

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCTOBER 21, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu - has been ranked the third best performing state in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) scheme that is aimed at providing housing for all in urban cities.**
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh bagged the top two places under the scheme.
- ✓ Minister for MSME and Slum Clearance Board, T M Anbarasan received the awards for the year 2021 from Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a function held in Rajkot on October 19.



- ✓ Madurai Corporation won the third place among the corporations, while Periya Negamam town panchayat won fifth place among the town panchayats in implementing the scheme.
- ✓ Apart from this, the state won special recognition for faster mover under affordable rental housing complexes (ARHCs) model-2 and innovative construction technologies.
- ✓ The central government has instituted the awards for states, union territories and local corporations who have been implementing PM's flagship scheme, 'Housing for all' in an exemplary manner.

- ✓ The awards were based on four parameters - implementation of the scheme, institutional architecture put in place for the scheme, incremental monthly progress and transparency.
 - ✓ According to the PMAY website, Tamil Nadu has completed 4.7 lakh of the 6.8 lakh sanctioned dwelling units as on October 10.
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu was way ahead of other states, including Madhya Pradesh, in terms of the number of houses constructed as against those approved.
 - ✓ But Madhya Pradesh scored on the remaining parameters, pushing Tamil Nadu to the third slot.
 - ✓ Similarly, Madurai outscored other cities in terms of completing maximum projects that were approved.
 - ✓ Earlier, Tamil Nadu bagged a similar recognition for implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission to provide household drinking water tap connections and Swachh Survekshan Grameen for ensuring rural sanitation.
- **The “Kasi Tamil Sangamam” - will be organised from November 16 to December 19 in Varanasi**



- ✓ The event, which includes seminars and discussions, will be organized by the Ministry of Education
- ✓ IIT-Madras and Banaras Hindu University will be the hosting partners of this mega event.
- ✓ Kasi Sangamam will rediscover the link between Tamil Nadu and Varanasi, the two ancient centres of knowledge, culture and heritage.
- ✓ During the event, academic exchanges will be held between experts and scholars on various facets of the two ancient manifestations of Indian culture
- ✓ The Sangamam is to be organised under the overall framework and spirit of ‘Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat’.
- ✓ The Kasi Tamil Sangamam will be centred around a series of themes such as literature, ancient texts, philosophy, spirituality, music, dance, drama, yoga,

ayurveda, handlooms, handicrafts as well as modern innovations, trade exchanges, edutech and gen next technology etc.

- ✓ In addition to experts, common practitioners from various groups from different parts of Tamil Nadu will make an eight-day visit to Varanasi and its neighbouring areas.
- ✓ Tentatively, 12 such groups have been identified including students, teachers, literary (authors, poets, publishers), cultural experts, professionals (practicing arts, music, dance, drama, folk art, yoga, ayurveda), entrepreneurs, (SMEs, start-ups) business people (community business groups, hoteliers), artisans and heritage related experts.
- **The Greater Chennai Traffic Police (GCTP) – have launched a new mobile app to provide real-time updates on traffic, estimated travel times and alternative routes in Chennai**
- ✓ Police commissioner Shankar Jiwala launched the new app 'roadEase' at the police commissionerate in Vepery on October 20 in association with Lepton, which developed the app.



- ✓ The app will help people get speedy updates in Google maps in identifying areas with traffic congestion, road closure, accidents, agitations or incomplete civic works, and plan their journey accordingly.
- ✓ Through the app, police will update the application developer regarding road blocks and other diversions and its duration, and the developer will update the traffic situation on Google maps immediately.
- ✓ The app will provide first-hand information to people on their phone about a storm water drain work or Metro rail work, which are currently being done at 151 locations across the city.

