

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 10, 2022

### TAMIL NADU

- On December 9, Chief Minister M K Stalin – unveiled the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission at the two-day Tamil Nadu Climate Summit 2022 organised by the Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department in Chennai



- ✓ With this, Tamil Nadu has become the first state in the country to become 'climate smart' by launching its own Climate Change Mission
- ✓ The mission seeks to protect the natural resources in the state besides restoring them on a long-term basis.
- ✓ During the event, the CM said that the state will achieve carbon net zero ahead of the 2070 target set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- ✓ The CM also said the government would create a separate green power grid, a green power policy and a single window system under the finance department for all climate change mitigation projects.
- ✓ Later, the CM signed memorandums of understanding with the World Resources Institute, Anna University and the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management for setting up ten smart villages, 25 green schools and to get blue flag certification for more beaches.

- ✓ The Blue Flag Certification Scheme for Beaches is implemented to plan and promote sustainable tourism and healthy coastal management, reduce pollution on beaches and raise beaches to international standards.
  - ✓ In order to implement this scheme in Tamil Nadu in a smooth manner, the Chief Minister presented a letter of agreement to the National Coastal Planning Management Center to carry out basic surveys on ten beaches so as to get Blue Flag certification for them.
- ✓ The smart villages will make full use of solar energy, climate change information, waste and water management, rainwater harvesting and ensure green development
  - ✓ For this project, the Chief Minister awarded the Letter of Agreement to the World Resources Institute for preparation and implementation.
- ✓ The Green Myths project will be implemented as part of the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Initiative.
  - ✓ In the first instance of this project, two temples in Tamil Nadu will be selected and developed as model temples to adapt to climate change.
  - ✓ It will be implemented by the Energy Education Center of Anna University
- ✓ The Department of School Education will act as the implementing agency for the Green Schools scheme, which will realize the use of non-conventional energy in 25 selected schools in the state
- ✓ During his speech, the CM said that a separate green corridor will be created to increase and transport electricity generated using renewable sources.
- ✓ Further, the CM said that the government is also trying to take steps to create a green climate fund of Rs.1,000 crore.
  - ✓ In its first phase, Rs.100 crore has been provided by the government of Tamil Nadu, which will be used to raise funds nationally and globally for eco-friendly constructions in the state, said the Chief Minister.
- ✓ During the Summit, Vinisha Umashankar from Tiruvannamalai spoke about her innovation of solar powered ironing cart.
- ✓ R Shanmugam, former Panchayat President from Odanthurai, Coimbatore District shared his experience about self sufficiency in electricity generation in Odanthurai Village through installation of wind mill in the village.
- ✓ Members from Tamil Nadu Governing Council on Climate Change Erik Solheim, 6th Executive Director, UNEP and former Under Secretary General Montek Singh Ahluwalia and others attended the conference.
- ✓ Renowned economist Montek Singh Ahluwalia is one of the governing council member of the TN climate change mission
- ✓ During the budget for 2021-2022, the state government announced the launch of the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission at an outlay of Rs 500 crore to undertake climate change management and mitigation activities.
- ✓ Following this, the government established India's first 'Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company – a special purpose vehicle – to implement three major nature

conservation projects namely Green Tamil Nadu Mission, Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission and Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission

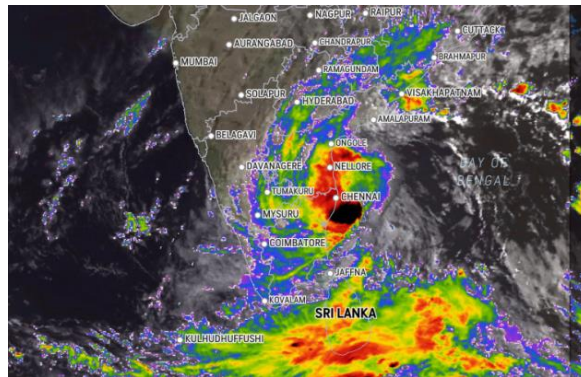
- ✓ Further, Rs 77.35 crore was allotted for carrying out basic research related to reduction of vehicular emissions, restoration of coastal habitats, creation of mangrove forests and other features, efforts to generate energy from waste, green power generation, creation of life shields in coastal areas, climate literacy and sustainable villages.
  - ✓ Later, in a significant move, the government has appointed District Forest Officers (DFO) as Climatic Officers.
- **On December 9, Chief Minister M K Stalin – inaugurated a sanitary workers development scheme for the empowerment of sanitation workers across the state**



- ✓ Tamil Nadu is the second state in the country to have such scheme along with a mobile application for sanitation workers, after Odisha.
- ✓ The CM unveiled a logo for the sanitary workers and launched a mobile application called SHWAS (Sanitation Workers Health Welfare and Safety) at Madurai Corporation office.
- ✓ A badge carrying the logo was also unveiled by the Chief Minister during the occasion
- ✓ The scheme will benefit around 53,301 sanitary workers 18,859 permanent workers and 34,442 temporary workers across the state.
- ✓ The scheme will focus on the wholistic development of sanitation workers and their families, with the help of urban local governments and Urban Management Centre, a non-profit organisation.
- ✓ The scheme along with the mobile application will help the workers get enrolled and enumerated properly
- ✓ Under the scheme, sanitary workers will be identified and provided with skill development, education loans for children, loans to do alternate business, and insurance.
- ✓ The scheme has been implemented on a pilot basis in five local bodies zone 6 of Chennai corporation, zone 3 of Madurai corporation, Pollachi municipality, Pudukkottai municipality and Cheran mahadevi town panchayat.



