restoration of the Thamirabarani river**



- ✓ The project will be implemented jointly by Bengaluru-based Ashoka Trust for Research and the Environment (ATREE) in association with Indian Institute of Human Settlements (IIHS) Bengaluru and Consortium for DEWATS Dissemination Society
- ✓ The community-based project involves the restoration of Thamirabarani's riverscape along with all the waterbodies in it, covering head-waters, estuaries and surrounding areas
- ✓ Thamirabarani river originates from Agastyarkoodam peak of Pothigai hills in the Western Ghats of Tirunelveli district.
- ✓ The river supports wildlife such as the Nilgiri marten, slender loris, lion-tailed macaque, white-spotted bush frog, galaxy frog, Sri Lankan Atlas moth, and the great hornbill.
- ✓ The Thamirabarani river formed the source of earliest humans in India over 3,200 years ago
- ✓ The river is the primary source of water for many towns in the Tirunelveli district.

- ✓ However, the river is highly polluted today because of industrial effluent release, sewage, solid wastes and water hyacinth

## STATES

- **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev – unveiled a new memorial named 'Abode of the Unicorns' recently on September 22 at Kaziranga National Park in Assam**



- ✓ The memorial contains three rhino sculptures - an adult male, an adult female and a calf.
  - ✓ The statues of three rhinos were created by renowned sculptor Biju Das using ashes collected from rhino horns burnt to flames
  - ✓ On September 22, 2021, the Assam government made history when a stockpile of 2,479 rhino horns were burned to ashes to send across a strong message to the poachers and illegal horn traders that rhino horns have no medicinal value.
  - ✓ According to the latest State of Rhino Report, the Kaziranga national park has 2,613 rhinos – the highest in India.
  - ✓ September 22 is observed every year as World Rhino Day
- **The World Bank - approved a \$350 million loan to Gujarat for the 'Systems Reform Endeavours For Transformed Health Achievement In Gujarat' (SRESTHA-G) Program**
  - ✓ The \$500 million project aims to improve the quality and access of the state public healthcare services, with special focus on adolescent girls and disease surveillance
  - ✓ The assistance will further expand the initiative to include mental health and elderly and palliative health services and also strengthen non-communicable services in the state
  - ✓ The Program will support a population-based screening process with help from local Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM)
  - ✓ It will lay special focus on improving the health and nutrition of adolescent girls and boys.

- ✓ This project will be implemented by the state government of Gujarat through the Health and Family Welfare Department of the state.
- ✓ The \$350 million loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a maturity of 18 years including a grace period of 5.5 years

## NATIONAL

- On October 1, Prime Minister Narendra Modi – inaugurated the 5G services in the country at the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of annual India Mobile Congress (IMC) at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi



- ✓ The 5G high-speed network boasts of minimum speeds of at least 100 mbps.
- ✓ India now joins a select set of countries - the US, Korea, UK, Japan, China, and nations across Europe - that offer 5G telephony.
- ✓ While Airtel has launched the service in eight cities, Jio will begin from Diwali and Vodafone Idea is also planning to launch soon.

**AIRTEL STARTS IN 8 CITIES, JIO BY DIWALI**

Photo: ANI

➤ Airtel kicks off 5G services in 8 cities, including **Delhi, Mumbai, B'loru, Chennai, Hyd & Varanasi**. Rel Jio promises launch by Diwali

➤ Airtel's 5G tariffs **not known yet**. Those with enabled phones can opt for 5G networks; transition process still unclear

PM Modi being greeted by Mukesh Ambani, Sunil Mittal and K M Birla at the 6th India Mobile Congress in New Delhi, where the PM launched 5G services. Also seen are Union ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw (behind PM) and Devusinh Chauhan


Today, 130 cr Indians are getting a wonderful gift... 5G is the beginning of an infinite sky of opportunities – **PM Modi**



