



FVF RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS - October

TAMIL NADU

- **The India Meteorological Department (IMD) - announced the onset of the northeast monsoon over South India on October 29 due to the presence of northeasterly winds in the lower troposphere levels over the Bay of Bengal.**
- ✓ The weather office forecasted rainfall over parts of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Karnataka till November 2
- ✓ Also known as winter monsoon, the northeast monsoon rainfall from October to December falls over Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Mahe, Puducherry, Karaikal, Yanam, coastal Andhra Pradesh and south interior Karnataka
- ✓ The normal date for the onset of the northeast monsoon is October 21, with a standard deviation of five days.
- ✓ This year the onset of monsoon has been delayed due to the formation of cyclone Sitrang in the Bay of Bengal, which made landfall in Bangladesh.
 - ✓ The delay was the most in the last four years.
- ✓ The IMD in its long-range forecast predicted that a normal to above normal rainfall (88-112% of long period average) is likely during the northeast monsoon season
- ✓ Earlier, the IMD announced the retreat of southwest monsoon from the country on October 23 against a normal withdrawal date of October 15
- ✓ Tamil Nadu receives around 438 mm of rainfall, which is 48% of its annual rainfall of 914 mm during the northeast monsoon.
- ✓ The northeast monsoon season brings 867.4mm of rainfall to Chennai, which is 68% of the city's annual rainfall
- ✓ Since October 1, the Chennai subdivision has registered 137mm of rainfall, which is a 45% deficit, while the state received a rainfall deficit of 27% compared to the average rainfall of 278.7 mm
- ✓ Tamil Nadu received a record rainfall of 109% excess rainfall resulting in floods during the period last year.
- ✓ IMD considers several criteria for declaring the onset of the northeast monsoon.

- ✓ They include withdrawal of SW monsoon up to 15° N, the onset of persistent surface easterlies over the Tamil Nadu coast, depth of easterlies up to 850 hPa (1.5km altitude) over Tamil Nadu coast, fairly widespread rain over coastal Tamil Nadu and adjoining areas and onset is not to be declared before October 10 even if these conditions met.
- ✓ In a bid to improve zone-wise forecasts, IMD has launched AI-driven auto 'nowcast' alerts for every two hours for Chennai on its social media handle @chennaiirmc.
- **On October 29, school education minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi - inaugurated the first ever virtual reality library in a government branch library at Lalgudi in Trichy district.**



- ✓ Earlier, Chief Minister M K Stalin had announced in the assembly the decision to set up virtual reality libraries in 76 libraries across the state that would benefit around one lakh students every year
- ✓ A virtual reality library presents a whole new experience of learning a subject in a 360-degree angle for easy grasping.
- ✓ In Trichy district, the virtual reality library will be set up at the branch libraries in Lalgudi and Thuraiyur.
- ✓ The district has one district central library, 64 branch libraries and 65 village libraries.
- ✓ The state government selected two libraries each in the 38 districts as 'virtual reality' libraries
- ✓ Under the initiative, two virtual reality devices (VRD) each will be given to the 76 libraries in the state.
- ✓ The state government has purchased these devices at a cost of Rs.65. 6 lakh.
- ✓ The directorate of public libraries has provided training to 155 librarians on the use of VRD.
- ✓ The subjects available in the virtual reality library included astronomy, deep ocean, dense forests, scientific laboratory tests, biology, anatomy, lifestyle of animals and archaeology.

- ✓ Commissioner of school education K Nanthakumar, Trichy district collector M Pradeepkumar, Lalgudi MLA A Soundirapandian, director of public libraries E Elambahavath and several others participated in the event.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will attend the platinum jubilee of Gandhigram Trust and convocation of Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University) in Dindigul on November 11.**
 - ✓ There were no party events scheduled for the Prime Minister on that day.
 - ✓ The Prime Minister was in Chennai back in July to inaugurate FIDE 44th Chess Olympiad, organised by the Tamil Nadu government in Mahabalipuram.
 - ✓ The event saw the participation of players from 187 countries.
- **The Puducherry government - has permitted shops and establishments employing more than 10 workers to function 24x7 for the next three years with effect from October 27.**
 - ✓ The order has been passed based on the provisions of the Puducherry Shops and Establishment Act, 1964
 - ✓ The decision was made to provide better services and to promote 'ease of doing business' in the Union territory as part of the government's 'business reforms action plan 2022.'
 - ✓ The plan was evolved based on the request of the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).
 - ✓ The decision will promote tourism and boost the economy of the union territory.
 - ✓ The employers must give a one-day holiday in a week to every employee on a rotation basis and credit the wages including overtime wages of the employees to their saving bank accounts.
 - ✓ They must not force the employees to work for more than eight hours on any day.
 - ✓ The working hours including overtime must not exceed ten and a half hours in a day and 57 hours in a week.
 - ✓ The women employees shall not be required to work beyond 8pm on any day, unless otherwise they furnish a written consent to work between 8am and 6am.
 - ✓ The employers must provide adequate protection of their dignity, honour and safety and arrange transportation for women working in shifts.
- **Anna University - has launched B Plan, a first-ever bachelor's degree in planning in the state from this academic year (2022-23).**
 - ✓ The course was launched by higher education secretary D Karthikeyan on October 28
 - ✓ Commissioner of Technical Education G Laxmi Priya, Anna University vice chancellor R Velraj also participated in the launch event.
 - ✓ A total of 40 students have enrolled in the first batch of the four-year degree programme that will be offered by School of Architecture and Planning (SAP) in Guindy.

