

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCTOBER 20, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- **On October 19, Chief Minister M K Stalin - announced major infrastructure projects for development of schools, roads and transport service in the state.**
 - ✓ The CM made the announcements in the assembly under rule 110 of the House.
 - ✓ He said the government had spent Rs.12,300 crore to construct 26,000 new classrooms, 7,500 km compound walls and carry out maintenance of old school buildings under 'Per Aasiriyar Anbazhagan development scheme'
 - ✓ As the student strength has increased, the CM announced that 7,200 more classrooms would be constructed at a cost of Rs.1050 crore, this year.
 - ✓ The works include construction of 6,000 classrooms in panchayat union, elementary and middle schools, and 1,200 classrooms in high schools and higher secondary schools this year.
 - ✓ The government schools in the state saw enrolment of 15 lakh students in the last two years.
 - ✓ The state government was implementing various programmes like free morning meals, 'Illam Thedi Kalvi,' 'Ennum Ezhuthum,' and 'Naan Mudalvan Scheme' to develop the educational sector, said the Chief Minister.

- **On October 19, the Tamil Nadu assembly - passed 12 Bills, including replacement of an ordinance to ban online gambling, playing online games of chance, Rummy and Poker, and regulate online games.**
 - ✓ The Bill authorises the government to constitute Online Gaming Authority and the Online Gaming Appellate Authority to regulate the games.
 - ✓ The assembly also passed a Bill to empower the state government to appoint a vice-chancellor of Tamil University instead of governor, the chancellor of the varsity.

- ✓ The state assembly passed another bill amending the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) to ban hookah bars in Tamil Nadu as part of efforts to eradicate tobacco abuse.
 - ✓ The bill, tabled by the health and family welfare department, was passed unanimously
 - ✓ As per the bill, sale and service of hookah at any place including eating house is prohibited and the eating house is described as a place where food or refreshment of any kind is served.
 - ✓ The bill also sought addition of a clause empowering police officers of the rank of sub-inspector and above to seize material and articles from a hookah bar and another clause punishing violators with imprisonment up to three years and fine up to Rs.50,000.
- **The Tamil Nadu government – has tabled a compliance audit report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) for 2020-2021 in the assembly on October 19**

TREND OF REVENUE RECEIPTS (2019-20)

➤ Revenue raised by state at ₹1.2 lakh crore was 69% of total revenue receipts. Balance 31% (₹54,176 crore) came from the Centre including state's share of divisible Union taxes

➤ Tax revenue accounted for 61.6% of total revenue. Increase of ₹1,912.4 crore was due to increase in excise duty, vehicle tax and land revenue

➤ Non-tax revenue

accounted for 7.4% at ₹12,887.8% crore of the total revenue of ₹1.75 lakh crore of the state. Decrease of ₹1,312.2 crore in revenue was due to lower collection by way of interest receipts, dividends and profits

➤ Arrears of revenue as on March 31, 2020 amounted to ₹30,908.3 crore. Of this, ₹12,451.8 crore was outstanding for more than five years

STATE FINANCES

➤ State could not eliminate revenue deficit as envisioned in the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility (TNFR) Act 2003 and it increased by 380.8% during 2016-21

➤ State was successful in containing fiscal deficit below 3% of GSDP in three out of the five years, but failed in 2019-20 and 2020-21 when it stood at 3.35% and 4.94% respectively

➤ During 2016-20, the ratio of



outstanding debt of the state to GSDP remained between 21.5% and 23.6%, consistently below the 25.2% norm prescribed by the TNFR Act 2003.

➤ However, during 2020-21 the ratio exceeded the norm and stood at 26.9%

- ✓ On the fiscal position, the report said the revenue deficit increased from Rs 12,964 crore in 2016-17 to Rs 62,326 crore in 2020-21, making it difficult for the state to adhere to the targets fixed under Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003
- ✓ The state's debt grew by 22.43% in 2020-21 to Rs. 5,18,796 crore, cited the report
- ✓ Tamil Nadu's gross state domestic product GSDP, one of the vital indicators of the state's economy, grew by 5.87% during the period 2020-21 as compared to 10.25% during 2019-20.
- ✓ The GSDP is the value of all the goods and services produced within a state and denote the extent of changes in the level of economic development of the state over a period of time.