- ✓ Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani, Airtel chief Sunil Mittal and Vodafone Idea promoter Kumar Mangalam Birla were present during the event
- ✓ The PM is being seen as one of the key driving forces behind the launch of the services.
- ✓ At the launch event, PM Modi took first-hand experience of services related to 5G services.
- ✓ He also witnessed Jio True 5G devices displayed at the Jio pavilion, where he experienced the use cases of 5G through Jio Glass, the company's first smart glass
  - ✓ Jio Glass is aimed at enhancing the virtual space by making it more interactive using 3D avatars, holographic content and even normal video conferencing features
  - ✓ The device can be connected to a smartphone to experience the virtual world.
- ✓ While addressing the launch, the PM spoke about the 4 pillars of Digital India's success - cost of device, digital connectivity, data costs and the most important digital first approach.
- ✓ Initially, 5G services will roll out in 13 cities - Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Gurugram, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Pune, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad and Jamnagar.
  - ✓ In the first phase, 5G services will be available in 4 cities- Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai
  - ✓ However, within 2 years, everyone in the country will be able to get a 5G connection
- ✓ For consumers, 5G promises higher data speeds over 4G with low latency providing quicker response and highly reliable communications system
- ✓ At its peak, internet speeds on 5G could touch 10 Gbps, compared to the 100 Mbps peak of 4G.
- ✓ 5G technology will provide seamless coverage in remote areas across the country.
- ✓ It will increase energy efficiency, spectrum efficiency and network efficiency
- ✓ 5G will also usher in the era of technology advances in the country such as Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR) and more.
- ✓ 5G will help in real-time monitoring of disasters, precision agriculture, and minimizing the role of humans in dangerous industrial operations such as in deep mines, offshore activities etc.
- ✓ 5G technology will help in connecting billions of Internet of Things (IoT) devices, will allow higher quality video services with mobility at high speed, and delivery of critical services.
- ✓ Recently, the 5G spectrum auctions were conducted successfully and 51,236 MHz was allocated to Telecom Service Providers with a gross revenue of Rs. 1,50,173 crore

- ✓ According to experts, 5G will have a cumulative economic impact of \$1 trillion by 2035 and can deliver an additional GDP of \$150 billion for the country between 2025-40.
- ✓ The four-day Indian Mobile Congress is an event jointly organised by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) and will conclude on October 4, 2022
- **The Centre's 75-day window for free booster shots for those aged between 18 and 59 - has ended on September 30, 2022**
- ✓ As per the government data, less than 20% of this age group across the country has taken the third shot and in no major state the proportion reached even 40%
- ✓ The data also shows that booster shots coverage for the 18-plus population as a whole is under 23% and does not exceed 45% in any major state.

#### HOW THE STATES FARE

	%age covered		
	18-59 yrs	60+	18+
Andhra Pradesh	33.5	99.2	44.4
Telangana	37.8	59.4	41
Himachal Pradesh	29.8	82.7	39
Gujarat	30.7	81.8	38.2
Odisha	33.5	58.6	37.5
Chhattisgarh	32.3	68.8	37.1
Uttar Pradesh	26.9	48.4	29.6
Uttarakhand	17.5	70.5	25.5
Madhya Pradesh	20	52.2	24.2
Delhi	16.9	54.7	21.7
West Bengal	16.3	49.4	21.3
Bihar	17.3	39.2	20.1
Karnataka	12.5	60.8	20.1
J&K	9.9	51.3	15.5
Tamil Nadu	12.2	28.5	15.2
Assam	9.6	43.1	13.7
Rajasthan	8.9	43	13.4
NE minus Assam	6.9	45	11.7
Kerala	3.8	37.6	11.2
Maharashtra	6.2	30.1	10
Haryana	6.8	24	9.2
Punjab	3.9	26.7	7.7
Jharkhand	4.7	18.4	6.5
<b>INDIA</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>22.7</b>

Source: Health ministry for vaccination, Census projections for population.  
Data as of 7am on Oct 1

- ✓ Similarly, the vaccine coverage among the elderly, those 60 years or above of age, is just under 50%
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh has covered all of the elderly with booster shots and Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat too have achieved over 80% coverage.
- ✓ The coverage for the 18-59 age group is in single digit percentages in nine states, with Kerala and Punjab being even below 4%.