- ✓ Students will study various aspects of urban planning including civil engineering, architecture, geography, economics, social science in the UG degree.
- ✓ Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) and the Directorate of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) will give financial assistance of Rs.18.5 crore to establish the course
- ✓ They will also provide salary to faculty members for the first five years.
- ✓ The course will teach students master plan techniques, tools, and methods.
- ✓ Students were admitted based on their scores in physics, chemistry, and maths subjects through online counselling.
- ✓ School of Architecture and Planning (SAP) has been offering the M.Plan course since 1964.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **The 9th annual India Sweden Innovation Day 2022 – was observed on October 27.**
- ✓ The day was organised in association with the Embassy of India to Sweden & Latvia, Sweden-India Business Council (SIBC), and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- ✓ It witnessed the participation of over 1,000 participants from across the globe, which included about 350 esteemed delegates attending in person
- ✓ The event comprised comprehensive sessions with relevant stakeholders in domains such as sustainable urban development and safe transportation, life science, energy, environment, health, and science and technology.
- ✓ The event was themed "Accelerating India Sweden's Green Transition" and hosted by India Unlimited.

COMMITTEES

- **Insurance regulator, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) – has set up a 15-member health consultative committee to expand coverage of health insurances in the country**
- ✓ The committee is mandated to suggest ways and means to increase health insurance penetration and look into various issues facing health insurance policyholders.
- ✓ Among the terms of references, the committee has been asked to make recommendations regarding appropriate product designs, including a universal standard product that is basic and simple, keeping in mind the changing dynamics of healthcare.
- ✓ One of the objectives of the committee is to make recommendations to integrate health insurance into the e-platform – Bima Sugam.
- ✓ The 15-member committee is headed by Rakesh Joshi, member at IRDAI, and it will have representatives from the healthcare and insurance industries.

- ✓ It also has Devi Prasad Shetty, Chairman, of Narayana Health and Dr Naresh Trehan, cardio-thoracic surgeon, Chairman and Managing Director of Medanta Heart Institute, as its members.
- ✓ The panel has been set up for two years and has been asked to meet physically or virtually at least once or quarter by the regulator.
- ✓ As per the latest data, health insurance premiums posted 18.9% year-on-year (YoY) growth in first half of the FY23, compared to 28.8% growth in the same period last year.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **India - hosted a special meeting of the United Nations Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) in Mumbai and Delhi on October 28 and 29, 2022, respectively**



- ✓ The meeting was held on the overarching theme of 'Countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes'
- ✓ The first session began with a 'soft opening session and tribute to the victims of terrorism' through a solemn ceremony at Hotel Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai on October 28.
- ✓ During the day, Foreign Minister S Jaishankar, along with representatives of the UNSC member states (15 current and incoming five), and senior UN officials laid a wreath at the 26/11 memorial site in Mumbai
- ✓ The meeting focused on three significant areas - the use of the internet and social media, terrorism financing and new payment mechanism, and unmanned aerial systems (UAS), including drones
- ✓ The 'Delhi Declaration' adopted after the meeting reaffirmed that terrorism — in all forms and manifestations — constitutes one of the most serious threats to global peace and security
 - ✓ It had urged all member-states to ensure zero tolerance towards terrorism, consistent with their obligations under international laws.