- ✓ The economy activity of a state is divided into primary, secondary and tertiary sectors which correspond to agriculture, industry and service sectors, the report said
 - ✓ The agriculture sector growth in GSDP was 3.83% in 2016-17, 17.96% in 2017-18, 7.93% in 2018-19, 12.48% in 2019-20 and 10.11% in 2020-21.
 - ✓ The industries sector growth in GSDP was 11.62% in 2016-17, 11.86% in 2017-18, 11.16% in 2018-19, 8.24% in 2019-20 and 2.90% in 2020-21
 - ✓ The service sector growth in GSDP was 10.39% in 2016-17, 11.49% in 2017-18, 13.49% in 2018-19, 10.45% in 2019-20, 6.37% in 2020-21
 - ✓ The report recommended the government to augment its own revenue sources so as to avoid utilisation of capital receipts to meet revenue expenditure and to achieve the target set in the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act
- **On October 19, Chief minister M K Stalin - announced financial aid of Rs.5 lakh each to the kin/legal heirs of the 13 people killed in police firing in Tuticorin in 2018, which is in addition to Rs. 20 lakh already sanctioned.**
- ✓ The chief minister said the state government had suspended four policemen, initiated departmental action against the then district collector, three revenue officials, and seven policemen.
 - ✓ The CM was replying to the debate on the report of Justice Aruna Jagadeesan commission of inquiry that was tabled in the assembly on October 18.

NATIONAL

- **On October 19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - launched Mission Schools of Excellence at Trimandir, Gujarat**



- ✓ The Mission has been planned with a total outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore
- ✓ It will help strengthen education infrastructure in Gujarat by setting up new classrooms, smart classrooms, computer labs and overall upgradation of the schools in the state.

- ✓ During the event, Prime Minister also launched projects worth around Rs 4260 crore to the state of Gujarat
 - ✓ The Prime Minister later inaugurated 'Indian Urban Housing Conclave-2022', a three-day event being organised by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs at Rajkot, Gujarat
 - ✓ This Conclave will provide a platform to all stakeholders to demonstrate their technologies, materials and processes for large scale adoption in different type of housing construction suitable for different Geo-climatic regions of the country.
 - ✓ The PM also inaugurated the exhibition of innovative construction practices in Rajkot during the day
- **Minister for sports and youth affairs Anurag Singh Thakur - launched a mega cleanliness drive at Chandni Chowk under the Swachh Bharat campaign on October 19**



- ✓ The month-long nationwide campaign was launched by Thakur at Prayagraj on October 1.
- ✓ It is being organised in six lakh villages of 744 districts across the country through the network of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) youth clubs and National Service Scheme affiliated institutions.
- ✓ The drive aims to collect 1 crore kg of waste across the country.
- ✓ Similar events are being organised at several places across India.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On October 19, the US Congress - approved the \$450 million F-16 sustainment package for Pakistan.**
- ✓ India had raised strong objections to US' decision to supply F-16 sustainment package to Pakistan
 - ✓ On September 7, the US state department notified the Congress about the determination of the Biden administration to continue with the defence sale for Pakistan under the Foreign Military Sales programme

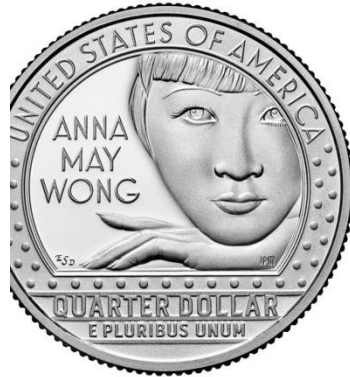
- ✓ Within the stipulated 30 days, there has been no objection from any of the 100 Senators from the US House of Representatives to this proposed sale
- ✓ With this, the United States is all set to sell the F-16 sustenance package to Pakistan
- ✓ The F-16 fleet allows Pakistan to support counterterrorism operations and the US expects Pakistan to take sustained action against all terrorist groups
- ✓ Earlier, the Trump administration decided to suspend military aid to Pakistan for providing safe havens for the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani network.

