



FIVE **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-October**

NATIONAL

- **Indian Railways – to revamp and upgrade 16 railway stations under public-private partnership (PPP) mode**
- ✓ The stations to be redeveloped include Chennai Central, Tambaram, Avadi, Coimbatore Junction, Anand Vihar, Nizamuddin, Bangalore City, Vijayawada, Dadar, Kalyan, Thane, Andheri, Pune, Vadodara, Delhi Hazrat Nizamuddin and Bhopal.
- ✓ These railway stations will be upgraded to ensure improved basic facilities and accessibility for passengers.
- ✓ The railways plans to bid out these stations within the current year itself
- ✓ The bid value of these 16 stations is expected to be more than Rs.10,000 crore.
- ✓ Last week, the Union cabinet had approved the redevelopment of New Delhi, Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus at Mumbai and Ahmedabad stations under the 'engineering, procurement and construction' (EPC) route
- ✓ In the first phase, the railway will opt for both EPC, where the government funds the entire project cost, and the PPP mode for redevelopment of 200 stations considering the viability of projects.
- ✓ Earlier, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had said that the designs of the redeveloped stations will include a spacious roof plaza with all passenger amenities at one place along with spaces for retail, cafeterias, and recreational facilities.
- ✓ The redevelopment may lead to rise in the prices of platform tickets and other conveniences provided by the railways

- **India's newly launched airline, Akasa - will soon allow pets including domesticated dogs and cats, on its aircrafts in both cabin and cargo from November 1 this year**

- ✓ Pets weighing up to 7kg will be allowed onboard, while those weighing between 7kg and 32kg will need to be checked in at airports and 32kg-100kg will have to be checked in at cargo terminal as they will require to be flown in larger crates.
- ✓ The airline is working with Umeedforanimals, a non-government organisation, for best practices to handle pets on flights.
- ✓ The airline will allow a maximum of one pet in the passenger cabin and one in the cargo hold, thereby accommodating at the most two pets on a flight.
- ✓ The pet in cabin will need to be in a crate and will be put in front of the accompanying passenger's seat.



- ✓ The bookings for pets travelling in cabin and cargo of the flights will start from October 15.
 - ✓ The airline, backed by late stock market investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala along with aviation industry veteran Vinay Dube, launched its operations on August 7 with a flight to Ahmedabad, Gujarat from New Delhi
 - ✓ Akasa Air plans to connect eight cities this year, which includes Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Kochi, Chennai, Delhi, Agartala and Guwahati.
 - ✓ While Air India, Jet Airways, SpiceJet and Vistara already allow pets on board, IndiGo and Air Asia do not offer such a facility unless it's a service animal such as a guide dog for a blind man
 - ✓ Akasa has recently stated that it is aggressively scaling up operations and will cross 250 flights per week by October 10, 2022, covering nine routes
 - ✓ Air India, which has been flying pets for decades now, allows a maximum of two pets in cabin per flight — one in the last row of first/business class and one in the last row of economy along with the accompanying passenger.
 - ✓ This facility is available to small domestic pets such as dogs, cats and birds, which are accompanied by valid health and rabies vaccination certificates, on AI domestic flights in the cabin or in cargo hold
- **India - was the world's top producer of sugar during the just-ended sugar marketing year and was the second largest exporter.**
- ✓ According to the official data released by the government , India's exports were estimated during 2021-22 (October-September) sugar season at 1.1 crore tonnes

- ✓ This is 58% higher than the previous year, helping generate forex inflows of around Rs.40,000 crore.
- ✓ During the year, sugarcane production was estimated at over 50 crore tonnes, with sugar output of 3.9 crore tonnes, resulting in exports of around 28% of domestic production.
- ✓ According to International Sugar Organisation, India was the largest sugar producer in 2019 as well with output of 2.97 crore tonnes, compared to Brazil's 2.92 crore tonnes.
- ✓ For several years, Brazil was the world's top sugar producer with Thailand in second place.
- ✓ However, India is slowly emerging as one of the largest exporters, at least during years of bumper production.
- ✓ According to the government's official data, India's sugar exports increased over 11 times from 6.2 lakh tonnes in 2017-18 to 70 lakh tonnes in 2020-21 marketing year.
- ✓ The 2021-22 sugar season has proven to be a massive season for the Indian sugar sector.
- ✓ All records of sugarcane production, sugar production, sugar exports, cane procured, cane dues paid and ethanol production were made during the season.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **On October 6, India - abstained on a draft resolution in the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka.**
- ✓ The draft resolution on 'promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka' was adopted at the 51st Session of Human Rights Council in Geneva
- ✓ It was adopted with 20 nations voting in favour and seven against in the 47-member Council
- ✓ While China and Pakistan voted against, among the 20 nations that abstained were Japan, Qatar and Nepal.
- ✓ The 20 countries that voted in favour of the resolution included the United Kingdom, the United States, Argentina, Finland, France, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Poland, Republic of Korea and Ukraine.
- ✓ India took note of the commitments by the government of Sri Lanka on meaningful devolution and early conduct of provincial elections
- ✓ India urged Sri Lanka to work meaningfully towards early implementation of these commitments.
- ✓ The resolutions on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka were previously moved in Geneva in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019, and in 2021.