- ✓ The meeting sought to address increased use of Internet and other information and communications technologies, including social media, for terrorist purposes
- ✓ It acknowledged that innovations in financial technologies such as crowd funding platforms present a risk of being misused for terrorist-financing, while noting the increasing “global misuse” of drones to conduct attacks against critical infrastructure
- ✓ India will contribute \$500,000 dollars to the United Nations' efforts to counter global terrorism, said the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar while addressing the meeting in New Delhi.
 - ✓ The money will go toward the U.N. Trust Fund for Counter Terrorism
- ✓ The delegation was led by Vladimir Voronkov, Under Secretary General, UN Office for Counter Terrorism.
- ✓ Among the five permanent members, only the UK will see a ministerial participant.
- ✓ UK foreign secretary James Cleverly was among foreign ministers to attend the meeting in India.
- ✓ Other UNSC member-states which will be represented at the level of ministers are Albania, Gabon, Ghana and UAE.
- ✓ This was the first such meeting of the UNSC-CTC in India since its establishment in 2001.
- ✓ This marks the seventh time that the CTC is meeting outside New York.
- ✓ The last special meeting of the CTC held outside the UN Headquarters was organized in Madrid, Spain in July 2015.
- ✓ The Permanent Representative of India to the UN serves as the Chair of the CTC for 2022.
- ✓ The UNSC Counter-Terrorism Committee was established in 2001 in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks in the United States

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **NASA - has formed a 16-member team to investigate 'unidentified aerial phenomena' (UAPs) or 'unidentified flying objects' (UFOs).**
- ✓ The team includes leading scientists, data and AI practitioners, aerospace safety experts, and other experts in their respective fields.
- ✓ UAP refers to things in the sky that cannot be identified as an aircraft or known natural phenomena
- ✓ The independent study began recently on October 24 and will last for a period of nine months.
- ✓ A full report containing the team's findings will be released to the public in mid-2023.
- ✓ David Sperge, president of the Simons Foundation, will chair the study.

DEFENCE

- **The first edition of India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise - commenced at Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania on October 27**



- ✓ Indian Navy is represented by the guided missile frigate, INS Tarkash, a Chetak helicopter and MARCOS (Special Forces) in the exercise
- ✓ The exercise was held till 29 October and included harbour and sea phases.
- ✓ As part of the harbour phase, capability building activities such as Visit, Board, Search and Seizure; small arms training; joint diving operations; damage control and fire fighting exercises; and cross deck visits were scheduled
- ✓ The sea phase included boat operations, fleet manoeuvres, Visit, Board, Search and Seizure operations, helicopter operations, small arms firing, formation anchoring and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) patrols.

AWARDS

- **West Bengal - has bagged the prestigious SKOCH award in the women and child development category for its popular 'Lakshmir Bhandar' scheme**



- ✓ This was announced by the Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on October 29.
- ✓ The award recognizes both the government and the nearly two crore women of the state who have been empowered by the scheme

- ✓ The West Bengal government had launched the scheme in August 2021 to provide financial support to a woman head of a family and is in the age group of 25-60 years.
- ✓ Under the scheme Rs 500 per month is being given in respect of general caste category and around Rs 1,000 per month for those in the SC and ST categories.
- ✓ The state government incurs an expenditure of around Rs 11,000 crore annually to fund the scheme
- ✓ Instituted in 2003, the SKOCH Award is given to best of governance, inclusive growth, excellence in technology and applications, change management, corporate leadership, corporate governance, citizen services delivery, capacity building and empowerment among others

SPORTS

- **Chennai teen Sankar Muthuswamy - became only the second Indian player to reach the finals of the men's singles at the BWF World Junior Badminton Championships 2022.**



- ✓ On October 28, the World No. 4 junior player defeated Panitchapon Teeraratsakul of Thailand in the semi finals held at Santander, Spain.
- ✓ The former world junior No. 1 will be aiming to become the first Indian champion in the boys category.
- ✓ On October 30, Sankar Muthusamy will compete for the title against either Kuo Kuan-lin of Chinese Taipei or Kim Byung-jae of South Korea.
- ✓ This will be the fourth appearance for an Indian in final of BWF Junior World Championships history since its launch in 1992.
- ✓ The four previous finalists from India were Aparna Popat (silver in 1996), Saina Nehwal (gold in 2008, silver in 2006) and Siril Verma (silver in 2015).
- ✓ Saina Nehwal, who won the women's singles title in 2008, is the only junior badminton world champion from India
- ✓ India has won one gold, three silver, and five bronze medals in the competition going into the 2022 event, all in singles

- ✓ Since Lakshya Sen's bronze medal performance in 2018, Sankar Muthusamy's medal is also India's first at the junior global badminton championships.
 - ✓ Due to Covid-19, the BWF World Junior Championships were postponed in 2020 and 2021
 - ✓ Meanwhile, Indian star pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty moved into the final of French Open BWF Super 750 tournament.
 - ✓ The world No. 8 men's doubles pair defeated Koreans Choi Sol Gyu and Kim Won Ho during the semi finals in Paris.
 - ✓ This would be the second final appearance of the year for Satwik-Chirag after they won the India Open Super 500 title in Delhi.
- **On October 29, former India skipper and chief selector of the national team Dilip Vengsarkar - was elected as the Indian Cricketers' Association's (ICA) representative on the BCCI Apex Council**
- ✓ The 116-Test veteran defeated former India teammate Ashok Malhotra, who was earlier the first-ever president of ICA, by a big margin of 172 votes.



