



FVF **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS - October**

TAMIL NADU

- **The Tamil Nadu government – has mandated linking of Aadhaar with electricity consumer number to avail free and subsidised electricity**
- ✓ An order dated October 6 issued by Energy Department will be applicable for 2.36 crore domestic consumers, 21 lakh agricultural connections, handloom and powerloom businesses in the state.
- ✓ The government made the notification under Section 7 of the Aadhaar Act as the subsidy schemes are implemented from the state consolidated fund
- ✓ The new order will be applicable for availing free 100 units bimonthly in all slabs and reduction of tariff above 100 units bimonthly for domestic consumers consuming upto 500 units bimonthly
- ✓ It is also applicable for free supply of electricity for those in huts, free supply for agricultural purpose in respect to low tension and high tension lift irrigation, reduction of tariff upto 120 units bimonthly for all low tension actual places of public worship, free first 750 units bimonthly and reduction of tariff for above 750 units bimonthly for power loom consumers, and free 200 units bimonthly for handloom consumers.
- ✓ Consumers, who does not possess an Aadhaar number or has not yet enrolled for Aadhaar should apply for enrolment.
- ✓ Till then, they can get the subsidy by submitting their Aadhaar enrolment identity or a copy of request made for Aadhaar enrolment along with authorised identity documents such as passbook, voter ID, ration card, PAN card, passport or driving licence.
- ✓ The new order is aimed at identifying consumers with multiple connections in same building.

- **The western side of Doddabetta slope in Ooty – has grown purple-coloured neelakurinji flowers after a gap of four years**

- ✓ Neelakurinji flowers last made an appearance at Doddabetta, Kalhatty and Kilkotagiri areas in the district four years ago in September 2018.



- ✓ Usually, these purple flowers bloom once in 12 years.
- ✓ The change in the cycle of bloom has been attributed to climate change.
- ✓ There are different varieties of neelakurinji, a shrub that belong to the genus of Strobilanthes.
- ✓ The one found on the west side of Doddabetta slope is Strobilanthes kunthianus.
- ✓ The neelakurinji bloom was recorded at Kalhatti slope only once in 12 years, while the same was occurring at Doddabetta slope once in three to four years.
- ✓ Nilgiris was home to 36 varieties of Strobilanthes genus which bloom in different colours at different intervals.
- ✓ The neelakurinji bloom wasn't recorded in other areas of the district.
- ✓ The lifespan of neelakurinji flowers is very short.
- ✓ Its honey is known for its medicinal properties, while for rock bees, it is a source of nectar

STATES

- **The Kerala government - has signed an agreement with Manchester, Oxford, Edinburgh and Siegen universities for cooperation in the graphene sector**



- ✓ The MoU was signed in the presence of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and state industry minister P Rajeeve in UK on October 12.
- ✓ In the event held in London, Andre Geim, who was awarded the Nobel prize in 2010 for his work on graphene, also participated.
- ✓ The chief minister, who is presently in the UK, said that the government has already taken steps to come up with a graphene-based industrial park.
- ✓ The agreements are expected to strengthen the capabilities of Kerala in the development of modern research and knowledge economy, said the CM
- ✓ The state would also promote organizations that are engaged in developing nanotechnology and futuristic products like graphene, the chief minister said.
- ✓ The first digital university in the country was set up in Kerala and the government is trying to come up with new industries based on new generation technologies.
- ✓ To give support to knowledge industries in digital technologies, the government is also planning to develop a science park.
- ✓ The task of developing a science park was given to the digital university as it is an organization that is engaged in research and development in digital science and technology, said the Chief Minister

NATIONAL

- **The Union ministry of health and family welfare - has launched an on-call mental health service called Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) on the occasion of World Mental Health Day**



- ✓ It was launched via video conferencing by Thawar Chand Gehlot, Governor of Karnataka at National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, in the presence of Dr. K. Sudhakar, minister for health & family welfare and medical education, Karnataka & vice-president, NIMHANS on October 10
- ✓ The 24x7 initiative comprises a network of 23 tele-mental health centres across various states and Union Territories (UTs)
- ✓ The initiative will serve as the digital arm of the District Mental Health Programme
- ✓ The launching states includes Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chhattisgarh, Dadra Nagar Haveli and daman and Diu, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Ladakh, Maharashtra, Madhya

Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

- ✓ NIMHANS will act as the nodal centre for the new initiative, while International Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore (IIITB) will provide technology support.
- ✓ Further, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bengaluru and National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHRSC) will provide the technical support.
- ✓ A toll-free, 24/7 helpline number (14416) has been set up across the country allowing callers to connect to the network for availing services such as counselling, consultation with a specialist, and e-prescriptions
- ✓ The programme will have five regional coordinating centres, 23 mentoring institutes including AIIMS, and 51 state/UT tele Manas cells to build a comprehensive network
- ✓ The National Tele Mental Health Programme (NTMHP) was first announced in 2022-23 Budget after acknowledging the mental health crisis in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On October 13, a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court - delivered a split verdict on barring students from wearing any religious clothing, including Hijab, in state-run 'secular' schools and colleges in Karnataka**
- ✓ While Justice Hemant Gupta upheld the ban on Hijab in education institutes and dismissed 26 appeals challenging the Karnataka High Court order, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia gave his verdict in favour of removing the ban on wearing hijab.
- ✓ As a result of the split ruling, the case will now be sent to the Chief Justice of India for suitable directions
- ✓ On September 22, the Supreme Court of India reserved the orders on various petitions challenging the verdict of the Karnataka High Court upholding the ban on Hijab in education institutes
- ✓ Earlier, on February 5, Karnataka government has issued circular banning students from wearing clothes that disturb equality, integrity, and public order in schools and colleges.
- ✓ On March 15, the Karnataka high court upheld the ban against which appeals were made in the Supreme Court which has been hearing the argument
- ✓ It had held that hijab was not an essential practice of Islam and allowed the ban on wearing headscarves in educational institutions in the State.

INTERNATIONAL

- **King Charles III - will be crowned at Westminster Abbey on May 6, 2023 alongside The Queen Consort Camilla**

- ✓ This was revealed in an announcement by the Royal Family from Buckingham Palace
- ✓ King Charles III, son of the late Queen Elizabeth II, acceded to the throne after the queen passed away on September 8
- ✓ He also took over as head of state of 14 Commonwealth countries, including Australia, Canada and New Zealand.
- ✓ Kings and queens of England, and later Britain and the United Kingdom, have been crowned at Westminster Abbey, since William the Conqueror in 1066.
- ✓ Charles is the 41st monarch in a line that traces its origins back to William, and he will be the oldest monarch to be crowned

KING CHARLES' SLIMMED-DOWN CORONATION ON MAY 6, 2023

Operation Golden Orb

Date:
Saturday, May 6, 2023

Location:
Westminster Abbey

Conducted by:
Archbishop of Canterbury

Guests:
2,000 (down from 8,000 in 1953)

Length:
One hour (down from three hours)

Charles will be crowned King, and Camilla crowned Queen Consort

Prince William is likely to help plan ceremony

Lords may wear lounge suits instead of ceremonial robes

Monarch will not be presented with gold ingots


1762 Gold State Coach will be part of procession

Duke of Norfolk as Earl Marshal is masterminding plan

Language adapted for a modern audience to understand

Charles will swear to be the 'defender of the faith'

Velvet chairs from 1953 will be replaced by standard seating



- ✓ During the coronation ceremony, the sovereign is anointed, blessed and consecrated by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the highest-ranking cleric in the Church of England,
- ✓ After receiving the orb and sceptres, the Archbishop places St Edward's Crown on the Sovereign's head
- ✓ The coronation ceremony is expected to be shorter and less extravagant than the three-hour ceremony that installed Queen Elizabeth II in 1953
- ✓ Elizabeth II's coronation at Westminster Abbey on June 2, 1953 — 16 months after she had become queen — was the first major televised international event.
- ✓ The ceremony lasted almost three hours, drew 8,251 official guests and included representatives from 129 nations and territories.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- On October 13, India - abstained in an emergency special session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on a vote for a draft resolution

that condemned Russia's "illegal so-called referendums" and rejected Russia's annexation of four Ukrainian regions.