- ✓ Sri Lanka had expressed opposition to the resolution as a violation of its sovereignty during all the years other than in 2015, when they co sponsored the resolution
- **On October 6, India - abstained from voting at the regular session of 51st UN Human Rights Council on a proposal by the western countries seeking a debate on human rights abuses in China's Xinjiang province**
- ✓ The draft resolution on “holding a debate on the situation of human rights in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China” was rejected in the 47-member Council
- ✓ The move was defeated with 19 nations voting against it, including China, Pakistan and Nepal
- ✓ A total of 17 countries voted in favour, while 11 countries, including India, Brazil, Mexico and Ukraine, abstained.
- ✓ The draft resolution on the situation in Xinjiang was presented by a group comprising Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, the UK and the US, and was co-sponsored by other countries such as Turkey.
- ✓ The resolution was supported by France, Germany, Japan and the Netherlands
- ✓ Twelve of the 17 OIC member states with representation in the UNHRC also voted in favour of China on the resolution on Xinjiang
- ✓ The resolution was a follow-up to a recent report by former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet that exposed a wide range of human rights violations in Xinjiang on September 1
- ✓ This is the first time in its history, the UN's top human rights body considered a proposal to debate the human rights situation in the Xinjiang region of China
- ✓ Serious allegations of human rights violations against Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim communities in China were brought to the attention of the UN Human Rights Office and UN human rights mechanisms since late 2017

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The first international conference of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh - began in Chennai on October 6, 2022.**



- ✓ Renowned surgeons across specialities from over 60 countries are participating in the conference to discuss and reflect upon the pandemic years
- ✓ The decision to hold the first conference in Chennai was made nearly four years ago by the 517-year-old institution
- ✓ However, the conference was postponed several times in the last two years due to Covid-19 restrictions
- ✓ The three-day conference with the theme 'Beyond COVID-19: Impact and innovation', will have sessions in various specialities for doctors and a training symposium for postgraduate medical students.
- ✓ Besides education and training for the examination, the institution offers international and global fellowships.
- ✓ Young doctors will be trained for two years internationally in the speciality of their choice under the fellowship programme.
- ✓ The institution does a periodic review to ensure the fellows have trained adequately and to their satisfaction.
- ✓ The institute is planning to partner with medical colleges, universities, and doctors' bodies for multi-centric research on cancer.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **For the first time in 20 years, a Russian cosmonaut – was launched to the International Space Station (ISS) alongside Nasa and Japanese astronauts from the US on October 6**



- ✓ Among the astronauts, Japan Space Agency's Koichi Wakata is making his fifth spaceflight
- ✓ He was joined by 3 others, who are making their maiden flight on a five month mission to ISS
- ✓ It includes Marine Col. Nicole Mann, the first Native American woman bound for orbit; Navy Capt. Josh Cassada and Russia's lone female cosmonaut, Anna Kikina

- ✓ They have arrived at the ISS on October 7, 29 hours after departing Nasa's Kennedy Space Center, and will return back to Earth only in March.
- ✓ They're replacing a US-Italian crew that arrived in April.
- ✓ Kikina is the Russian Space Agency's exchange for Nasa's Frank Rubio, who launched to the ISS two weeks ago from Kazakhstan aboard a Soyuz rocket.
- ✓ The space agencies agreed recently to swap astronauts and cosmonauts in order to ensure a continuous US and Russian presence aboard the 420-km-high outpost.
- ✓ Beginning with Krikalev in 1994, Nasa started flying cosmonauts on its space shuttles, first to Russia's Mir space station and then to the ISS, before ending it following the 2003 Columbia re-entry disaster.
- ✓ Kakina is only the fifth Russian woman to fly in space.
- ✓ Mann is a member of the Wailacki of the Round Valley Indian Tribes in California.
- ✓ Retired Nasa astronaut John Herrington of the Chickasaw Nation became the first Native American in space in 2002.