- ✓ Vengsarkar polled 402 votes as against Malhotra's 230 in the elections
- ✓ Ex-India women's team captain Shubhangi Kulkarni was elected unopposed as the ICA's female representative in the BCCI.
- ✓ Former India left-arm spinner Pragyan Ojha will continue to be the ICA representative in the IPL Governing Council, after defeating Vijay Mohan Raj in the elections

RANKINGS

- **India - recorded 0.87 million hectares increase in tree cover, as per the 2022 Forest Declaration Assessment released recently on October 24**
- ✓ China recorded the largest net increase in green cover of 2.1 million hectares in the year 2021
 - ✓ The most significant increase in global tree cover was seen in Russia, Canada, the United States, Brazil and China during the last 20 years, says the report

- ✓ In 2021, deforestation rates have declined at the global level by 6.3% compared to 2018-20 baseline.
 - ✓ However, an annual reduction of 10% is required to achieve the climate goal of stopping deforestation by 2030
- ✓ In 2021, Brazil became the largest contributor of deforestation in the world after recording 3% increase compared to the 2018-2020 baseline
- ✓ The report estimates that it would cost a maximum of \$460 billion per annum to protect, restore and enhance forest on a global scale.

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **Army establishments across the country - observed Infantry Day on October 27**
- ✓ The day seeks to pay homage to the soldiers who fought for the country and laid down their lives in the line of duty.



- ✓ The date October 27 was chosen as it was on this day that the first Indian infantry soldiers defended the country's territory from external aggression.
- ✓ The day commemorates the air-landed operations of the Indian Army at Budgam Airport in 1947, which ensured the first civil-military victory of Independent India
- ✓ On 27th October 1947, Indian Army troops were transported by the Indian Air Force to Budgam Airport to evict Pakistan forces from J-K, a day after the 'Instrument of Accession' was signed between Maharaja Hari Singh and the Republic of India
- ✓ The first Indian battalion was commanded by Lt Col Dewan Ranjit Rai, who laid down his life near Baramulla.
- ✓ Lt Col Rai was the first Commanding Officer to be killed in action in Independent India
- ✓ He was posthumously awarded the second-highest gallantry award of the country, the Maha Vir Chakra, for his bravery.

- ✓ To celebrate the 76th Infantry Day this year on October 27, soldiers are organising four simultaneous bike rallies from all cardinal directions -- Wellington (Tamil Nadu), Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir), Shillong (Meghalaya), and Ahmedabad (Gujarat).
- ✓ The rally started on October 16 and will cover the travel across the country, culminating at the National War Memorial on Infantry Day.
- ✓ Each group will have 10 bikers and will cover a cumulative journey of 8,000 km.
- ✓ The groups are spearheaded by the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment from Ahmedabad, Assam Regiment from Shillong, Madras Regiment from Wellington and Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regiment from Udhampur.

➤ **World Day for Audiovisual Heritage – October 27**

- ✓ The day is observed every year to highlight the importance of recorded images, motion pictures and sounds, which give us insights into people's lives, cultures, languages, communities and the global flora and fauna