COMMITTEES

- **On October 19, the Tamil Nadu government - formed a state-level committee to take comprehensive measures for conservation of vultures found in the state.**
- ✓ The objective is to prepare an action plan for vulture conservation, prevention of poisoning of cattle carcasses, which is the staple diet of vultures, scientific management of carcass dumps and carrying out sample analysis of cattle carcass
- ✓ The committee will also look into the management aspect of wildlife carcass both in protected and non-protected areas and setting up of vulture conservation breeding centres in the state.
- ✓ Other objectives include creating an efficient regulatory mechanism for ban on drugs toxic to vultures, participating in the nation-wide vulture census identifying locations of vultures and developing capacity to work on vulture census periodically
- ✓ It will also set up vulture rescue centres to cater to the injured and sick vultures, undertake regular monitoring of vulture population in the state and enhancing vulture safe zone in the state
- ✓ Further, the committee shall seek increased public awareness about the need for conservation of vulture species through educational initiatives in schools and colleges, field visits, workshops, seminars and through social media.
- ✓ The tenure of the committee is for two years.
- ✓ A total of four species of vultures are found in the state, while their population in the wild is about 350.

PERSONALITIES

- **Late Hollywood actress and fashion icon Anna May Wong (1905-1961) - is set to become the first Asian American to feature on US currency.**
- ✓ A quarter-dollar coin featuring a close-up image of Wong's face chin resting on her hand will begin circulating from October 24
- ✓ The quarter-dollar coin, which features Anna May Wong, also includes the Latin phrase "E PLURIBUS UNUM" (out of many, one).
- ✓ The design has been introduced after the American Women's Quarter Program which aims to highlight the pioneering women in their respective fields.

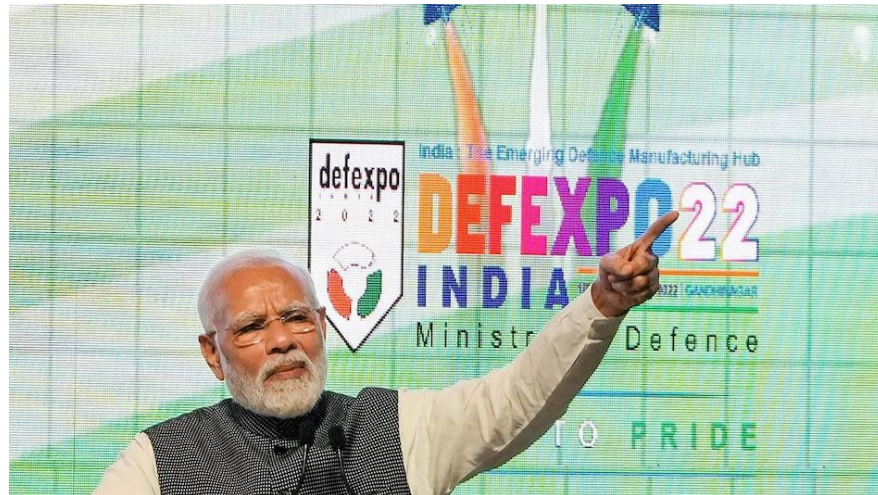


- ✓ The Wong quarter will be the fifth new face released as part of the American Women Quarters Program, which calls for five new coins each year from 2022 through 2025.
- ✓ The other four quarters were into production featuring poet and activist Maya Angelou, the first American woman in space, Sally Ride, Cherokee Nation leader Wilma Mankiller and suffragist Nina Otero Warren
- ✓ Born in Los Angeles, Anna May Wong is considered to be the first Chinese American film star in Hollywood
- ✓ Anna May Wong acted in more than 60 movies, which included silent films and one film made in Technicolor.
- ✓ She acted in several famous films which includes Toll of the Sea, The Thief of Bagdad, Daughter of the Dragon, Shanghai Express, A Study in Scarlet, and Limehouse Blues among others.
- ✓ She was the first Asian American to lead a television show, The Gallery of Madame Liu-Tsong
- ✓ Wong's legacy can be seen in the Anna May Wong Award of Excellence which is given yearly at the Asian-American Arts Awards.
- ✓ Wong was also the first Asian American to be awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1960.

