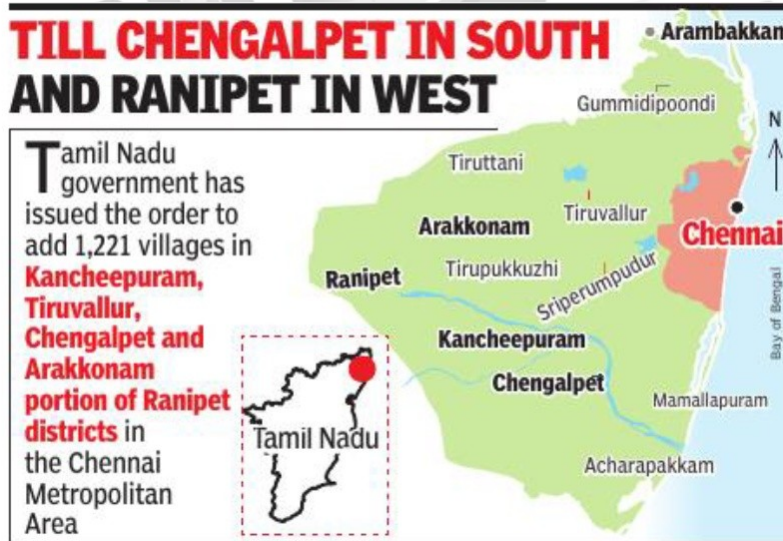


RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS - October
FVF

TAMIL NADU

- On October 21, the Tamil Nadu government - issued a government order to include 1,221 villages in Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Chengalpet and Ranipet districts under the Chennai Metropolitan Area (CMA).
- ✓ With this, the area of Chennai has expanded nearly five times from 1,189 sqkm to 5,904 sqkm



- ✓ The CMA will now extend till Chengalpet in the south and Ranipet districts in the west.
- ✓ The move is aimed at ensuring planned growth and development of the city and its suburbs by creating satellite towns, better integrated commuting options and an overall improvement in quality of life.
- ✓ As per the latest plan, the CMDA has suggested dividing the jurisdiction of entire CMA into three.
- ✓ The existing Chennai Metropolitan Area could be termed as CMA Central and the proposed expanded areas as CMA North and CMA South.

- ✓ The Chennai Metropolitan Area North will consist of eight talukas, covering a distance of 2,908 sq km.
 - ✓ These include Gummidipoondi, Ponneri, Uthukottai, Tirutanni (partly), Arakonnam (partly), Thiruvallur, Poonamallee (partly) and Sriperumbudur.
- ✓ Similarly, the South CMA will have 1,809 sq km and it will include seven talukas - Kancheepuram, Walajabad, Chengalpattu, Thirukalukundram, Thiruporur, Kundrathur (partly) and Vandalur (partly).
- ✓ The existing Chennai Metropolitan Area of 1,189 sq km will be considered CMA Central.
- ✓ **With the proposed expansion to 5,904km, Chennai would be the second largest city in the country**
- ✓ Hyderabad Metropolitan Region, which was formed by combining four districts of Rangareddy, Mahboobnagar, Nalgonda and Medak has the largest area of 7,222 sq km under its jurisdiction
- ✓ The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority is the third largest city having a jurisdictional area of 4,355 sq km
- **Shiv Nadar Foundation - to set up an international school in Damodar Gardens, a property of Theosophical Society in Besant Nagar.**

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

The school will be affiliated with International Baccalaureate (IB) board



- The institute will come up with a 14-acre campus at Damodar Gardens
- Some of the facilities include a splash pool, a library, a dining hall, an auditorium, an open-air amphitheatre, a swimming pool and a playground
- Classes for nursery to Class IV will begin from June 2023



- ✓ The school will be affiliated with the International Baccalaureate (IB) board and will admit students from nursery to Class IV and classes will begin from June 2023.
- ✓ With separate junior, middle school and senior blocks, the school is designed to be a green campus, using sustainable and recyclable building materials.
- ✓ It will have a science lab, play area, facilities to explore a variety of art forms both visual and performing arts, multi-purpose indoor sports complex, sports field for athletics and field games, a swimming pool and an open air amphitheatre among others.
- ✓ Every class will have 24 students with the student-teacher ratio of 1:8.
- ✓ The total construction area will be 4.6 lakh sqft on the campus.
- ✓ The architect of the school B V Doshi and his firm is renowned for making ecologically friendly buildings

- ✓ Theosophical Society leased the 14-acre campus to Shiv Nadar Trust for 43 years for the rent of Rs 6.8 crore with an annual increase of 2.5% a year.
- ✓ For the first two years the rent would be Rs 1.42 crore and Rs 3.42 crore.
- ✓ Shiv Nadar Foundation is a philanthropic venture of Shiv Nadar, founder of HCL
- ✓ The School KFI was functioning at the same campus till a few years ago.