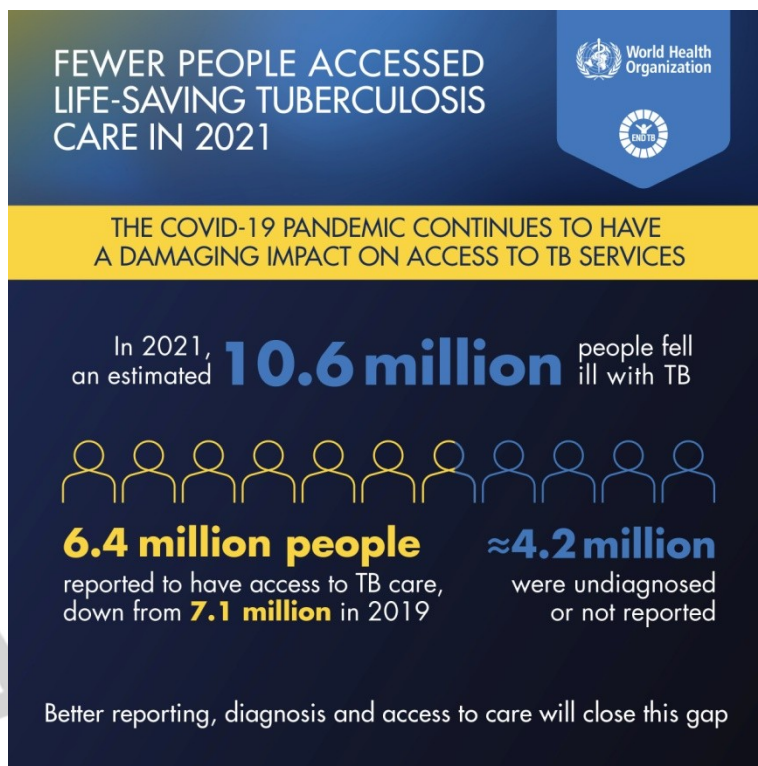


- ✓ The audiovisual heritage sources like film, sounds, radio, television programmes help us observe and understand the past, protect our memories and culture.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - "Enlisting documentary heritage to promote inclusive, just and peaceful societies"
- ✓ On October 27, 1980, the recommendation for the safeguarding and preservation of Moving Images was adopted in the 21st General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO at Belgrade, Serbia.
- ✓ This adoption occurred as a result of the efforts of the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) since the late 1970s.
- ✓ The 33rd session of UNESCO's General Conference in 2005 proclaimed October 27 as World Day for Audiovisual Heritage to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the recommendation proposed in the year 1980
- ✓ UNESCO's Memory of the World (MoW) Programme coincides with World Day for Audiovisual Heritage celebrations, as it begins on October 27 and concludes on November 5.

- ✓ The MoW programme was launched in 1992 under UNESCO to preserve and promote global documentary heritage, and to enable permanent public access to such documents.

GLOBAL TB REPORT 2022

- The World Health Organization – has released the Global TB Report 2022 on October 27, 2022



- ✓ With 28% cases, India was among the eight countries accounting for more than two-third (or 68.3%) of the total TB patients' count across the world
- ✓ The other countries were Indonesia (9.2% cases), China (7.4%), the Philippines (7%), Pakistan (5.8%), Nigeria (4.4%), Bangladesh (3.6%) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2.9%).
- ✓ As per the report, around 10.6 million people across the world were diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB) in 2021, an increase of 4.5% from 2020, while 1.6 million patients died of the bacterial disease
- ✓ Most of the estimated increase in TB deaths globally was accounted for by four countries - India, Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines.
- ✓ In India, the interim estimated number of deaths due to the infectious disease rose by 10% in 2021 from 2020
- ✓ Of the total TB deaths, 187,000 patients were also positive for HIV (human immunodeficiency virus).
- ✓ Nearly 82% of global TB deaths among HIV-negative people occurred in the African and South-East Asia regions, with India alone accounting for 36% of such deaths

- ✓ The burden of drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) also increased by 3% globally between 2020 and 2021, with 450,000 new cases of rifampicin-resistant TB (RR-TB) being reported in 2021.
- ✓ This is the first time in several years that an upward trend has been reported in the number of people developing both TB and DR-TB
- ✓ The reported number of people newly diagnosed with TB fell from 7.1 million in 2019 to 5.8 million in 2020
- ✓ Many new cases of TB are attributable to five risk factors - undernutrition, HIV infection, alcohol use disorders, smoking, and diabetes.
- ✓ India was among the three countries — others being Indonesia and the Philippines — that accounted for most of the reduction in 2020 (67% of the global total).
- ✓ The 2022 report features data on trends of disease and the response to the epidemic from 215 countries and areas, including all 194 WHO member states.
- ✓ In 2014 and 2015, all WHO member states and the UN adopted the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and WHO's 'End TB Strategy' which has put 2030 as deadline to end TB globally
- ✓ India has set 2025 as the TB elimination deadline — which is 5 years earlier than the global target of 2030
- ✓ TB is preventable and curable and around 85% of people who develop the disease can be successfully treated with a 4/6-month drug regimen
- ✓ TB, the second (after Covid-19) deadliest infectious killer, is caused by bacteria (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) that most often affect the lungs.
- ✓ It can spread when sick TB people expel bacteria into the air by coughing.
- ✓ In September 2022, the President of India has launched a first-of-its-kind initiative, Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan to provide additional nutritional support to those on TB treatment
- ✓ In India, through the Ni-kshay Mitra initiative, community support is being provided to TB patients by promoting citizens to adopt one or more patients for their smooth recovery
- ✓ India has registered an 18% decline in TB incidence in the last seven year which is better than the global average of 11%