- ✓ This project will be implemented with the help of the urban management centre in Ahmedabad
  - ✓ Finance minister P T R Palanivel Thiagarajan, minister of commercial taxes P Moorthy, minister of municipal administration K N Nehru and MP Su Venkatesan, were present among others.
  - ✓ Later, CM Stalin unveiled a 13-foot-tall bronze statue of Dr B R Ambedkar at Perungudi near Madurai Airport.
- **Mandous - became the 13th cyclone to cross the coast between Chennai and Puducherry in the last 122 years**



- ✓ Cyclone Mandous crossed the east coast at Mamallapuram near Chennai on December 9 and completely moved over land.
  - ✓ It brought up to 10cm of rainfall in Chennai with winds raging at 65kmph-75kmph and gusts that touched 85kmph
  - ✓ After landfall, the system will weaken into a deep depression and later into a depression before it emerges over the Arabian Sea.
  - ✓ Chennai's S-band radar was tracking the cyclone as it approached the coast.
- **The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) – has initiated efforts to make Asia's biggest perishable goods market at Koyambedu 'carbon neutral'**

### PROJECT IN BRIEF

- Market area | 65 acres
- Waste generation | 180-200 tonne a day
- Project cost | ₹25cr
- IIT-M to prepare a detailed project report
- Innovation hub to be set up
- Unique solution for each type of waste generated



**WELCOME MOVE:** The project is expected to be over in 3 years

#### Facilities

Garbage sampling, commodities assessment, toilet in far, renewable energy, flood mitigation, rainwater harvesting structures, stray cattle management

- ✓ In this regard, the TNPCB has allocated Rs.25 crore and employed IIT-Madras scientists to prepare a detailed project report.
- ✓ The report will be submitted in three months and the project is expected to be completed in three years.
- ✓ At present, Koyambedu market is a place of poor solid waste management and sanitation
- ✓ One of the first steps for the decarbonization project is to prepare an inventory of greenhouse gases inside the market.
- ✓ The first step will include setting up a 15,000sqft innovation hub inside the complex, where pilot models will be on display
- ✓ Biomethanisation plants, rainwater harvesting, solar roofing and promotion of renewable energy will be part of the decarbonisation project.
- ✓ Some initiatives will include setting up of bio-toilets, use of e-vehicles inside the market to transfer commodities, flood mitigation measures and setting up proper rain water harvesting structures.
- ✓ The initiative will be part of the CMDA's 20-crore modernisation project.

## STATES

- **Maharashtra – has become the first state in the country to set up a separate department for the differently-abled persons (Divyangs)**
- ✓ The state government has created an independent Department of Disabled Welfare with a fund allocation of Rs 1,143 crore.
- ✓ This was announced recently by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde while marking the International Day of Disabled Persons on December 3
- ✓ The new department will formulate policies for the welfare of the disabled by taking into consideration views of the stakeholders
- ✓ It will also have a Divyang Financial Development Corporation for implementing the schemes.
- ✓ Till now, welfare activities of differently-abled people like education, training, and rehabilitation were taken care by the state social justice department.
- ✓ Currently, the state has over 2.5 crore differently-abled people

## NATIONAL

- **On December 9, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) - released the benchmarks set for its affiliated colleges.**
- ✓ The benchmarks manual is its secret ledger of maximum scores it awards to colleges that seek assessment reports.
- ✓ It is for the first time that NAAC has declared the benchmarks for each of the parameters it grades colleges on, allowing every institution to know the maximum achievable scores
- ✓ The benchmarks for universities and autonomous colleges will be released later this month.

- ✓ At present, NAAC has about a dozen manuals, one each for affiliated colleges, autonomous colleges, health university, yoga university, and one for open and distance learning, among others.
- **A fresh Omicron offshoot CH. 1.1 - has emerged in India, specifically Maharashtra.**
- ✓ As per the latest INSACOG data, a total of 17 samples showing this sub-variant were detected in India with 16 of them from Maharashtra and one from Gujarat.
- ✓ CH. 1.1 is a descendant of the mild Omicron sub-variant BA. 2 and is one of the most immune-evasive variants
- ✓ It has now acquired a Delta mutation, which could make it more pathogenic.
- ✓ CH. 1.1 has independently acquired the same set of key mutations as BQ.1.1, a descendant of the more pathogenic BA. 5.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **On December 8, the US House of Representatives - passed a defence spending bill that includes up to \$10 billion in military grant assistance for Taiwan.**
- ✓ The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for 2023 would authorise grant assistance for Taiwan of up to \$2 billion per year from 2023 through 2027
- ✓ However, the bill still requires Senate passage and the signature of President Joe Biden to become law
- ✓ The act also authorises Biden to provide Taiwan with up to \$1 billion per year in defence items from US stockpiles, or other services such as military training.
- ✓ Further, the proposed act requires the secretaries of state and defence to “prioritise and expedite the processing of requests from Taiwan under the Foreign Military Sales programme”.