ECONOMY

- **On October 7, the World Bank - downgraded India's GDP growth forecast for 2022-23 to 6.5% from its earlier estimate of 7.5% in its latest South Asia Economic Focus Update**
- ✓ The reasons cited include the impact of the ongoing war in Ukraine, rising global interest rates and high inflation.
- ✓ This is the third time that the World Bank has revised the GDP growth estimation for India for the FY2023
- ✓ In April 2022, it slashed the GDP growth forecast from 8.7% to 8%, while in June, it was downgraded yet again to 7.5%
- ✓ The recent estimate by the World Bank is the lowest any multilateral agency predicted for FY2023.
- ✓ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) had predicted India's GDP to grow at 7.4%
- ✓ RBI had slashed the GDP projection from 7.2% to 7%
- ✓ During the first quarter of FY 2023, India's real GDP growth was 13.5% - – 3.8 per cent increase from the pre-pandemic level


AWARDS

- **On October 7, the Nobel Prize in Literature - was awarded to the French novelist Annie Ernaux, who becomes the first French woman to win the prize**
- ✓ The Swedish Academy, which decides the prize, announced the decision at a news conference in Stockholm
- ✓ Ernaux, 82, becomes only the 17th female writer to have won the prize since it was formed in 1901.

- ✓ She is the second woman to be given the prize in three years after Louise Glück, the American poet, who was awarded the 2020 prize.
- ✓ Ernaux started out writing autobiographical novels and quickly abandoned fiction in favor of memoirs.
- ✓ She has written more than 20 books, most of them very short, chronicling events in her life and the lives of those around her.



AI
STUDY



FIRST FEMALE FRENCH NOBEL LITERATURE WINNER

“ I am very happy, I am proud. Voila, that's all... It is a great responsibility ”
--ANNIE ERNAUX

A 1984 photo of Annie Ernaux Annie Ernaux, the first female French Nobel literature winner and just the 17th woman among the 119 Nobel literature laureates, has made a career of mining her own shame. She is a writer dedicated to re-examining her past and cataloging her humiliations and anxieties with precision. A guide to her work:

<p>Cleaned Out (1974) Her first book follows a young woman whose life resembles Ernaux's as she undergoes illegal abortion</p> <p>Shame (1997) 'My father tried to kill my mother...' Ernaux begins this work with an act of violence that she witnessed at age 12</p> <p>Happening (2000) An account of her abortion in 1963, it includes scenes of Ernaux attempting to carry out the procedure herself with knitting needles. The book was turned into a film by Audrey Diwan, which spurred women across France to share their own experiences</p>	<p>Getting Lost (2001) This diary, released in English earlier this month, covers 1988-90, tracing an affair between Ernaux and a married Soviet diplomat</p> <p>The Years (2008) Shortlisted for the International Booker Prize, this book was Ernaux's breakout for many readers outside France. It is a generational memoir of postwar France</p> <p>A Girl's Story (2016) Ernaux returns to an episode from 50 years earlier: her first sexual experience, a traumatic one, and its ramifications throughout her life</p>
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- ✓ Ernaux's famous works include A Woman's Story, A Man's Place, A Simple Passion, Cleaned Out and L'occupation.
- ✓ Her most critically acclaimed book was 'The Years' (Les années), which was published in 2008
- ✓ In 2019, "The Years" was shortlisted for the Booker International Prize, a major British award for fiction translated into English.
- ✓ A total of 95 of the past 118 Nobel laureates have been European or North America, and only 16 women.
- ✓ Last year's Nobel literature prize went to the Tanzanian-born, UK-based writer Abdulrazak Gurnah, whose novels explore the impact of migration on individuals and societies
- ✓ He was the first Black writer to receive the prize since Morrison in 1993, and the first African to win in more than a decade.
- ✓ The prize is awarded by the Swedish Academy and is worth 10 million Swedish crowns (\$914,704).
- ✓ The money comes from a bequest left by the prize's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel, in 1895.