STATES

- **On October 21, the Punjab cabinet - decided in principle to restore the Old Pension Scheme (OPS).**



- ✓ The move is likely to benefit about 1.6 lakh Punjab government employees who joined service after 2004
- ✓ According to the Bhagwant Mann-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government, the employees will be given the option of opting for the Old Pension Scheme or the New Pension Scheme (NPS).
- ✓ After Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, Punjab is the third state to revert to the old pension scheme (OPS) for state government employees.
- ✓ The old pension scheme was discontinued in 2004 and the NPS was introduced.
- ✓ The government's old pension scheme, referred to as the Defined Benefit Pension System (DBPS), is based on the last pay drawn by the employee.
- ✓ The NPS is referred as the Defined Contribution Pension System (DCPS), in which the employer and employee contribute to build a pension wealth payable at the time of retirement by way of annuity/lumpsum withdrawal as per norms.
- ✓ The NPS is applicable to all employees joining services of the central government, including central autonomous bodies (except Armed Forces) on or after January 1, 2004

INTERNATIONAL

- **On October 21, the global terrorist-financing watchdog, FATF - announced Pakistan's removal from its grey list**
- ✓ The move follows Pakistan's "high-level political commitment" in dealing with money laundering and carrying out reforms in its existing monitoring mechanism

- ✓ The exit from the grey or increased monitoring list is expected to allow Pakistan access to more foreign loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the European Union (EU)
 - ✓ The Paris-based agency had in June this year agreed to an onsite evaluation in a sign that it was considering removing Pakistan from the grey list.
 - ✓ The onsite visit is allowed only when the agency is convinced that the action plans have been substantially completed
 - ✓ A 15-member joint delegation of the FATF and its Sydney-based regional affiliate -- Asia Pacific Group-- paid an onsite visit to Pakistan from August 29 to September 2 to verify the country's compliance with the 34-point action plan committed with the FATF
 - ✓ The first action plan with 27 items focused on terror financing risks, while the second action plan with seven items focused on money laundering.
 - ✓ Pakistan had been on the FATF grey list since June 2018 for its failure to check the risk of money laundering, leading to corruption and terror financing
 - ✓ It had suffered economic losses worth \$38 billion because of its inclusion thrice in the list since 2008.
 - ✓ Pakistan was on the FATF 'black list' from 2009-2012 and then was moved to the 'grey list' from 2012-2015
 - ✓ In 2015, when they were getting off the 'grey list,' they were put on 'Regular follow-up' from 2015-2018
 - ✓ Significantly, for the first time, the FATF put Myanmar in the "high-risk jurisdictions subject to a call for action", often referred to as the watchdog's black list, which earlier had only Iran and North Korea.
 - ✓ The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania and Mozambique were added to the grey list while Nicaragua was removed along with Pakistan
 - ✓ Countries under Grey List are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering
 - ✓ In other major decisions, Russia was barred from participating in future projects of FATF
 - ✓ The above decisions were taken by the FATF in its plenary held in Paris on October 20-21.
 - ✓ It was the first Plenary meeting to be held under the Singapore Presidency of T Raja Kumar.
 - ✓ The FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terror financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
 - ✓ India is a member of the FATF consultations and its Asia Pacific Group
 - ✓ The FATF Plenary is the decision making body of the FATF, which meets three times per year
- **In a significant decision, Diwali - will be a public school holiday in New York City starting 2023**

- ✓ According to NYC mayor Eric Adams, this sends a message about the significance of the city's inclusiveness and this "long overdue" step will encourage children to learn about the festival of lights.