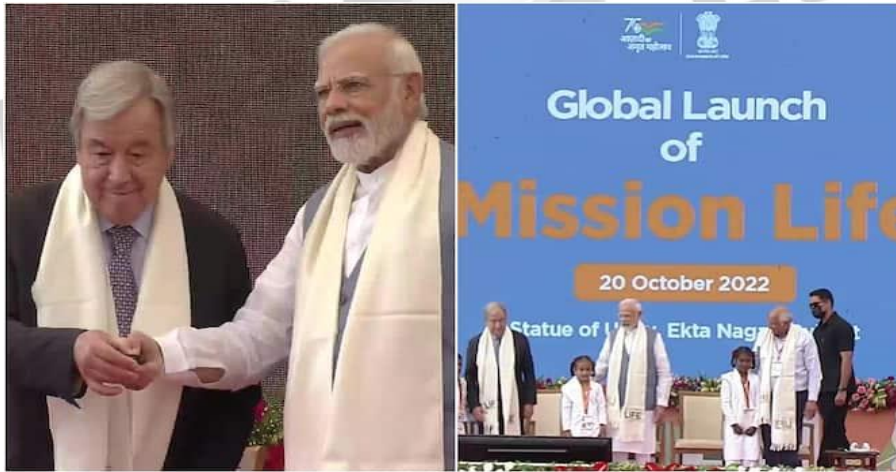
STATES

- **On October 20, the Karnataka cabinet - approved promulgation of an ordinance to increase reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) in the state from 15% to 17% and for Scheduled tribes (STs) from 3% to 7%.**

- ✓ Earlier, the state cabinet had granted formal approval to increase the reservation on October 8.
- ✓ Once promulgated after the governor's assent, the increased quota for the two communities will take the total reservation in the state to 56%, beyond the ceiling of 50% mandated by the Supreme Court.
- ✓ The government is expected to soon recommend bringing the quota hike under the 9th Schedule of the Constitution to give it legal protection.
- ✓ The 9th Schedule contains a list of central and state laws which cannot be challenged in courts.
- ✓ Earlier, there were only six communities under SC category in Karnataka, but now 103 castes, nomads and slum-dwellers had been added.
- ✓ Similarly, there had been an enormous addition to the ST population following the inclusion of various communities

NATIONAL

- **On October 20, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres - launched Mission LiFE movement (Lifestyle for the Environment) at the Statue of Unity in Kevadia, Gujarat**



- ✓ It is a global initiative led by India to protect and preserve the environment, combat climate change and make it people's movement across the world.
- ✓ During his speech, PM Modi highlighted that reuse, reduce and recycling are part of India's traditions and culture
- ✓ LiFE was announced by PM Modi during COP26 last year and it was also a part of India's nationally determined contributions (NDC).
- ✓ The launch of Mission LiFE comes a month ahead of the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (CoP27), the mega UN climate meet, which will be held in Egypt.
- ✓ Chief Minister of Gujarat, Bhupendra Patel, Union Minister of External Affairs, S Jaishankar were present on the occasion.

- ✓ Earlier, PM Modi held a bilateral meeting with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at Kevadia
 - ✓ The Prime Minister will also participate in the 10th Heads of Missions Conference, which is being organised from October 20 to 22 in Kevadia by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
 - ✓ The conference will bring together 118 heads of Indian Missions (ambassadors and high commissioners) from all over the world
 - ✓ It will have 23 sessions spread over three days involving internal discussions on issues such as contemporary geo-political and geo-economic environment, connectivity and India's foreign policy priorities
- **On October 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will launch 'Rozgar Mela', a drive to recruit 10 lakh people to the government, via videoconference**
- ✓ Following the launch of the job fair event, appointment letters will be given to 75,000 newly-inducted candidates.
 - ✓ The direction from the Prime Minister came after a review of the status of human resources in all government departments and ministries
 - ✓ The new recruits, selected from across the country, will join 38 ministries or departments of the government of India.
 - ✓ The appointees will join at various levels in Group A and B (Gazetted), Group B (Non-Gazetted) and Group C.
 - ✓ The posts on which appointments are being made include the central armed force personnel, sub-inspectors, constables, lower-division clerks (LDC), steno, personal assistants (PA), income tax inspectors and multi-tasking staff (MTS), among others
 - ✓ In June, the government had announced that PM Modi had set the target to hire 10 lakh people over the next 18 months, which will coincide with the 2024 general elections.
- **On October 20, the government – unveiled the first National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for the foundational stage for children between ages three to eight, in line with the National Education Policy-2020.**