DEFENCE

- **On October 19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi – inaugurated the defence expo, DefExpo 2022, at the Mahatma Mandir Convention and Exhibition Centre in Gujarat's Gandhinagar**
- ✓ This is the 12th edition of the event that has been organised on the theme 'Path to Pride'.
- ✓ Chief Minister of Gujarat Bhupendra Patel, Governor of Gujarat, Acharya Devvrat, Union Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Army Staff, General Manoj Pande, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari, Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral R Hari Kumar, and

Defence Secretary to Government of India, Dr Ajay Kumar were those present at the event



- ✓ During the inauguration ceremony, the PM laid the foundation stone of a new airbase coming up at Deesa in north Gujarat's Banaskantha district near the Pakistan border
 - ✓ The air base, after its completion, will reduce the strategic gap of 355 Kms between the Air Force station in Bhuj and Uttarlai.
 - ✓ After laying the foundation stone of 52 Wing Air Force Station, PM Modi said that the Deesa air base will emerge as an effective centre for the country's security
 - ✓ Deesa is a greenfield air base spread over an area of 4,519 acres being developed in the Banaskantha region.
 - ✓ The campus presently has a minimal infrastructure, including 20 watch towers and 22 km boundary wall
 - ✓ The approval to construct a full-fledged air base was given by Centre in 2020.
 - ✓ The development of the airbase will be done in two phases by December 2023 at an approximate cost of Rs 980 crore
- ✓ During the inauguration programme, Prime Minister also launched Mission DefSpace - to develop innovative solutions for the Defence Forces in the Space domain through industry and startups
- ✓ In the DefExpo, the Indian Pavillion - a marque pavillion of the Department of Defence Production - will showcase the indigenous defence products in defence while presenting India's vision for 2047.
- ✓ At the India Pavilion, Prime Minister unveiled HTT-40 - the indigenous trainer aircraft designed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- ✓ This year's DefExpo is the first-ever edition exclusively for Indian companies and States, Union Territories (UTs) have been invited to set up pavilions at the event for the first time.

- ✓ The event will also have the first ever Investors' Meet for defence, having more than 100 startups to showcase their innovations
 - ✓ The expo is being attended by 53 friendly countries from Africa.
 - ✓ The second India-Africa Defence Dialogue, and the 2nd Indian Ocean Region+ (IOR+) Conclave are being held on the sidelines of the DefExpo
 - ✓ With record registration of 1,340 companies, DefExpo 2022 is set to be the biggest Indian defence exhibition till date.
- **On October 19, India - announced its fourth negative arms import list in a bid to boost domestic defence production and exports**
 - ✓ According to the latest list, a total of 101 products will be progressively banned from December 2022 to December 2032
 - ✓ The defence ministry's fourth arms embargo list, or the 'positive indigenisation list' as it is called, was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the ongoing DefExpo at Gandhinagar.
 - ✓ The four lists now together ban the import of 411 items in a graded manner for the armed forces.
 - ✓ The new list includes several important products like fleet support shops, minesweepers, infantry protected mobility vehicles, electronic warfare systems, 127mm and 30mm naval guns, high-altitude and long-endurance (HALE) drones, medium-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft and some kinds of ammunition, majority of them in later years.

BUSINESS/ECONOMY

- **Leading toy manufacturer Funskool India Ltd - has acquired the rights to manufacture and market the 3D combination puzzle Rubik's cube in India especially in general trade and e-commerce channels.**
- ✓ This is the first time any Indian manufacturer has bagged the rights for Rubik's cube from its licence holder and global children entertainment company Spin Master.
- ✓ Earlier, the Chennai-based company had the importing licence for Rubik's cube.