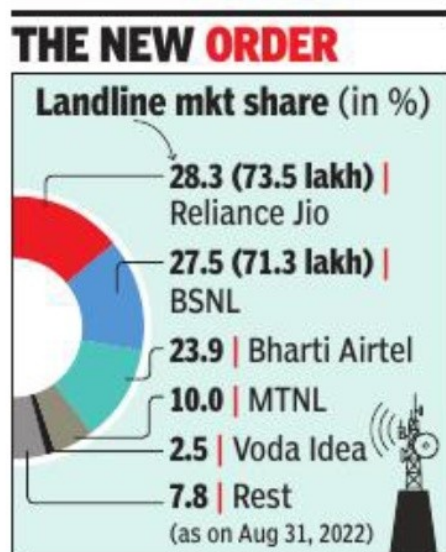
- ✓ This is the first time in the history of the New York city that a mayor has committed to making Diwali a school holiday
- ✓ Jennifer Rajkumar, the first South Asian-American woman ever to be elected to a state office in New York, introduced legislation that makes room for Diwali in the school calendar.
- ✓ Once the legislation goes through, Diwali will be a school holiday in the New York City from next year.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Researchers from Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M), and Nasa Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) - have studied microbial interactions occurring in the International Space Station (ISS)**
- ✓ The study will help devise strategies for disinfecting space stations to minimize any potential impact of these microbes
- ✓ Further, studying about the pathogens in the space station helps to understand the risks associated with short-term and long-term space travel on the health of astronauts.
- ✓ The researchers studied interaction of Klebsiella pneumonia with other pathogens and how it affects their growth
- ✓ Klebsiella pneumonia is a major microbe that resides on the ISS and has been known to cause pneumonia and other nosocomial (hospital-acquired) infections.
- ✓ According to the researchers, the presence of K. pneumoniae was detrimental to the growth of Aspergillus fungus, which includes members like E. coli, Salmonella, etc. , that are also present in the human gut.
- ✓ The study found that Klebsiella pneumonia is beneficial to various other microbes also present on the ISS, especially the bacteria from the Pantoea genus.

BUSINESS/ECONOMY

- **Reliance Jio - has overtaken state-run BSNL in August to become India's largest landline telephone service provider.**
- ✓ This is the first time since the beginning of telecom services in the country a private operator has gained the number one position in the wire-line segment.



- ✓ According to telecom regulator Trai's subscriber report for August, Jio's landline subscriber base has reached 73.5 lakh, while that of BSNL was at 71.3 lakh.
- ✓ BSNL has been providing wire-line services since the last 22 years, while Jio launched its landline service three years ago.
- ✓ The landline subscribers in the country grew to 2.59 crore in August from 2.56 crore in July.
- ✓ The growth was dominated by the private sector, with Jio adding 2.6 lakh customers, Bharti Airtel 1.2 lakh, Vodafone Idea (Vi) 4,202 and Tata Teleservices adding 3,769 users.
- ✓ State-run telecom companies BSNL and MTNL lost 15,734 and 13,395 wireline customers respectively in August.
- ✓ The overall telecom subscriber base in the country grew marginally to 117.5 crore in August, with Jio adding most of the new customers and rural areas growing at a higher rate than urban centres, according to Trai report.

RANKINGS

- **Haryana - has emerged as the best-governed state among 18 big states in the Public Affairs Index, 2022.**
- ✓ The 7th edition of Public Affairs Index, 2022, prepared by Bengaluru-based not-for-profit think tank Public Affairs Center (PAC), was released last week on October 14

- ✓ Sikkim has retained its position as the best-governed small state in India, followed by Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand in the second and third place
- ✓ Among big states, Haryana was followed by Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Punjab and Karnataka
- ✓ Maharashtra, West Bengal and Jharkhand were ranked 16th, 17th and 18th positions in the index.
- ✓ The PAI 2022 assesses the delivery of economic, political, and social justice in the states through 5 sub-themes and 22 indicators
- ✓ The latest edition assessed the quality of governance in the states during 2021-22.
- ✓ Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Karnataka are ranked as the top performers in delivering economic justice, while West Bengal was ranked as the worst performer
 - ✓ Sikkim topped the list of small states providing economic justice, while Uttarakhand scored the lowest.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh topped the list of major states providing political justice.
 - ✓ Among the smaller states providing political justice, Uttarakhand topped the rankings and Goa secured the last position.
- ✓ Punjab, Haryana and Kerala were ranked at the top in the delivery of social justice.
 - ✓ Among the smaller states providing social justice, Uttarakhand was ranked at the top, while Nagaland was ranked at the lowest.