- ✓ Only in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha does the proportion exceed 33% of this age group.
  - ✓ Overall, 21.3 crore doses of the precautionary dose have been administered to the above 18 population.
  - ✓ About 92.2 crore aged 18 or more have received the first shot and 86.4 crore of them have got the second too.
- **On October 1, the government - deferred imposition of an additional excise duty of Rs 2 per litre on unblended petrol and diesel from October 1.**
- ✓ As per the official notification, the additional levy will be applicable from November 1 on unblended petrol (not mixed with ethanol) and April 1, 2023 on unblended diesel (not blended with biodiesel).
  - ✓ The additional tax was proposed in the Union Budget 2022-23 to speed up adoption of cleaner fuel as part of the country's energy transition and climate action plans.
  - ✓ It also aimed at pushing oil companies to speed up blending of petrol with ethanol and diesel with biodiesel.
  - ✓ The 10% ethanol blending of petrol was already achieved in June, five months ahead of target
  - ✓ The 10% blending of petrol is estimated to have saved an estimated Rs 41,000 crore in foreign exchange spending on importing oil and raised the income of farmers by Rs 40,000 crore, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said recently.
  - ✓ In June 2021, PM Modi had proposed the mixing of ethanol in India's fight against climate change by advancing the date for 20% blending of petrol by five years to 2025.
- **Fagga Singh Kulaste, MoS for Rural Development and Steel - launched the "JALDOOT App and JALDOOT App e-brochure" at a function in New Delhi recently on September 27**
- ✓ Union minister of state for rural development, consumer affairs, food and public distribution Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti and union minister of state for Panchayati Raj Kapil Moreshwar Patil among others were present at the launch event.



- ✓ JALDOOT app has been jointly developed by Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.
  - ✓ The App will enable village officers, called Jaldoots, to measure the water level of well twice a year pre-monsoon and post-monsoon
  - ✓ It will facilitate in observing water tables and the resulting data can be utilised for Gram Panchayat Development Plan and Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Plans.
  - ✓ According to the ministry, this app will be used across the country to capture the water level of selected 2-3 wells in a village.
  - ✓ The manual measurement of water levels in open wells will take place twice a year - from May 1 to 31 (pre-monsoon) and October 1 to 31 (post-monsoon) every year
  - ✓ Jaldoots assigned to measure the water levels should also upload the geo-tagged photographs through the app on every occasion of measurement.
  - ✓ The regular data to be input by the Jaldoots would be integrated with the database of National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC), which can be utilised for analysis and display of various useful reports for the benefit of various stakeholders,
  - ✓ Water level report, Monsoon Report and Registered user report are available at JALDOOT web portal.
  - ✓ This Mobile app will work in both online and offline mode
- **Indian Railway – has started installing a Real-Time Train Information System (RTIS) that will help learn the actual location of the train movement at stations with better accuracy**
- ✓ The RTIS was jointly developed by the Indian Railways in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
  - ✓ According to the Railways, RTIS gives mid-section updates with a periodicity of 30 seconds
  - ✓ The RTIS uses information from GSAT satellites that have GPS Aided Geo-Augmented Navigation System (GAGAN) payloads for tracking the movement of trains
  - ✓ Later, it sends the information down to the Central Location Server (CLS) of Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS), which then transmits to the National Train Enquiry System (NTES).
  - ✓ The NTES transfers this information to the public information dissemination systems in websites, mobile applications, 139 railway helpline number and others
  - ✓ The Train Control can track the location and speed of RTIS enabled trains more closely, without any manual intervention
  - ✓ In the first phase, RTIS devices have been installed for 2,700 locomotives in 21 electric loco sheds.
  - ✓ As part of second phase roll out, 6,000 more locomotives across 50 loco sheds shall be covered by utilising ISRO's Satcom hub