## APPOINTMENTS

- **The government - has appointed Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran as the Chair of B20 India to lead the business agenda during India's G20 presidency.**



- ✓ The B20 represents the voice of the entire G20 business community.
- ✓ The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has been appointed as the B20 India Secretariat by the government to lead the B20 India process.
- ✓ B20 India will commence work on various taskforces and action councils after the inception meeting, scheduled on 22-24 January, 2023, culminating into the B20 India Summit in August 2023
- ✓ B20 India has identified priorities for deliberations under the theme “R.A.I.S.E – Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, and Equitable Businesses”
- ✓ About 100 business policy initiatives will be organised by CII under the B20 calendar across the country during the presidency year.
- ✓ Chandrasekaran is chairman of the board of Tata Sons, the holding company and promoter of more than 100 Tata group companies with aggregate annual revenues of more than \$100 billion.

## RANKINGS

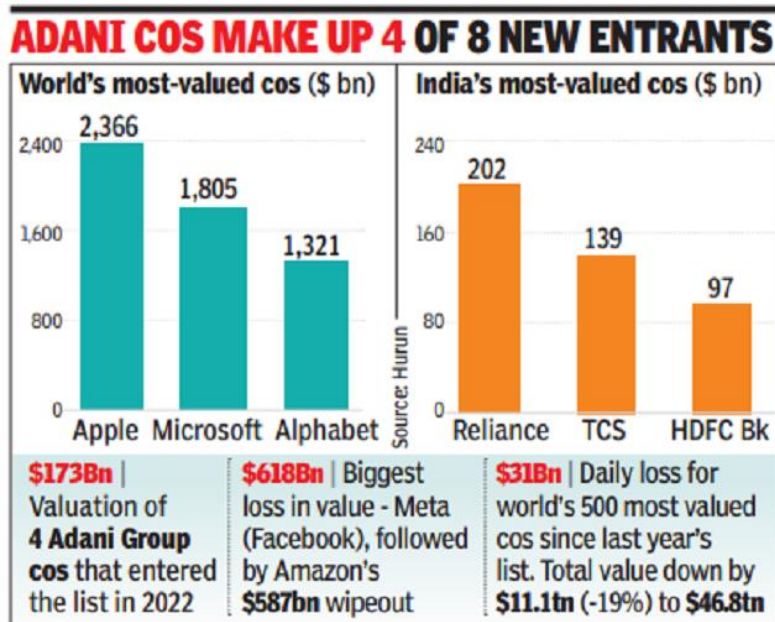
- **India - has 20 companies in the Hurun list of world’s 500 most valuable companies, up from the previous year’s tally by eight.**



- ✓ India moved up four places to rank fifth in the list behind the US, China, Japan and the UK.
- ✓ Four companies controlled by billionaire Gautam Adani made the Hurun Global 500 list for the first time
  - ✓ They include Adani Enterprises (worth \$46 billion), Adani Transmission (\$44 billion), Adani Total Gas (\$43 billion) and Adani Green Energy (\$40 billion).
  - ✓ Founded in 2014, Adani Transmission is among the youngest on the list.
- ✓ Of the 20 Indian companies in the list, 11 are based in Mumbai and four in Ahmedabad.
- ✓ Reliance Industries is the most valuable company (worth \$202 billion), followed by TCS (\$139 billion) and HDFC Bank (\$97 billion).
- ✓ Financial Services is at the top of the list with seven companies, followed by software & services and energy with three companies each.



- ✓ Apple continued to be the most valuable company in the world (worth \$2.4 trillion), though its value is down 3% from the previous year.



- ✓ Microsoft retained second place with a valuation of \$1.8 trillion, down 15% from the previous year.
- ✓ Financial services sector was the biggest contributor to the list with 21% or 104 companies, led by United Health Group, Visa and JP Morgan Chase.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

- International Anti-Corruption Day – December 9



- ✓ The day is observed every year to raise awareness about the consequences of engaging in corruption, its harmful effects on development and creating a society free from it
- ✓ Theme 2022 - 'UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption',
- ✓ This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)
- ✓ The UN General Assembly approved the United Nations Convention against Corruption as the first step towards tackling corruption on October 31, 2003



- ✓ The Assembly also declared 9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day, to promote awareness of corruption and of the role of the Convention in combating and preventing it.
- ✓ The Convention went into force in December 2005.
- ✓ In India, thirty-four CBI officers were awarded medals for meritorious service on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day this year.