- ✓ Union Minister for Education and Skill Development, Dharmendra Pradhan launched the pilot project of 'Balvatika' (pre-primary classes) at 49 Kendriya Vidyalayas across the country.
- ✓ This is the first time the children in pre-primary school, aged three years, have been brought under the formal schooling system in India.
- ✓ During the event, the Minister dedicated the curriculum for early childhood care and education (ECCE), the first of the four NCFs in the making
- ✓ Focusing on cognitive and socio-emotional development, the NCF emphasises on learning through play
- ✓ It also stresses on stories, arts, games, sports, examples and problems rooted in Indian and local context as well as on development of early literacy and numeracy.
- ✓ ECCE under the Anganwadi system primarily focused on nutrition of a child.
- ✓ NCF also recommends that the mother tongue be the first medium of instruction for children until the age of eight, in both private and non-private schools
- ✓ The new framework has listed the 'panchakosha' concept for education of children between in the 3-8 years' age group
- ✓ The five parts of the concept are - physical development (sharirik vikas), development of life energy (pranik vikas), emotional and mental development (manasik vikas), intellectual development (bauddhik vikas) and spiritual development (chaitisik vikas).
- ✓ The National Council of Educational Research and Training and the education ministry have initiated the process of development of four NCFs in 2021
- ✓ The NCFs are developed in the areas of early childhood care and education, school education, teacher education, and adult education as a part of the implementation of the NEP 2020.

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - is scheduled to address a public gathering at Mana, the last Indian village on India-China border, on October 21.**
- ✓ Two road-widening projects — Mana to Mana Pass (NH-07) and Joshimath to Malari (NH-107B) — are in the works currently.
- ✓ During his visit, PM Modi would lay the foundation stone for connectivity projects worth over Rs. 3,400 crore.
- ✓ The PM is scheduled to arrive in Kedarnath and lay the foundation stone of the ropeway project besides inspecting the ongoing works, following which he would address a public gathering.
- ✓ Later, the PM would offer prayers at the Badrinath temple and reach Mana.

- **The Competition Commission of India - has fined Google Rs 1,338 crore for abusing its dominant position in multiple markets in relation to Android mobile devices**
- ✓ The fairplay watchdog has imposed the provisional penalty for engaging in anti-competitive behaviour to chase user data and advertisement revenues

- ✓ It has ordered the tech giant to immediately “cease and desist” from following the practices.
- ✓ As per CCI, mandatory pre-installation of entire Google Mobile Suite (GMS) under Mobile Application Distribution Agreement (MADA), with no option to uninstall the same, contravenes competition law
- ✓ According to the CCI, the policies of Google were adversely impacting the business of smartphone makers, competing app creators, myriads of startups, and users.
- ✓ The CCI also said that Google will have to allow users to choose their default search engine during the initial device setup
- ✓ In 2019, the CCI had ordered a detailed probe following complaints by consumers of Android-based smartphones.
- ✓ Android is an open-source, mobile operating system acquired by Google in 2005, which is installed by OEMs of smartphones and tablets
- ✓ Google is the leader of the dominant Android operating system (OS) with nearly 98% share of the smartphone market.
- ✓ This is the second time that the tech giant has been fined by the CCI.
- ✓ In 2018, it had imposed a fine of Rs 136 crore on Google for unfair business practices in the Indian market for online search.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On October 20, British Prime Minister Liz Truss - announced her resignation just six weeks after taking office**
- ✓ Her short stint marked the most chaotic tenure of any British prime minister.
- ✓ With her resignation, Liz Truss became the shortest-ruling prime minister in British history after lasting just 45 days in the job.
- ✓ The second shortest serving PM was George Canning, who had served for 119 days before he died in office in 1827

SHORTEST STINT: HI TO BYE IN 45 DAYS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Liz Truss takes over as PM from Boris Johnson on Sept 6 after ousting Conservative Party rivals in a bruising leadership fight ➤ Backed by Truss, finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng unveils £45bn of tax cuts on Sept 23, sending markets into turmoil. Truss sacks Kwarteng ➤ His replacement Jeremy Hunt scraps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> almost all of Truss' tax cuts, and her promise of no public spending cuts ➤ Amid open rebellion in the party, home secy Suella Braverman quits on Wednesday, tearing into the govt ➤ A day later, with only her husband standing by, Truss announces resignation, becoming the shortest serving British PM
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- ✓ Her resignation came after a falling out among the ministers in her cabinet over the ‘mini-budget’ policy she introduced.