APPOINTMENTS

- **On October 19, veteran Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge - was elected as the new party chief after defeating rival Shashi Tharoor in the party's internal elections held two days earlier**
- ✓ Mallikarjun Kharge, 80, is replacing Sonia Gandhi, who has been the longest-serving president of the Congress party.
 - ✓ She has been leading the party since 1998, barring the two years between 2017 and 2019 when her son Rahul Gandhi was made the president.
- ✓ Kharge is the party's first non-Gandhi president in the last 24 years.



- ✓ Kharge is Congress's third chief from the dalit community, after D Sanjivaiah (1962) and Jagjivan Ram (December 1969).
- ✓ Kharge received 7,897 (84%) of the total 9,385 votes polled, against Tharoor's tally of 1,072, while 416 votes were declared invalid.
- ✓ Kharge was born on July 21, 1942, at Warawatti in Bidar district of Karnataka
- ✓ A senior Rajya Sabha MP from Karnataka, Mallikarjun Kharge joined the Congress party in 1969, the year then prime minister Indira Gandhi was expelled from the party
- ✓ In 1969, at the age of 27, he became president of the Kalaburagi Town Congress Committee.
- ✓ A labour law expert, he practised under Shivaraj Patil, who later became a Supreme Court judge.
- ✓ Kharge was elected to the Karnataka assembly nine times consecutively from an upper-caste dominated constituency, Gurmitkal, between 1972 and 2008.
- ✓ He also won from the Gulbarga Lok Sabha constituency in 2009 and 2014
- ✓ Belonging to the Dali community, Kharge rose to national politics after the 2009 general elections, where he contested and won the Gulbarga parliamentary seat to gain entry to the Lok Sabha for the first time
- ✓ In June 2014, Kharge was appointed Leader of the Congress party in the Lok Sabha
- ✓ He was also the cabinet Minister of Railways and Minister of Labor and Employment at the Centre
- ✓ On June 12, 2022, the political stalwart was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka
- ✓ He was appointed Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha, a post that he resigned from on October 1, 2022 to contest for the presidential election of Congress.
- ✓ He is a practising Buddhist and ardent follower of Dr B.R. Ambedkar.
- ✓ Since Independence, the Congress has mostly been led by a member of the Gandhi family, who were elected unanimously.

- ✓ Elections were held only six times in Congress's 137-year history as there was more than one candidate – the first in 1938 when P Sitaramayya, backed by Mahatma Gandhi, lost to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the last being in 2000 when Sonia Gandhi defeated Jitendra Prasad
- ✓ The Nehru-Gandhi family has ruled the party since 1978, with the exception of brief periods between 1992 and 1998 when PV Narasimha Rao and Sitaram Kesri were in charge.
- ✓ Sitaram Kesri was the last non-Gandhi family leader to hold the top leadership position of the Congress party

SPORTS

- **Indian shooter Ramita Jindal - was crowned junior world champion in the 10m Air Rifle Women Junior event at the ISSF World Championships in Cairo on October 19.**



- ✓ Ramita, who hails from Kurukshetra in Haryana, defeated China's Ying Shen in the gold medal match.
- ✓ Tilottama Sen won a second medal for India at the event, a bronze, after she shot 261.0 in the ranking round to finish third
- ✓ Tilottama was the best shooter in the qualification round after scoring junior world record-equalling 633 in the qualifications.
- ✓ As per the new rules, the score will be considered as a World Championships record as the international shooting body has stopped registering world records.
- ✓ Indian women also swept the 50m Pistol Women Junior event after Divanshi topped the field, Varsha Singh came second and Tiyaana was placed third
- ✓ Rhythm Sangwan won a silver in the 25m Standard Pistol Women, while Abhinav Choudhary won silver in the 50m Pistol Men Junior event
- ✓ Vijayveer Sidhu won India's second bronze on the day, finishing third in the 25m Standard Pistol Men
- ✓ With these medals, India's tally went up to 25 medals which includes 10 gold, five silver and 10 bronze on the seventh day of the competition