- ✓ The ministry also highlighted that the chatbot, Ask DISHA 2.0 of IRCTC, is getting a remarkable response from train passengers in its beta launch with over 1 billion users having experienced it.
- **The Government's flagship programme 'Make in India' - completed eight-years on September 25, 2022**



- ✓ The initiative seeks to promote investment, encourage innovation, improve skill development, and create the best manufacturing infrastructure possible to encourage businesses to manufacture in India
- ✓ The country has made significant progress in the scheme in 27 sectors, including strategic manufacturing and service sectors
- ✓ A major boost to the Make in India project was provided by the establishment of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) plan in 2020–21 across 14 important manufacturing industries
- ✓ To attract foreign investments, the government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy wherein most sectors are open to FDI under the automatic route.
- ✓ The FDI inflows in India stood at \$ 45.15 billion in 2014-2015 and reached the highest ever FDI at \$83.6 billion in 2021-22
- ✓ To promote local industry by providing them preference in public procurement of Goods, Works and Services, the Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order 2017 was also issued pursuant to Rule 153 (iii) of the General Financial Rules 2017
- ✓ Further, the National Single Window System (NSWS) has been soft-launched in September 2021 to improve the ease-of-doing-business by providing a single digital platform to investors for approvals and clearances.
- ✓ The One-District-One-Product (ODOP) initiative is another manifestation of the 'Make in India' vision for facilitating promotion and production of the indigenous products from each district of the country
- ✓ The Make in India initiative was launched on September 25, 2014 by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi



- ✓ It is being implemented by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- **The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) - launched 'Swachh Toycathon' under the Swachh Amrit Mahotsav recently on September 26**



- ✓ Swachh Amrit Mahotsav is a fortnight of activities to promote action around Swachhata or cleanliness from 17th September 2022, Seva Diwas, till 2nd October 2022, Swachhata Diwas
- ✓ The Toycathon competition aims to explore solutions for use of dry waste in the creation or manufacturing of toys
- ✓ The Center for Creative Learning, IIT Gandhinagar, is MoHUA's knowledge partner for the initiative.
- ✓ The competition will be hosted on MyGov's Innovate India portal and it will be open to individuals and groups
- ✓ The winning startups under the competition will be provided with incubation support from IIT, Kanpur
- ✓ The new initiative is a convergence between two initiatives of the Government - NAPT and SBM 2.0
- ✓ The centre has launched 'National Action Plan for Toys 2020' (NAPT) to promote the Indian toy industry including traditional handicrafts and handmade toys with the objective of establishing India as a global Toy hub
- ✓ 'Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM 2.0)' was launched on October 1 last year by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a vision of creating 'Garbage Free' cities by 2026.
- **The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) - searched at 56 locations across 20 States and one Union Territory recently to curb the circulation and sharing of child sexual abuse material under operation code-named "Megh Chakra"**
- ✓ The operation is aimed at cloud storage, hence the code name 'Megha Chakra', used by the suspects to circulate audiovisual material involving minors

- ✓ The searches were spread across Haryana, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh among others.
  - ✓ The data shared by the Interpol unit of New Zealand through Singapore is the source on which raids were conducted on September 24
  - ✓ Under this raid, CBI seized many electronic devices of various suspects including mobile phones, and laptops containing huge quantity of child pornography material
  - ✓ A similar kind of operation was launched with the name Operation Carbon in November 2021.
  - ✓ During this operation, 76 locations were raided in 13 states and UTs and more than 80 people were arrested.
- **The Centre – has recently launched an Indian Sign Language (ISL) dictionary mobile application called 'Sign Learn'.**