- ✓ This is the fourth time the UN General Assembly has voted and passed a resolution denouncing Russia since its invasion of Ukraine began on February 24.
- ✓ A total of 143 states voted for the proposal, 35 abstained, while only four nations - North Korea, Syria, Nicaragua and Belarus - backed Russia
- ✓ China, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Cuba were among those who abstained during the resolution
- ✓ Most South Asian countries — Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Afghanistan, Myanmar — voted for the resolution condemning Russia.
- ✓ This was the fourth such abstention by India in a vote targeting Russia
- ✓ Last month, Russia announced the annexation of four regions in Ukraine after staging 'referendums'.
- ✓ The non-binding resolution, titled "Territorial Integrity of Ukraine: Defending the Principles of the UN Charter", was introduced in the 193-member UN General Assembly
- ✓ The resolution condemned Russia's "so called" referendums and annexation of Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia
- ✓ It also called on Russia to "immediately, completely and unconditionally" withdraw all of its forces from Ukraine's territory.
- ✓ On October 12, the United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly voted to condemn Russia's annexation of parts of Ukraine after Moscow vetoed a similar effort in the Security Council.

COMMITTEES

- **The Congress - has nominated its MPs Shashi Tharoor and Abhishek Singhvi to head the department-related parliamentary standing committees (DRSC) of chemicals and fertilisers in Lok Sabha and commerce in Rajya Sabha respectively**
- ✓ Tharoor was chairing the House panel on IT and communications until now
- ✓ Aside from the DRSCs, the Congress will continue to lead the public accounts committee, which is a financial committee led by Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury
- ✓ It also leads the parliamentary committee on subordinate legislation led by Rajya Sabha MP Akhilesh Prasad Singh, and the DRSC on science and technology, environment and forests in Rajya Sabha, led by Jairam Ramesh.

DEFENCE

- **The annual Army Day parade on January 15 next year - will be held in Bengaluru**
- ✓ This is in keeping with the government's directive to take major events out of the national capital region (NCR) to different parts of the country.



- ✓ Earlier, the annual IAF Day parade and flypast on October 8 was shifted to Chandigarh this year
- ✓ This will also be the first time that the Army Day functions on January 15 will be held outside New Delhi.
- ✓ January 15 is celebrated as the Army Day every year to commemorate the day when General (later Field Marshal) KM Cariappa took over the command of the force from General Sir FRR Bucher, the last British Commander-in-Chief in 1949.
- ✓ The Army Day parade would be held in the area under the Southern Command, which has cities ranging from Bengaluru, Thiruvananthapuram, Secunderabad and Hyderabad to Pune, Jhansi, Bhopal and Ahmedabad under it.
- ✓ After 2023, the parade is likely to be shifted to some other location in 2024.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Standards Day – October 14



- ✓ The day is observed annually to acknowledge the importance of international standards and their role in our lives
- ✓ The standards help ensure the safety of products and services, facilitate global trade, and promote efficiency and quality
- ✓ Theme 2022 - “Shared Vision for a better World”
- ✓ The day commemorates the first meeting of delegates from 25 countries on 14 October 1946 in London, who decided to design a global organisation to facilitate standardization

- ✓ The new organization was named as 'The International Organization for Standardization' (ISO), and the Geneva-based organization has 167 member countries, as on date
- ✓ The ISO officially started operations from February 23, 1947.
- ✓ Other important standards organizations include the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and the European Committee for Standardization (CEN).
- ✓ The former president of ISO, Faruk Sunter, was the first to inaugurate World Standard Day in the year 1970
- ✓ Since it was established, ISO has published over 24,261 international standards for business and technologies, covering several products ranging from screw threads to solar energy systems
- ✓ These standards are developed by over 1,000 technical committees and subcommittees made up of experts from industry, academia, government, and consumer groups.
- ✓ On the occasion of World Standards Day 2022, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) organized a standards conclave called "Manak Mahotsav".