- ✓ The now reversed policy featured several unfunded tax cuts and would have cost the UK's economy \$48 billion worth of taxes.
- ✓ It included 45 billion pounds in tax cuts -- including an income tax reduction for the highest earners – and a levy of a top rate of 45% as income tax
- ✓ In a panic reaction, investors started selling all possible UK assets, while the pound fell to an all-time low against the US dollar and the cost of borrowing for the UK rose sharply
- ✓ The Bank of England had to step in and buy government debt worth £65 billion to stop some of the pension funds in the country from collapsing.
- ✓ Truss reversed the tax cuts on October 3 in a humiliating U-turn
- ✓ The policy, which was aimed to "break the cycle of stagnation in the British economy", was introduced by former finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng on September 23
- ✓ Later, Truss sacked Kwasi Kwarteng and appointed Jeremy Hunt, a former candidate for the Conservative leadership, to the post
- ✓ This was shortly followed by Suella Braverman's resignation from her post as the UK home secretary.
- ✓ The election to choose the new leader has been scheduled to be elected by October 28
- ✓ Truss will remain PM till a successor is chosen next week.
- ✓ The new prime minister will be Britain's fifth PM in just six years
- ✓ Truss replaced former Prime Minister Boris Johnson on September 6
- ✓ During her tenure as the International Trade Secretary under Boris Johnson, Truss had signed off on the India-UK Enhanced Trade Partnership (ETP) in May 2021.
- ✓ She was also determined to pursue the ongoing India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) but left her post before it could be agreed

AWARDS

- **The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) - has bestowed the Lifetime Achievement Award on Shiv Nadar, HCL Tech's billionaire-founder**



- ✓ Nadar was awarded for his contribution to the tech industry and his philanthropic initiatives
- ✓ The USISPF is a bilateral non-profit organisation focused on building strategic relationship between India and the US

SPORTS

- **On October 19, Indian wrestlers - created history in the Spanish city of Pontevedra after achieving first-ever podium finishes for the country in the Greco-roman category at the ongoing U-23 World Championships.**



- ✓ During the day, Sajjan Bhanwala bagged a historic bronze in the men's 77kg category, followed by Vikas and Nitesh continuing the winning streak by adding two more medals to the country's Greco-roman tally.
- ✓ Vikas defeated Japan's Daigo Kobayashi in the men's 72kg bronze medal bout, while Nitesh prevailed over Brazil's Igor de Queiroz by technical superiority in the men's 97kg to bag another bronze medal.

RANKINGS

- **HCL Tech's billionaire-founder Shiv Nadar - topped the 2022 EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List.**
- ✓ The industrialist and philanthropist donated Rs. 1,161 crore at a rate of Rs 3 crore per day on an average.



TOP PHILANTHROPISTS IN 2022

₹1,161 cr	₹484 cr	₹411 cr	₹242 cr	₹223 cr
Shiv Nadar & family	Azim Premji & family	Mukesh Ambani & family	Kumar Mangalam Birla & family	Susmita and Subroto Bagchi

Source: Hurun Research Institute; EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2022

- ✓ Wipro's Azim Premji, who tops the annual list every year, dropped to the second spot this year with an annual donation of Rs 484 crore.
- ✓ Reliance chairman Mukesh Ambani came in third with a donation of Rs 411 crore.
- ✓ Donations were measured by the value of cash or cash equivalents from April 1, 2021 to March 21, 2022.
- ✓ With a donation of Rs 190 crore, India's richest individual, Gautam Adani, was placed seventh on the list.
- ✓ Rohini Nilekani, with a donation of Rs 120 crore, is the "most generous woman philanthropist" on the list.
- ✓ The average age of philanthropists featured in the list this year is 69 years, two years older than last year.
- ✓ With 75 philanthropists cumulatively donating Rs 1,233 crore, education is the most favoured cause among India's philanthropists