- ✓ Pratima Bhoumik, minister of state for social justice and empowerment, launched the app on the eve of International Day of Sign Languages on September 23
  - ✓ The new App is based on the Indian sign language dictionary of the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) which contains 10,000 words
  - ✓ Notably, on October 6, 2020, ISLRTC and the NCERT signed a MoU for the conversion of NCERT textbooks from classes 1 through 12 into Indian Sign Language (digital format) in order to make the textbooks accessible to children with hearing impairments
- **The state-run power sector financier, REC Limited - has been accorded the status of a 'Maharatna' central public sector enterprise (CPSE).**
- ✓ In this regard, an order was recently issued by the Department of Public Enterprises, under the Ministry of Finance.
  - ✓ REC has become the 12th CPSE to get the 'Maharatna' status in the country.

- ✓ The other 11 Maharatna CPSEs at present are BHEL, BPCL, HPCL, IOCL, Coal India Ltd, GAIL (India) Ltd, NTPC, ONGC, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd, SAIL and Power Finance Corporation.



- ✓ The government of India last accorded 'Maharatna' status to Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC) in October 2021.
  - ✓ The non-banking finance company REC Limited was incorporated in 1969.
    - ✓ It provides financial aid to state electricity boards, state governments, central or state utilities, independent power producers, rural electric cooperatives and private sector utilities
    - ✓ In FY22, it had made its highest ever net profit of Rs.10,046 crore and reached a net worth of Rs.50,986 crore.
  - ✓ The CPSEs are granted Navratna, Miniratna and Maharatna status based upon a set of criteria laid down by the government.
  - ✓ For a company to be considered for grant of Maharatna status, it should be listed on an Indian stock exchange and have an average annual turnover of more than Rs 25,000 crore during the last three years.
  - ✓ It should also have an average annual net worth of more than Rs 15,000 crore during the last three years and an average annual net profit of over Rs 5,000 crore during the same period.
  - ✓ The CPSE should further have Navratna status and significant global presence/international operations, to be eligible for grant of Maharatna status
  - ✓ The Maharatna status was introduced in 2010 for mega CPSEs to become global players.
- **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) – launched the 'Navratri Special Tourist Train' for Mata Vaishno Devi temple in Delhi-Katra route on September 30**
- ✓ The train has been operated with the newly launched Bharat Gaurav Rakes from Delhi Safdarjung Railway Station to Katra, 42 km from Jammu, which serves as the base camp for the shrine
  - ✓ The special train tour of the duration of four nights -five days can accommodate a total of 600 tourists in one fixed departure.
  - ✓ The Mata Vaishno Devi temple will witness a series of religious, cultural, sports and folk events till the culmination of the navratri festival on October 4.





First train under 'Bharat Gaurav' scheme

- ✓ Over three lakh pilgrims from across the country and abroad are expected to visit the shrine during the festival
- ✓ The designs on the external view of the coaches of the train highlight diverse themes of culture, customs and traditions of India through the “Bharat Gaurav” Concept
- ✓ During June 2022, this train started its maiden run with 500 tourists on Ramayana Yatra Circuit, which turned out to be a huge success
- ✓ IRCTC is a public sector undertaking functioning under the Ministry of Railways

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **On October 1, India - abstained from voting on a draft resolution tabled in the United Nations to condemn Russia's “illegal referenda” and annexation of four Ukrainian territories**
- ✓ The United States and Albania had placed the resolution for voting at the 15-member UN Security Council.
- ✓ Russia, being one of the permanent members of the body, used its power of veto to block the resolution.
- ✓ Among the 14 other countries currently on the UN Security Council, 10 voted in favour of the resolution, while India, China, Brazil and Gabon abstained.
- ✓ On September 30, Russian President Putin proclaimed the annexation of the regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia, which are inside the internationally recognised borders of Ukraine.
- ✓ Putin made the announcement based on the results of referendums Russia held in the four regions, which together make up for 15% of Ukraine's territory.
- ✓ Soon after Putin's announcement, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Friday said that his country will formally apply for a fast-track membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, or NATO
- ✓ India has previously abstained on two occasions in the Security Council and once in the General Assembly on resolutions on Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