SPORTS

- **Brazil - will be the top-rated team in this year's FIFA World Cup after extending their lead over second-place Belgium in the latest FIFA rankings released on October 7.**
- ✓ Argentina remains at No. 3, while 2018 World Cup champion France are at No. 4.
- ✓ The World Cup in Qatar starts on November 20.
- ✓ Hosts Qatar will be the 50th-ranked team, just ahead of No. 51 Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ Ghana will be the lowest ranked team at No. 61.
- ✓ Group B at the World Cup is the strongest by rankings with all four teams in the top 20 - No. 5 England, No. 16 United States, No. 19 Wales and No. 20 Iran.
- ✓ Italy improved one place to No. 6 and are the highest-ranked team that failed to qualify for the World Cup, missing back-to-back editions.
- ✓ Spain dropped one place to No. 7, with Netherlands, Portugal and Denmark unchanged to complete the top 10.
- ✓ Germany, the 2014 champions, are No. 11, just ahead of 2018 finalists Croatia.
- ✓ Further, Russia rose two places to No. 33 despite not playing a recognized game in 2022.
- **On October 7, Indian men's and women's hockey team coaches Graham Reid and Janneke Schopman - were voted as FIH Coaches of the Year in their respective categories.**
- ✓ This was announced by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) on October 6
- ✓ This is the second consecutive time Reid won the award, while India coach Sjoerd Marijne was the winner of the FIH women's coach of the year award last season.



- ✓ The Indian women's team under the Dutch coach Schopman made their debut in the FIH Hockey Pro League in the 2021-22 season and finished in the 3rd position.
- ✓ In the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games, the team ended their campaign finishing on the podium for the first time in 16 years, defeating New Zealand in the Bronze medal match in a shoot-out.

- ✓ Graham Reid took over as the head coach of the Indian men's hockey team in April 2019
 - ✓ Under Reid, India has reached many new highs in its recent history, which includes winning its first Olympic medal (bronze) at the Tokyo Games in 2021, after a gap of 41 years.
 - ✓ India also won the silver medal at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, after missing out the medal prospect in the previous edition of the games in 2018 at Gold Coast, Australia.
 - ✓ India played its first full season of FIH Hockey Pro League in 2021-22, and finished in the third position behind Netherlands and Belgium
 - ✓ Reid's Indian team managed to score 62 goals across their campaign, which is the highest tally of goals scored by a team, not just in this season, but in the history of the Pro League.
 - ✓ Reid also was the coach of the Indian men's hockey team that won the inaugural Hero FIH Hockey5s Lausanne 2022, winning every single game along the way.
 - ✓ On October 5, PR Sreejesh and Savita Punia were voted as FIH men's and women's goalkeeper of the year, while Mumtaz Khan was named FIH women's rising star of the year a day earlier.
- **In an unprecedented move, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) - is planning to hold the knock-out stages of the Santosh Trophy National Championships in Saudi Arabia early next year.**
- ✓ In this regard, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Saudi Arabian Football Federation



- ✓ The agreement was signed at the Saudi Arabian city of Dammam.
- ✓ The MoU seeks to study the possibility of holding the final stages of the National Football Championships for the Santosh Trophy in Riyadh and Jeddah next February.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Cotton Day - October 7**



- ✓ The day is observed every year to recognize the importance of cotton and the people who work in the cotton industry
- ✓ Theme 2022 - "Weaving a better future for cotton"
- ✓ The first World Cotton Day was proposed by the World Trade Organization (WTO) on October 7, 2019
- ✓ The proposal in this regard was put forward by the Cotton Four – the four cotton producing countries in sub-Saharan Africa, which include Burkina Faso, Benin, Mali and Chad
- ✓ The WTO Secretariat, in collaboration with Secretariats of the International Cotton Advisory Committee, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, International Trade Centre and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization hosted the first World Cotton Day event in Geneva in 2019
- ✓ World Cotton Day is commemorated every year through activities that educate and help cotton growers, processors, researchers, and all other stakeholders regarding the production and sale of cotton.
- ✓ The largest producer of cotton in the world is India.
- ✓ Cotton is a versatile plant that is mostly consumed in the textile industry, but it is also useful in the medical field, the edible oil industry, animal feeds, and bookbinding, among others.