## COMMITTEES

- **The centre – has recently set up a five-member committee to regulate the promotion of pharmaceutical products.**



- ✓ It was set up based on the recommendation of the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Chemicals and Fertilizers, Mansukh Mandaviya
- ✓ The high level committee will be set up under the chairmanship of Dr VK Paul, NITI Aayog member (health)



- ✓ The committee was mandated to create a legal mechanism to address the issue of pharmaceutical companies giving incentives to promote their drugs and products.
- ✓ It will examine the Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP), Indian Medical Council Regulations, 2002 and CBDT rules, which are involved in the regulation of marketing practices of pharma companies.
- ✓ The members of this committee include department of pharmaceuticals S Aparna, Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan, and Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) chairman Nitin Gupta.
- ✓ The joint secretary (policy) from the department of pharmaceuticals is the member secretary of this committee.
- ✓ The high-level committee will be submitting its report in 90 days.

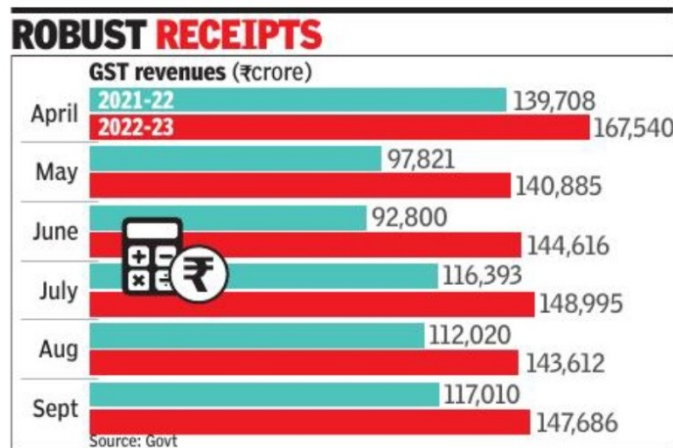
## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **A team of researchers at Washington State University (WSU) in the US - have detected a new Covid-like virus named Khosta-2 in Russian bats**
- ✓ The virus was first identified in 2020 but the scientists thought that this virus would not pose a threat to humans.
- ✓ However, according to a recent study by researchers of WSU, the Khosta-2 virus can infect human cells
- ✓ The new virus attaches to the same protein receptor, ACE2, which SARS-CoV-2 uses to penetrate human cells.
- ✓ Both SARS-CoV-2, that caused Covid-19, and Khosta-2 belong to the same sub-category of coronaviruses known as sarbecoviruses.
- ✓ But, the Khosta-2 virus will not cause a serious disease in people like the Omicron variant of Covid-19

- ✓ As of now, no Khosta-2 cases in humans have been reported yet, according to Dr Pragya Yadav, Indian Council of Medical Research - National Institute of Virology (ICMR-NIV), Pune

## ECONOMY

- **The gross GST revenue collected in September - totalled Rs 1.47 lakh crore, as per the finance ministry**
- ✓ This is the seventh month in a row in which receipts have been more than Rs 1.4 lakh crore



- ✓ The September revenue was 26% higher than the GST receipts in the same month last year.
- ✓ The gross GST revenue collected in September 2022 is Rs.1,47,686 crore, of which central GST is Rs.25,271 crore, state GST is Rs.31,813 crore, integrated GST is Rs.80,464 crore (including Rs.41,215 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs.10,137 crore (including Rs.856 crore collected on import of goods)
- ✓ During the month, revenue from import of goods was 39% higher and receipts from domestic transactions (including import of services) were 22% higher than the revenue from these sources in the same month last year.
- ✓ September also saw the crossing of another milestone when more than 1.1 crore e-way bills and e-invoices combined — 72.94 lakh e-invoices and 37.74 lakh e-way bills — were generated without any glitch on the portal run by NIC on September 30.
- ✓ GST collections had touched a record 1.67 lakh crore in April, while in August it was more than 1.43 lakh crore

## APPOINTMENTS

- **On October 1, the central government - appointed S L Thaosen as the DG of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).**
- ✓ Thaosen, a 1988 batch IPS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, is currently serving as the director general, Sashastra Seema Bal with additional charge as director general of ITBP



- ✓ Anish Dayal Singh, a Manipur cadre IPS officer of 1988 batch and presently working as special director in Intelligence Bureau, has been named director general of ITBP
- ✓ Thaosen was appointed SSB chief on June 1 this year and given additional charge as DG, ITBP, months later in August following the superannuation of his predecessor Sanjay Arora.
- ✓ The post of DG, SSB is likely to be held as additional charge by the DG of one of the central para-military forces

## SPORTS

- **Pole vaulter Rosy Meena Paulraj of Tamil Nadu – broke the national record to win gold medal in the National Games**



- ✓ The 24-year-old Rosy cleared 4.20m to go past VS Surekha's earlier national mark of 4.15m set in 2014.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu weightlifter N Ajith broke the National Record in the Clean and Jerk with a lift of 174kg to claim gold.
- ✓ In men's long jump, Jeswin Aldrin of Tamil Nadu beat 2022 CWG silver medallist Murali Sreeshankar of Kerala for the gold in a high-quality competition to qualify for the 2023 World Athletics Championships.
- ✓ Aldrin jumped 8.26m in his sixth and last attempt to win the gold and go past the World Championships qualifying mark of 8.25m.

- ✓ Sreeshankar, who won silver in the Birmingham CWG in August and holds the national record of 8.36m, had a best jump of 7.93m, which he came up in his first attempt.
- ✓ Another top long jumper, Muhammed Anees Yahiya of Kerala was third with a best jump of 7.92m.
- **India – to begin their 2023 FIH Hockey World Cup campaign against Spain at the newly-constructed Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela on January 13 next year.**



- ✓ India is hosting the world event for the second time in a row, after organising the tournament in Bhubaneswar, Odisha in 2018, which was won by Belgium
- ✓ This time, two cities – Bhubaneswar and Rourkela – will play host to the elite tournament
- ✓ The hosts have been placed in Pool D along with England, Spain and Wales.
- ✓ India plays its second match of the tournament against England on January 15 in Rourkela, and then face Wales on January 19 at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.
- ✓ A total of 44 matches will be played and the games have been scheduled in such a way that all the 16 teams will play matches at both the venues.
- ✓ Rourkela will be hosting 20 matches while the remaining 24 games will be held in Bhubaneswar.
- ✓ The opening match of the World Cup will take place between 2016 Olympic gold medallists Argentina and South Africa at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar on January 13
- ✓ The final will be played on January 29 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

## AWARDS

- **On October 1, President Draupadi Murmu released the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of Swachh Survekshan 2022, the central government's annual cleanliness survey of urban areas under the Swachh Bharat Mission.**



- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu gave away the awards to the winners at an event in Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi, which was also attended by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri among others



- ✓ Indore emerged as the cleanest city of India for the 6th time in a row among cities with more than one lakh population.
  - ✓ Indore had finished at 25 out of the 73 cities in the first Swachh Survekshan in 2016.
  - ✓ A year later, it emerged as the top performer among 434 cities and has continued to hold on to that position.

- ✓ Surat has scored a hat-trick as the second cleanest city since 2020, while Navi Mumbai ranked third among cities with more than 100,000 population.
  - ✓ Agra in Uttar Pradesh was at the bottom of the list of the top 100 cities in this category.
  - ✓ The 10 top-ranked cities with a population of more than one lakh are - Indore, Surat, Navi Mumbai, GVM Visakhapatnam, Vijaywada, Bhopal, Tirupati, Mysore, New Delhi and Ambikapur.
- ✓ Panchgani in Maharashtra was given the cleanest city award among cities with less than 100,000 population, followed by Chhattisgarh's Patan and Maharashtra's Karnad.
  - ✓ Madhya Pradesh's Gadawara was at the bottom in the category of cities with less than one lakh population.
- ✓ The New Delhi Municipal Council area was adjudged the cleanest small city with a population of between 1-3 lakh, while Gujarat's Ahmedabad and Karnataka's Mysuru were given the award for cleanest mega city and medium city, respectively
- ✓ Among the big cities with 10-40 lakh population, Visakhapatnam was given the clean big city award, while Rajkot was adjudged as the best self-sustainable city and Meerut as the "Fastest Mover Big City" in the same category
- ✓ Among the 62 cantonments, Deolali in Maharashtra was adjudged the cleanest, followed by Ahmedabad and Mhow (Madhya Pradesh).
- ✓ Haridwar has been ranked as the cleanest Ganga town with more than one lakh population, followed by Varanasi and Rishikesh
- ✓ Bijpur was ranked the best Ganga town in the less than one lakh population category, followed by Kannauj and Garhmukteshwar respectively.
- ✓ Among States, Madhya Pradesh has been adjudged the best performing state
  - ✓ It was followed by Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra among states with more than 100 urban local bodies (ULB), while Tamil Nadu was the worst performer in this category.
  - ✓ Chhattisgarh was ranked the cleanest state in the previous 3 years
- ✓ Among states with less than 100 ULBs, Tripura was rated as the best performing, followed by Jharkhand and Uttarakhand.
  - ✓ Jharkhand bagged the top spot in this category in the last two consecutive years.
  - ✓ Meghalaya was at the bottom of the list in this category
- ✓ Indore is also India's first 7-star garbage-free city, which is one of the key objectives of the second iteration of the Swachh Bharat Mission launched last year.
  - ✓ Eleven cities, including Surat, Bhopal, Mysuru, Navi Mumbai, Visakhapatnam and Tirupati, earned 5-star garbage-free certifications, according to the housing and urban affairs ministry.

- ✓ Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh received the best city award in the Safai Mitra Suraksha category, while Shivamogga in Karnataka received the fast mover city award
- ✓ In the category of "Best City in Maximum Citizen's Participation" with more than lakh population, Ujjain has been ranked first.
- ✓ Chandigarh has secured the first position in the category of "Fastest Mover State/National Capital or UT" while Vijayawada has emerged as the winner in the category of "Cleanest State/National Capital or UT".
- ✓ This year, 22 states and five Union Territories received awards under various categories, of which eight states, including Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, received more than 10 awards each.
- ✓ This year, 412 cities have been given the star rating, 11 five-star cities, 182 three-star cities, and 218 one-star cities
- ✓ A total of 4,354 urban local bodies (ULBs), including 62 cantonment boards and 91 Ganga towns, participated in this year's sanitation survey
- ✓ The assessment was conducted in three phases -- July-August, September-October and November 2021 to January 2022.
- ✓ According to the government, 126 ULBs from West Bengal did not participate in the annual cleanliness survey conducted by the Central government.
- ✓ This year, the survey also saw an unprecedented number of citizens' feedback – over 9 crore, compared to 5 crore last year
  - ✓ Nine crore citizen feedback was captured through various sources like Swachhatta app, Vote for your city app and my gov app among others during the survey that was 100% digitized
- ✓ The survekshan is made up of three components -- service level progress (3000), certification (2,250) and citizen voice (2,250)
- ✓ Under Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0, all Indian cities will be made garbage-free by 2026
- ✓ A three-week long campaign will start from October 2 to encourage people to do garbage segregation at source

